ISIACC
International Student Initiative for Action on Climate Change




International Student Initiative
For Action on Climate Change (ISIACC)

Latin America Forest Policy Research and Influence Project

Conclusion Report

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ETH sustainability
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

ACADEMIA ENGELBERG
Dialogue on Science

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1. Introduction

In the context of the 2004 Academia Engelberg Dialogue on Science, titled "Will Climate Change the World", a pre-conference was held incorporating a multicultural, multidisciplinary group of 18 young academics and professionals from 15 countries around the world. All participants were alumni students from the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES), a course run bi-annually by ETHsustainability. The principal task of the pre-conference participants was to develop an Action Plan for projects that could be initiated and directed by the group to address the issue of climate change. The rationale of the task was to address climate change mitigation through the net reduction in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. The participant group formed the International Student Initiative for Action on Climate Change (ISIACC) and developed an Action Plan containing three separate project proposals. Following the Engelberg Conference, the "Forest Policies Research and Influence" project was selected from the three in the action plan, and funding was secured for the implementation of the first stages. The project focuses on guiding forest policies in the Latin America region towards integrated forest management, conservation and sustainable development in order to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from forest related activities. The project phases, outcomes and achievements are presented in this conclusion report.

2. Project Purpose and Justification

The severe global implications of climate change are now well understood and accepted by the majority of the scientific community and the public at large. Less well recognised, however, is the important role that forests play in both climate change mitigation and adaptation and the enormous opportunities that exist within this sector. Further to reducing the impact of climate change, addressing deforestation also provides opportunities to contribute to biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and improved adaptability to climate change.

Although there are high uncertainties in estimates (Fearnside and Laurence 2004; Ramankutty et al. 2006; Schimel et al. 2001), calculations suggest that tropical deforestation could contribute to as much as 30% of total global GHG emissions (IPCC, 2001). The Latin American region is the area with the richest species biodiversity in the world, yet at the same time is undergoing intense deforestation and natural ecosystem destruction. Forty-nine percent of all the areas of tropical land that are deforested worldwide are located in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Deforestation has a

double-negative effect on the net emissions of carbon dioxide, as not only does it diminish the planet's ability to absorb and store CO_2 from the atmosphere during forest growth, but it also directly releases the carbon stored in trees as CO_2 into the atmosphere. As a result of deforestation, Latin America emits approximately 48% of the global total of CO_2 resulting from change in land use (Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica in UNEP, 2003).

Many opportunities exist for carbon mitigation in the forest sector in the Latin America region, however the success of these activities requires adequate policy and market related infrastructure at the national levels. The technical, social, institutional and economic challenges associated with forest sink activities are best addressed through a variety of policy mechanisms that can address the various socio-economical drivers of deforestation (economic incentives from logging and agricultural expansion, infrastructure projects, forest fires, etc.). However, the necessary policies to tackle deforestation face considerable shortcomings such as the lack of political will to enforce them, the lack of technical knowledge and capacity inside the institutions, the high administrative costs they involve, inefficient enforcement by authorities, policy contradictions and the opposition from affected sectors of society.

Due to these reasons the following were chosen as the basis of the ISIACC project:

- **Thematic Areas of Impact:**
  Forest conservation and management for climate change mitigation.
- **Core Competence:**
  Mobilization of Academia for public policy guidance.
- **Geographic Area of Impact:**
  Local teams in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, with impact in the greater Latin American region

