Science Diplomacy through the Lens of Intergovernmental Institutions

Examples from the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

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Potential Goals of Science Diplomacy

- Unite nations to pursue a common goal
- Address shared challenges
- Bridge political and developmental divides

Focus on scientific challenges larger than one country can address on its own – require collaboration
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IAI Overview

Mission
The mission of IAI is to develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of past, present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative, well informed actions at all levels.

Core values
IAI pursues the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change.

Vision
The IAI was envisaged as an intergovernmental instrument by which scientists and decision makers of countries throughout the Americas might jointly address the critical issues associated with global change in the region.
Developing Scientific Basis for Decision-making

• Ensure scientific excellence

• Meet the needs of the Member Countries

• Build collaboration among research, stakeholders and decision makers – co-design of research
Evolving Structure of IAI

Conference of the Parties

Science Advisory Committee

Executive Council

Science Policy Advisory Committee*

IAI Directorates

* Newly developing committee to enhance the linkages of IAI research to decision-making - 2013

Montevideo, Uruguay, 1992
Tripartite Structure of IAI

- Integrated Operations and Finance Directorate
  - Uruguay

- Science Development Directorate
  - Brasil

- Science-Policy Liaison Directorate
  - Argentina

Adopted in 2012
Programmatic Approaches

• Collaborative Research Networks

• Small Grants

• Capacity Building Activities

• Involvement in International Conventions
Science, State and Federal Governance

Collaborative Research Land Use

• Dry forest (DF) protection in Minas Gerais, Brazil
• Disagreement between classification of area as protected between State and Federal laws
• IAI project – TropiDry – scientists from Brazil and Canada testified before the State High Court and the Federal Attorney to explain scientific results from international cooperation
• State Law declared unconstitutional
Collaborative Research Land Use

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“... complex issues of biodiversity, ecosystem function, the sustainability of the coupled natural-human environment were analyzed and presented to the courts in such a way that informed decision-making was possible.”
Science, State and Federal Governance

Collaborative Research Land Use

- TropiDry in 2011-2012
- Members of the team help the Federal Human Rights Commission to examine violations of the basic right to adequate food
- Strict Federal conservation laws outlawed traditional subsistence practices, residents lost livelihoods and had to abandon traditional hunting, fishing and subsistence agriculture lands
- New law is being introduced in the Federal Parliament to amend the Atlantic Forest law to explicitly exclude the Minas dry forests and re-allow deforestation
Water Science Policy and Diplomacy

Human Dimensions
Small Grants

- Water managers in Sonora and Arizona rarely use climate forecasts for decisions on crop mixture, irrigation schedules, or herd size.
- Produce what grows well under average climate.
- Irrigation to compensate for rainfall shortfalls.
- Irrigation may be maladaptive as overpumping increases in Arizona and Sonora.
The Outreach, Policy, Diplomacy

• Tensions between US and Mexico

• Spirit of collaboration, and shared concerns and interests in climate, water management, disaster planning, development are building

• IAI Small Grant to Chile, Argentina and Bolivia on Climate change and irrigated agriculture: driving forces and feedbacks between decision makers, biophysical environment, hydrological cycle and land use

• The IAI brought these teams together in the Aquasec Centre of Excellence (partnership University of Arizona, Universidad Católica de Chile, and the IAI)
The Outreach, Policy, Diplomacy

• Initial perception from Chile more affinity with issues in California
• Closer to Arizona and Sonora
• Andean runoff is being depleted, and reliance on pumping of ground water
The Outreach, Policy, Diplomacy

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- Andean runoff is being depleted, and reliance on pumping of groundwater
- Practical impact of this collaboration Chile's Ministry of Public Works became involved in the project
- 2015 Chile included its Environment Ministry in its representation to the IAI
Giving scientists a voice in international politics

The Ministry of Environment is very pleased to invite you to the Executive Meeting

“FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SCIENCE TO COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE”

This event will present the results of the dialogue among scientists and policy makers held at the scientific symposium “Biodiversity and Climate Change: Contributions from science to policy for sustainable development” held in Lima on the 27th and 28th of November 2014. The event will focus on challenges and gaps in the research agenda that must be overcome to foster synergies for both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Also, there will be a presentation of the IAI-EnviroNet program by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).
Towards Science Diplomacy

- Overcome key challenges – need a collation of the willing
- Address common problems
- Foster the trust between research and decision-making
- Co-design and co-generation of knowledge is critical
- Education and training are essential
- Dialogue
- Start young – build coalitions of experts who can work together
- Complex challenges require systems approaches
- There will be trade-offs