

Request for applicants for IAI Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellows to be hosted by the IAI Directorate

CONTEXT

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), an intergovernmental organization with 19 Parties in the Americas, promotes transdisciplinary research and the enhancement of capacities to improve public awareness and provide information to governments and other stakeholders for the development of public policy relevant to global environmental change (GEC), based on scientific excellence, international and intersectoral cooperation, and the open exchange of knowledge.

In 2019, the IAI launched the Science, Technology and Policy (STeP) Fellowship Program, an innovative and strategic international program placing scientists in public or private host institutions to inform and advise decision-making on global environmental change and sustainable development issues of national priority. Through the STeP program, IAI provides professional development training and international networking opportunities for LAC policy makers and scientists to value and incorporate science as part of the decision-making process and to become leaders and active agents of systemic change in their countries. The program is modeled after the successful AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships (STPF) program, for the Americas, and it has created an Inter-American networking platform for Fellows, host institutions and countries, international partners, such as AAAS and Canada's Mitacs, and STeP alumni to exchange lessons learned and to share experiences and best practices in science-policy interface. Training for participating fellows focuses on developing skills in science diplomacy, communication and leadership. More information on the STeP Fellowship Program can be found here: <http://www.iai.int/en/step>

The IAI Directorate hosts STeP Fellows to support the scope of work in transdisciplinary capacity building program and the IAI science agenda. Fellows participate in a 1-2 year virtual professional development training program with other fellows from across the Americas.

The IAI is recruiting applicants to fill three (3) STeP fellowship positions:

1. Regional assessment of policy decisions impacted by GEC.
2. Transdisciplinary (TD) science on GEC: research and training.
3. Strengthening science diplomacy on GEC across the Americas.

GENERAL SKILLS & ELEGIBILITY

- Collaborative team member
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

- Education and experience related to global environmental change
- Interest/ability to work with groups of researchers from diverse disciplines related to GEC and policy practitioners
- Fluency in English or Spanish required and a working proficiency in an additional language (English, Spanish, Portuguese) desired.
- Knowledge of, and interest in, the science-policy interface, processes and the uptake of scientific knowledge to support evidenced based decision-making in the Americas.
- Early career researcher (currently in final year of PhD candidacy or within 10 years of completing a PhD degree or equivalent such as DrPH, EdD, DVM, MD, JD). Early career individuals with graduate degrees (masters degree equivalent) and ~5 years of relevant professional experience will also be considered.
- Priority will be given to citizens and residents from IAI member states and considered on a case by case basis (<https://www.iai.int/index.php/en/structure/focal-points#>)
- Ability to work remotely with a flexible schedule to accommodate working hours in Uruguay (the main IAI office), and availability to travel internationally when necessary

INVITATION

The IAI Directorate invites eligible individuals to apply for the three (3) available full-time (40 hs/week) fellowship positions. More information is provided below.

Applicants must provide the following:

- A cover letter (up to 2 pages) indicating which fellowship position they are applying for and why the candidate is qualified to perform the tasks (description of professional experience, personal skills and expertise to address the stated objectives). If the applicant would like to be considered for more than one of the open positions, please indicate the order of preference.
- The cover letter should include why the individual is interested in working on science diplomacy, communication, transdisciplinary science, and science-policy leadership and how they will utilize STeP's professional development program and networking to enhance their career path. Finally, they should include a description of how they will engage with, and enhance, the network of STeP fellows working at the science-policy interface in LAC.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) with 3 professional references

Individuals from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Please see IAI's Gender Policy:

<https://www.iai.int/administrador/assets/images/ckfinder/files/Gender%20Policy%20on%20IAI%20Projects%20and%20Activities.pdf>

FUNDING AND DURATION

The maximum annual value of the fellowship is USD \$24,000, The intended start date is February 2022 and the period of implementation of the contract is twelve (12) months, renewable for up to one (1) additional year.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applications must be delivered in English or Spanish by email to the address below by 02 December 2021:

Ms. Soledad Noya; email: opportunities@dir.iai.int

FELLOWSHIP POSITION I: A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICY DECISIONS IMPACTED BY GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

SCOPE OF WORK

Fellow's work plan will be to assist the IAI Directorate in conducting a regional assessment to better understand the decisions made by IAI member states that are impacted by global environmental change (GEC), in order to identify the knowledge gaps and uncertainties associated with specific decisions. The results of this assessment will be used to guide science funding priorities and capacity building activities implemented by the Directorate. [[more information on regional assessment](#)].