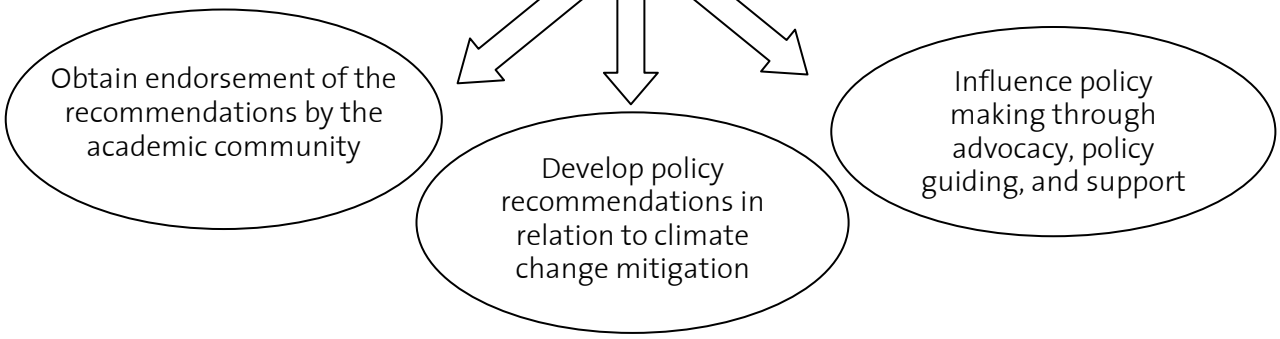
3. Approach

The model of ISIACC has been to build on the academic community's unique potential as a unified interest group to influence, guide and support sound policy making. Additionally it recognized that millions of the politicians and policy makers of the very near future are today active students, and will soon be making decisions at all levels, for which it aims to sensitize them to the complexity of the challenges at the nexus of forest, climate change and policy designing. ISIACC considers such force unique, and has focused on mobilizing students and academics towards proposing alternatives in forest management, conservation and sustainable development, as a tool to mitigate climate change and guarantee the satisfaction of their needs and those of future generations. In order to achieve this, ISIACC has designed and carried out a three component solution, outlined in the project process chart on the following page.

MISION

Mitigate climate change by guiding and supporting public policies to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gasses resulting from deforestation in Latin America.

GOALS



OBJECTIVES

- Research and understand the relations between climate change, deforestation and forest practices in the region.
- Develop academic proposals for forest policies.
- Create a platform for dialogue between students and experts.

- Communicate the results of the research to the academic community.
- Diffuse the policy recommendations and obtain endorsement by students, teachers, education institutions and academic groups.
- Foster alliances for action among the academic community.

- Bring the issue of forests and climate change up in the political agenda.
- Promote the implementation of the recommendations among policy makers.
- Foster alliances for action between policy makers and the academic community.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL TEAMS IN BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND MEXICO

Stage 1: ISIACC is composed by outstanding university students who research, analyze and design policy recommendations for the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forests.
Outcome:
Policy Papers, background research documents, and declaration of principles

Stage 2: ISIACC procures strategic endorsement of its policy recommendations from the academic community and general public at large.

Outcome:
Broad endorsement and dissemination of policy recommendations.

Stage 3: ISIACC directly contacts policy makers and government bodies with its endorsed recommendations to guide policy design, improvement, and modification.
Outcome:
Policy adoption, modification, improvement, and dismounting.

4. Project Management

The overall management and implementation of the project is being carried out by the Center for Sustainability (ETHsustainability) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), through the appointed Project Manager in Zurich, Ms. Michelle Grant and the Regional Project Manager (RPM) based in Brazil, Mr. Rodrigo Santos (this position was formerly held by Mr Fabio Segura from Columbia). For the implementation of the project, the Latin American region was divided into four administrative areas: Mexico, Colombia and Brazil with a sub-regional team created for each of these areas, led by a sub-regional coordinator. The senior management of the ISIACC organization is composed of the ETHsustainability Project Manager, the Regional Project Manager and the three Sub-Regional Coordinators. Each of these individuals is hired on a part time basis, and contributes additional time and resources on a volunteer basis. All of the individual members of the regional teams work for the organization entirely on a volunteer basis.

Spatial Distribution of Forests in Latin America According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Map reproduced in ECLAC [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean] (2004). *Spatial Distribution of Poverty in Relation to Environmental Systems in Latin America*, (Maps 10.a and 10.b cartographical annex)

All members of ISIACC are highly qualified young professionals and academics with demonstrated academic excellence. The sub-regional coordinators were selected from an extensive application process conducted across the region. Applicants were invited from within the YES alumni network to submit their resume, a 200 word essay on the project topic and undertake an interview with the project managers. The candidates were selected based on their proven record in the fields of forests and public policy, their command of either Spanish or Portuguese and English and on the completion of their studies at the masters or PhD level.

ISIACC has appointed a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), composed by invited policy makers, scientists and specialists to accompany and support the policy recommendations with an expert concept. Details of the project team and the STAP are provided in Appendix 1.

