



Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Annual Report 2014

Strengthening international science
for the benefit of society





ICSU

International Council for Science



Vision:

The long-term ICSU vision is for a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy-making. In such a world, universal and equitable access to high quality scientific data and information is a reality and all countries have the scientific capacity to use these and to contribute to generating the new knowledge that is necessary to establish their own development pathways in a sustainable manner.



ICSU

International Council for Science
Regional Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean

Promote and implement actions in line with ICSU's strategic priorities.

Assist ICSU in strengthening science and capacity building in developing countries through South-South and North-South collaboration.

Support integration of ICSU's regional and global activities.

Ensure that the views of the scientific communities in the regions are taken fully into account in the development of ICSU's strategic priorities.

Promote increased participation of developing country scientists and regional scientific organizations in the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

Message from the Director of the Regional Office



The year 2014 saw many activities, and we are very pleased with the positive results achieved.

2014 started with a very important event, The “Workshop on Future Earth: ICSU ROLAC & International Scientific Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean”, organized in Varadero, Cuba, in January 2014 aimed to strengthen the links among ICSU International Scientific Unions and ROLAC, as well as to promote the joint activities within the region.

The IV Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas as preparation for the Sendai meeting in Japan in 2015 was held on May 27-29 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Organized by the UNSIDR, there were at least 600 participants from 30 countries; ICSU ROLAC had an important presence with 5 participants.

II Workshop on Mathematics teaching in Latin America, San Salvador, 5 to 6 June 2014. Presented and discussed were the experiences of Chile, Paraguay, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. 200 mathematics teachers from El Salvador participated.

The 31st General Assembly of the International Council for Science took place from 30 August to 3 September 2014. It was hosted by the ICSU National Scientific Member in New Zealand, the Royal Society of New Zealand. Our Office participated in this important event.

On September 30th and October 1st, ICSU ROLAC, ISSC, and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences organized the Workshop “Society and Nature: Dialogue between natural and social scientists on the challenges of sustainability” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, organized to facilitate communication among scientists from different disciplines around energy issues, socio- environmental risks, urban mobility, poverty and growing inequality. Gordon McBean and Heide Hackmann participated.

On the threshold of 2015, our office will be 4 years in Mexico in January of that year. The results achieved in these first four years with the fulfillment of a strategy elaborated in January 2011 permitted the establishment of strategic alliances that allows us to start 2015 with a solid strategic projection to a higher stage of work. This projection is complemented fully with the review of the CSPR, which began at the end of this year 2014 and ends in May 2015. Our organization enthusiastically is prepared to receive this evaluation to show the fruitful results of the effort and dedication of the members of our group during these four years of work in Mexico and ready to work for a promising future in the new phase of work.

Manuel Limonta
Director of the Regional Office

Message from the Chair of the Regional Committee

This year 2014, the ICSU Regional Office starts its fifth year of been located in Mexico City. According to the number of activities that the office has reported, I feel that the decision to locate the office in our country has fulfilled its expectative.

In part, this success can be attributed to the great commitment that the members of the scientific committee have shown along this period. Last year finished their activities as members of the Regional Committee: Anthony Clayton, Jerson Lima, and Humberto Rodríguez to whom we are very grateful. Following the operational rules, three new members (Elisa Reiss, Ana Rada and Germán Poveda) were selected and proposed to the ICSU Executive Board for their approval.

One of the main goals, stated explicitly when the Office began operations in early 2011, was the development of a program seeking strategic alliances with various regional organizations that would allow carrying a work based on the three pillars of ICSU: International Scientific Collaboration, Science for Policy and universalization of science. The Office and its regional committee projected to make a work plan, which included activities in the short, medium and long term. This plan accomplished efficiently and effectively stages of short and medium term, with many activities and even managed to fully enter the long term goals, by doing activities that were considered strategic. This has occurred in one of his priorities as is the case of Mathematics Education, which has been active in various countries with significant impacts on the political structures responsible for mathematics education thereof and also interacting directly with hundreds of mathematics teachers from these countries with seminars, conferences and education workshops organized and facilitated by the ICSU mathematic group of ROLAC.

At the last quarter of 2014 the ICSU headquarter announced an evaluation of the work of the Regional Office. This assessment comes at a very important moment in the evolution of the Office, which has created a solid foundation of strategic alliances with regional organizations that have greatly increased the visibility of ICSU in the region and also, has enabled the joint implementation of workshops and other types of interaction that are based on the three ICSU pillars.

The work of data collection for this review of the regional office has begun at the end of 2014 and we expect that the results of this assessment in 2015 will be very beneficial to improve the continued work of the Regional Committee and of our regional office.



José Luis Morán-López
Chair of the Regional Committee

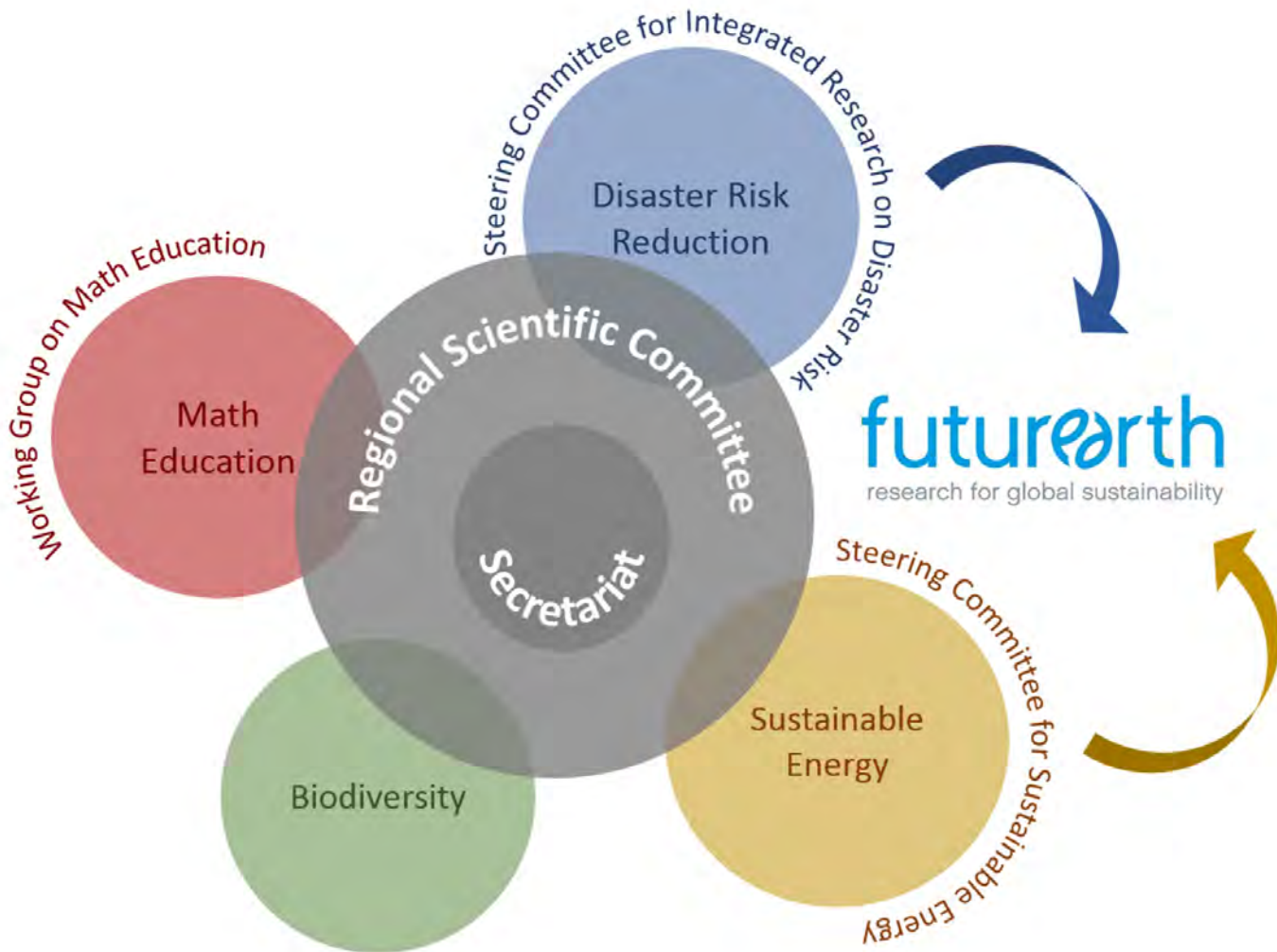
Scientific Priority Areas

Disaster Risk Reduction

Sustainable Energy

Mathematics Education

Biodiversity



Disaster Risk Reduction



Barbara Carby

Two thousand and fourteen was a very important year for the global disaster risk management (DRM) community as the discussions on a successor framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) gathered intensity. The opportunity existed also for linking DRR into the Sustainable Development and Climate Change agendas. On-line discussions, regional platforms and preparatory committee meetings all contributed to defining the important themes for the next global agree-

ment on DRM. The ICSU ROLAC Steering Committee on DRR (SC-DRR) contributed to these important discussions through involvement of the Chairperson and some members.

