

Organization of American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

March 2017-February 2018

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Secretary General

<http://www.ipgh.org>

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Organization of the American States

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

BASIC INFORMATION

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on February 7, 1928 at the Sixth International Conference of the Americas held in Havana, Cuba. In 1930, the government of Mexico offered the use of the building located on Ex Arzobispado number 29, "Observatorio" neighborhood, in Mexico City, to be the permanent headquarters of the PAIGH.

In January 1949, the PAIGH became the first agency of the Inter-American system when it signed the agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS). Afterwards, in May 1974, within the framework of the Buenos Aires Protocol, a new agreement was formalized, which currently guides the relationship between the OAS and the PAIGH

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the PAIGH, stipulated in the first article of its Organic Statutes, are the following:

- To encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, historical and geophysical studies, as well as studies on related sciences, which are of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and coordinate scientific and technical development, research, relations between institutions and specialists, work and training in the fields of cartography, geography, geophysics and history.
- To foster and further cooperation between the institutions specializing in these four fields in the Americas and among international organizations.
-

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

The Institute's organizational structure is as follows:

- The General Assembly
- The Directing Council
- The Meeting of PAIGH Authorities
- The General Secretariat
- The Commissions on Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics
- The National Sections

The General Assembly: This is the supreme organ of the PAIGH and its mission is to set the scientific, administrative and financial policies of the Institute. It meets every four years and it elects the officers of the Institute. The General Assembly consists of the delegations from the Member States, the leading officials of the PAIGH and invited Observers. Each delegation from the Member States has the right to a vote.

The Directing Council: This is the Pan American organ of the PAIGH, which is responsible for performing the duties of the General Assembly during the intervals between the meetings of the latter. It meets once a year and consists of representatives from all the Member States and the leading officials of the PAIGH.

The Meeting of PAIGH Authorities: This is the governing organ and coordinates the activities of the Institute between the meetings of the Directing Council. It meets twice a year and consists of the President, Vice President, Commission Chairs and the Secretary General.

The General Secretariat: This is the central and permanent organ of the PAIGH, responsible for the management, coordination of various government activities and the necessary assistance for its functioning, the execution of tasks under its purview and to ensure the compliance of the agreements adopted for the appropriate functioning of PAIGH. The Secretary General is the representative of the PAIGH and holds the post for a period of four years.

The Commissions: These are the organs entrusted with promoting the scientific and technical development of their respective fields of action in the Member States, as well as coordinating, fostering and overseeing the projects and other research agreements approved by the General Assembly or the Directing Council. There are four commissions: Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics, which are in turn subdivided into Committees and Work Groups. The Commissions meet every two years.

National Sections: These are the bodies established by each Member State to carry out the objectives of the PAIGH in their own countries. They have the financial assistance of their governments. The National Sections are integrated by people named by the governments of the Member States as representatives before each of the various bodies of PAIGH.

MEMBER STATES

Only the states of the American continent can be members of the PAIGH. Countries in other continents may be Permanent Observers. The 21 countries that are currently Member States of the PAIGH are: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Permanent Observer countries are: Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica.

Institutional Strategies

To fulfill its mission and reach its objectives, the PAIGH has set for itself institutional strategies in each of these areas:

The objective of the **Scientific Strategy** is to promote, strengthen, and consolidate, over the medium and long term, multinational research projects wide in scope in order to be at the forefront of the scientific endeavor in the strategic and priority areas for the Member Countries, which is put into effect mainly through the programs of Technical Assistance and Publications.

In this sense, the application of this strategy seeks to achieve greater and improved ties with Pan-American and international organizations, such as universities, research centers and other organizations, motivating them to participate actively in the areas of research and scientific dissemination of the tasks of the Institute.

The Pan-American Agenda of the PAIGH is part of this strategy, constituting a component of planning that sets priorities for studies in the areas of climate change, organization of territorial information, managing natural hazards and historical heritage, these being key elements for contributing to the Inter-American system coordinated by the OAS, thereby, helping in the plans and objectives for sustainable development in our continent.

