



# PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

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Specialized Agency of the  
Organization of American States



**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT 2019**

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# 1. Introduction



By presenting this report, the General Secretariat of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History intends to respond to a pair of questions necessary for focusing the modernization of the view and mission of the PAIGH: why is the PAIGH useful to its Member States? And, what is it doing to increase that usefulness?

To break down these ideas, let us begin with the history.

The activities of the PAIGH go back to the day of its foundation: the 7th of February, 1928, through the resolution approved at the Sixth International American Conference, (Havana, Cuba). The headquarters of the General Secretariat was provided by the Mexican government in the capital of that country in the year 1930.

In 1949, an agreement was signed with the Organization of American States (OAS), which established the PAIGH as the first specialized agency at continental level; this was ratified in 1974.

In accordance with the Organic Statutes in force, only the American States may be members of the PAIGH; currently, 21 Member States sustain its actions. At the same time, there is the category of Permanent Observer, a status currently held by Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica. It should be pointed out, with great satisfaction, that the Republic of Korea has recently joined.

Concerning its mission, according to that established in its Statutes, the PAIGH seeks to “encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographical, geophysical, geographical, and historical studies, also other related scientific studies, of interest to the Americas”. Also to “promote and carry out studies, work and training in these fields of activity”, and, moreover, to “promote cooperation among institutions involved in these fields of activity in America, and with related international organizations”.

Currently the work of the Strategic Advisory Group (GAE in Spanish initials), which studies and analyzes the modification of the Organic Statutes, is in progress with the aim of modernizing the PAIGH. This proposal will be submitted to the next meeting of Directing Council in the month of October of this year and its approval is planned for the next General Assembly, to be held in Peru, in 2021.

With this introduction made, and for the purpose of strengthening the role of the Institute from the cultural and scientific point of view - which is sometimes intangible – this report now describes the actions performed in 2019, which are organized into the Scientific, Administrative, and Financial areas, and thus objectively make clear the real usefulness of the PAIGH for its Member States.

# 2 Scientific Area

During the year 2019, this area was at the center of the activities of the PAIGH. The Scientific area refers to that sphere of activities included in the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) and in the Academic Grants program, also the Public Outreach Program (PdD), which in turn includes the Publications Program (PdP), Institutional Communication and the conferring of awards. Moreover, the work of the annual seminar is included.

## 2.1. Technical Assistance Program (PAT)

The Technical Assistance Program (PAT) has as its purpose the performance of specialized actions by means of projects in the fields of Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, which are intended to contribute to regional integration and sustainable development. At the same time these projects should be directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

In response to the call for projects in the year 2019, 44 proposals were submitted to the four commissions; these came from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. In accordance with their specific themes, they relate to the following SDGs: adaptation to climate change, territorial zoning and management, natural hazards management, historic heritage, gender equality, among others.

The 18 projects given finance were put into effect by means of workshops, courses, training and research, using the sum of US\$ 146,396, including the running of the fourth Technical Meeting of the Commissions, whose results are described further on in this report.

In virtual mode, free of charge and lasting six weeks in the months of September and October, the International Course in Metadata



Management and LAMPv2 was held, intended for professionals in Geography and related sciences. The importance of this course rests on the role played by its 62 participants and on the organizers being headed by the CAF - Development Bank of Latin America while being set up by the GEOSUR Program, the National Geographic Information Centre (CNIG) of Spain and the PAIGH.



Concerning the call for projects to be submitted for the year 2020, projects have been received from ten of the Member States and 22 of them will be given finance, with an amount of US\$ 196,200. The participation for the first time of Belize through a training project in the area of Geographic Information is to be highlighted.



Moving on, from 2021 onwards the assignment of funds will be prioritized on the basis of new criteria for the projects, which will make it possible to channel them properly from their initial submission. They will be defined as: seed projects, training projects and research projects. The objective of the seed projects is to support their development in order to make a greater impact and achieve more effective results, also to present them to other organisations and obtain external finance. There is also an updated format in the forms and specific linkage to the aims of the PAIGH and to the SDG of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>1</sup>

## 2.2. Program of Academic Grants



The academic grants are opportunities for setting up tools and mechanisms. By means of agreements with inter-American institutions, it is possible to transmit knowledge between professionals and grant recipients and also to distribute the knowledge acquired in the countries of these participants, alongside the provision of financial support by the commissions.

