



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Call for proposals

The IAI is inviting proposals to be submitted for its third Collaborative Research Network (CRN3) program.

Application will be in two stages. Pre-proposals must be received by November 15, 2011. Based on these pre-proposals, about 25 selected teams will be invited to submit full proposals by April 15, 2012. A successful pre-proposal is prerequisite to be eligible to submit a full proposal.

Eligibility for grants under the CRN3 program is limited to colleges, universities, professional societies, and not-for-profit and non-academic institutions which have established research programs and are located in any IAI member country. The IAI is an intergovernmental treaty organization with 19 member countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Principal Investigator (PI) must represent an institution based in an IAI member country. Each PI may submit only one pre-proposal. PIs may participate as co-investigators in up to two other pre-proposals. Each proposal must involve at least four IAI member countries.

The project duration of the CRN3 program is five years with continuation of grants pending annual evaluations of satisfactory performance and subject to availability of funds. Project starts are anticipated for mid-2012.

Funding: the IAI expects to make 10-12 awards. Awards are commonly funded with a total amount of approximately US\$ 700,000 and exceptionally up to US\$ 1 million. The IAI encourages teams to seek complementary funding. For example, the IAI has entered into an agreement with the US-NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) which may provide US lead institutions with opportunities to present complementary proposals. Common interests also exist with FAPESP in São Paulo State, Brazil, which may provide additional opportunities for researchers in that state. Proposing teams are encouraged to develop similar opportunities to leverage a possible CRN3 IAI award. However, this is not a precondition for award.

Proposed projects must reflect the IAI's goals and objectives: Global change (GC) affects environmental, economic and social conditions. The Collaborative Research Network program seeks to generate new knowledge on the phenomena of change, and provide mitigation and adaptation options within their social, economic, institutional and legal contexts. IAI science has guided sustainable development decisions, public health initiatives, and law making as it has advanced the understanding of change based on science. Research on GC requires continual cooperation among researchers, institutions, states and regions. Networking and effective communication of results are therefore central goals of IAI science. The IAI seeks to achieve the best possible international coordination of natural and social scientific, medical and economic

research on the extent, causes, and consequences of GC in the Americas, and on response strategies to address those challenges. Among the IAI's core objectives are to expand knowledge, to serve as an effective interface between the research and policy processes, and to achieve the translation of research results into informed decisions.

The IAI pursues the principles of scientific excellence, international and interdisciplinary cooperation, and full and open exchange of scientific information. The IAI recognizes a need for broad and early involvement of stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and interpretation of global environmental change research that provides knowledge for regional needs. Research conducted in the CRN3 program is encouraged to enhance the dialogue with international assessments, with UN Conventions and with programs for Earth observation. While the demands for GC research emphasize needs-driven over curiosity-driven science, basic research is not excluded, since a fundamental understanding of Earth systems is a foundation for successful adaptation and mitigation.

For the CRN3 we solicit proposals that are thematically based on the IAI Science Agenda and also address issues of exposure, risk and vulnerability under GC. Four broadly defined research areas have been identified:

- Observe, document and predict climate change and variability in the Americas, and the links to changes in natural systems including the land, the atmosphere, and adjacent oceans, and the societal impacts of change. The goals are to understand the role of the ocean-land-atmosphere interactions in climate, to determine the key processes that cause climatic variability from seasonal to decadal time scales, and to apply the insight gained to improve weather, climate and impact predictions.
- Conduct comparative and integrated analyses of the effects of GC on natural and human systems and processes among tropical, temperate and cold terrestrial, coastal and oceanic environments in order to increase the knowledge of the drivers and dynamics of variability, and the impacts of such variability on food and water security, biodiversity and the provision of ecological goods and services.
- Observe, document and understand processes that modify the chemical composition of the atmosphere, inland waters and oceans in a manner that affects productivity and human welfare.
- Understand the human dimensions and policy implications of the dynamic interaction of GC, climate variability, land use and human beings – their health, welfare and activities which depend on the productivity, diversity and functioning of ecosystems.
- Develop robust outreach and education programs that address these issues and help develop an informed public and workforce conscious of regional GC impacts and possible solutions.