Likewise, it is also part of the strategy to encourage the process of permanent modernization of the scientific publications that the Institute produces with the support of its four Commissions.



The **Financial Strategy** consists of increasing the financial resources of the Institute, while seeking out new alternatives for resources and making the current system for managing expenses more efficient.

There should be a way by which the purchasing power of the budget would be maintained, and the quotas contributed by the Member States would be updated.

As a complement to this, co-financing agreements would be sought with international institutions of high standing, and to seek co-sponsors who would provide additional resources. These actions are being taken without neglecting the permanent search for other sources of financing.

The objective of the **Administrative Strategy** is to have a system of continuous organizational improvement that enables the Institute to lead and to transmit the studies that it produces for the benefit to Pan-American society.

Among the most significant transformations, is the goal of achieving greater operating efficiency and better communication with the PAIGH Authorities and the National Sections, actively incorporating specialized and academic organizations into the tasks of the Institute, thereby strengthening the relationships between the General Secretariat and all the relevant groups of interest?

Likewise, former members will be invited to re-join the Institute and others that might be interested will be invited to actively collaborate in institutional projects.

AUTHORITIES OF PAIGH 2018-2021



From left to right: Israel Sanchez (Panama); Alejandra Coll, Vice-President (Chile); Cesar Rodriguez Tomeo, Secretary General(Uruguay); Max Lobo, Chairman of the Cartography Commission (Costa Rica); Patricia Solis, Chairman of the Geography Commission (United States of America); Patricia Galeana , Chairman commission on History (Mexico) and Mario Ruiz Chairman commission on Geophysics (Ecuador)

The 'Authorities were elected at the 21st General Assembly, held in Panama City, Panama in October 2017 (Resolution no.1)

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

March 2017-February 2018

Introduction

In this report, the most relevant activities carried out by PAIGH at the level of the General Secretariat during the period between March 2017 and February 2017 are described.

It starts by reporting on the **Technical Assistance Program**, its objectives, the status of each of the projects of the four Commissions that receive financial support, the project requests received for 2018, the distribution by Commission and country. The Pan American Agenda is highlighted, and its relationship with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda. It also reports on the activities carried out in the framework of the Joint Action Plan to give fresh impetus to the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas and also the contribution of PAIGH. The mechanisms for cooperation with the GEOSUR program, the cooperation received from the National Geographic Institute and from the National Centre for Geographic Information of Spain, are also covered, especially where training and technological guidance are involved. The progress made on the Integrated Map of America is also described.

In the part about the **Publications Program**, the achievements and goals in the short term of print and online journals are described, together with their conversion to digital media and distribution, likewise the implementation of the electronic exchange, and the project for improving the quality of the periodic publications of the Institute.

Concerning the **Financial Program**, the Member States will be presented with a new quota scale for 2020, which will be submitted for approval during the Meeting of the Directing Council of 20218.

With regards to **Inter-institutional Relations**, the cooperation with the OAS is described, along with the meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops where the PAIGH has been represented, both in Mexico City and abroad. At the same time, reference is made to the visits received at the central office of the Institute and to the cooperation documents signed.

Finally, each of the resolutions approved during the 21st General Assembly (Panama 2017) is detailed, along with the activity that has been carried out and/or which will soon be carried out, and it concludes with the medium-term projection of PAIGH.

1. Program of Technical Assistance

The Program of Technical Assistance, together with the Publications Program, constitutes the mechanism through which the objectives and purposes of the Institute are reached and the respective scientific strategy is put into effect.