Partners and support

ISIACC partners, ETHsustainability and Academia Engelberg, provided a one-time grant of USD 113'165 to the ISIACC management team to finance 2 years of operations (March 2006 – April 08). Additionally both partners have provided administrative support to ISIACC and audited its financial management. A panel of renowned experts (STAP) from the scientific community and political arena provides free consultancy to ISIACC as well as technical support in the development of its recommendations and the implementation of its processes. A number of local universities in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico provide ISIACC with in kind donations and free services which allows the organization to keep administration costs as low as possible.

5. Project Phases

The project was carried out in several stages corresponding to the project outline presented in Section 3 – Project Approach. Each of these stages is elaborated in more detail below.

Stage 1.1 – Background Research

Since May 2006, ISIACC has undertaken a thorough research process aimed at understanding the relations between climate change, deforestation and forest practices in the region, in order to better found its policy recommendations. The research process itself became an educational experience and a platform for dialogue between students and experts. The research was grouped into 2 principal documents along with a declaration document, with the first prepared collectively with contributions from each of the teams, and the second prepared by each of the regional teams individually:

DOCUMENT 1: Climate change and the role of forests / International Negotiations: Forests and Climate Change
Introductory document providing the basic science background, the role of forests as a carbon source and sink in global warming, an overview of the drivers of deforestation globally and the geographic regions with the highest deforestation rates. Further outlines the historic process of climate change negotiations related

to forest and deforestation, current standing in regard to the UNFCC and the Kyoto Protocol, overview of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and recommendations of the team regarding the preferences for the direction of future negotiations.

DOCUMENT 2: Policy Papers - National Forest Policies: Mexico, Brazil, Colombia
The policy paper document contains 3 separate sections – one from each of the 3 regional teams focussing on one country in their sub region. Each of these sections contains an overview of the relevant forest related activities in the country influencing GHG emissions, including agriculture and cattle grazing, forest fires, large scale infrastructure projects, timber and wood extraction, urbanization and changes to population distribution, reforestation, afforestation, forest plantations and silviculture, along with the key geographical areas where these are occurring. For each activity the historical role, key actors and relationships, socio-economic importance, role in producing and/or reducing GHG emissions and projections for the future were investigated. The document provides an inventory and critical analysis of the existing sub- regional, national and local agreements, policy instruments and institutional frameworks related to climate change mitigation, sustainable development and management in regard to forests. Furthermore, it covers policies directly related to the activities or geographical areas identified in the first section of the document. The document addresses the principle objective of the background research document through providing recommendations for public policies at the national and sub regional level in relation to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests in relation to climate change mitigation.

Engelberg Declaration:
Each of the teams prepared a short declaration document bringing together the key principles of the above 3 core documents. This document was used for the endorsement process in Stages II and III.

Stage 1.2 – Public Consultation Process, September 2006

In the early stages of the background research phase each of the regional teams organized and carried out a one day Public Consultation Event to bring together ISIACC members with scientists, informed representatives from the academic community, public policy makers, forest specialists and students from the sub region. The aim of these events was to obtain feedback from each of the different sectors regarding the vision of the project as well as the content of the regional background research document. The attendees were selected guests with particular expertise on climate change, forest policies, or policy making. Four consultation events were carried out in:

Mexico
September 27th, 2006, Deputies Chamber of the Mexican Congress, 44 Participants

Colombia
September 28th, 2006, University of Applied Sciences, 33 Participants

Brazil
September 15th, 2006, Federal University of Santa Catarina, 59 Participants

Costa Rica
September 8th 2006, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), 14 Participants

Stage 1.3 – Research Consolidation Seminar, Leticia, Colombia, October 2006

A research consolidation seminar was held in the heart of the Amazon Jungle, on the border that unites Colombia, Brazil and Peru. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together the project managers, sub-regional coordinators and sub-regional team members to discuss their background research in person, compare the results of their preliminary research and analyze their implications, identify similarities and differences across the region, interact with local communities and understand in more detail the local context where their policy recommendations would be implemented. Several experts were invited to assist the group with this process.

Among the invited experts to the event was Dr. Manuel Rodriguez Becerra, former Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Colombia, Chairman of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and author of several volumes on Latin American Environmental Policies. Dr. Rodriguez advised the ISIACC and gave the group clear guidelines for action while sharing his valuable expertise in policy making and influencing. As a result of the different intervention by experts, the group gained practical tools to develop more accurately the second and third stages of the project.