Scientific excellence of proposals will be assessed through a merit-based peer review. Successful proposals will require interdisciplinary integration, international collaboration, and capacity building to develop the next generation of GC scientists. While considering the research needs of its member countries, the IAI issues this open call to harness the creativity of the continent's science communities.

Based on the IAI's mandate to build GC research capacity across the continent, the allocation of funds and planned collaborations must promote equitable participation in research by all team members, and open and public access to the results of the scientific work.

The IAI's mandate to promote science that cannot be conducted by any one country alone requires networking. Each proposal must therefore involve at least four IAI member countries. The IAI will enhance networks and collaboration between networks through capacity building and across-program synthesis activities involving both scientists and stakeholders. Regular workshops and assessments during the CRN program will keep interaction among all participants active and current.

A fundamental task of the IAI science community is to translate its results into understandable, useful, and timely knowledge for societies' benefit. This requires an early and ongoing dialogue between social and natural scientists, stakeholders and decision makers in the development of projects, programs and networks. The effects of global environmental change are felt most severely in developing countries so that broader issues of development and equity between social and economic groups, minorities, countries and regions need be considered as part of a GC science agenda. The science priorities and special development needs of vulnerable countries and regions should be addressed in the pre-proposal. The IAI considers that outreach and application are an integral part of excellence in GC science.

Budget conditions: CRN3 awards will provide support for research, data management, travel, workshops, and modest support for research salaries. IAI funding is normally not available to replace or supplement the salary of senior investigators. Limited expenditures (up to 10% of the total project budget) for equipment and software are allowed. No overhead is allowed, but accountable administrative expenses may be charged. IAI funds can only be managed through institutionally controlled accounts. IAI will only make awards to the lead institution which will be responsible for disbursement to collaborating institutions.

Pre-proposals must provide on a maximum of 7 pages:

- a project title;
- major objectives and their relevance to the IAI's goals and objectives;
- the names of the principal investigator (PI) and coPIs, with institutional affiliations and contact details, and their role in project. Between the institutions with which PI and coPIs are associated and which will participate in the project, at least four (4) IAI member countries must be represented.
- a description of work proposed and its distribution among the partner countries, deliverables and expected outcomes, the intellectual merit, and expected broader impacts including policy relevance, and contributions to capacity building and education;
- a network description explaining why the international partnership is critical to the project success, how interdisciplinary integration will be achieved, how stakeholders will be involved and how results will be communicated;
- a brief outline of the international management structure;
- a preliminary budget providing the total funding sought with funding distribution by country and activity.

Pre-proposals may be submitted as a single file in Adobe (.pdf), MSWord (.doc) or Open Office (.odf) format with a maximum of 7 pages using a 12-point font, single-spaced. Pre-proposals must be in English.

Pre-proposal submission must be made on the IAI website: www.iai.int/CRN3/start.html which will be open from October onwards.

Prior to the submission of the pre-proposal on the IAI web site, you will have to register to obtain a valid account and password. Please contact "iaiweb@dir.iai.int" to do so. We strongly recommend that you obtain your account and password well in advance to the submission deadline.

Review criteria used in the selection of pre-proposals are:

- Scientific excellence and technical soundness.

- Relevance to the IAI's goals and objectives
- Multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration
- Policy relevance
- Stakeholder interaction and knowledge dissemination
- Contribution to capacity building, both addressing human resources and institutional capacities to conduct international research and address global change issues.
- Realistic deliverables and milestones
- Appropriateness of the budget request

Pre-proposals that are incomplete, are thematically out of scope, or that do not include at least four IAI member countries will not be considered.

The IAI is intent on ensuring the responsible conduct of research in its networks. This includes: honesty in all aspects of research, accountability in the conduct of research, professional courtesy and fairness in working with others, and good stewardship of research on behalf of others, particularly IAI member countries.

Notification: Successful applicants will be notified by a message to the PI and submitting organization by an IAI officer that their pre-proposal has been positively reviewed and that they are invited to submit a full proposal. No awards will be made on the basis of pre-proposals alone. Pre-proposal submissions that fail to comply with the guidelines outlined in this document will not be considered.

More information on the IAI at www.iai.int