

- b) Conduct or select for sponsorship scientific programs and projects on the basis of their regional relevance and scientific merit as determined by scientific review;
 - c) Pursue on a regional scale that research which cannot be pursued by any individual State or institution and dedicate itself to scientific issues of regional importance;
 - d) Improve the scientific and technical capabilities and research infrastructure of the States of the region by identifying and promoting the development of facilities for the implementation of data management and by the scientific and technical training of professionals;
 - e) Foster standardization, collection, analysis and exchange of scientific data relevant to global change;
 - f) Improve public awareness and provide scientific information to governments for the development of public policy relevant to global change;
 - g) Promote cooperation among the different research institutions of the region;
- and
- h) Promote cooperation with research institutions in other regions.

Article III Scientific Agenda

In pursuit of the above objectives, the Institute shall have an evolving Scientific Agenda, reflecting an appropriate balance among biogeographical areas of scientific importance; an integration of scientific, economic and sociological research; and shall focus on such regional issues as the Conference of the Parties shall determine, in accordance with Articles V, VI, VII and VIII. The initial Scientific Agenda shall include:

- a) The study of tropical ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles;
- b) The study of impacts of climate change on biodiversity;
- c) The study of El Niño Southern Oscillation and interannual climate variability;
- d) The study of ocean/atmosphere/land interactions in the intertropical Americas;
- e) Comparative studies of oceanic, coastal and estuarine processes in temperate zones;
- f) Comparative studies of temperate terrestrial ecosystems; and
- g) High latitude processes.

Article IV Organs

The organs of the Institute are:

- a) The Conference of the Parties;
- b) The Executive Council;
- c) The Scientific Advisory Committee; and
- d) The Directorate.