The Geophysics Commission, with aid amounting to US\$ 8,200, provided a grant to a Colombian master's degree student at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

It is intended for the rest of the commissions to have available US\$ 8,600, in the year 2020 for this area. By the same token, each commission will set up a committee to define its system for selecting students. The institutions constituting the centers for the grant applications are: for the Cartography Commission, the "Agustín Codazzi" Geographic

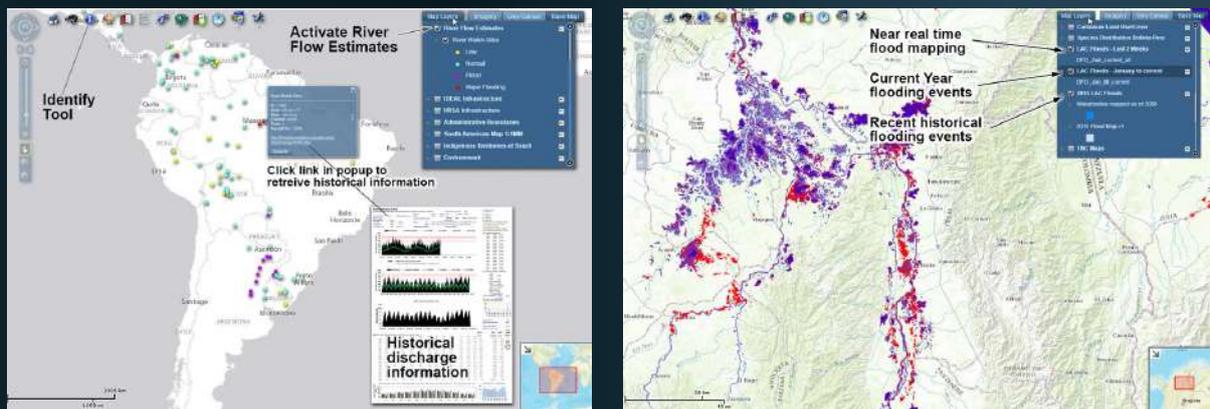
<sup>1</sup> Resolution N° 5 "Priorities for the Technical Assistance Program (PAT) 2021", approved by the 49th Meeting of the PAIGH Directing Council (November, 2019), <<https://www.ipgh.org/assets/49rcd-resolution-5.pdf>>.

Institute (IGAC - Colombia); Geography Commission, the Pan American Center for Geographic Studies and Research (CEPEIGE - Ecuador); History Commission, the Latin American and Caribbean Research Center (CIALC-UNAM).<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, the Republic of Korea, as a Permanent Observer, provided 21 grants for one representative from each of the Member States of the PAIGH, for the Course in Geographic Names that will be run in that nation in 2020.<sup>3</sup>

## 2.3. GEOSUR Geoportal

In the month of October, a contract was signed between the CAF and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), with the aim of keeping the GEOSUR Geoportal available. In this way its associated applications and services are ensured to remain in service up to the month of October, in the year 2020. Nevertheless, the challenge is to set up a Project under the responsibility of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH and GEOSUR, with the objective of seeking out the collaboration of other international entities. The Project should be in a state fit for submission by the month of April 2020.



GEOSUR Geoportal, <<https://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/es/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution N° 3, “Academic Grants and Study Visits for the year 2020 of the Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics Commissions”, approved by the 49th Meeting of the paigh Directing Council (November, 2019), <<https://www.ipgh.org/assets/49rcd-resolution-3.pdf>>.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution N° 4, “Request for the Republic of Korea to be included as a Permanent Observer of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History”, approved by the 49th Meeting of the PAIGH Directing Council (November, 2019), <<https://www.ipgh.org/assets/49rcd-resolution-4.pdf>>.

## 2.4. Project with the UN-GGIM: Americas and the US Census Bureau

An agreement has been reached for performing a project in 2020 for achieving the integration of the geospatial and statistical information of the countries of Central America. In addition to the contribution of the Institute, this Project will also have the participation of the Americas Region of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Americas) and the US Census Bureau. The main aim is to obtain a mechanism that serves for the decision-making process in Central America and that supports the search for solutions to the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and the Pan American Agenda.



## 2.5. Public Outreach Program

The Public Outreach Program covers activities in three essential media; the first consists of the Publications Program (PdP), which in turn can be divided into the periodic publications (scientific journals) and the occasional publications; the second consists of actions for Institutional Communication as such, and also, the third covers the conferral of awards.

### *2.5.1. Publications Program*

The publications of the Institute are classed into the periodic and the occasional ones.

The periodic publications are six journals, of which three are annual and three are biannual. In 2019 the total production was ten issues. During this year, these publications passed from paper to electronic media.