The outcome of the event was the consolidation of the research process with a specific focus on the policy recommendations to be put forward and the detailed planning of the project stages. The conclusions from the Regional Seminar were integrated into the background research working documents.

Members of the Mexican Project Team discuss their background research together beside the Amazon River, Project Seminar, Leticia, Colombia, Oct 2006

STAP member Dr Manuel Rodriguez, former Colombian Minister for Environment and chair of UN Forum on Forests meets with member s of the Brazilian project team

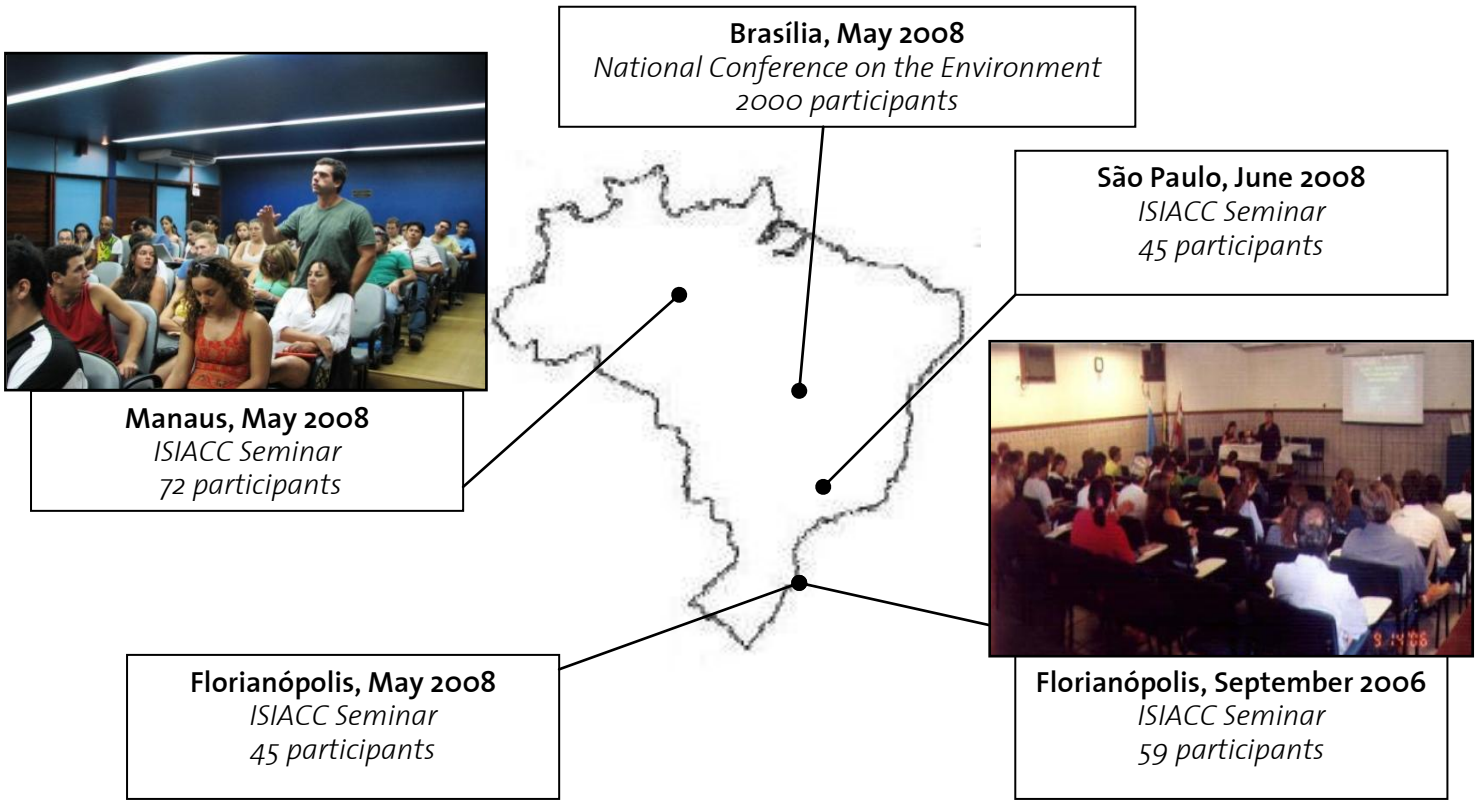
Stage 2 & 3 – Awareness Raising/ Endorsement and Guiding Policy Making