ICSU coordinated the Science and Technology Major Group (STMG) which advocated for science to be included and visible in the new framework. At the Regional Platform in Ecuador a science working group, which included committee members, issued a statement on the importance of science to DRR. Excerpts from the statement were included in the conference statement. The 'zero draft' of the proposed framework included science and scientific research in many areas.

The SC-DRR recognizes the importance of science, particularly scientific research, to achievement of regional and national goals for DRR. The committee commissioned a study on *'The Identification of Advances and Linkages of the Scientific and Academic Community Initiatives with Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean'*. After a competitive tendering process, Virginia Jiménez was selected as the consultant. As the title suggests the committee was interested in assessing whether research projects are meeting criteria on interdisciplinary research as laid out by the IRDR, whether research projects are including national stakeholders in project goals and design and whether the projects support national or regional DRR goals. The findings of this study will inform the committee's work programme and will also provide valuable information for planning inter-



Photo: Some of the members attending the meeting of the SC on DRR in Costa Rica. Standing from left to right: Manuel Limonta, Irasema Alcántara, Arturo Martínez, Sálvano Briceño, Alfonso Brenes, José Rubiera.

disciplinary research as well as providing information towards ensuring that science is indeed supporting DRR policy and practice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the spirit of fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation and increasing the visibility of the Committee, presentations on the Committee's work were made at an *International Workshop on Society and Nature - Dialogue between Natural and Social Scientists on the Challenges of Sustainability* and at the workshop on *Disasters, Hazards, Volcanos, Earthquakes and Hydrometeorological Hazards* in Costa Rica.

At the second Committee meeting convened in November, it was decided that Brazil should be invited to join the Committee and that the Committee should create links with

REDULAC the network of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Other linkages to be made include with the Organization of American States and the Cuauhtémoc Forum, national DRR councils and focal points as well as policy makers. These links will substantially increase the Committee's network and provide increased opportunities for cross-border interdisciplinary research and dialogue as the Committee seeks to make its contribution to DRR in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Barbara Carby

Chairperson Steering Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Chair

Barbara Carby

Vice-Chair

Patricia Alvarado

Observers

Germán Poveda Allan Lavell Irasema Alcántara José Rubiera Gabriel Vargas

Sálvano Briseño IRDR Jonathan Baker UNESCO Raúl Salazar UNISDR

Arturo Martínez José Luis Morán-López Manuel Limonta Ángela Guzmán

Steering Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction



Ángela Guzmán

THE ROAD TO THE 3RD WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (WCDRR 2015)

ICSU was responsible for organizing the participation of the Science and Technology (S&T) Major Group in WCDRR 2015, Sendai, Japan. ICSU ROLAC joined ICSU's efforts to deliver, within the context of the conference, relevant contributions by the worldwide scientific community to society and participated actively in preparatory meetings at regional and global levels intended to deliver key consistent messages of the S&T major group for the post

2015 intergovernmental agreement, as detailed in the following paragraphs.

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

The director and science officer of ICSU ROLAC, along with officers of its SC on DRR, attended the IV Session of the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas, held May 27-29 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Approximately 600 national and local government officials, academics, members of civil society, youth groups, and non-government organizations from 30 countries attended. Public debates and closed-door meetings lead to the Guayaquil Declaration of the Regional Platform for DRR.

The ICSU ROLAC team participated actively with the UNISDR representative and the scientists representing the LAC University Network for DRR (REDULAC) to warrant the inclusion of clear statements in the declaration on the value of the contributions of the scientific and academic community in generating knowledge and technological development for risk management decision-making, and of the need to integrate knowledge and information for formulating evidence-based risk management policies. M. Limonta and B. Carby presented the ICSU ROLAC office work on DRR in the Panel "The research



From left: Bishwa Raj Pandey (GFDRR/World Bank), Diego Sánchez (CAF-Development Bank of Latin America), Roberto Reyna Tejada (REDULAC), Carlos Villacis (World Bank), Manuel Limonta (ICSU), Virginia Murray (UNISDR), Julián Báez (World Meteorological Organization).

framework as a contribution to building resilient communities and its importance for decision-makers”.

Preparatory Committee for WCDRR 2015

The preparatory committee held two sessions in Geneva, Switzerland, the first on July 14-15, and the second on November 17-18, 2015. ICSU ROLAC delegates were Barbara Carby and Irasema Alcántara. The Committee, consisting of 14 members, emphasized the need of bringing together S&T knowledge, political decision-making, and community involvement, and highlighted how the information and communication technology, when linked to complex risk modeling capabilities, have revolutionized the ways in which S&T can help societies strengthen their preparedness and resilience.

The Committee advocated for the establishment of a mechanism that would enhance closer interaction between the S&T actors and decision-makers in the public domain, as a key element for an action agenda for the post-2015 world.

DRR and High Education

A. Guzmán was an invited panelist at the Second Latin-American Forum of Disaster Risk Reduction and Higher Education held in Bogotá, Colombia, Nov 24-26, 2014, organized by REDULAC and USAID. She presented “The trans-disciplinary vision of ICSU for research on DRR and the importance of regional networks” and invited all higher education institutions and research centers in LAC to fill out the online instruments



The delegation of the Science & Technology Major Group at the Geneva meeting.

with the information needed for the ICSU ROLAC study on linkages between academic research and DRR.

The participation of Rüdiger Klein (IRDR Director) and A. Guzmán provided an excellent opportunity to establish a tripartite collaboration, ICSU ROLAC – IRDR – REDULAC. IRDR invited REDULAC to attend the session on higher education at WCDRR, and in its webpage REDULAC posted links to the instruments for the ROLAC study.

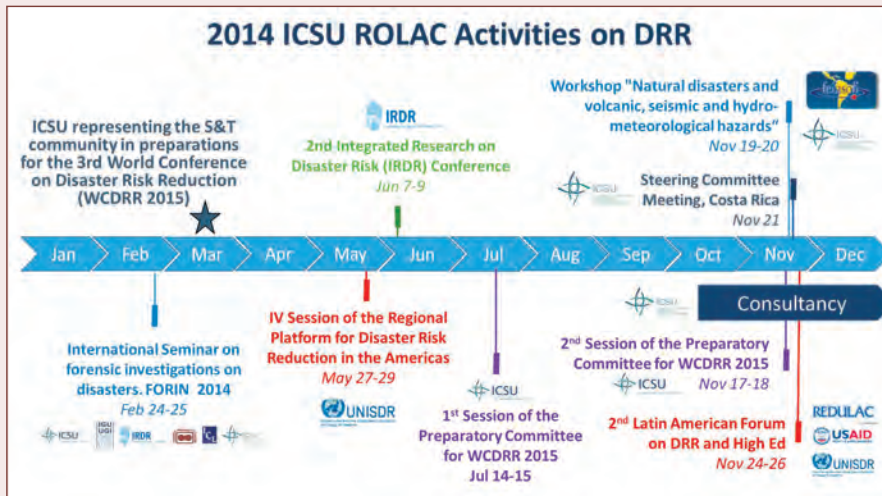
Participants of the Forum proclaimed the Declaration of Bogotá requesting that the regional governmental delegates to WCDRR support the recommendations of the academic and scientific communities consigned in the Guayaquil Declaration, all of them oriented to the integration of Science and High Education as fundamental axes for the Post 2015 Action Framework.

