



IANAS Amazon Initiative

Science By and For the Amazon

MANAUS, BRAZIL • 2-3 AUGUST, 2023

SUMMARY REPORT

The InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC) held the “Science By and For the Amazon, IANAS Amazon Initiative” meeting on August 2 and 3, 2023, at the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA), in Manaus, Brazil. The objective of the event was to bring together the IANAS members and key stakeholders to enhance the visibility of science and discuss how to mobilize the scientific community of the Americas to support the development of sustainable solutions for the Amazonian region. Preceding the Amazon Summit (meeting of countries that share the region, held on August 8 and 9, in Belém, Brazil), it is expected that the IANAS-ABC meeting represents the beginning of a potential IANAS program focusing on the Amazon.

The event assembled the Academies of Sciences of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, as well as the other Science Academies of the Americas and participants from the Guyana Chapter of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences and from the scientific communities of Suriname and the French Guiana (last minute absence). Representatives from the Brazilian Ministries of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), Foreign Affairs (MRE), Environment and Climate Change (MMA), and Indigenous Peoples (MPI) actively participated in the meeting. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Amazonas State Government, the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), through its Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Partner, were also represented.

On August 2, the Opening Ceremony was chaired by Helena B. Nader (IANAS/ABC) and Karen B. Strier (IANAS/NAS) with the participation of María Alexandra Moreira López (ACTO), Antonio Ricarte (MRE), Marcia Barbosa (MCTI), Bráulio Dias (MMA), Marcia Perales (Amazonas State Research Funding Foundation-FAPEAM, representing the State Government), Virgilio Almeida (TWAS-LACREP), and Marina Anciães (INPA).

The first keynote lecture of the meeting was given by Ambassador Antonio Ricarte, representative of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Coordinator of the Amazon Summit, he opened the discussions in Manaus highlighting the importance of the biome not only for the planet, but also for the national sovereignty of countries. Ricarte also remembered environmental initiatives that have addressed the Amazon, from the first United Nations Conferences of the Parties, through Rio-1992 and Rio+20, to more recent projects, such as the Observatory for the Amazon and the Scientific Panel for the Amazon (SPA), the latter being the main topic of the following session “Building a Sustainable Future for the Amazon”.

Andrea Encalada, former SPA co-chair and representative of the Academy of Sciences of Ecuador, explained that the initiative was created in 2020 not only to produce science, but mainly to systematize and disseminate the existing knowledge on the Amazon, which was dispersed among the various countries and research centers. The SPA brought together more than 200 scientists from all over the world, especially from the Amazonian countries, in a large project that resulted on the 2021 Assessment Report. According to Encalada, the SPA's current objectives

involve launching annual reports and mobilizing public policy makers and the business sector in favor of sustainable solutions for the Amazon.

The Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), María Alexandra Moreira López, was responsible for the second keynote lecture. She explained that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty was signed in 1978 by the Amazonian countries, except French Guiana. The spirit of the Treaty is to serve as an agreement between states, not governments, strengthening exchange (including scientific) among members and focusing on the region's vast environmental resources. In 1995, ACTO was created to supervise the implementation of the Treaty. Among other topics, Moreira López stressed the importance of science for the bioeconomy in the Amazon region. There are already several types of production and manufacture spread across the Amazon that can be considered bioeconomy. But for these actions to evolve and gain scale, science is needed. Applied research is needed to generate data and innovations in crops and sustainable productivity.

During the session “Bridging Science and Policy for the Implementation of Sustainability in the Amazon”, it was possible to further promote the dialogue among the institutions involved in the IANAS Amazon Initiative. First, representatives of Science Academies/Organizations from the Amazonian countries – Bolivia (Mónica Moraes), Brazil (Adalberto L. Val), Colombia (Helena Groot), Ecuador (Andrea Encalada), Guyana (Heetasmin Singh), Peru (Fernando Roca), Suriname (Stephen Vreden), and Venezuela (Ismardo Bonalde) – shared the perspectives of their institutions. Then, in a general discussion, the other IANAS members were invited to make comments on the topic. The leadership of the Academies that were not able to attend the in-person meeting sent short videos with their remarks on the IANAS Amazon Initiative.

The third keynote lecture started the activities on August 3. André Baniwa, a leader of the Baniwa People and director at the Brazilian Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI), addressed the history of his people and mentioned that the struggle for the right to land and the problem of mining are decades-old challenges for indigenous peoples. As for the climate change, he remembered that indigenous peoples have lived for millennia keeping the forest standing, one of the most important prerequisites to protect the planet. André Baniwa highlighted the numerous interfaces between traditional knowledge and science and advocated that these sources of knowledge must work together in favor of the sustainable development.

