



Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network

This Memorandum of Cooperation is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (hereinafter “the PAIGH”) and the Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (hereinafter “the IABIN Council”),

For the purposes of this Memorandum of Cooperation the use of the term Pan American and / or Inter-American refers to all countries within the Americas.

Recalling Article 1 of Chapter 1 of the Organic States of PAIGH that 1) provides for the encouragement, coordination and publication of cartographical, geophysical, geographical and historical studies, as well as other related scientific studies of interest to the Americas, 2) promotion and implementation of studies, work and training in the aforementioned fields of activity, and 3) promotion of cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas, and with related international organizations.

Recalling Article 7 of the Agreement between the Organization of American States (OAS) and the PAIGH establishes the mandate that the “the PAIGH”, shall establish cooperative relations with world organizations of the same type, shall seek appropriate coordination of activities;

Recalling Chapter 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Cartography of the Organic States of PAIGH

1. Update and extend the existing cartographic infrastructure.
2. Transfer and interchange educational technology in the disciplines of the field.
3. Make efficient use of technology and the processes and products of cartography, combined with other suitable types of information.
4. Aim for a normalization of the procedures and techniques in all cartographic activities.

5. Foster the automation of cartography to accommodate it to the necessities of Member Countries.
6. Promote the coordination and development of geo-referenced information systems.
7. Promote the formation of high-level specialists in the diverse fields of cartography.
8. Promote cooperation among institutions dedicated to cartographic studies in the Americas, as well as with related international organizations.

Recalling Initiative 31 of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December 1996, which called on the governments of the Hemisphere to take actions to establish an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), primarily through the Internet, that will promote compatible means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and education on biodiversity conservation, and that builds upon such initiatives as the Clearing-House Mechanism provided for in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Man and the Biosphere Network (MABNET Americas) and the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS), an initiative of nine IUCN programs and partner organizations”;

Recalling decisions No. 5 and 6 of the Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) held in Washington in October 1999 (CIDI/CIDS/doc.9/99) were IABIN was encouraged to: i) develop a long-term program reflecting the national, regional, and sub-regional priorities of the participants, complementing and consistent with other on-going initiatives, and ii) give priority to the development of the technological tools necessary to facilitate information exchange among the participants, respectively;

Recalling Article 1 Paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedures of IABIN which mandate it to participate in developing strategies for biodiversity information management in collaboration with other global and regional initiatives to fulfill its mandate to protect, enhance, and utilize biodiversity information most effectively;

Recognizing the need to cooperate in order to promote coordination and collaboration towards the goal of enhancing global access to biodiversity information within Pan America

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Objective

The objective of the Memorandum is to establish a framework for collaboration between the IABIN Council and the PAIGH to further common goals. These goals

include facilitating the development and implementation of technologies and best practices necessary in order to share knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management within Pan America. The activities undertaken through this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter "MOC") will promote the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and augment scientific and technical information capabilities of the Parties to this MOC and their constituents.

Article 2 Responsibilities of the IABIN

The IABIN will:

- 2.1 Collaborate with the PAIGH Commission on Cartography to promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information;
- 2.2 Collaborate, as appropriate, with the PAIGH Commission on Cartography in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools;
- 2.3 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the PAIGH Commission on Cartography to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to the IABIN Council and to the PAIGH Commission on Cartography;
- 2.4 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange;
- 2.5 Share with the PAIGH Commission on Cartography within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 2.6 Promote awareness of the PAIGH by making information about PAIGH activities, technical approaches, and information resources available through the IABIN Council communication channels;
- 2.7 Facilitate the effective participation of the PAIGH in the IABIN activities by inviting the PAIGH to become a Partner of the IABIN and name a representative who may participate in the IABIN Council Meeting as provided for by the Rules of Procedure of IABIN;

- 2.8 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of the PAIGH, President of the Commission on Cartography in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 3
Responsibilities of the PAIGH

The PAIGH will:

- 3.1 Collaborate with the IABIN Council to promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information relevant to biodiversity conservation under the CHM within Pan America;
- 3.2 Collaborate, as appropriate, with the IABIN Council in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools within Pan America;
- 3.3 Collaborate with IABIN in the promotion of the integration of biodiversity and geospatial data in the development of value-added decision making tools within Pan America;
- 3.4 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the IABIN to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to the IABIN;
- 3.5 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange within Pan America;
- 3.6 Share with the IABIN Council, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 3.7 Facilitate the effective participation of IABIN in the PAIGH activities by inviting the Chair of the IABIN Council to name a representative to the PAIGH Institute General Assembly, who may participate in the PAIGH Directive Council as an invited observer organization as provided for by the Rules of Procedure of the PAIGH Institute;
- 3.8 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of the Chair of the IABIN Council or his or her designee in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 4
Execution

- 4.1. The execution of this Memorandum will be effected through annexure relating to specific activities agreed upon by the Parties under this MOC.
- 4.2. Such annexure will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

Article 5
Disclaimer

- 5.1 Information transmitted by one Party to the other Party under this MOC shall be as accurate as possible, but the transmitting Party does not warrant the suitability or authenticity of the information transmitted for any particular use or application by the receiving Party or by any third party.

Article 6
Planning and Review of Activities

- 6.1 The Parties to this MOC shall designate representatives who, at times mutually agreed upon by the Parties, shall review the activities being carried out under this MOC.

Article 7
Settlement of Disputes

- 7.1 Any dispute between the PAIGH Secretariat and the IABIN Council arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation. If the Parties to this MOC are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article 8
Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

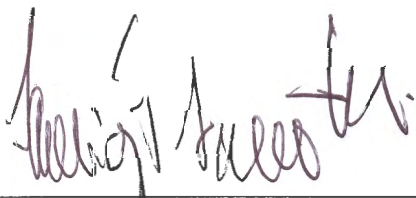
- 8.1 The present Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Secretary General of the PAIGH and the Chair of the IABIN Council.

- 8.2 Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of the PAIGH Secretariat and the IABIN Council.
- 8.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six-month written notice.
- 8.4 The termination of this MOC shall not affect the validity or duration of the projects under this MOC that are initiated prior to such notification.

THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION, EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE.

**Pan American Institute of
Geography and History**

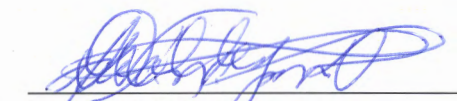
**Inter-American Biodiversity
Information Network**



Santiago Borrero Mutis Date
Secretary General

Gladys Cotter Date
IABIN Council Chair

Witness:



Iyan A. Valdespino
Director
IABIN Secretariat