Ángela Guzmán

Science Officer ICSU ROLAC

CAPACITY BUILDING: FORIN 2014

The LAC region plays a leading role within the capacity building programme of IRDR. FORIN is an innovative methodology that focuses on the root causes of disasters and on risks. It provides a number of approaches that allow in-depth understanding of the complex spatial and temporal causal dimensions of disasters and their impact on societies. The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) organized the International Seminar on Forensic Investigations on Disasters, FORIN 2014, in Mexico City, on Feb 24-25, 2014, in collaboration with the International Consortium of Landslides (ICL), the International Geographical Union (IGU), the Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and ICSU RO-LAC. Approximately 60 researchers (30% early career scientists) attended. M. Limonta



attended the opening ceremony. Featured presentations by researchers with extensive experience – Anthony Oliver-Smith, Ian Burton and Gustavo Wilches-Chaux –, were followed by a workshop on study cases where young researchers from several countries of the region were confronted with study cases. This first FORIN Workshop will serve as a seed for an ICSU ROLAC capacity building program on FOIN in LAC.

IDENTIFYING LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND DRR INITIATIVES IN LAC

ICSU ROLAC contracted a study by the consultant V. Jiménez to perform a mapping of interactions between Universities and research centers with civil society, the private sector, and National Centers for DRR. The study focuses on identifying technical and institutional links and on studying best practices in University research projects. Two instruments were prepared by the consultant to collect information for the study. They were distributed between members of La Red and REDULAC, and are posted in the REDULAC webpage in English and Spanish. Results of the study will help identify a specific niche of action for ICSU ROLAC and help establish best practices for multi and transdisciplinary research on DRR.

PLANNING THE WORK OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON DRR

During its second meeting held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, on Nov 21-22, 2014, the Committee outlined an action plan establishing annual activities and asked for online support hosted by ICSU ROLAC for collaborative work, including online meetings. The participation of Rüdiger Klein, Executive Director of IRDR, enhanced the existing synergy between ROLAC and the IRDR, whose steering and scientific committees share several members. He requested that ICSU ROLAC recommended to its national members the creation of national DRR Committees, following the successful examples of Argentina, Colombia, and Panama. The Steering Committee expects to have invited representatives of the Cuauhtémoc Forum to its annual meeting, present them with the regional landscape and discuss funding for research on DRR.

A new initiative was to allocate an ICSU ROLAC capacity building activity at "Understanding Risk (UR)". By the end of the year the organizers of UR (GFDRR) had been contacted and offered to ICSU ROLAC the possibility of hosting a regional or global UR event in LAC.

Mathematics Education:



Patricio Felmer

2014 marks the beginning of a new impetus in the work of ICSU ROLAC towards the advancement of mathematics education in the region. June 2014, ICSU ROLAC organized the Second International Workshop on Mathematics Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshop was held in El Salvador with the participation of representatives from about 10 countries of the region. The strong support of the Department of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Education and the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the University of El Salvador, represented a

great contribution to the success of this meeting. The activities of the first day focused on the exchange of experiences in mathematics education, and the second day was devoted to teachers. More than 200 teachers participated in lectures and problem-solving workshops conducted by international experts. The activities were chaired by the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Erlinda Handal, the Director of ICSU ROLAC Manuel Limonta, and the newly appointed Minister of Education of El Salvador, mathematician Carlos Canjura.

In line with this new developments, Dr. Patricio Felmer, member of the ICSU Regional Committee for L.A.C, visited Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In a short two-day visit, he had the opportunity to meet officials from the Ministry of

Education, the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and the Higher Teachers Training Institute "Salomé Ureña." Furthermore, Patricio Felmer discussed with mathematics teachers and pre-service teachers and gave lectures at the UASD and UNAPEC. The agenda was carefully prepared by Professor Elizabeth Rincón. As a relevant result of this visit, ICSU ROLAC is organizing, together with local authorities, the Fourth International Workshop on Mathematics Teaching in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Santo Domingo in 2015.

From 24 to 28 November 2014, the meeting on mathematics teaching didactics and experimental sciences: "Problem Solving and Critical Thinking Development" was held in El Salvador.



On January 26-31st, Manuel Limonta attended the *Mathematicians and School Mathematics Education: A Pan-American Workshop (14w5128)* organized by the Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery. From left: Rafael Labarca (Coordinator of EMALCA), José Antonio de la Peña, William McCallum (Organizer of the workshop), and Patricio Felmer.

This event was organized by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the University of El Salvador, with the support of ICSU ROLAC, the Center for Mathematical Modeling (CMM) of the University of Chile, and the financial support of the OAS through the Inter American Network of Teachers Education (RIED). The main activities of this event were the performance of four courses in problem-solving and critical thinking development, lectured by the experts Josefa Perdomo-Diaz, Leonor Varas, Eugenia Díaz and Javier Campanini, all from the University of Chile.

The last months of 2014, ICSU ROLAC continued working on this priority area, organizing the Third International Workshop on Mathematics Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, held January 2015 in the city of Havana, Cuba. At this meeting, attended by representatives of several countries from the region, progress was made in the dissemination of good practices. Problem-solving workshops with teachers were performed. New guidelines were also discussed, pointing to strengthen the approach to the authorities that define the educational policies in the region, and to promote good practices in mathematics education in our countries, with emphasis in Central America. Pursuing this aim, a book with recommendations to the educational authorities and governments will be published soon. Following an agreement of the meeting, ICSU ROLAC will intensify efforts to develop Standards for initial training of mathematics teachers at all levels, based on the excellent results achieved by Chile on this matter. In order to promote this agenda, ICSU ROLAC is calling ministers from



In the front row from left Manuel Limonta, Patricio Felmer, Lilliam Alvarez, and other participants.

five countries of Central America to the Santo Domingo meeting next September. Note that there is already some progress in defining standards in Honduras and a declaration of interest of Cuba.

The above described actions show the intense work of ICSU ROLAC in promoting quality education in mathematics in the region. Our activities have been supported by UNESCO, OAS (RIED), UMALCA, local Scientific Societies and Research Centers in Mathematics.

ICSU ROLAC gives special thanks to the members of its Regional Committee, Patricio Felmer, from the University of Chile, and Lilliam Alvarez, from the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Patricio Felmer

Member of the Regional Committee for LAC

Sustainable Energy



Anthony Clayton

The Steering Committee (SC) on Sustainable Energy (SE) had its first Meeting in Panama in April 2014. The steering committee aims at proposing, promoting and fostering international cooperative research initiatives on SE with a strategic, global and trans-disciplinary perspective and policy-relevant prospective results. The SC agreed on adopting a multidimensional approach that involves social, economic, environmental, and political aspects, as the overarching framework for its activities, and committed to the use of the best methodologies currently available for integrating these dimensions into the design, implementation, analysis and

evaluation of projects. By adopting this approach, the ICSU ROLAC SC on SE will take the leading role in showing how scientific institutions can support a global transition to more sustainable models of development.

The SC grouped its lines of action into four categories: Research, Development, Demonstration (RD&D) and Knowledge Management,













capacity building, outreach and advocacy, and financing and fundraising activities. The SC recommended ICSU ROLAC to build a LAC skills inventory of existing research groups and networks, information that is required for the analysis and assessment of the energy situation and the capacity building needs at all levels of education in the region.

The SC recommended a comprehensive set of ambitious



From left: José María Rincón (Colombia), Elena Vigil (Cuba), Claudio Estrada (Mexico), Gabriel Blanco (Chile), Fernando Olsina (Argentina), Arturo Martínez (Vice Chair of the ICSU ROLAC Regional Committee).

outreach and advocacy programs: (i) A web and media based comprehensive program for the dissemination of knowledge about the SE in the scientific community and the general public, and of the risks to humanity of deferring decisions and actions towards transition to a sustainable energy system. (ii) The development of cross-border programs to transfer knowledge and experience in public policies on sustainable energy development to policymakers through special meetings with governmental officers on the energy sector and congressmen, and the publication of reports. This initiative can be complemented by the development of a policy workshop for scientists. (iii) To foster the establishment of a coordinated joint program among the major national science agencies in LAC to fund and support collaborative projects for conducting integrated research on SE at the regional level. (iv) To provide further support and endorsement to local/regional running RD&D projects provided that they comply with the set ICSU frame-

	Chair			
Vice-Chair				Secretary
	Claudio Estrada	Décio Gazzoni	Fernando Olsina	
				
	Anthony Clayton	José María Rincón	Elena Vigil	
				
	Arturo Martínez	José Luis Morán-López	Manuel Limonta	Ángela Guzmán
				
				John Millhone Expert Adviser
				
				Gabriel Blanco Observer of the University

work: high quality, cross-border collaboration, trans-disciplinary and policy relevance. (v) To undertake collaborative actions with scientific associations and networks related to SE.

