

**Decisions made during the IEC Meeting
July 14 – 16, 2006
Washington, DC**

Day 1- Wednesday, June 14, 2006

- GEF fund should be utilized equally between countries of the hemisphere when possible.
- The IEC, the Secretariat together with the WB and the OAS must develop clear guidelines and a plan as to where we want IABIN to be and how to sustain it once the GEF funds end.
- The IEC approved that there is need to make the role of the Secretariat more visible.
- TNs CIs should have a closer contact and a specific coordination mechanism with all the institutions that make up their consortium.
- The CIs should look for the other organizations in the countries that could work with the TNs.
- CIs progress report and work plan should be sent for comments and recommendation to FPs. This will allow also for FPs to be informed.
- The FP have to be the dissemination centers but they should be able to demonstrate to participating organization how these will benefit from participating in IABIN and therefore should involve countries participation in executing their activities.
- The annual work plan of the GEF project is to be sent to IEC to be approved.
- A specialized Listserve directed to FPs should be established by Secretariat.
- The Countries would prefer that people from each country be used when a consultancy is needed.
- In this listserv Consultancies to be carried out by CI's in implementing the TNs should be made know to FPs so they advertise them in their respective country.
- Workplans and other documents to be evaluated by FPs can be also distributed through the listserv.
- The Secretariat should perfect its communication system to ensure that the documents and other communications to FPs arrive timely to allow for analysis and comments.
- There will be a time frame that the FPs will have to adhere to for sending comments and changes to the documents – if the FPs do not answer in the specified time then it would be interpreted that they are in agreement – between 1 to 3 weeks maximum.
- Consultation documents should be available only to the FPs in the IABIN webpage.
- Send files separately in order not to clog the email systems of the FPs.
- FPs will appoint one technical person (representing countries that are not part of the CIs) to be part of selection processes for CIs consultancies. Secretariat facilitates the process.

- Workshops to be carried out by CIs should include at least one person representing all countries not part of the CIs. This person to be selected under technical criteria by FPs. Secretariat facilitates the process.
- Workshops to be organized by CI's should include at least 3 hrs of teleconferencing (web-conference, chat conference, skype, yahoo etc.) with technical people from the countries not part of their consortium.
- Hold joint workshops and training events among TNs in order to increase the number of country participants.
- Use resources of Component 2 to promote wider country participation in capacity building exercises.
- Several IEC members as well as the WB suggested that the ETN should not choose one ecosystem classification, but instead it should develop a system that can handle the different classifications.
- Several IEC Members suggested that in the TNs, it is important to involve organizations from the countries, to do as much of the work as possible instead of consultants, or to participate in consultation meetings and training workshops, in virtual meetings and teleconferences.
- A request to the FPs was made regarding asking their government to make an effort to keep the people who are being trained (in some countries people have been changed constantly).
- Another request to the FPs was that their governments should chose people to be trained who can themselves become trainers.
- Several IEC members questioned the inclusion of the Amazon Protected Areas Database Project in IABIN without having consulted the Council or at least the IEC. Therefore, the IEC requested a proposal to be sent to the IEC about this project that explains how IABIN in general and the PATN in particular are benefiting from it and how the funds are being managed.
- The IEC requested that in order to proceed with the inclusion of the Geo-spatial project expansion to South America a proposal (no more that 5 pages) be sent to the IEC. This will assist the FPs in obtaining support in their countries.
- This proposal will also be used for the Council to decide whether this project will become a TN or some other initiative.
- The IEC suggested that the dissemination of information not be limited to the listserv or the portal but also through workshops, publications (e.g., a monthly bulletin) etc.
- The IEC requested that a letter be prepared by the Secretariat and, after consultation with the IEC, it be sent to all the South American governments that supported the proposal that was sent to NASA so that NASA explains why it was not accepted.
- The IEC Chair asked Ivan to find out what kind of formal interaction the IEC should have with the government of Panama regarding the situation created by CATHALAC since it is not possible that an NGO should undermine a regional initiative.

- Gladys will also pursue the NASA side and the State Department side here in the USA to find out what is going on.