Status of projects submitted in 2017 for the Program of Technical Assistance

During that period, the Program of Technical Assistance continued to make progress, taking effect adequately. As follows the contributions made by the PAIGH to each one of the projects in the four commissions are summarized:

Cartography Commission-

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title of the project</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PAIGH Funds US\$</i>	<i>Funds other institutions US\$</i>
1	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continued from previous year	Chile	4,900	22,950
2	Usability of SDI Geoportals: evaluation using eye-tracking technology	Chile	5,640	6,300
3	Identification and alternative analysis of steps towards improving the quality of PAIGH periodical publications	Chile	2,000	3,000
4	SIRGAS 2017: Building up technical – scientific capabilities for the implementation of the Joint PAIGH, GEOSUR, UN-GGIM: Americas and SIRGAS Action Plan	Colombia	8,000	20,000
5	Sharing the hidden history of climate change in Latin America utilizing TIC- Information Communication Technologies	Colombia	5,640	45,000
6	Voluntary Geographic Information pre-post disaster for humanitarian response and risk prevention: practical application of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap team program (HOT)	Costa Rica	6,000	0
7	Digital Integrated Map of South America	Uruguay	6,860	37,330
8	Consultation Meeting Commission on Cartography		10,000	
Total Cartography			49,040	134,580

Table No. 1 Projects of the Cartography Commission, 2017

Geography Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>PAIGH Funds US\$</i>	<i>Funds other institutions US\$</i>
1	Pan-American workshop on disaster risk management	Chile	8,000	3,300
2	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016). Continuation	Chile	2,500	0
3	Identification and alternative analysis of steps towards improving the quality of PAIGH periodical publications	Chile	2,500	0
4	Climate Change Atlas of the Americas	Colombia	8,000	1,700
5	Voluntary Geographic Information pre-post disaster for humanitarian response and risk prevention: practical application of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap team program (HOT)	Costa Rica	6,000	0
6	XLIII International Course on Applied Geography: Determination of a Geomatic Model for the Adaptability of Hydro meteorological Phenomena in Vulnerable Areas by the Action of Climate Change	Ecuador	5,624	24,859
7	Digital Integrated Map of South America	Uruguay	4,716	58,462
8	Meeting of Geographers of the Americas		3,000	
9	Consultation Meeting Commission on Geography		10,000	
Total Geography			50,340	88,321

Table No. 2 Projects of the Geography Commission, 2017

History Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PAIGH Funds US\$</i>	<i>Funds other institutions US\$</i>
1	Historical Atlas of America: Volume One “Original People”	Chile	5,624	1,500
2	Sharing the hidden history of climate change in Latin America utilizing TIC- Information Communication Technologies	Colombia	5,624	0
3	National Section Documentary Archiving	United States	5,624	0
4	Landscape and national imagery in the traditional art of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru	Peru	5,624	0
5	Consultation Meeting Commission on History		10,000	
Total History			32,496	1,500