*Anthony Clayton,
Member of the Regional Committee for LAC*

The project brought together researchers and policy-makers from LAC to engage in an insightful dialogue in order to discuss challenges and opportunities regarding facilitated access to biological material, clarify the needs of Academia and government agencies, and build mutual trust. They elaborated joint recommendations to support the implementation of national and/or regional ABS regulations that suit the needs of users and providers of biological material with a view to better conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, while allowing the generation of urgently needed biodiversity knowledge for the benefit of society.

PDF in English and in Spanish available in <http://www.icsu.org/latin-america-caribbean/what-we-do/priority-areas/biodiversity/access-benefit-sharing/access-and-benefit-sharing-abs>

Angélica Bucio

Communications Officer ICSU ROLAC

IMPLEMENTING ACCESS & BENEFIT-SHARING (ABS)

& Ensuring Academic Non-Commercial Research for the Conservation & Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Messages from a pilot science-policy dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean




The ABS project in Latin America and the Caribbean of DIVERSITAS, ICSU-ROLAC, SCNAT and IUBS, in collaboration with the GEF ABS LAC Project/IUCN-Sur and the University of Bonn, provided a pilot experience in initiating a dialogue between academic researchers and policy-makers. This document compiles its key messages.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol (NP), an international regulatory framework for ABS

Biodiversity is essential for the survival of mankind. Yet it is being lost at an alarming and accelerating rate. To halt this loss, the CBD signposts as one of its objectives "the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources". This ABS obligation is specified in the NP, a supplementary agreement to the CBD. Its **Article 8(a)** asks for establishing simplified measures on access for non-commercial research purposes, taking into account the need to address a change of intent for such research.

An important player in ABS is non-commercial biodiversity research.

Academic research: a lever for valuing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Academic research contributes in different ways to the CBD's objectives. Firstly, it provides the necessary knowledge for taking sound measures and informing decisions on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Secondly, it provides a vast array of non-monetary benefits that stretch from mere exchanges between scientists to sharing results with local communities up to providing research infrastructures and related capacity-building to local institutions. Thirdly, it provides a foundation for research and development since some of its results might be of interest for further investigation for commercial ends.

Why simplified access for non-commercial research?

To operate, academic research needs access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, but lacks the financial, organisational or time resources for long-lasting negotiations. Hence, implementing the NP provides an **opportunity** to simplify access procedures for non-commercial research.

ABS is a cross-cutting issue involving different governmental agencies and stakeholder groups.

Favourable conditions to facilitate the implementation of ABS regulations

🔄 SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE

- Because academic researchers and governmental officials act in different "worlds", bridges built between these worlds help create mutual **understanding** of their respective concerns on ABS issues.

🔄 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

- A holistic, integrative ABS policy framework is a prerequisite to capture the cross-cutting nature of ABS issues.
- The development of an integrative model depends on the allocation of appropriate economic means whose return on investment will be the benefits generated by a sound and effective ABS system aligned with the NP requirements.

The Cuauhtémoc Forum

In August, representatives from CONICET (Argentina), FAPESP (Brazil), the Chilean Ministry of Environment, the USA National Science Foundation (NSF), CONACYT (Paraguay), CONCYTEC (Perú), and



the Dominican Ministry of High Education, Science and Technology, along with representatives from UNESCO-LAC and ICSU RO-LAC, attended the Conference of the Parties of the Inter American Institute for Global Climate Change

(IAI) and met at the Secretariat of Foreign Relations in Mexico City with the aim of creating a structural basis in the Americas for international collaboration projects within the framework of the Future Earth Programme.

The participants recognized that while each of their countries funds research on global climate change, there exist common interests and challenges concern-

ing issues defined by Future Earth that will be better served by combining efforts at the regional level. A proposal to establish a joint mechanism for the co-funding of international collaborative projects on global climate change was thus welcomed. The participants agreed on initiating local administrative processes to create, at the American level, the Cuauhtémoc Forum, an organization with purposes similar to those of the Belmont Forum, which provides financial support for the Future Earth Programme at the global level.

To institutionalize the mechanisms for collaborative funding, participants agreed to request of their national institutions the designation of a focal point responsible for the process and committed to consult on mechanisms that could be adopted in each country for co-financing international projects.

The IAI, the organization leading this initiative, offered to open two future calls for “small grants” to encourage co-financing mechanisms through additional IAI funding for proposals from country members of the Cuauhtémoc Forum.

Representatives of CONACYT (Mexico) and DINAMA (Uruguay) joined the Forum soon after its first meeting. Other science agencies of the Americas are invited to join the Cuauhtémoc Forum by subscribing to its guidelines. The Forum will meet again in June 2015 at the IAI Conference of the Parties.



Participants in the 22nd IAI Conference of the Parties.

ICSU ROLAC and Young Scientists

The International Conference and General Meeting of the Global Young Academy (GYA) took place in Santiago de Chile from 21 to 25 May 2014. ICSU ROLAC Communications Officer, Angélica Bucio, represented ICSU ROLAC. She was part of the panel, "Discussion on Natural Resources in a Finite World", and delivered the keynote presentation, "ICSU & Future Earth: knowledge and sup-

port to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world." The main objectives were to analyse opportunities of collaboration among ICSU, Future Earth, and GYA. The collaboration of GYA and ICSU ROLAC has been permanent ever since. One outcome of this relationship is that the applications for GYA memberships from LAC quadrupled compared to the average from the previous years.



Participants in the International Conference and General Meeting of the Global Young Academy

Outcomes of the network established during the “1st TWAS-ICSU Latin-American Young Scientists Conference / 14th TWAS-ROLAC Young Scientists Conference” include the following: 1) The collaboration of Pablo Groissman from the University of Buenos Aires and David Servellón from the National Center for Scientific Research in El Salvador (CICES) in the First National Congress of Applied Mathematics in El Salvador. 2) Eduardo Santillan Zeron from Cinvestav in Mexico analysed the work of Pablo Groisman from the University of Buenos Aires. 3) Cecilia Alonso from the University of the Republic of Uruguay agreed to participate in the Second DFG/ICSU/ISSC Young Scientists Networking Conference on Integrated Science, on the topic of “Ecosystems and human wellbeing in the green economy”, held at Villa Vigoni, Italy, from May 25-31, 2014. 4) Andrea Sealy from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology in Barbados was sent by ICSU ROLAC to the 2nd IRDR Conference, under the theme “Integrated Disaster Risk Science: A Tool for Sustainability”, June 7–9, 2014, in Beijing, China.



About the ICSU Grants Programme

The ICSU Grants Programme supports collaborative scientific initiatives of relevance to science and society through seed grants that are often used to leverage funds from other sources. It is a competitive, peer-reviewed programme for ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies, and Joint Initiatives in collaboration with other ICSU bodies including Regional Offices.

Since 2008, the programme has offered up to ten awards of €30,000 each. The programme seeks proposals that

Focus on the themes of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017 and are international and multi-disciplinary.

Involve scientists across disciplines and national borders.

Promote the involvement of young scientists, women scientists, and scientists from developing countries.

Address the strategic priorities of the ICSU Regional Offices.

ICSU ROLAC endorses proposals intended to contribute to the advancement of its Science Plans in priority areas for the LAC region.

Since 2008 the Regional Office has been a partner to several ICSU Grants. In 2014 ICSU awarded three grants co-sponsored by the Regional Office.