The project “Incrementar la calidad y visibilidad de las revistas del IPGH” (Increasing the quality and visibility of the PAIGH journals) was put into effect. Here, quality refers to the fulfilment of requirements to be indexed, that is, to be present in the international digital indexes of academic journals, in order to increase and encourage the distribution of their articles and authors.

Visibility refers to the use of the specialized platform for the editing of scientific articles and for enabling open access to achieve an increase in their readers and in knowledge.

In this area, it should be pointed out that, after 82 years of presence and 158 issues published, the “Revista de Historia de América” (History of America Journal), recently has had its presence in Latindex updated by achieving inclusion in the Catalogue list and entering the Classification System for Mexican Science and Technology Journals - CONACYT (Mexico), as a National Expertise Journal.

In the case of the Occasional Publications, the institutional portal holds three more journal titles, in digital version, derived from the projects performed with the support of the PAIGH.

Moreover, an agreement signed with the National Institute of Anthropology and History (Mexico) was fulfilled for the conversion to digital media of older books which due to their historical value and content are gradually being placed in the institutional portal to be available for students and researchers. Also, an agreement with the National Library of Chile is to be signed soon, for cooperation in integrating and making widely known the catalogues and publications in their digital version.

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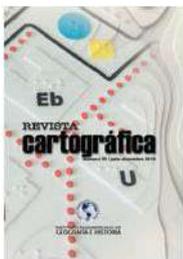


## REVISTAS CIENTÍFICAS

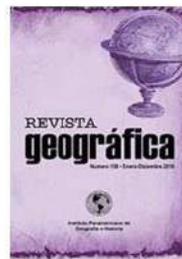
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Organismo Especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos

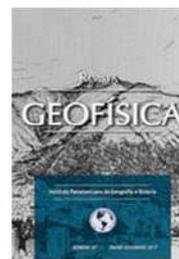
REVISTA DE ARQUEOLOGÍA AMERICANA



REVISTA CARTOGRÁFICA



REVISTA GEOGRÁFICA



REVISTA GEOFÍSICA

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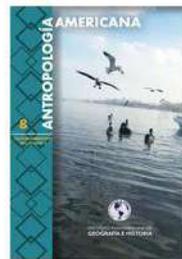
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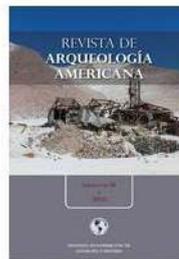
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REVISTA DE HISTORIA DE AMÉRICA



ANTROPOLOGÍA AMERICANA



REVISTA DE ARQUEOLOGÍA AMERICANA



Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia  
Departamento de publicaciones

OJS Portal of Scientific Journals of the PAIGH, <<https://revistasipgh.org/>>.

## 2.5.2. Institutional Communication

The operational state of the social networks was consolidated. With their own specific features, these networks sustain instantaneous communication, especially with the newer generations of teachers, students and researchers, managing to increase the visibility of the PAIGH, supporting both its institutional activities and also those of the National Sections within the PAIGH and of the related scientific institutions.<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, the Pan American Professional Network (RPP)<sup>5</sup> is the system that links together its members across the whole American continent concerning more specific issues such as short and medium term news, calls for submissions, grants, awards, among other matters. Currently the network has 350 active members.



<sup>4</sup> Web site: <<https://www.ipgh.org/>>  
Instagram: <<https://www.instagram.com/ipgh.official/>>  
Twitter: <[https://twitter.com/IPGH\\_PAIGH](https://twitter.com/IPGH_PAIGH)>  
Facebook: <<https://www.facebook.com/IPGH.official/>>  
Youtube: <[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz93kWYAmInz3igUxFE\\_PPA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz93kWYAmInz3igUxFE_PPA)>  
Flickr: <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ipgh/>>  
LinkedIn: <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ipgh-oficial/>>

<sup>5</sup> Pan American Professional Network <<https://www.ipgh.org/red-profesional-panamericana.html#pan-american>>.

### 2.5.3. Awards

With the aim of encouraging the newer generations of professional persons interested in studies and research into the specialized areas of the PAIGH, the History Commission launched the “Leopoldo Zea” Americas Thinkers Award. Last December this was awarded to Doctor Juan Guillermo Gómez García (Colombia), for his career dedicated to social thinking in Latin America during the 19th and 20th centuries. The award “Best Pan American History Thesis” was conferred upon the MA David Antonio Pulido García (Colombia), while honourable mentions were made for the applicants of Uruguay and Mexico.