Table No. 3 Projects of the History Commission, 2017

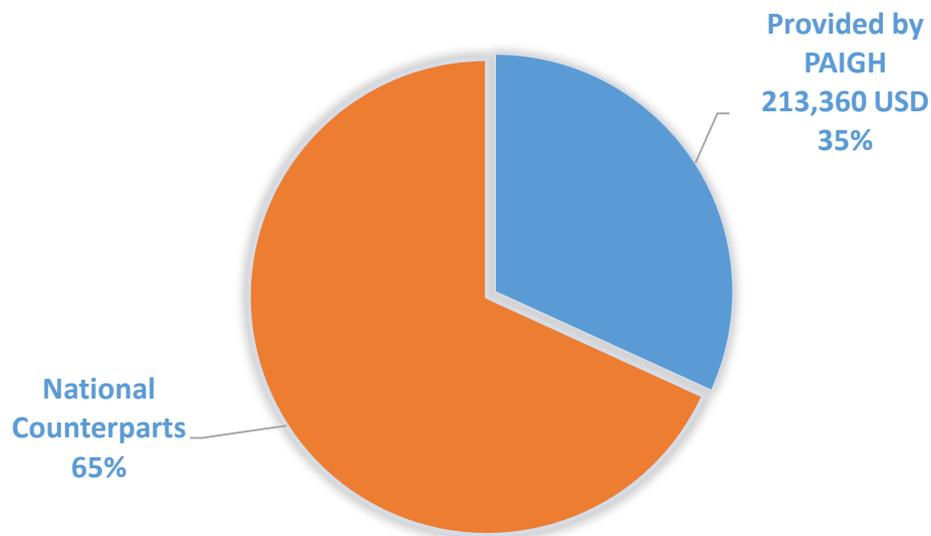
Geophysics Commission

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title of Project</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PAIGH Funds (USD)</i>	<i>Funds other institutions (USD)</i>
1	Analysis of the continental waters through the hydrographic system of the Pantanal through the GRACE satellite mission.	Argentina	6,000	9,000
2	Identification and alternative analysis of steps towards improving the quality of PAIGH periodical publications	Chile	2,140	0
3	SIRGAS 2017: Building up technical – scientific capabilities for the implementation of the Joint PAIGH, GEOSUR, UN-GGIM: Americas and SIRGAS Action Plan	Colombia	2,000	0
4	Analysis of the avalanches in the Sillapaca Volcanic Complex, Santa Lucia North Sector and Pinaya Sector, Puno Region, Peru	Mexico	6,000	8,400
5	Application of remote detection techniques in the geomorphological and sedimentological study of the deposits of pyroclastic density currents associated with the eruption of Mount St. Helena (Washington, USA)	Mexico	6,000	0
6	Integrated analysis of the source of sediments in the Parana Basin	Uruguay	6,000	7,000
7	Digital Integrated Map of South America	Uruguay	2,000	142,700
8	Geophysics Post-Graduate Scholarship		8,200	
9	Consultation Meeting of the Commission on Geophysics		12,000	
Total Geophysics			50,340	167,100

Table No. 4 Projects of the Geophysics Commission, 2017

<i>Projects</i>	<i>PAIGH Funds US\$</i>	<i>Funds other institutions US\$</i>	<i>Total USD</i>
23 Technical Assistance projects	182,216	391,501	573,717
Periodic Publications	31,144		31,144
Overall total USD	213,360	391,501	604,861

Table No. 5 Summary of projects, 2017



Graph No. 1 PAIGH Support and outside support for 2017 Technical Assistance Projects

The total of contributions from the PAIGH and the co-sponsoring institutions has made it possible during the current period to carry out projects for about USD\$605,000, of which 65% corresponds to the contributions from the co-sponsoring institutions and 35% is provided by the Institute. In this way the PAIGH has contributed to the fulfillment of its goals for the benefit of its member countries.

For the 2018 Technical Assistance Program, as in the previous year, submissions were made through an on-line form. One of the main purposes of the program is to encourage the execution of multinational Pan-American initiatives that specialize in the fields of Cartography, Geography, History and Geophysics and that contribute to regional integration and to sustainable development in specific areas such as adaptation to climate change, territorial organization, handling of natural risks and historical heritage.

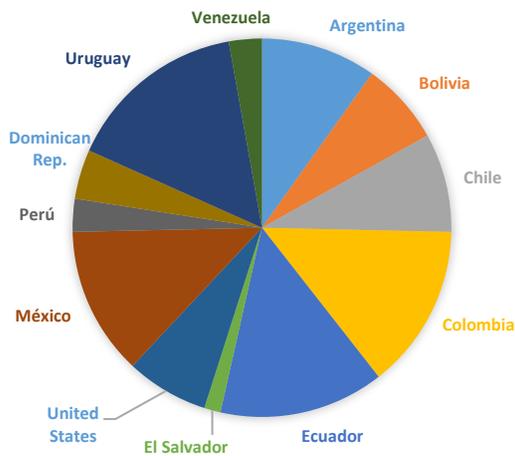
In this regard, three types of applications were considered; as a technical assistance project, a training activity or a ‘seed’ project, in accordance with the specific topics established and provided to in the respective call for applications.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Quantify</i>
Argentina	7
Bolivia	5
Chile	6
Colombia	10
Ecuador	10
El Salvador	1
México	9
Peru	2
Dominican Rep.	3
United States	5
Uruguay	11
Venezuela	2
Total	71