IUPAP: “Advancing the Agenda of Women Physicists: Learning from Regional Differences to Take Action”

Authors proposed to construct teams of three physicists from countries in the Region who were to participate in the workshop *Latin American Workshop on Professional Skills for young Female Scientists* at the Mesoamerican Centre for Theoretical Physics (MCTP) in Mexico and subsequently to attend the International Conference on Women in Physics (ICWIP14). This latter international activity, held in Waterloo, Canada in August 2014, has significant participation by women from developing countries and in the early stages of their careers. During the conference, authors were to encourage the sharing of experiences, practices and policies, and the spreading of useful information. The grant was aimed at performing, by region, the review and analysis of the data from the most recent Global Survey of Physicists, learning from regional differences, and drawing a useful set of policies to increase the number of women physicists all over the world, taking cultural differences into account.

IUTOX Workshop: “Water Security: Integrating Lessons Learned for Water Quality, Quantity, and Sustainability”

Translation of excellence in science into policy requires targeted training and

multidisciplinary approaches, as well as frameworks and platforms for success. Water Security is an increasingly urgent global issue facing all of humankind, and hence a topic expected to attract interest across diverse disciplines and levels of expertise. IUTOX has a proven track record of engaging with young and minority scientists to help build diverse leaders for future international scientific challenges, and has designed a cross-disciplinary program to foster diverse dialogue and collaborations between dynamic young scientists and experienced well-established mentors. The translational water quality workshop was developed to facilitate discussion of Water Security in Europe across disciplines. The grant aimed to adapt the workshop for the unique South American issues with German collaboration, opening communication on water quality, quantity and sustainability across international borders and disciplines, and extending ICSU’s Earth Systems Sustainability Initiative by facilitating scientific discourse on the translation of global observation systems for regional Water Security issues and policies.

WCRP: “WCRP-ICTP Summer School on Prediction and Attribution of Extreme Events”

Weather and climate extremes affect every aspect of our society, and there has been an increase in damage associated with weather and climate extreme

events. Society is increasingly asking for information on the causes of extremes and an ability to predict these extremes on time scales from days to seasons to centuries. There is a pressing need to educate future researchers in such techniques given the prominence and importance of societal and scientific questions about extreme events that are receiving increasingly intense attention in the minds of the public and their policy makers. The School, held in Trieste, Italy, 21 July - 01 August 2014, addressed the understanding, monitoring, modelling, and prediction of climate extremes and their changes, topics that are of critical importance in informing society on the design of sustainable development measures. It was aimed at the training of students with outstanding research potential in the techniques that will be required to better understand observed and future changes in extremes.

The Summer School was the first capacity growth activity of the WCRP Grand Challenge on the Science Underpinning the Attribution and Prediction of Climate Extremes. The topic was jointly managed by the Climate Variability and Predictability Program (CLIVAR) and the Global Energy and Water Exchanges Program (GEWEX) through focused coordinated activities aimed to advance the understanding and prediction of climate extremes.

Reaching Out

Strengthening Relations with the ICSU family

Reaching out to ICSU Scientific Unions

Reaching Out to International Organizations

Strengthening Relations with the ICSU Family

The 31st General Assembly of ICSU.

M. Limonta, C. García, A Guzmán, and J. L. Morán-López attended the 31st General Assembly of ICSU in Auckland, New Zealand (August 30-September 3, 2014). It was inaugurated by the New Zealand's Prime Minister and attended by representatives of 48 national members, including four Latin American countries (Brazil, Cuba, Peru, and Mexico) and representatives of 28 international scientific unions, interdisciplinary bodies, and associate scientific members. Special attention was devoted to two programs currently prioritized by ICSU: "Future Earth" and "Urban Health and Wellness".

The Regional Offices presented reports on their achievements since the last General Assembly. It was recommended that they conduct regular meetings with all national members in the region and publish the results of these meetings. They should also work to increase their visibility and intensify fundraising efforts for regional financial

support of ICSU Research Programmes and their own activities.

The outcome of the elections for the principal officers of ICSU were: • Elected Chairman: Daya Reddy • Vice-President of Planning and Scientific Review: Li Jinghai • Vice-President for External Relations: Michael Clegg • Secretary-General: David Black • Treasurer: Barbara Erasmus. The next General Assembly will be held in Taipei City in 2017.



M. Limonta and C. García

The 2nd IRDR Conference- “Integrated Disaster Risk Science: A Tool for Sustainability”, Beijing, China (June 7-9, 2014).

The IRDR Programme, in partnership with the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), hosted the 2nd IRDR Conference under the theme, “Integrated Disaster Risk Science: A Tool for Sustainability”, from 7 – 9 June 2014 at the Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) in Beijing, China. The Conference emphasized the importance of science as a tool for addressing hazard risks and issues of sustainable development. The sessions addressed environmental hazards, vulnerability, and their interrelation with global and regional sustainability. ICSU ROLAC was invited to propose a candidate to attend and recommended Andrea Sealy, a young scientist from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Barbados.

Fourth Meeting of the Science & Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, Buenos Aires, Argentina (December 4-6, 2014).

This meeting brought together the Science and Engagement Committees of Future Earth, the interim and new Secretariats of the Programme, and the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability. Discussions focused on the roadmap towards the Future Earth 2025 Vision, looking at the structures and activities that will help address the global challenges outlined in the Vision. ICSU ROLAC’s director contributed with a presentation of ICSU ROLAC’s work including information on the MoU ICSU ROLAC-IAI-UNESCO, and was invited as a guest in two sessions. He was accompanied by A. Martínez and had the opportunity to interact and discuss with Gordon Mac Bean and Heide Hackman, president and CEO of ICSU, and with Holm Tiessen, director of the IAI.

“Enhancing Collaboration Between Development Aid and the Overall Environmental Change Communities to Achieve Development Goals in Africa”, Johannesburg, South Africa (May 5-6, 2014).

This meeting was attended by senior representatives of development aid agencies; agencies funding research at the international, regional and national levels; regional researchers; ICSU headquarters staff; Staff of the International Council for the Social Sciences; and by the Director of ICSU ROLAC. The objectives of the meeting were to: 1) Understand the challenges of development in Africa and how integrated transdisciplinary research on global sustainability could help solve them. 2) Identify research priorities on common global sustainable development and funding needs in Africa. 3) Exchange experiences of existing research programs run jointly by researchers and funding agencies. 4) Explore new partnerships and mechanisms to support integrated transdisciplinary research and capacity building on global sustainability in the region. The ICSU ROLAC Director had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with donor agencies and learn of development issues in Africa with solution approaches that could be transferred to the LAC region. In turn, ICSU ROLAC contributed with the LAC experience as a benchmark for some of the discussions.

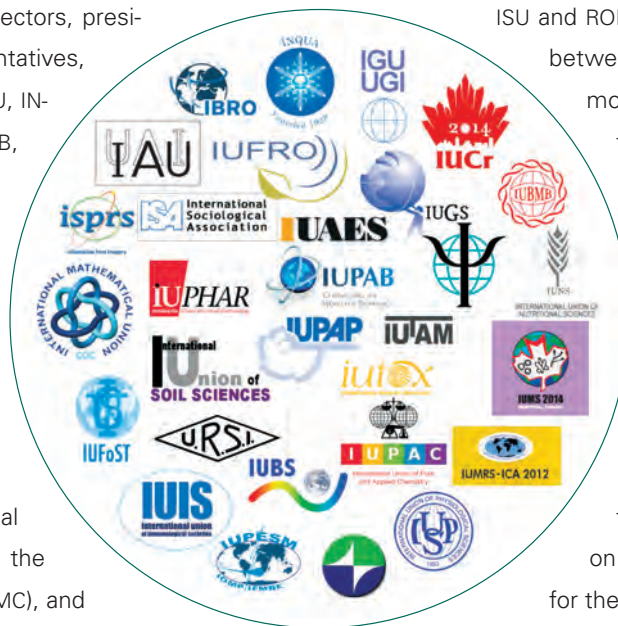
Reaching out to ICSU Scientific Unions

On January 9-10th, twenty five directors, presidents, vice-presidents, representatives, and liaisons of 20 (IAFoST, IAU, IMU, INQUA, IPY-APECS, ISHE, ISPRS, IUBMB, IUBS, IUCr, IUFoST, IUFRO, IUGG, IUPAC, IUPAP, IUPESM, IUPESM, IUPsyS, IUTAM, IUTOX) of the 31 International Scientific Unions (ISU) members of ICSU met in Varadero, Cuba, to discuss actions focused on the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) context. ICSU ROLAC hosted special guests José Franco, President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC), and Steven Wilson, Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The immediate results of the exchange were 1) the creation or expansion of networking among regional branches of the Unions, 2) the promotion of Future Earth, and 3) the crosscutting of

ROLAC priority areas, ISU interests, and Future Earth.