The Cartography area convened submissions for the “Best Masters-level Thesis in the areas of Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information” award, which was won by MA Mariana de Oliveira Tiné (Brazil), while there were honourable mentions for three Mexican researchers.

The increase of participants in these calls for submissions should be pointed out.



*Dr. Germán Morales Santos, Secretary General of the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC); Diana Oviedo, of IGAC; Dr. Juan Guillermo Gómez García, winner of the “Leopoldo Zea” Thought of America Award, 2019; Dr. Patricia Galeana, President of the History Commission of PAIGH; MA. David Antonio Pulido García, winner of the Best Pan American History Thesis Award, 2019; Alexander Ariza, Ph.D., Head of the CIAF office, IGAC and Vice President of the Colombian National Section of PAIGH.*

## 2.6. PAIGH Seminar 2019

In the month of October, the annual seminar was held at the premises of the General Secretariat, with the title “La Información Geoespacial y su contribución a los Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible” (Geospatial information and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals), thus referring to the 2030 Agenda of the UN. The seminar was organized into six panel discussion and served as an event for discussions among the PAIGH cooperating partners, governmental and academic entities, and members of international organisations.



Attendees at the 2019 PAIGH seminar “Geospatial information and its contribution to the SDG”.

### *What results have been obtained from the scientific activities of the PAIGH?*

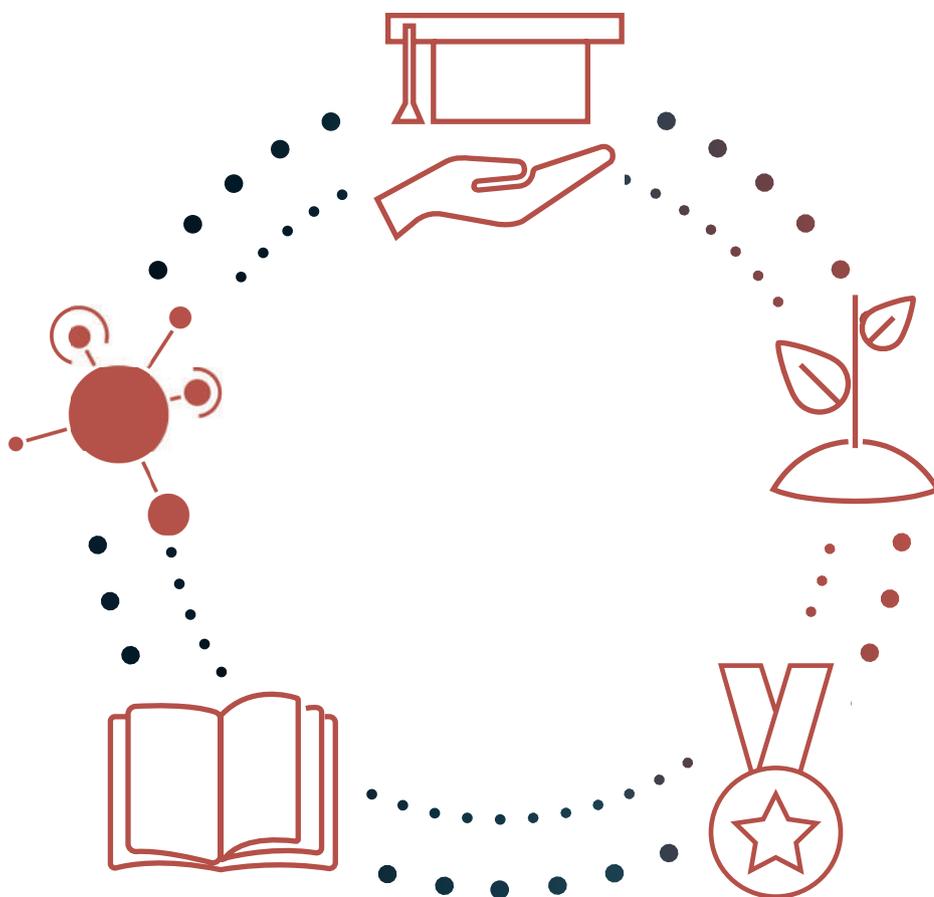
During 2019, the scientific sphere was the focus of the activities of the PAIGH. In general terms, it contributed to multiplying the opportunities and providing mechanisms for the newer generations of professional persons through its Grant Program, which will be extended towards the rest of the Commissions in 2020. For this issue, the search for strategic allies, such as the Republic of Korea (new Permanent Observer) has been of substantial importance.