The second and third stages of the project focussed on awareness raising and gaining endorsement from the academic community and the general public of the policy recommendations proposed by the groups in order to then influence and guide policy making. Each of the three sub-regional teams had an individualised approach to these stage, due to the different realities and opportunities in each of the three countries. The process undertaken in each country is outlined below:

Brazil

ISIACC promoted several meetings in Brazil to disseminate its recommendations and to get feedback from the academic community. Four seminars under the theme "Forests and Climate Change in Brazil" were held in Manaus (National Institute for Amazonian

Research), São Paulo (Environmental Sanitation Technology Company) and Florianópolis (Federal University of Santa Catarina), involving 16 speakers, more than 30 institutions and nearly 230 participants. Among keynote speakers were PhD Philip Fearnside, PhD Marina Campos (Sustainable Development Secretary of Amazonas State) and Mr. Mauro Meirelles (Coordinator of the Global Change Program at Science and Technology Ministry). An overview of the events hosted by ISIACC to discuss and present their recommendations is provided below.



Mexico

The background research carried out by the Mexican team allowed them to work directly with the Environmental Commission of the Mexican Senate to provide recommendations for policy making. Details of the outcomes are provided in Section 6. Achievements and Outcomes.

Colombia

Due to the network developed during the background research phase of the project, the Colombian team was invited on several occasions to work directly with the Ministry of Environment on Policy Development for the National Development Plan and the Office of Climate Change. Details of the outcomes are provided in Section 6. Achievements and Outcomes.

6. Achievements and Outcomes

Influencing and Guiding Policy Making

The ISIACC team has had outstanding success in meeting the objective of influencing policy development in the Latin America region, especially considering the short time the project was running. Some of the most notable outcomes are noted below.

Brazil

In November 2007, the Brazilian ISIACC team disseminated to police-makers recommendations on the adoption of concrete measures to tackle financing of degrading activities by local banks, which results in fast expansion of agriculture over native forests. In February 2008 President Luiz Inácio da Silva signed a decree creating new mechanisms for prevention, monitoring and controlling illegal deforestation in the Amazon region. Article 11 of Decree 6321 states now that all federal financing agencies must not approve any kind of credit or additional loans to ongoing agriculture and forest activities in areas previously embargoed due to illegal deforestation. This policy tackles directly the major source of funding for the major source of deforestation of the Amazon basin.

ISIACC has actively participated in the development of local and national climate change policies in Brazil. The ISIACC recommendation on setting up clear internal goals for deforestation reduction was one of top issues discussed during the National Conference on the Environment, where government and civil society debated on the National Plan for Fighting against Climate Change - NPFCC. The ISIACC proposal was the only one mentioned by Thelma Krug, Secretary of Climate Change and Environmental Quality Program of Environmental Ministry, during her brief speech in the Forest Workgroup meeting at the conference. This is a clear indicative of the influence and contribution of ISIACC to the development of public policies. Still during the conference ISIACC was invited to further contribute to the NPFCC by participating in forthcoming debates.

The Brazilan ISIACC team has now established itself as a legal organization in the country in order to continue the work started in the project, and build on these successes.

Mexico

The Mexican ISIACC team recommended to the government to strengthen the voluntary certification of private and social owned land, so they can become private protected areas in Mexico. Their proposal was presented before the plenary of the Senate by Senator Arturo Escobar y Vega, on November 27, 2007 and it was approved by the General Assembly on December 11, 2007. On March 2008, the Environmental Commission of the Deputies Chamber passed it as a national law. This policy will enlarge the surface of protected areas and, therefore, increase the conservation of ecosystems that enhance carbon sequestration.

Colombia

The Colombian ISIACC team recommended to the government the inclusion of avoided deforestation as an international negotiation strategy in the frame of the Kyoto

Protocol. In December 2006, on the official presentation of Colombia's priorities and the Country's National Development Plan 2006 – 2010, the Minister of the Environment of Colombia, Juan Lozano, announced that avoided deforestation was a top priority for the country in its international negotiation strategy. On March 2008, the ISIACC team was invited by the Ministry to review their forest and climate change policy strategy. These policies will result in financial instruments to valuate forest conservation of the tropical forests of Colombia, as well as the implementation of schemes of payment for environmental services.