The participants identified five main lines of action: 1) to get the Future Earth programme closer to the scientific (all disciplines) and non-scientific communities, 2) to improve communication between



ISU and ROLAC, 3) to establish ROLAC as a link between ISU and Future Earth, 4) to promote ISU-ROLAC joint activities within the LAC region, and 5) to involve in the activities other organisms and countries that are not ICSU members.

This event was pioneering in bringing together such personalities of the ISU to work on regional issues. This is the first step for a closer collaboration between the ISU and ROLAC to work on a better scientific community in LAC for the benefit of all of society.



Reaching Out to International Organizations

On February 6th, Manuel Limonta inaugurated the 11th United Nations Model organized by Tomas Alva Edison School, one of the most important schools in Mexico City. Twenty-one Mexican schools from basic education to college level participated in this Spanish, English and French language simulation. The event allowed ROLAC to strengthen links with the Mexican education environment, create new links and collaborations in the Mathematics Education priority area, and be better known in the region.



Opening Ceremony of the 11th United Nations Model of the Tomas Alva Edison School

On June 2nd, Manuel Limonta was invited to the OLADE, with headquarters in Quito, Ecuador. He was hosted by Cesar Ferreira (Executive Secretary) and Lennys Rivera Albarracín (Director of Integration) to explore the possibility of organizing joint activities focused on four specific projects: 1) Knowledge Management, 2) Energy Efficiency, 3) Development of More Efficient materials, and 4) Education on Sustainable Energy in grades 12 and 13. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is in preparation. He also met with Dr. Jaime Medina, the Sub secretary of the SENESCYT, to whom he restated the advantages of becoming an ICSU National Member and explained the procedures to be followed to become integrated into ICSU.

Manuel Limonta, director of ICSU ROLAC, member of TWAS and member of the Executive Committee of TWAS ROLAC, attended the annual meeting of TWAS ROLAC in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on September 22-23 and agreed to co-organize the Second TWAS ROLAC/ICSU ROLAC Young Scientists Conference in 2015, focusing on Sustainable Energy. He also attended the 25th TWAS General Meeting of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), co-organized in Muscat, Oman, October 26-29, by three leading Omani science and education institutions: the Ministry of Higher Education, The Research Council, and Sultan Qaboos University. About 350 scientists, policymakers, educators, and other professionals from 56 countries convened for the meeting.

ICSU ROLAC and SSEESS Research Links Programme

Angela Guzmán collaborated with the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) in preparing the call for proposals from LAC to the SSEESS Research Links Programme, to emphasize ROLAC priorities and the Future Earth Programme. The result was a noticeable increase on applications from LAC.

Collaboration between ICSU ROLAC and the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) at the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences

The Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences in collaboration with ICSU Regional Offices has supported network building between scientists from Sweden and scientists from Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and Pacific. In close collaboration with ICSU ROA, since 2013 four projects within the SSEESS Research Links Programme have granted ca 10000 euros each for network building between Sweden and LAC researchers and organizations in Central and South America, e.g., from Argentina, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. The research areas include Global Environmental Change issues such as climate change impacts, hazard and disaster risk management, health, and sustainable energy.

Contact person: Neda Farahbakhshzad, Scientific Advisor at SSEESS



Bringing together natural and social scientists

On September 30th and October 1st, ICSU ROLAC, ISSC, and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences held the Workshop “Society and Nature: Dialogue between natural and social scientists on the challenges of sustainability” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The main objective of this workshop was to facilitate communication among scientists from different disciplines on energy issues, socio- environmental risks, urban mobility, poverty, and growing inequality. ICSU ROLAC and ISSC started the identification of specific procedures and methodologies to facilitate the development of trans-disciplinary projects within the research framework of Future Earth and to encourage the creation of multidisciplinary research teams. Successful experiences of joint natural and social science research oriented to solve a specific problem were presented.

The workshop was co-located with the meeting of the ICSU ROLAC regional Committee, RCLAC 16, and was attended by most of its members. Special invitees were Gordon McBean (ICSU President) and Heide Hackman (ISSC Executive Director). ICSU ROLAC

invited José Franco, the Past President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences; the Chair and Vice Chair of the SC on DRR; the Chair of the SC on SE, and some SC members. The ISSC and the ABS invited several distinguished social scientists.



Opening ceremony of the Workshop. From left: Gordon Mc Bean (ICSU President), Heide Hackmann (ICSU Executive Director), and Fernando Garcia de Mello (Director ABC)



Participants in the Workshop

Science for policy

Climate change forum at the Mexican Senate Chamber

On April 21st, Manuel Limonta and Angela Guzmán attended the Climate Change Forum in the Mexican Senate Chamber. This meeting, co-organized by the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, had as its objective the presentation of information on the current status of world damage. The need was emphasized for joint actions between natural and social scientists and decision makers to face the current challenges. Mario Molina, who shares a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work on the fate of chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere, gave a comprehensive introductory presentation. The senators involved in the climate change division fully participated, and ICSU ROLAC was invited as a key player in the subject within the LAC region.



Science for policy

International Workshop to Identify Major Scientific and Technical Issues Associated with the Interoceanic Canal through Nicaragua

November 10th and 11th, 2014

The Academy of Sciences of Nicaragua invited the Inter American Network of Academies of Science (IANAS) and ICSU ROLAC to co-sponsor an international workshop to ex-

plore scientific and technical issues associated with the proposed interoceanic canal through Nicaragua. The panel consisted of fifteen world experts and Nicaraguan researchers and scientists selected by IANAS. All pertinent disciplines were represented: biodiversity, conservation, marine biology, limnology and lacustrine ecosystems, civil and environmental engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, public policy, water resource management, water quality, economics, national and international security, and risk assessment.

The workshop aimed to identify and discuss technical and scientific questions pertaining to the Interoceanic Canal Project; to provide accurate and timely scientifically based information to decision makers and the Nicaraguan public; and to contribute to a public, transparent and well-informed debate on this megaproject.

The panel consolidated its discussions around water and sediments, biodiversity, and socioeconomic impacts. Experts were concerned about water and sediments due to the fragile ecosystem of Lake Nicaragua, one of the paramount tropical lakes in the world, with profound ecological, environmental, and economic value. The panel also recommended performing an exhaustive cost-benefits analysis, as well as analyses of the effects on national development, human rights, and legal and national security issues. The Summary of Discussions is available at the ICSU ROLAC webpage



ICSU ROLAC Governance

Regional Committee Members

RCLAC13

RCLAC14


The Regional Office Secretariat

Communications

Financial Summary


Regional Committee Members

Chair




José Luis
Morán-López


Vice-Chair




Arturo
Martínez




ICSU
International Council for Science
Regional Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean
Regional Committee




Patricio
Felmer




Anthony
Clayton




Juan
Jaén




Jerson
Lima




Humberto
Rodríguez




Lilliam
Álvarez




Luiz
Davidovich




Manuel
Limonta




Steven
Wilson





Ma. Carmen
Cisneros



Members of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014

Prof. Dr. José Luis Morán-López (<i>Chair</i>)	Instituto Potosino de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica	Mexico	Male	2013-2015 (first term)
Dr. Arturo Martinez (<i>Vice-chair</i>)	National Council for Scientific and Technological Research of Argentina (CONICET)	Argentina	Male	2013-2015 (second term)
Prof. Dr. Patricio Felmer	Academia Chilena de Ciencias	Chile	Male	2013-2015 (second term)
Prof. Dr. Anthony Clayton	University of the West Indies	Jamaica	Male	2012-2014 (first term)
Prof. Dr. Juan Jaén	Universidad de Panamá	Panama	Male	2013-2015 (first term)
Prof. Dr. Jerson Lima da Silva	Academia Brasileira de Ciencias	Brazil	Male	2012-2014 (first term)
Prof. Dr. Humberto Rodríguez	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Colombia	Male	2012-2014 (first term)
Prof. Dr. Lilliam Álvarez	Academia Cubana de Ciencias	Cuba	Female	2013-2015 (first term)
Prof. Dr. Luiz Davidovich (<i>ex-officio</i>)	ICSU Executive Board Liaison	Brazil	Male	
Dr. Manuel Limonta (<i>ex-officio</i>)	ICSU ROLAC Director	Mexico	Male	
Dr. Steven Wilson (<i>ex-officio</i>)	ICSU Executive Director	France	Male	
Prof. Dr. Carmen Cisneros (<i>Liaison</i>)	Instituto de Física, UNAM Mexican Academy of Sciences	Mexico	Female	