Day 2 – Thursday, June 15, 2006

- The IEC approved the formation of the IT TWG (already identified in the PIP as an activity to be done under Catalog) and the need to reallocate resources to make sure this group can meet when necessary.
- The IEC requested that technical people from the countries be invited to participate in this IT TWG, under mechanism discussed previously.
- GBIF stated that it makes available to IABIN all that it has developed in the area of standards, copy rights, data quality, etc. GBIF is also organizing a pro-bono lawyers group and encourages IABIN to send any ideas or concerns that it may have in order to integrate them in the priority themes that this legal group will address. IABIN will be a Beta tester for GBIF's new portal.
- The IEC recommended that IABIN be represented at the GBIF meetings by Secretariat staff as much as possible and the IEC Chair said that the meeting in October in Peru is a priority for the IEC for participation of the Secretariat.
- The IEC approved the following as “new data” for purposes of measuring the indicators in the GEF project:
 1. Data that have never been digitized before;
 2. Data that are digitized but not accessible in the internet ;
 3. Data accessible in internet but that need new fields in order to comply with IABIN standards.
- Regarding data quality, the IEC agreed that official data provided by the countries (which has been validated at national level by experts) be considered as high quality.
- The IEC approved that each TN will develop a mechanism to monitor the quality of the data it serves.
- The IEC approved the IT TWG proposal that each TN must have decided its standards and protocols before the call for data digitizing proposals can be made for Value added tools and products.
- The countries requested to have a direct involvement in identifying the themes to be addressed by Component 3. They expressed their reservations about the unsolicited pre-proposals received.
- The IEC asked to organize workshops and meetings instead of consultancies.
- The IEC stressed that the value added tools should be linked to what the TNs are developing. It is not a good idea to start developing value added tools without knowing clearly what data and in what format will be available through IABIN. Otherwise we may end up with data that does not address any of the decision making tools of the countries.

As a conclusion to the previous discussion:

- The IEC approved the Secretariat's proposal regarding carrying out a consulting process with the countries to identify the kind of value added tools that would be useful for the decision makers.
- Also approved to carry out an analysis of the decision making tools that are already out there.
- This process should made use of technological advantages to incorporate more actors and diminish the cost of the sub-regional workshops or consultations to be carried out.
- Gave a timeframe of the end of 2006 to have 2 to 4 proposals.

Day 3 – Friday, June 16, 2006

- The World Bank said that the GEF funds can be moved around to address the needs identified by the Secretariat to comply with technical requirements.
- Also suggested to invite donors to the Council and IEC meetings in order to get them interested in funding IABIN.
- Secretariat should come back with ideas to carry out a Donors Conference.
- For the donors conference we need to be very well prepared and not hurry but wait until we have some products to show.
- IEC gave the Secretariat the mandate to consolidate the TNs, the coordination with the countries as the first function of the Secretariat – fundraising is secondary to these, but should be addressed.
- IEC asked the Secretariat and the OAS and WB to give proportional attention to all the regions and not to focus on only a few regions.
- The IEC chair directed the Secretariat to come up with a detailed approach for fundraising.
- Directed the OAS and the Secretariat to come up with an approach to involve the countries more, particularly how to get IABIN at the coming Summit of the Americas.
- Previous Council meetings have been in Miami, Cancun, Panama. Therefore the IEC requested that the next meeting be in the Southern Cone to promote participation of all regions. The next meeting should be around July or August of 2007. The Secretariat will work with the FPs in the 3 Southern Cone countries to find the country where it would be most productive and cost effective. The Secretariat will integrate all this information and submit for consultation and approval by IABIN Council. The WB stressed that the objective of the Council Meeting is to make decisions so the IEC and the Secretariat should anticipate the necessary analysis and discussion to arrive at this meeting with clear decisions. The meeting of the CIs should take place either a few before and in the same place as that of the Council.
- The M&E methodology will be consulted by email first by the M&E Task Force and then by the IEC.

- The IEC would like as many countries as possible to participate in the PATN Regional Workshop, the Secretariat was mandated to make sure the CI knows about this and plans for it.
- The IEC requested that the Moore Foundation funded Amazon PA Database project provide some funds for participation of the Amazon countries in the PATN Regional Workshop.
- The IT TWG can propose decisions to be made by the IEC but it is the IEC who makes the decisions. The IT TWG will then make recommendations to the Evaluation Committee (IEC, Secretariat, OAS) as to how to proceed. In any decision that would be made, the two organizations that applied before will be automatically short-listed.
- Summary of the IT meeting and IEC/IABIN Supervision Meeting should be sent by the Secretariat to the full IABIN Council.