Along similar lines, financial support has been sustained for its researchers by means of the Technical Assistance Program, achieving a greater integration of its Member States. Consequently, the assignation of funds with the startup of the seed projects will be given priority.

Moreover, the work of professional experts of this continent has been recognized and encouraged through the conferral of awards.

In another area, the public distribution of knowledge has been achieved through the Publications of the PAIGH and its presence in social networks. In the former, it is intended for the publications to be a reference framework for researchers and students, so the quality and visibility of its scientific journals was improved. This year has meant major progress, because the first step was taken from printed to digital media. In the latter, greater closeness to and interaction with the social network users interested in the specializations of the PAIGH has been obtained.

Finally, it is intended to find continuity and to create new scientific mechanisms that support the search for solutions to the main challenges facing the development of the continent (see the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda). In particular, this means preserving the service of the GEOSUR Geoportal, as the time, efforts and knowledge invested in this major Project are highly valued; also developing the joint project between the Institute, the UN-GGIM: Americas and the US Census Bureau.



# 3 Administrative Area

These activities are based on the actions of the Secretary General, aligned with the management by the Institute and by its members. It also includes the statutory meetings of 2019: the 91st Meeting of PAIGH Authorities, the 4th Technical Meeting of the Commissions, the 92nd Meeting of Authorities and the 49th meeting of the Directing Council.

Another significant matter concerns the coordination related to the Integrated Map of America and the Program of the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB); the objective is to have available an Integrated Map of the Americas and that this become a tool for planning and effective support for decision-making processes. The SALB contributes to the United Nations on Geospatial Information issues.

## 3.1. Agenda of the Secretary General

This refers to the involvement with and presence at meetings, forums, giving lectures, among others, for giving impetus and emphasis to the actions of the PAIGH.

### *3.1.1. Meetings*

With the intention of renewing relations for cooperation between the PAIGH and the CAF - Development Bank of Latin America, the Secretary General had a meeting with Mr. Antonio Pinheiro Silveira, Vicepresident of Infrastructure at the CAF.

In April, at the US Census Bureau in Washington, D.C., he visited the National Section of the United States.

Around the middle of the year, a publishing proposal was given personally to Mr. Francisco Ignacio Taibo, Director of the Economic Culture Fund (Mexico), consisting of calling for submissions from the historians of the Member States, for papers of an open and trial nature, with a Pan American perspective about the History of America, in the framework of the 500 years since the encounter between Hernán Cortés and Moctezuma Xocoyotzin in Mexico.

He was received, in the month of June by the President of the National Section of Colombia, Evamaría Uribe Tobón, at the “Agustín Codazzi” Geographic Institute, to put into effect the “Statement of intentions for academic cooperation between the “Agustín Codazzi” Geographic Institute - IGAC - and the Pan American Institute for Geography and History - PAIGH”. He also attended the 49th General Assembly of the OAS, held in Medellín, Colombia.



The PAIGH Secretary General, Cesar Rodriguez, the Vice-President of Infrastructure at the CAF, Antonio Pinheiro, and the President of the PAIGH, Israel Sánchez.



Visit to the National Section of the United States, US Census Bureau Headquarters, Washington, D.C.



The PAIGH Secretary General, Cesar Rodriguez, the Director of the FCE, Francisco Taibo, personnel of the Publications Department, Ricardo Preza and Guadalupe Romero.



Meeting with the President of the National Section of Colombia, IGAC, Bogota, Colombia.



49th General Assembly of the OAS, Medellín, Colombia. The Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, and the PAIGH Secretary General, Cesar Rodriguez.

### *3.1.2. Forums*

In September, the Secretary General travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to attend the Workshop “Implementation of the Global Geodesic Reference Framework (GGRF) in Latin America”.

Subsequently, he participated in the Americas Geospatial Forum (AGF) (Mexico City). This event had as one of its objectives linking the sectors of geospatial technologies in the Americas with communities, private businesses, government, research centers and academic institutions.

### *3.1.3. Other Events and Tasks*

Furthermore, actions were taken concerning the reincorporation of Canada as a Member State. In particular it was agreed to send a letter of authorization empowering Dr. Julian Castro Rea, of the University of Alberta, Canada, to make contact with Canadian educational entities and researchers.

At the General Secretariat of the Institute, a letter was received from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, requesting its integration into the PAIGH as a Permanent Observer. The request was submitted for consideration to the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council, which was pleased to approve this by means of Resolution N° 4.

Subsequently, in September, the Secretary General was invited by the government of Korea to visit that country, for the purpose of defining cooperation agreements and support of an academic kind.