RCLAC 15

15th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

The 15th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Panamá City, Panama, April 3-4, 2015. The Director of ICSU ROLAC reported on the new structure of the ICSU ROLAC office, consisting of a Science Officer in charge of Sustainable Energy (SE) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and an Administrative Officer and a Communications Officer. RCLAC members were informed of the external review process of ICSU, the process of renewal of the agreement between ICSU and the Mexican Academy of Sciences for the continuation of the ICSU Regional office in Mexico (due in 2015) and of a review of the research priorities for the region to be started in 2014. He also reported on the outreach activities of the office with special mention of the ICSU ROLAC initiative for the “1st TWAS-ICSU Latin-American Young Scientists Conference”.

Science officer Angela Guzmán presented the first ICSU ROLAC Business Plan, containing a strategic overview with long term goals, operational objectives, and activities for the period 2014-2015, along with a diagnostic of human and financial resources required and their management. The Business Plan included financial, fundraising, and staff development plans as well as performance indicators and a Gantt Diagram for ICSU ROLAC activities. She also presented a new concept for the preparation of the ICSU ROLAC Annual

Report emphasizing strategies, milestones achieved and long term goals, and recommended that ICSU Grants endorsed by ICSU ROLAC be linked to the advancement of ICSU ROLAC Science Plans with a multidisciplinary perspective.

The Communication officer, Angélica Bucio, presented the communication strategy and the advancements on the establishment of social networks through Twitter, Facebook, and Flickr. The communication strategy will continue to encompass the initiatives of the office by creating a Group of Young Scientists in Facebook, hosting webpages for open working groups on SE and DRR in LAC, maintaining the directory of liaisons to the International Unions, and creating a Calendar of Activities of the ICSU Unions and ICSU ROLAC in the region.

The Committee congratulated the ICSU ROLAC team for the new initiatives and for the success of the activities undertaken, and directed the ICSU ROLAC to send a recommendation to the Academies in the region and to TWAS about increasing participation of women and young scientists. It also directed M. Limonta to prepare and sign a MoU with IANAS for common actions and joint projects on SE.



Participants of the 15th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

RCLAC16

16th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

The 16th ICSU Regional Committee Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 2-3, 2014. The meeting was convened in conjunction with the Workshop on Society and Nature, held in collaboration with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Via video conference, K. Paulavets informed on the structure of the ICSU proposal for a SIDA grant on Global Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Sustainable Energy (SE), and Urban Health and well-being (UH). The proposal involves the Inter American Institute for Climate Change (IAI) and collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Research Programme on Disaster Risk (IRDR).

The RCLAC approved the provision of financial support to experts chosen by IANAS to develop the concept for a scientific panel on the impact on biodiversity of the construction

of an interoceanic canal in Nicaragua. The RCLAC members directed M. Limonta to send them and the Steering Committee on SE the draft agreement ICSU ROLAC-OLADE for review and to discuss with IANAS the publication format (printed or open access), intellectual property rights, distribution strategy, and all other aspects related to the publication of a book on energy.

After considering the available nominations to membership of the RCLAC, the RCLAC decided to recommend Ana Rada (Bolivia), Elisa Reis (Brazil), and Germán Poveda (Colombia) to fill the three membership vacancies in the Regional Committee.

The RCLAC approved by consensus the creation of a Steering Committee on each of the priority research areas and supported the proposal from the ICSU ROLAC director to direct the office to follow closer any developments in UH. It further recommended the inclusion of this theme in its interaction with CONACYT and an analysis of the implications that

addressing this area can have on the financing of the office. To provide a framework for possible future activities in this area, the ICSU ROLAC Secretariat was directed to consult the Pan-American Health Organization in order to avoid duplications. The ICSU ROLAC Secretariat was also directed to include in the objectives of the Focal Point Meeting the discussion on priority areas. On actions for science for policy, M. Limonta was directed to write a letter to Dr. Motta, Secretary of S&T of Panama, presenting the idea of preparing a declaration on S&T for the Summit of the Americas.



Participants of the 16th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Office Secretariat

The ICSU ROLAC secretariat is hosted by the Mexican Academy of Sciences in Mexico City, Mexico. Under the leadership of the Regional Director, the secretariat coordinates and implements the scientific activities of the Regional Committee. The secretariat also acts as liaison to ICSU headquarters in Paris.



The Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC) hosts the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean as established in a formal agreement signed by AMC, CONACyT and ICSU for the period 2011-2015. AMC and CONACyT support the Regional Office by making staff and premises available plus catalytic financial support for programme activities.

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Manuel Limonta
Director

Camilo García
Administration Officer

Ángela Guzmán
Science Officer

Angélica Bucio
Communications Officer

ICSU
International Council for Science
Regional Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean

Financial Summary

Financial Summary 2014	
Credit	USD
CONACyT	\$ 309,690.24
ICSU	\$ 97,421.85
SIDA	\$ 1,730.81
TWAS	\$ 2,948.41
Total Funding	\$ 411,791.31
Expenses	USD
ROLAC Workshops	
Air and ground transportation	\$ 67,394.62
Accommodation and meals	\$ 46,677.38
Support material	\$ 1,660.86
Total	\$ 115,732.86
Meetings RCLAC	
Air and ground transportation	\$ 11,953.20
Accommodation and meals	\$ 16,272.03
Support material	\$ 1,390.74
Total	\$ 29,615.97
Outreach Activities	
Air and ground transportation	\$ 30,926.25
Accommodation and meals	\$ 6,329.88
Support material	\$ 452.32
Total	\$ 37,708.45
External consultation	
Advance payment DRR Consultant	\$ 8,129.02
ROLAC Expenses	
Staff honorariums	\$ 205,941.49
Editing and printing	\$ 9,493.57
Travel expenses	\$ 1,160.97
Office supplies	\$ 1,460.49
Communications	\$ 2,548.49
Total	\$ 220,605.01
Total Expenses 2013	\$ 411,791.31



Note: Exchange rate 1 USD = 13.30 MXN (Average 2014)

Communications

The communications area of ICSU ROLAC has three main tools for creating bridges that may be beneficial for the scientists in the region and for the society as a whole.

In the webpage <http://www.icsu.org/latin-america-caribbean> you may find the events organized by ICSU ROLAC since its establishment since 2007. There you can learn more about our priority areas and outreach activities. Moreover, you can get free access to our publications.

The ICSU ROLAC Newsletter started in 2012 and goes out every four months – January, May and September; it is published in English and Spanish. You may find it in our webpage and receive it in your mail if you subscribe our mailing list.

For a more direct communication with the scientific and non-scientific community, we are active in Facebook ICSU LAC, Twitter @ICSU_LAC, Flickr ICSU ROLAC and LinkedIn ICSU ROLAC. In there, we post information in real time and share information such as pictures, interesting news and calls.



The International Council for Science (ICSU)

Benefits of Joining ICSU

ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies

ICSU Scientific Associates

ICSU Scientific Unions

ICSU National Members

Benefits of Joining ICSU

All Members receive copies of ICSU publications: the electronic newsletter ICSU Insight, Annual Reports, as well as any other ICSU publications including serials.

Members have access to the restricted Member Zone of the ICSU website and to the ICSU databases.

Members have access to the activities and services of different committees of ICSU, in particular, the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science helps solving visa problems for scientists wishing to attend scientific meetings and provides advice to organizers of international meetings.

Members gain access to the global scientific community and to the enormous network of scientists comprising the membership of ICSU.

Members gain the prestige provided by the ICSU umbrella.

Full National Members have voting rights at the ICSU General Assembly, the highest ICSU's governance body, and thus participate in establishing guidelines and directives for ICSU activities.