Colombian Environment Minister Juan Lozano Ramirez and Vice-Minister Claudia Mora Pineda at the press release of the National Development Plan, containing recommendations from the ISIACC group

Education and Capacity Building

Aside from the success of the project in influencing policy making in the region, the ISIACC project has provided a unique educational opportunity to the 24 students and young professionals that made up the ISIACC team. The members had distinct opportunities to engage in debates with policy-makers and scientists, carry out important research, implement seminars, forge alliances and partnerships, manage the budget, etc. Furthermore, the ISIACC organization has also provided institutional support and inspiration to student members, and all participants are now working or studying issues related to climate change.

Jason Garcia, the regional coordinator of the Colombian ISIACC team has been offered the position of International and National Head of Climate Change Adaptation at the Colombian Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development. In this role he will attend the negotiations of the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Poland in December 2008 and to attend the meeting prior to the Future Commitments to be held in Accra-Ghana in August 2008. Through this project Jason acquired the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary to qualify him for this position. In the position he will be able to continue implementing the recommendations of the ISIACC group, and continue the work that was started by the team.

7. Budget Execution

Project funding has been invested as follows for the period March 06 – April 08:

	TOTAL (USD)
Personnel	
Compensation for Regional Project Manager (60% FTE Basis)	40,000
Compensation for ETHsustainability Coordinator (10% FTE Basis)	6,000
Compensation for Regional Coordinators (20% FTE Basis)	31,400
Website developer / administrator and Project Website (URL Space)	2,500
Total personnel	***79'900***
Administration	
Photocopying / postage	500
Printing and Miscellaneous	2,800
Total administration	***3,300***
Regional Seminar: Colombia	
Total Regional Seminar	***26,015***
Sub-Regional Consultation Events (Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil)	
Total Sub-Regional Consultation	***950***
Information dissemination	
Budget for RTs to disseminate the Declaration	2,000
Events in Brazil 2008	1,000
Total dissemination	***3,000***
GRAND TOTAL	**113'165**

8. Future Potential

ISIACC has a solid track record of achievements and now boasts a strong network of active and engaged young academics and professionals across the region committed to the organizations growth and continuation. ISIACC is at crucial moment of its development, mature for expansion and seeking to leverage the potential that has been created so far. In order to do this, the ISIACC team plans to consolidate into two focus teams (Brazil and Colombia) to continue the success of the project.

ISIACC has undertaken a strategy renewal process to develop a plan for the future development of the organization. An internal analysis was undertaken using SWOT as tool to facilitate a strategic review of the organization. On the basis of this the mission and vision statement, legal and organizational structure and strategic focus areas were revised and expanded to better address SWOT of the organization to firmly position it for continued impact into the future.

ISIACC is currently seeking funding of 225'000 USD to continue the initiative which includes coaching and business plan development to establish the organisation as self sufficient for funding

Organizational SWOT Analysis

Organizational SWOT Analysis	
Strengths ▪ Proven model and solid track record in policy influencing. ▪ Well connected and politically independent academic organization. ▪ Intrinsically motivated team of volunteers and staff dedicated to the aims of the organisation. ▪ Civil society legitimacy and support. ▪ Administrative support from ETHsustainability and Academia Engelberg. ▪ Scientific and technical support from a panel of renowned experts. ▪ Cost efficiency / consistent operation below budget	**Weaknesses** ▪ Currently the organization is donor-dependant. ▪ The management team is only engaged part-time in ISIACC related activities. ▪ No opportunities for volunteers to build long term career within ISIACC.
Opportunities ▪ Most of ISIACC's policy recommendations can feasibly be implemented. ▪ In the framework of the post-Kyoto international negotiations, Latin American states will need to adopt strategic decisions to tackle deforestation. This will require expertise as well as civil society support that ISIACC can provide. ▪ ISIACC has the potential to position itself regionally to generate income and become self-sustainable in the long run. ▪ The issues addressed by ISIACC are receiving increasing attention in international climate change and biodiversity debates and relatively few organisations with the capacity of ISIACC currently exist. ▪ Unique approach and model of ISIACC can be applied to broader issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly through civil society education and outreach.	**Threats** ▪ Political instability in Latin America might hinder adequate enforcement of sound policies adopted. ▪ Short term financial gains and black markets provide disincentive for adhering to law.