Participation of the Secretary General in the workshop “Implementation of the Global Geodesic Reference Framework (GGRF) in Latin America”.



Americas Geospatial Forum (AGF), Mexico City.



Visit in the Republic of Korea. Premises of the NGII (National Geographic Information Institute).

## 3.2. Statutory Meetings

These are inter-institutional activities. Their main purpose is to strengthen and integrate the participation of the different organs and actors of the Institute. In these meetings, the activities carried out are evaluated, and important decisions are taken for future actions.

### *3.2.1. 91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Authorities*

On the 7th and 8th of July, the 91st Meeting of Authorities was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The following points were analyzed:

- Determine priorities among the seed initiatives for the PAT 2021.
- Assessment of and suggestions for PAT 2020 projects.
- The Strategic Advisory Group (GAE), made up of former authorities of and contributors to the PAIGH. This group performed a deep analysis of the Institute, within the issues of the modernization, vision for the future and mission of the PAIGH, together with the updating of the PAIGH Organic Statutes.
- Proposals for resolutions to be assessed and approved at the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council were presented.

### *3.2.2. Fourth Technical Meeting of the Commissions*

At the same site, in Santo Domingo, from the 8th to the 10th of July, the 4th Technical Meeting of the Commissions was held, serving as a meeting place for those involved in the specialized areas of the Institute, with the goal of continuing to strengthen the links that make possible the actions of the PAIGH.

On this occasion, about 90 participants, including the Authorities and editors of the Institute, national section presidents, project leaders, grant recipients and others were present in attendance, being from 18 Member States (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay); also from Jamaica as a Permanent Observer Country and international organisations such as the CAF and the UN.



91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Authorities, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



4<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting of the Commissions, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

At this meeting, the most relevant issues covered were:

- Preliminary presentation of projects financed within the framework of the PAT 2019.
- Fulfilment of Resolution No. 8 “4th Technical Meeting of the Commissions” declared at the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council, (Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 2018), in which the points are:
  1. Critical assessment of the structure of the PAIGH.
  2. Innovative ideas for strengthening the National Sections and attracting new Member States, with particular attention for the States in the Caribbean.
  3. Elements for setting up a research agenda.
  4. Priorities for the Technical Assistance Program (PAT).

### *3.2.3. 92nd Meeting of Authorities*

The 92nd Meeting of the Authorities was held by virtual means, which sets a precedent as a model for future communications, within the framework of the meetings of the PAIGH. The central conferencing line was run by the General Secretariat in Mexico City. At this meeting, the 12 Resolutions that were subsequently submitted to the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council were analyzed.

The relevant issues were:

- Support for the seed projects
- The continuity of the GEOSUR Geoportal
- Authorization for setting up agreements concerning the use of the integrated maps of America
- Geographic Names

### *3.2.4. 49th Meeting of the Directing Council*

Due to the conditions in the host country (Chile) being unsuitable for holding the meeting, it was decided to run it in virtual mode; so the information was prepared in a clear and explicit manner for the Member States, managing to gain the participation of 19 countries which, by means of a voting criteria, approved 11 resolutions that set the guidelines for the work to be performed in the year 2020.

### *What were the main objectives in the administrative area during 2019?*

The activities of the administrative area were centered on two types of tasks: “inter-institutional” and “extra-institutional”. The first type of management refers to strengthening and integrating the participation of the various component bodies and contributors of the Institute. An example of this was the running of the Statutory Meetings at which decisions that are important for the progress of the Institute were taken. At the same time, the visit of the Secretary General to various National Sections, over the year, have entailed a more active approach to the activities of the bodies representing the PAIGH in its Member States.

In another aspect, the integration of the Republic of Korea as a Permanent Observer provides new opportunities for relations with other States within and outside the continent, as does the intention to bring Canada back into the membership of the Institute.

Finally, the work of the Strategic Advisory Group, has meant progress made in the modernization of the Organic Statutes that govern the actions of the PAIGH.

Concerning the “extra-institutional” management, the strengthening or renewal of the alliances of the PAIGH for seeking scientific and financial support was achieved. In this sense, the visit to the Vice-President of Infrastructure at the CAF was an important part of the efforts made in renewing relations for cooperation, as was the participation in the OAS General Assembly. Moreover, there was the opportunity to attend several forums and workshops, which also served for making known the progress of the Institute in scientific matters.

As mechanisms for this management, the signing of various cooperation agreements with governmental and academic institutions should be mentioned.

# 4. Financial Area

For this report, the activities in the financial area are summarised in the presentation of the fee scale approved for the Member States in the years 2019 and 2020, also in the status of fee payments up to December 2019 and, finally, the contributions of the cooperating partners.

