



The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

International Symposium on Geoengineering

*Academia Brasileira de Ciências
10 to 11 June 2019
Rio de Janeiro, RJ – Brazil*

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IAI is a treaty organization



19 Parties

1. Argentina
2. Bolivia
3. Brazil
4. Canada
5. Chile
6. Colombia
7. Costa Rica
8. Cuba
9. Dominican Republic
10. Ecuador
11. Guatemala
12. Jamaica
13. Mexico
14. Panama
15. Paraguay
16. Peru
17. Uruguay
18. USA
19. Venezuela

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IAI Overview

Core values

Scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open exchange of scientific information.

Vision

The IAI was envisaged as an **intergovernmental instrument** by which **scientists and decision makers** might **jointly address the critical issues associated with global change** in the region.

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The Americas and shared priorities

- **Priorities are defined** at the **national/regional/international** level by governance frameworks:
 - The Sustainable Development Goals
 - The UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
 - The Paris AgreementAmong other national obligations within a regional/international framework

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The Americas and shared priorities

The traditional model of science to policy at a regional level follows a well defined path:

- Countries identify a problem where solutions must come from regional/international collaboration
- Scientific bodies of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements make recommendations
- Recommendations go to a **Conference of the Parties and are converted into policy**

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The Americas and shared priorities

Fragmented governance and treaty congestion:

*There are now more than **900 multilateral and over 1500 bilateral treaties** and other international agreements dealing with environmental issues*.*

*The future of international environmental law / edited by David Leary and Balakrishna Pisupati. United Nations University, 2010.

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The Americas and shared priorities

Unexpected results:

Prathapan, K & Pethiyagoda [et al]. (2018). When the cure kills—**CBD limits biodiversity research**. *Science*. 360. 1405-1406.

(more than 170 co-signatories, **71 of which are from the Americas**)



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The Americas and shared priorities

The Article discusses the regulatory framework under the *Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing**:

*The resulting national legislations vary greatly, from being extremely prohibitive of research, to a very few that are relatively enabling, such as Costa Rica and South Africa. **The problem is particularly acute where there is a poor policy-science interface resulting from weak scientific institutions.***

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Key opportunities and challenges

- Within this fragmented governance environment the **Americas has been uniquely effective** in making its priorities known
- GRULAC, for example, is an effective negotiating block in many MEAs
- Such homogeneity in action provides many many opportunities

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Key opportunities and challenges

Within international environmental governance (or international governance more generally) three issues come to the fore:

- **National sovereignty**
- **Liability and redress**
- **Enforcement**

Mechanisms for liability and redress and enforcement are weak or non-existent

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Geoengineering and governance

Which international instrument would be most appropriate as the umbrella agreement for sovereign nations to discuss challenges posed by geoengineering?

UNEP (UN Environment Assembly)?

The Convention on Biological Diversity?

UNFCCC?

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Geoengineering and governance

Geoengineering and its governance

Submitted by Switzerland* (03/2019 UNEA)

Supported by

Burkina Faso, Federated States of Micronesia,
Georgia, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mexico,
Montenegro, Niger, Republic of Korea, and
Senegal

*<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5750122/Draft-resolution-on-geoengineering-for.pdf>

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Geoengineering and governance

From the preamble:

PP3. *Deeply concerned about the potential global risks and adverse impacts of geoengineering on environment and sustainable development, and noting the lack of multilateral control and oversight.*

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Geoengineering and governance

The operative part of the draft resolution aimed to:

OP1. *Prepare an assessment of the status of geoengineering technologies, in particular carbon dioxide removal technologies and solar radiation management...*

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Geoengineering and governance

So what happened?

- Switzerland withdrew its draft resolution after failure to reach compromise

Why the inability to reach compromise?

- Some countries insisted that questions about geoengineering should be discussed under Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

*Geoengineering will be a key part of the IPCC's upcoming Sixth Assessment Report

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Geoengineering and governance

However, other instruments have adopted decisions on geoengineering:

CBD: Decision XIII/14 *Climate-related geoengineering*:

*application of the **precautionary approach...may be relevant for geoengineering activities** but would still form an incomplete basis for global regulation**

*<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-15-en.pdf>

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Geoengineering and governance

However, other instruments have adopted decisions on geoengineering:

The International Maritime Organization has amendments through its protocols to ***regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities***

And so on...

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Key opportunities and challenges

The IAI is the result of American countries deciding to establish a **collaborative mechanism** to provide its policy makers with the best available scientific information for more informed decision making

In many ways, it reflects the cooperative and successful regional framework found in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Key opportunities and challenges

From a regional organization's perspective, key opportunities and challenges are identified through:

- The establishment of **partnerships**—realizing that no one organization can succeed alone;
- Making use of partnerships to establish **self-sustaining networks of peers**
- Supporting **open science and data**

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Strategies for meeting challenges and identifying opportunities

The IAI functions in this ecosystem by working with Parties to **understand national priorities as defined by regional/international frameworks**

This understanding provides the context for the science and activities, including capacity building at the regional level, it supports

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Collaborative Research Networks

Within this context, the IAI's Collaborative Research Networks (CRN now at its 4th round) is a clear manifestation of the desire by Latin America and the Caribbean to support a joint mutually beneficial approach to science and the **use of results from that science for more effective policy making**

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Strategy for identifying, developing and maintaining partnerships

The impact and success of this and past CRNs should not be underestimated

It has also seeded a uniquely successful network of scientists throughout Latin America and the Caribbean

And it has established a number of innovative capacity building activities focusing on transdisciplinary research and science to policy dialogues

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Strategy for identifying, developing and maintaining partnerships

None of this could have been possible without:

- Funding to seed the scientific projects
- A collaborative, multinational approach to identifying and researching an issue anchored to national needs and articulated internationally
- Member country involvement through its scientific communities
- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research

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Conclusions

Latin America and the Caribbean offers a unique opportunity for supporting collaborative, multinational effective scientific projects

It has a well established network of peers

As a region, it is uniquely effective in the articulation of its needs and in the involvement of its scientists and policy makers in international fora

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Conclusions

In summary, Latin America and the Caribbean have will, the expertise and the willingness to:

- *overcome challenges and build opportunities for multi-national collaboration, and*
- *strengthen linkages to global frameworks to leverage extramural funding for Americas Regional priorities*

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Thank you

Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva

IAI

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