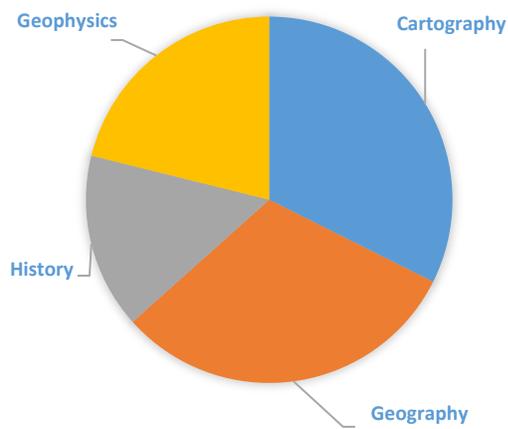
Table No. 6. Technical Assistance Projects presented in 2018 (by country)

<i>Commission</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Cartography	23
Geography	22
History	11
Geophysics	1
Total	71

Table No. 7. Technical Assistance Projects presented in 2018 (by Commission)



Graph No.2 Projects submitted to the 2018 Technical Assistance Program (by country)



Graph No.3 Projects submitted to the 2018 Technical Assistance Program (by Commission)

Considering the projects submitted which requested finance for the year 2018 and are shown in Graph No. 1 broken down by country and in Graph No. 2 by Commission, the evidence shows that is clear that there is interest from many specialists in contributing to and participating in this type of initiative through the PAIGH and its four Commissions.

Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH and its relation to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

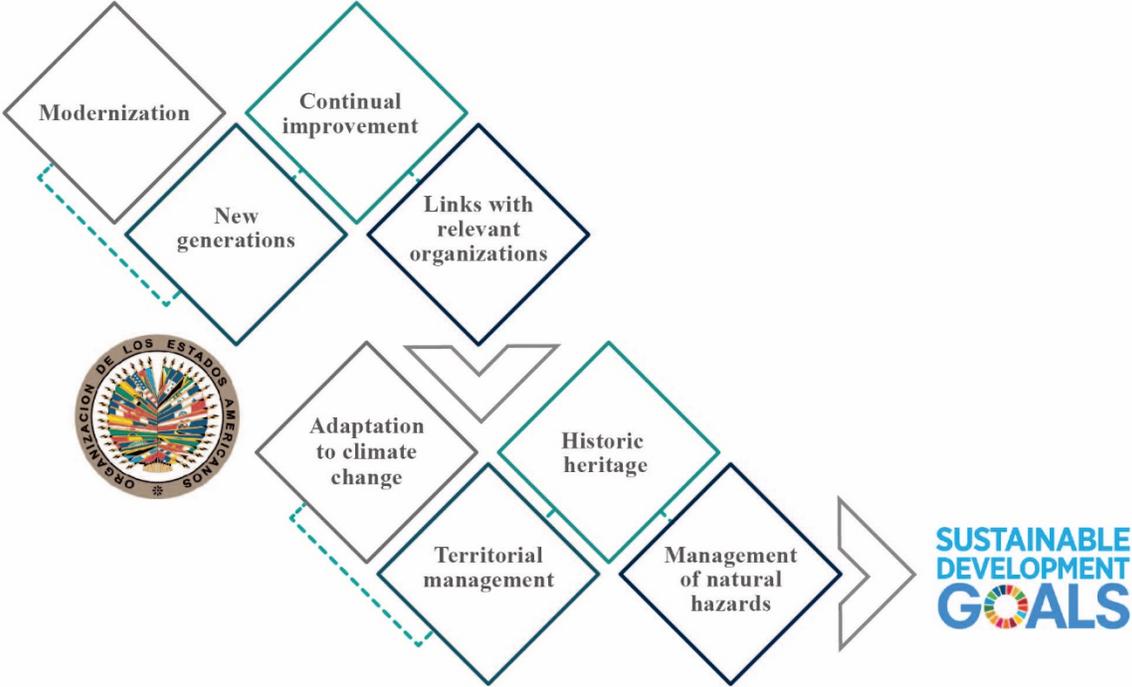
The PAIGH has defined a strategic policy as a way to contribute, from its viewpoint, to the objectives of comprehensive and sustainable development in the region. For this reason, from 2009 onwards, the “Declaration and Guide for the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020” was established as a means for institutional actions to follow not only up to 2020 but also allowing for the adaptation to new proposals for continued contributions to the work of the Institute.