## 4.1. Fee scale approved for 2019 and 2020

The following table shows a comparison of the fees of 2019 and 2020 (in United States dollars).

<b>Fee Scale</b>		
Member State	2019	2020
United States	323 900	323 900
Brazil	64 896	80 030
Mexico	46 176	56 944
Argentina	37 206	45 882
Venezuela	24 336	30 011
Colombia	7 176	8 849
Chile	5 840	7 202
Peru	5 509	6 794
Ecuador	5 509	6 794
Uruguay	5 509	6 794
Dominican Rep.	5 509	6 794
Costa Rica	5 509	6 794
Panama	5 509	6 794
Guatemala	5 509	6 794
Paraguay	5 509	6 794
El Salvador	5 509	6 794
Bolivia	5 509	6 794
Honduras	5 509	6 794
Belize	5 509	6 794
Haiti	5 509	6 794
Nicaragua	5 509	6 794
<b>Total</b>	<b>586 656</b>	<b>647 934</b>

## 4.2. State of fee payments in 2019

For the PAIGH it is vital that the Member States make their contributions on time and in the right way. It can be seen that the total of the column “Debt” amounts to US\$ 796,015, a figure that raises concern.

Even when the activities of the Institute are planned and put into effect in accordance with a predetermined budget, in the event of not receiving this money, this causes a situation in which additional measures need to

be studied, for the purpose of preventing the continual decrease in the funds constituting assets.

Considering the fact that the debts of our largest contributors have continued, this means a reduction in the financial support for the projects, given that the administrative expenses are now at the minimum.

Currently, an approach towards the ambassadors accredited in Mexico and also to the Presidents of the National Sections of the countries in debt is being prepared.

As follows, the situation for payments and receipt of membership fees, as of the 31st of December, 2019, is shown.

Member State	Fee	Payment received 2019	Debt	Advance payments
Argentina	37 206	37 206	37 206	-
Belize	5 509	-	5 509	-
Bolivia	5 509	-	11 018	-
Brazil	64 896	-	584 064	-
Chile	5 840	-	5 840	-
Colombia	7 176	7 176	-	-
Costa Rica	5 509	5 434	75	-
Ecuador	5 509	5 509	-	-
El Salvador	5 509	5 509	-	-
United States	323 900	323 900	-	-
Guatemala	5 509	7 118	-	-
Haiti	5 509	5 509	-	10 776
Honduras	5 509	3 406	6 952	-
Mexico	46 176	46 176	-	-
Nicaragua	5 509	8 060	-	-
Panama	5 509	-	5 509	-
Paraguay	5 509	1 544	11 779	-
Peru	5 509	-	5 509	-
Dominican Rep.	5 509	5 509	-	-
Uruguay	5 509	5 509	-	-
Venezuela	24 336	-	122 554	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>586 656</b>	<b>467 565</b>	<b>796 015</b>	<b>10 776</b>

## 4.3 Cooperating Partners

This refers to private initiatives in which there is interest in providing support leading to benefits in the Americas. In the PAIGH, this mode supports especially the distribution of knowledge by means of events and workshops.

The year 2019 proved to be very productive here, as the number of partners increased to 40 partners, present in 13 countries:

1. Member States: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic.
2. Observer State: France.
3. Non Members: Canada and India.<sup>6</sup>

At the same time, an example of a concrete action by the Cooperating Partners to benefit the PAIGH was the granting of 30 grants for the workshop “Applications of photogrammetry with drones in Geography and History”, which was run by the Mexican cooperating partner “Terrasat”.

It should be mentioned that the rules for granting the status of “Cooperating Partners” were modified; among their general aspects, these feature especially: the minimum contribution and the use of the resources from these contributions.<sup>7</sup>



*Participants in the workshop “Applications of Photogrammetry with Drones in Geography and History”, run by Arturo Cruz, Director General of TERRASAT.*

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 9A, “Cooperating Partners 2019”, approved by the 49th Meeting of the Directing Council (November, 2019), <<https://www.ipgh.org/assets/49rcd-resolution-9-a.pdf>>.