9. Conclusion

Climate change is now widely understood to be one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. Forests have a very important role to play in climate change mitigation activities due to their function as "carbon sinks". The Latin American region presents an important focus region for action due to the rich biodiversity, the high rate of deforestation and land use change activities and the importance of forest in terms of socio-economic development. More than ever, public policy has a unique potential to influence guide forest activities towards playing a strong role in climate change mitigation. Through this project, students, the academic community and experts in the field have come together across the Latin American continent to develop concrete proposals as to how this can be achieved.

In just a short period of time ISIACC has mobilised young professionals and academics to have real and lasting impacts on policy making in the region. This will not only result in positive action to mitigate climate change but will foster sustainable development of the forest sector. Both of these benefits are of vital importance to natural and human systems not only in Latin America but around the world.

ISIACC has a solid track record of achievements and now boasts a strong network of active and engaged young academics and professionals across the region committed to the organizations growth and continuation. The ISIACC team is currently working on ways to continue and build on the success of the project to ensure an ongoing impact on forests and climate change across Latin America, and the world.

Appendix 1 – Project and STAP Member Profiles

ETHsustainability Representative - Ms. Michelle Grant

Ms. Grant holds a first class honors degree in Chemical and Environmental Engineering and is currently completing a Master of Advanced Studies in Management, Technology and Economics at the ETH in Zurich. She has worked as an Environmental Engineer in consultancies in Australia, Norway and as an external consultant at INCAE in Costa Rica, the top ranked business school in Latin America. Ms. Grant has been based at the ETH Zurich since 2004, when she assumed the role of Project Manager at ETHsustainability, focusing on the education and research programs of the center.

Regional Project Manager – Mr. Rodrigo C. A. Santos

Mr. Santos is a Brazilian Biologist with a Master degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation from the University of East Anglia (UK). He has participated in many governmental and non-governmental projects over the last ten years gaining considerable experience in community-based programs for biodiversity conservation. In 2005, he received the prestigious Archie Carr Conservation Award in the United States for his independent research in Southern Brazil. Rodrigo is a YES alumnus and has been actively involved in the initiatives of ETHsustainability in Latin America, such as the World YES Forum. He acted for two years as Regional Coordinator for Brazil under ISIACC initiative and in addition has now assumed the position of Regional Project Manager for Latin America.

The position of Regional Project Manager was formerly held by Mr. Fabio Segura from Colombia. Mr. Segura held the position from the commencement of the project until the end of 2007 when he accepted an associate position in venture philanthropy. He continues to support the project and collaborate with the project managers on a part time volunteer basis.

Regional Teams

Each of the regional teams, led by the regional coordinator, is comprised of highly qualified graduate level university students. The current members of the regional team who will continue on to the next phase are outlined below.

Brazilian Team	
Name	**Academic Background**
Rodrigo Santos (coordinator)	BSc in Biological Sciences MSC in Applied Ecology and Conservation (UK)
André Vivan	Bachelor in Law Postgraduate in International Law and Climate Change (Germany)
Carin Lehmann	BSc in Physiotherapy Advanced course in Education and Health Promotion (UK)
Eduardo Barroso	BSc in Biological Sciences MSc Management for Sustainable Development (Italy)

Felipe Bittencourt	Bachelor in Civil Engineering Master in Civil Engineering
Gabriel Carrero	BSC in Biological Sciences Spec. in Environmental Management of Forest Systems Master in Ecology
Gabriela Litre	Bachelor in Sociology Bachelor in Social Communications and Journalism Spec. in Journalism Spec. in Journalism and Globalization (Spain) Master in Latin America Development and Globalization (UK) PhD in Environmental Management and Public Policies
Marcelo Aguiar	Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering MSc Rural Development and Renewable Energies (Spain)
Maria Aurélia Jordão	Bachelor in Architecture and Urbanism MBA in Environmental Management and International Audit PhD in Water Resources Management
Marina Gavaldão	BSc in Forest Engineer MSc in Global Ecology and Sustainable Development (Switzerland)