The main outcome of the discussions was the IANAS Manaus Letter, result of a joint work before and during the event in Manaus. Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, the document was endorsed by all IANAS members and other organizations involved in the IANAS Amazon Initiative, which reflects a shared understanding that science is essential to sustainable conservation and development solutions for the Amazon and that protecting this biome is a regional and global responsibility.

The letter reinforces the need to end deforestation by 2030 and to transform the economic bases of the region by sustainable activities to keep the forest standing and the rivers flowing. During the session that presented the IANAS Manaus Letter, the co-chairs Helena B. Nader and Karen B. Strier indicated that the Academies of Sciences can significantly contribute to ensuring that scientific knowledge does not stay restricted to the shelf. The IANAS Amazon Initiative aims to be a tool to build bridges that narrow the gap between science and policy, strengthening sustainable development alternatives for the region.

After the presentation of the letter, the participants were divided into three thematic working groups: “Conservation, restoration, and remediation of ecosystems”; “Engaging local communities in science-based solutions”, and “Social justice and bioeconomy”. The objective was to consider future steps for the IANAS Amazon Initiative. The results of the discussions in the group were presented in a plenary session that ended the “Science By and For the Amazon, IANAS Amazon Initiative” meeting. IANAS will now discuss the recommendations emanated from the event to decide follow-up action.

Another major outcome was the perspective of the establishment of a participation mechanism of the scientific community within the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). María Alexandra Moreira López, Secretary General of ACTO, indicated that IANAS could be an important player in building-up this mechanism.

IANAS Manaus Letter at the Amazon Summit

The IANAS Manaus Letter was officially delivered to the Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), Luciana Santos, and to the Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), María Alexandra Moreira López, during the Amazonian Dialogues, which preceded and were part of the agenda of the Amazon Summit in Belém, Brazil, by the IANAS co-chairs Helena B. Nader and Karen B. Strier.

The Amazonian Dialogues provided a forum for discussions across civil society organizations and the governments of countries in the region. The Minister was impressed with the ability of IANAS to engage the Academies of Sciences of the Americas around a consensus document and announced that the Brazilian government plans to create an "IPCC of the Amazon" to bring together scientific data on climate and biodiversity and generate periodic reports.

IANAS Amazon Initiative on the Brazilian media

- **Acrítica.com:** <https://www.acritica.com/amazonia/propostas-debatidas-em-encontro-de-cientistas-no-inpa-ser-o-levadas-para-cupula-amazonica-em-belem-1.313507>
- **Carta Capital:** <https://www.cartacapital.com.br/sustentabilidade/cientistas-propoe-estrategia-sustentavel-para-a-amazonia-baseada-em-tres-ponts/>
- **G1 Amazonas:** <https://g1.globo.com/am/amazonas/noticia/2023/08/01/evento-em-manaus-reune-representantes-das-academias-de-ciencias-das-americas.shtml>
- **Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA):** <https://www.gov.br/inpa/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/contribuicoes-cientificas-para-o-desenvolvimento-sustentavel-da-amazonia>
- **O Globo:** <https://oglobo.globo.com/mundo/clima-e-ciencia/noticia/2023/08/03/ongs-e-cientistas-pedem-declaracao-mais-ambiciosa-na-cupula-da-amazonia.shtml>
- **Organização do Tratado de Cooperação Amazônica (OTCA):** <http://otca.org/pt/cientistas-da-ianas-e-abc-discutem-fortalecimento-da-otca-e-das-politicas-para-a-regiao/>
- **Rádio Nacional:** <https://radios.ebc.com.br/nacional-jovem/2023/08/Evento-reune-cientistas-para-discutir-a-Amazonia>
- **Revista Galileu:** <https://revistagalileu.globo.com/sociedade/noticia/2023/08/entidades-cientificas-publicam-carta-de-manaus-em-defesa-da-amazonia.shtml>
- **TV A Crítica:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/c-jvC-b1Cew?feature=share&t=1718>

"Science By and For the Amazon, IANAS Amazon Initiative" - Recordings

- **Day 1 – Part 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/X258waF1ISg?feature=share&t=1680>
- **Day 1 – Part 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/wWgrkvX1oc0?feature=share&t=270>
- **Day 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/odIW5QmBzYU?feature=share&t=1065>

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