



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

IAIUYDIR18-091

Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer  
Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, 800  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

16 August 2018

Dear Ms. Palmer,

Reference is made to notification SCBD/OES/DC/RH/KNM/87538 dated 16 July 2018 inviting views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) notes with appreciation the work of the CBD Secretariat in compiling proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (document CBD/SBI/2/17) and the resulting recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) inviting the views of organizations on this process.

With regard to the proposed preparatory process, its overarching principles and activities contained in document CBD/SBI/2/17, I am listing below key decisions adopted by the IAI Conference of the Parties at the recent twenty-sixth meeting, which was held in Antigua, Guatemala from 19 to 22 June 2018, and which provide the context for our contributions.

We note with great interest the request by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Framework is based on the best available science and evidence from relevant knowledge systems, including the natural and social sciences, local, traditional and indigenous knowledge as well as the best practices and lessons learned from the implementation to date of the CBD and its Protocols.

As a regional intergovernmental organization at the intersection of science and policy, the IAI can play a key role in the coordination of scientific information provided to its Parties for national reporting under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, nationally determined contributions and a national reporting platform under the 2030 Agenda.

The IAI echoes the views submitted by a number of Parties that synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs must be made more effective. It is our belief that the post-2020 biodiversity plan will need to contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals to be more effective in mainstreaming the available scientific knowledge on the impacts of global changes to biodiversity, to all sectors and actors of society.

We support submissions that called for the post-2020 Framework to be informed by and take into account relevant multi-disciplinary scientific information including natural, biophysical and social sciences. We agree that this should include target setting, a broader understanding of the socioeconomic benefits of reaching or exceeding particular targets as well as potential risks, cost and implications of not achieving certain targets and that given the strong emphasis on a science-based post-2020 Framework, the SBSTTA should have a role in providing advice on the evidence based of the Framework.

Currently, the IAI is collaborating with the UNFCCC and the CBD on the engagement of scientific networks in the region to contribute data and information to their respective national authorities towards preparation of the CBD Sixth National Reports, Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC and Voluntary National Reports under the SDGs.

Our suggestions below relate to *Section V. Proposed Preparatory Process C. Activities (b) global, regional and sectoral workshops, (d) an outreach effort to encourage participation in the process, (e) mobilizing political buy-in and (f) encouraging and supporting the organization of meetings by third parties.*

We note with interest SBI Recommendation 2/19 paragraph 6, inviting Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to consider dedicated sessions or space to facilitate discussions on the development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

Views reflected in document CBD/SBI/2/17 suggest that the Secretariat organize a series of global, regional and sectoral workshops to allow Parties, relevant stakeholders to exchange knowledge vital to the development of policies that address biodiversity impacts. In light of the above, and taking into account the mission and experience of the IAI in facilitating the transfer of scientific knowledge to guide policy decisions and capacity-building, the IAI Directorate would be in a position to assist the Secretariat during this preparatory process, subject to the availability of funds, in the organization of such national and regional dialogues, in particular those that promote harmonization between the CBD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In the IAI CoP Decision XXVI/25 *Parties are invited to collaborate with the IAI Directorate in gathering information on the Parties' national priorities on science and science-policy, especially in the context of international environmental frameworks such as the SDGs, among others, necessary to implement the IAI scientific agenda, including the development of new science and science-policy programs, and a fourth round of Collaborative Research Networks, in particular.*

With regards to communications and outreach, we note the IAI CoP Decision XXVI/32, where *Parties are invited to facilitate collaboration between the IAI Directorate and national focal points to the CBD, UNFCCC and the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), among others, for the communication of relevant IAI scientific Project information for consideration in the drafting of national reporting as obliged under those frameworks.*

I take this opportunity to express gratitude for the Secretariat's participation in the Biodiversity Module of the IAI's Massive Open Online Course on the *Impacts of Climate Change in Latin America*, which has reached over 9 thousand participants to date, making it a very successful outreach and educational product. The MOOC is available in Spanish at: [www.cclatam.org](http://www.cclatam.org).

In IAI CoP decision XXVI/38 the *IAI Directorate is directed to organize with the UNFCCC and other conventions, organizations and strategic partners, regional science communication initiatives such as a workshop and other outreach activities subject to the availability of financial resources, to improve the provision of data and information to policy makers, and dissemination of scientific knowledge needed for the implementation of national, regional, and international policies in light of the Paris Agreement and other under multilateral environmental agreements.*

The IAI Directorate and the CBD Secretariat have already successfully organized a number of science to policy regional meetings, such as the *International Symposium on Biodiversity and Climate Change* co-organized by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the National Council for Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) and the German Cooperation implemented by GIZ through its ProAmbiente programme, held in Lima, Peru on 27 and 28 November 2014. Work presented at this meeting highlighted the role of biodiversity in carbon sequestration and in resilience for adaptation needs to be better recognized in the climate negotiations. This Symposium resulted in the Lima Declaration on Biodiversity and Climate Change which is available in the CBD Technical Series publication 89.

The IAI also co-organized the third *Science for Biodiversity Forum* at the CBD COP-13 in Cancun, Mexico on 1-2 December in 2016. A report of the Forum was made available to Parties as information document CBD/COP/13/INF/44 which includes recommendations on mainstreaming biodiversity into climate change.

We are currently in contact with the Secretariat regarding support to the fourth Science-Policy Forum to be held at COP-14, with the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), the European Commission, the Ministry of Environment of Egypt and the CBD Secretariat. Furthermore, the IAI and the Humboldt Institute are discussing the organization of a Latin American workshop for the positioning of the management of biodiversity and climate change with a focus on the science-policy interface.

In identifying synergies with other Conventions, we note several opportunities, inter alia UNFCCC Decision 13/CP.23 which invited Parties and stakeholders to organize regional technical expert meetings, building on existing climate action events to examine specific finance, technology and capacity-building resources necessary to scale up action in regional contexts including through regional mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the technical examination processes.

The IAI will present a new Strategic Plan to its Conference of the Parties in 2019. The Strategic Plan will focus efforts on the support that the organization can provide to its Parties with regards to transfer of scientific knowledge. We note, in particular, the needs identified by the SBI for: scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 vision and on a possible structure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework, early consideration of a first iteration of possible elements taking account of available scientific information, for further discussion and agreement by Parties, coherent and comprehensive communication and outreach strategy to promote awareness, to make provisions for capacity-building, including through regional workshops, online discussion forums and other means, the need to make information available through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

We believe that further views from Parties and stakeholders to be submitted in response to SBI recommendation 2/19, by 15 December 2018, on the aspects, scope and content of the post-2020 framework including the scientific underpinning necessary to make progress

towards the 2050 Vision, can guide future action and identify opportunities for the IAI to assist Parties.

I look forward to discussing with you and Parties in the Americas how the IAI can contribute to bridging gaps to promote greater collaboration and effective synergies among the conventions, while addressing knowledge gaps and priorities identified by the Parties towards concrete and actionable post-2020 targets.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marcos Regis da Silva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marcos Regis da Silva  
Executive Director