Colombian Team	
Name	**Academic Background**
Jason Portilla (Coordinator)	BSc Conservation Ecology MSc Public Policy / International Relations
Maria Paula Navas	BSc Biology MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Management (Oxford, UK) MBA Strategic Carbon Management (UAE, UK)
Emily Schmitz (USA)	BA Global Studies (USA)
Elizabeth Valenzuela	BSc Biology MSc Environment and Development
Juana Camacho	BA Economics MSc Environment and Development Economics
Marcela Galvis	MSc Urban and Regional Planning MSc Political Science BSc Political Science.
Mauricio Portilla Ospina	BSc Environmental Management MSc international Rural Development (NL)
Pedro Pablo Beltrán Díaz	MSc International Relations

Mexican Team	
Name	**Academic Background**
Roberto De La Maza (Coordinator)	Bachelor Law MSc Environmental Policy Management (Spain)
Diego Guzmán Velázquez	Bachelor Law
Manuel Fabián Corral López	BSc Biology
Estebán Beristain Gallegos	Bachelor Law
Juan Carlos Franco Guillén	Bachelor Environmental Engineering

Scientific and Technical Advisory (STAP) Panel --> National Consulting Council

The STAP is composed of an appointed body of high-level specialists and experts from the region, who provide ISIACC with professional advice regarding concept and content of the policy recommendations. The STAP for the completed phases of the project was composed of 19 high level and respected professionals in the field from across Latin America. For the next stage, 6 of these STAP members will become members of the National Consulting Council for each of the two country teams, as outlined below.

Brazilian STAP	
Name	**Experience**
Dr. Clayton Lino	President, National Council of Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve Brazil (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program) Coordinator, Brazilian Network of Biosphere Reserves Former President, Brazilian Society of Speleology Former Vice President, SOS Mata Atlantica Foundation Former Director General, Forest Institute of Sao Paulo
Dr. Luiz Pinguelli	Coordinator, Energy Planning Program Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Executive Secretary, Brazilan Forum on Climate Change Coordinator, International Virtual Institute of Global Change Academic Coordinator Integrated Center of Studies on Environment and Climate Change Former member, IPCC Former Coordinator, Climate Change on Brazilian Society Former Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Center for Studies on Climate Change PhD Nuclear Engineering

Colombian STAP	
Name	**Experience**
Dr. Manuel Rodriguez	First Minister of Environment, Colombia (1994) Former President, UN Forum on Forests Former Co-President, UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests Vice President, International Directive Board TROPENBOS President, National Environmental Forum of Colombia
Ms. Marta Castillo	Coordinator Eligible Activities to the Cleaner Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol Latin America, Andean Development Cooperation MSc Environmental Economics and Natural Resources (USA) Former Coordinator, Climate Change Office Colombian Ministry of Environment
Juan Camilo Cárdenas PhD.	Ph.D. Environmental and Resource Economics (USA) Visiting Scholar, The International Forestry Resources and Institutions Research Program (IFRI), USA Professor of Economics, Los Andes University, Colombia
Gonzalo de las Salas PhD.	PhD. Forest Ecology and Soils (Germany) Former Director of the National Corporation of Forest Research Former Director of the Latin-American Network of Technical Assistance in Agroforest Systems. – FAO. Professor. Javeriana University, Los Andes University, National University of Colombia

Mexican STAP	
Name	**Experience**
Dr. Julia Martinez Fernandez	Director of the Program on Climate Change of the National Institute of Ecology of Mexico Member of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications of Non-Annex I Parts/Parties to the UNFCCC Mexican Government Negotiator in national communications, emissions inventories, and institutional strengthening at the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and of the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC.
Juan Bezaury	Environmental Policy Director of the Operative Unit of the Nature Conservancy in Mexico Former Country Representative and Director of the World Wildlife Fund Mexico
Martha Ruiz	Head of the Reserve of the Biosphere of Sierra Gorda. National Commission of Natural Protected Areas of Mexico.
Francisco Garcia	General Director of Forests and Land Use, National Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico.
Tomas Hernandez	National Disciplinary Research Center in Conservation and Improvement of Forest Ecosystems (Mexico).
Dora Luz Llanes	Member of Green Ecologist Party of Mexico. Mexican Chamber of Deputies.
Oscar Figueroa	Head of Rural Institute of Development, . Post-Graduate School of Mexico.
Alejandra Carrera	Director of Conservation and Restoration, National Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, Member of Government of Coahuila