The Pan American Agenda as an instrument for modernization, through territorial and patrimonial analysis, seeks the continuous improvement of the Institute at all levels, mainly from each Member State, making it possible to include new generations of experts through the involvement with relevant organizations in this fields, at the regional and global level.

Considering the fact that in 2015 the United Nations defined the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, through which 17 Objectives for Sustainable Development were established along with their corresponding schedules, it is considered a priority for the PAIGH Commissions to take the relevant actions for adapting their work plans in order to fulfill the Pan American Agenda of the PAIGH in alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On this basis, the policy guidelines have been implemented for the activities and publications to focus on topics of priority such as adaptation to climate change, territorial management, natural hazards management and historic heritage, these being the key issues for achieving the fulfillment of the above-mentioned Sustainable Development Objectives of the UN.

Pan American Agenda of PAIGH and 2030 Agenda of the UN



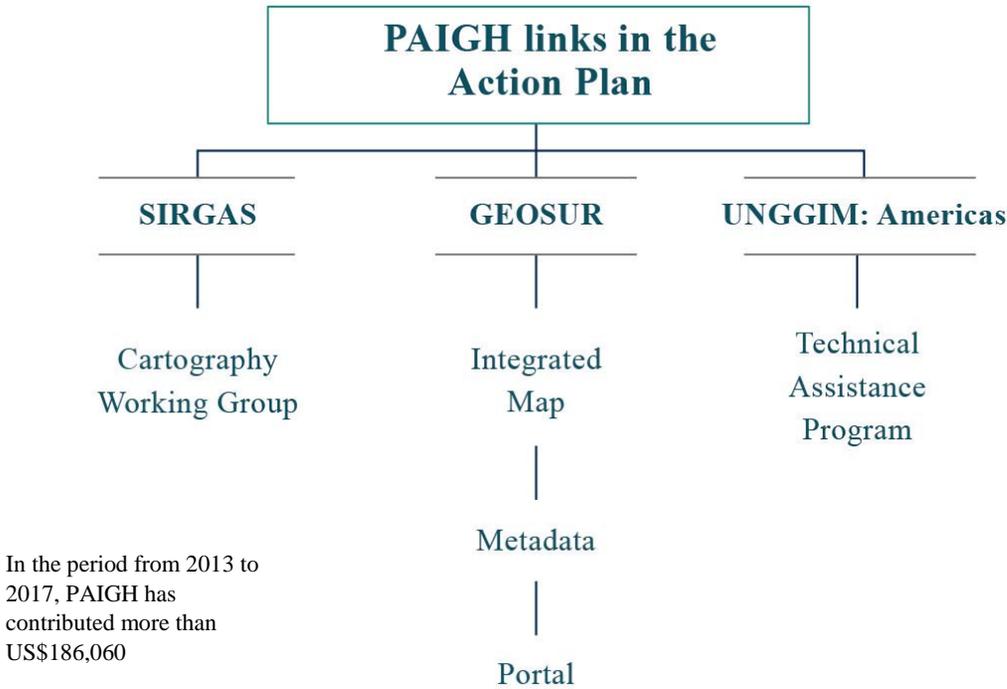
Joint Action Plan to expedite the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas

By its nature, building a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a dynamic, ongoing process over the long term in which concepts, methods, cultural and institutional aspects all combine together with scientific and technological resources, capital and specialists for making geospatial information available for serving the needs of development at multiple levels.

The main objective of Joint Action Plan, signed between PAIGH, SIRGAS (Geo-centric Reference System for the Americas), UN-GGIM: Americas (Regional Committee of the United Nations for the Global Management of Geospatial Information for the Americas) and the GEOSUR program of the Latin America Development Bank (CAF), is to combine the respective efforts and work plans, promote specializations, prevent duplicated efforts and prepare the relevant institutions for the continual technological changes and innovations that arise in this field of development.