ICSU's International Scientific Unions and National Scientific Members meet every three years in the ICSU General Assembly. Members get an excellent cross-discipline opportunity for the exchange of ideas and also get access to a wide spectrum of scientific expertise. This enables Members to address major international, interdisciplinary issues, which they could not undertake alone.

For further information on the range of ICSU's activities, see the ICSU interactive website:

www.icsu.org. Since March 2011, the ICSU ROLAC website has been integrated into the ICSU global website. ICSU ROLAC's activities are highlighted at www.icsu.org/latin-america-caribbean.

ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies

Interdisciplinary Bodies focus on specific areas of international research that are of interest to all or many ICSU Members, and are designed to become self-sufficient and independent in terms of day-to-day operations and financing.

Thematic Organizations

Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS)
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
Scientific Committee on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)
Scientific Committee On Solar-TERrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)

Global Environmental Change Programmes

DIVERSITAS, An International Programme of Biodiversity Science

Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability
International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)
International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)
WMO-ICSU-IOC World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

Monitoring and Observations

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)

Data and Information

ICSU World Data System (WDS)
Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF)

ICSU Scientific Associates

Scientific Associates support the objectives of ICSU and uphold the principle of the Universality of Science.

4S, Society for Social Studies of Science
AAS, African Academy of Sciences
AASSA, Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia
ACAL, Academia de Ciencias de América Latina
CIE, Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage
FIG, Federation Internationale des Geometres
IAHR, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research
IASC, International Arctic Science Committee
ICA - acoustics, International Commission for Acoustics
ICA - cartography, International Cartographic Association
ICIAM, International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

ICLAS, International Council for Laboratory Animal Science
ICO, International Commission for Optics
ICSTI, International Council for Scientific and Technical Information
IFIP, International Federation for Information Processing
IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IFS, International Foundation for Science
IFSM, International Federation of Societies for Microscopy
IIASA, International Institute for Applied System Analysis
IUVSTA, International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications
IWA, International Water Association
PSA, Pacific Science Association
TWAS, The World Academy of Sciences
UIS, Union Internationale de Spéléologie

ICSU Scientific Unions

The 31 international Scientific Union Members provide the disciplinary backbone of ICSU. They play a central role in bringing together scientists from all parts of the world to consider the issues of particular interest to individual disciplines.

	Regional Contact
IAU, International Astronomical Union	Marta Rovira
IBRO, International Brain Research Organization	
IGU, International Geographical Union	Irasema Alcántara-Ayala
IMU, International Mathematical Union	Marcelo Viana
INQUA, International Union for QUaternary Research	
ISA, International Sociological Association	
ISPRS, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing	Mario Hernández
IUAES, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences	
IUBMB, International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	
IUBS, International Union of Biological Sciences	
IUCr, International Union of Crystallography	
IUFRO, International Union of Forest Research Organizations	Bastiaan Louman
IUFoST, International Union of Food Science and Technology	
IUGG, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics	Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes
IUGS, International Union of Geological Sciences	Marta Mantovani
IUHPST, The International Union for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology	

	Regional Contact
IUIS, International Union of Immunological Societies	
IUMRS, International Union of Materials Research Societies	
IUMS, International Union of Microbiological Societies	
IUNS, International Union of Nutritional Sciences	
IUPAB, International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics	
IUPAC, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry	Ram S. Lamba
IUPAP, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics	Carmen Cisneros
IUPESM, International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine	
IUPHAR, International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology	
IUPS, International Union of Physiological Sciences	
IUPsyS, International Union of Psychological Science	Juan José Sánchez Sosa
IUSS, International Union of Soil Sciences	
IUTAM, International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics	Luiz Bevilacqua
IUTOX, International Union of Toxicology	
URSI, Union Radio Scientifique Internationale	Emanoel Costa

ICSU National Members in LAC

ICSU has 121 National Members covering 141 countries, 17 of them in Latin America and the Caribbean. These Members provide input, from a national, multidisciplinary perspective, on priority areas for future ICSU activities. They also play an important role in facilitating links with national governments and science agencies.

Argentina, National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET)

Bolivia, Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Bolivia (ANCB)

Brazil, Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC)

Caribbean, Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Chile, Academia Chilena de Ciencias

Colombia, Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (ACCEFYN)

Costa Rica, Academia Nacional de Ciencias (ANC)

Cuba, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba

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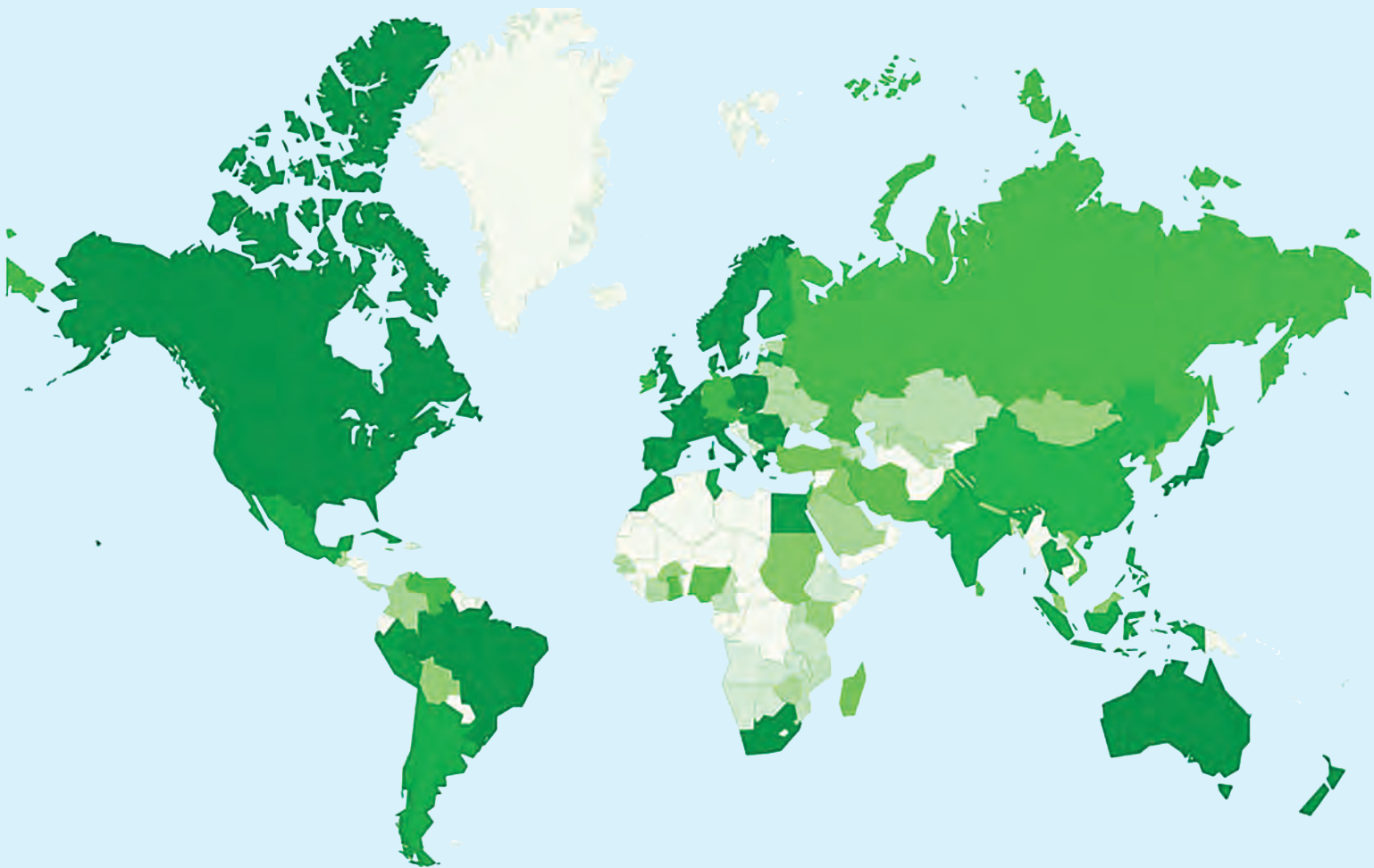
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