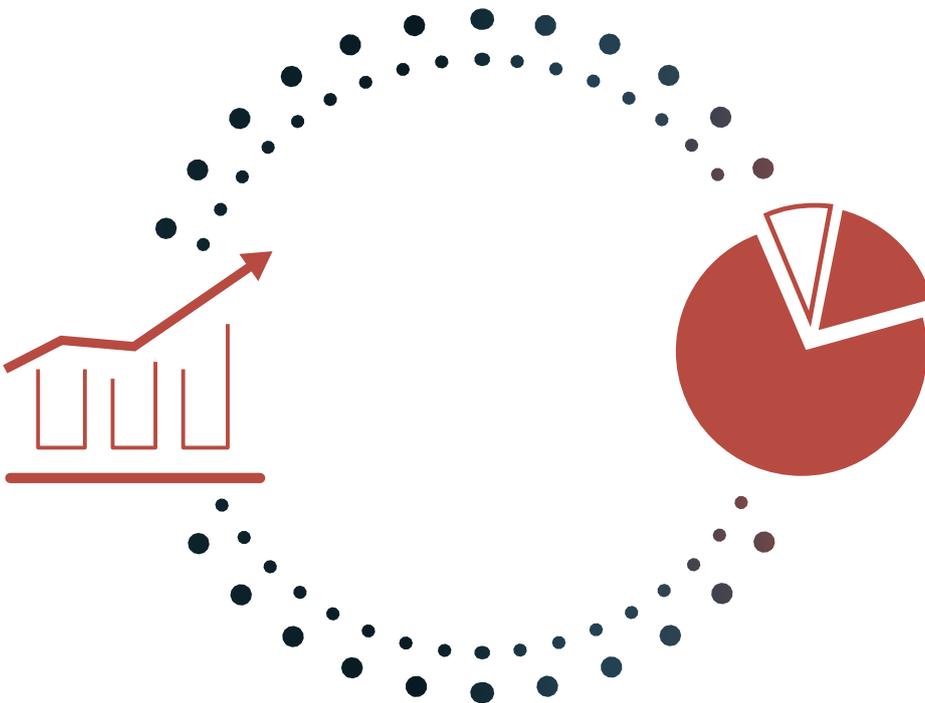
<sup>7</sup> Resolution 9, “Modification to the rules for granting the status of ‘Cooperating Partner’”, approved by the 49th Meeting of the D.C. (November, 2019), <<https://www.ipgh.org/assets/49rcd-resolution-9.pdf>>.

## *How has the payment of the fees affected the actions of the Institute?*

Concerning the financial area, the year 2019 was important in relation to the receipt of fee payments from the Member States. The modification to the fee scale for application in the years 2019 and 2020 will mean an extra incentive for the programs of the Institute. For example, the expansion of the Grant Program for the four Commissions will be possible thanks to this increase.

Separately, it is right to mention, from a realistic point of view, that the PAIGH is facing a critical situation where a large part of this progress cannot be made in future due to the decrease in the contributions in that which concerns the financial obligations of the Member States. Thanks to the careful management of the finances, the Institute has operated even while it has a debt, in terms of the fees, of US\$ 796,015, due to which it is now facing a serious situation.

Finally, the increase in interest from private initiatives should be highlighted. This has taken concrete form in the Cooperating Partners, who number about 50 for the year 2020. It should be noted that their contributions represented an increase of 2.9% of the budget of the Institute.



# 5. A response

There have been 92 years of experience, time in which the usefulness of the PAIGH has been made materially clear in the encouragement it has given to multiple projects, the publication of more than a thousand titles specializing in its areas of action, besides having made possible attendance at about 150 statutory meetings.

Considering the question set in the introduction to this report, it can now be stated that the Pan American Institute for Geography and History is useful to its Member States as it provides tools and opportunities through the performance of projects, publications, and grants.

A lot has changed, hence the PAIGH needs to adapt to modern times where the technology dominates, but without losing the essence of what caused its beginnings, also to increase the constant participation of its Member States; this is the challenge.

It should also be mentioned that, for the year 2020, the PAIGH Secretary General has been empowered to establish links for cooperation with the OAS on specific issues for solving the problems of the continent, such as, for example, that of the topographic PAIGH is currently working with the OAS on the matter of grants.

As a matter of added value, with pride we can mention the importance to the PAIGH of the issue of gender equality. The Authorities of the Institute are represented by four men and three women, active and committed, while its scientific journals, led by three men and three women respectively, follow the same tendency.

The year 2019 might seem to have been just another year; nevertheless, each task performed has been with the commitment to being an organization with pan-American spirit. Actions that manage to bring greater benefits are still needed, for which reason it is of critical importance to keep up the joint effort.

Finally, thanks are given to all and each one of those involved in the processes that make it possible for the PAIGH to persevere, even with the difficulties along the way towards modernization, working with certainty to consolidate an organization that is approaching the first centenary of its history.