ACTIVITIES:

- Synthesize information from national and regional policy documents on the use of science in decision making and policy related to GEC
- Writing/drafting reports
- Map/visualize basic social-ecological GIS layers
- Facilitate/coordinate virtual meetings with regional stakeholders

SPECIFIC SKILLS REQUIRED (IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SKILLS)

- Background in social sciences, policy analysis, transdisciplinary approaches to science, geography, or equivalent
- Qualitative and quantitative research skills (designing and facilitating focus groups, coding, and analyzing transcripts)
- Experience synthesizing information from policy documents
- Basic GIS skills (desirable)
- Experience in science communications for a broad audience (desirable)

FELLOWSHIP POSITION 2: TRANSDISCIPLINARY (TD) SCIENCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

SCOPE OF WORK

The fellow will assist the IAI Directorate with the development and management of TD science programs, regional TD training, and TD grants to support research on GEC in the Americas. The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in regional science-policy fora with leading experts in GEC in the Americas. The TD science and capacity building programs aim to enhance the capacity of professionals and institutions across the continent to conduct TD research and to bring TD science to inform end users from public and private sectors.

ACTIVITIES

- Coordinate regional training workshops, webinars, and grants for research on TD science.
- Support the development of TD curriculum tailored for early-mid career scientists and decision-makers in the Americas related to GEC issues and the science-policy nexus
- Support the development of TD partnerships.
- Participate in grant proposal writing and fundraising.
- Support activities in outreach and science communications.
- Support monitoring and evaluation of grants and trainings, including measuring the impact of the programs and writing up the findings for a scientific publication and/or a white paper.
- Facilitate/coordinate virtual meetings with IAI partners.
- Write/draft documents and reports.
- Assist in project/grant management.

SPECIFIC SKILLS REQUIRED (IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SKILLS)

- Background/experience in transdisciplinary sciences, science-policy related to GEC, or equivalent.
- Experience facilitating group meeting (virtual and/or in-person)
- Experience with developing and planning of science trainings (virtual and/or in-person)
- Experience in fundraising and grant writing (desirable)
- Experience in outreach and science communication for broad audiences(desirable)
- Experience with monitoring and evaluation of programs (desirable)

FELLOWSHIP POSITION 3: STRENGTHENING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE ACROSS THE AMERICAS

SCOPE OF WORK

The fellow will assist the IAI Directorate and leading experts in science diplomacy in the Americas with the development and management of a new global change science diplomacy center. The center will be a platform to engage with professionals, institutions, and countries across the Americas by showcasing science diplomacy best practices and lessons learned through case studies from the region. The center will also provide training and support to scientists and policy makers from IAI Parties. The objective of the science diplomacy center is to strengthen human and institutional capacities, skills, and methods to address global, regional, transboundary science diplomacy challenges related to GEC in the Americas.

ACTIVITIES

- Support the development and coordination of innovative science diplomacy programs and activities including in-country training workshops and grants.
- Support the development of a virtual training curriculum including interactive and dynamic learning tools (such as a simulation game) on science diplomacy targeted for the Americas
- Research, gather and identify global and regional networks, professionals, experiences, practices, studies and papers in GEC Science Diplomacy to create a virtual reference database of science diplomacy in the region.
- Support monitoring and evaluation of science diplomacy grants and trainings, including measuring the impact of the activities and write up findings for a scientific publication and/or a white paper as well as other outreach products and communication activities.
- Support the development and engagement of Science Diplomacy and other IAI partners.
- Support initiatives in proposal writing and fundraising and assist in project/grant management.

SPECIFIC SKILLS REQUIRED (IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SKILLS)

- Background education and/or experience with science diplomacy or diplomacy
- Experience facilitating group meetings
- Experience with or interest in developing and implementing in person or virtual training.
- Experience with online education tools, learning management systems (desirable)
- Experience in fundraising (desirable)
- Experience in outreach and communications (desirable).