In this way, the PAIGH has assumed its key role in assembling the regional processes and in capacity building, as this corresponds to the nature of its Cartography Commission. For its part SIRGAS fulfils the function of providing the geodesic reference framework for the region, while UN-GGIM: Americas has the responsibility of pushing forwards regional and institutional policies and of acting as the direct link to the United Nations system. Finally, GEOSUR acts to develop services and applications derived from the geo-spatial databases of the organizations which participate in this program at institutional and regional level.

In this way, the Joint Action Plan has been updated in order to plan for, in principle, the year 2020. During 2017 the following activities were carried out.



Since the first version of this Action Plan was signed, at the end 2012, the PAIGH has provided support concretely through the Technical Assistance program with a contribution of USD\$186,060 over a period of four years, as can be seen in Table No. 6.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Amount approved USD</i>	<i>Year</i>
1	SIRGAS 2013 in Panama: building up technical-scientific capabilities in reference systems	8,000	2013
2	CP-IDEA Committee for the Infrastructure Geospatial Data of the Americas	8,000	2013
3	Initiative for the integration of geospatial data on Central America	10,000	2013
4	SIRGAS 2014: building up technical-scientific capabilities to speed up the development of the infrastructure for geospatial data of the Americas	8,000	2014
5	Overview for the analysis of new tendencies in SDI in Latin America: challenges and opportunities	8,000	2014
6	Integration of geo-spatial data for Central America	10,480	2014
7	Workshop for integrating geospatial information about the “Paz” River basin, between Guatemala and El Salvador	6,000	2014
8	SIRGAS 2015 symposium: Exchange of experiences and the formulation of supra-national plans for the purpose of implementing the fundamental layer of spatial data in the infrastructure of the Americas	6,540	2015
9	Workshop for consolidating strategies for the unification of the Vertical Networks of the member countries of SIRGAS	6,000	2015
10	Usability of SDI geoportals	6,000	2015
11	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management	6,500	2015
12	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016)	10,000	2015
13	SIRGAS 2016: building up technical-scientific capabilities for accelerating the development of the SDI of the Americas	8,000	2016
14	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2016)	13,500	2016
15	Assessment of the current status of the methodologies and procedures used in quality evaluations of Geographic Information in the Member States of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History	15,040	2016
16	Towards an integrated system of geospatial information in Central America for adapting to climate change and natural risk management.	22,600	2016
17	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas	8,000	2016

<i>No.</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Amount approved USD</i>	<i>Year</i>
18	SIRGAS 2017: building up technical-scientific capabilities for implementing the Joint Action Plan of PAIGH, GEOSUR, UN-UGGIM: Americas and SIRGAS	10,000	2017
19	UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas	8,000	2017
20	Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism (2014-2017)	7,400	2017
Total		186,060	

Table No. 8 Contribution of the PAIGH through the Joint Action Plan

GEOSUR Program

This is a Program that integrates the institutions that produce geospatial information in Latin America and the Caribbean with the goal of implementing a regional geo-spatial network and seeking to establish the basis of a spatial data infrastructure in the region. The network supports the development of geographic services with free access and makes it possible to obtain, locate, query and analyze spatial information by means of maps, satellite images, and geographic data set up by the participating institutions and which have multiple uses for various developments in the region.

The network is led by the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) and the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) and also has the participation of institutions across the region, among which the planning, public works and environmental ministries together with the geographic institutes should be highlighted.

GEOSUR Portal

With the support of the US Geological Survey of the United States of America (USGS), the Program has had a functioning geoportal that offers free access to maps from each nation published on the Internet by more than 110 institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean, each one of which has implemented an interactive map service and a mechanism for providing access to diverse sets of geographic data.

Tenth Meeting of the GEOSUR Program

The 10th meeting of GEOSUR was held in Panama City on October 25, 2017 within the framework of the 21st General Assembly and Technical Meetings of Consultation of PAIGH.

Several experts presented topics of great interest, among which the technical cooperation between PAIGH and CAF for the development of the GEOSUR program and the 2007-2017 Pan American agenda; support to GEOSUR and cooperation Ibero-american on the part of the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) of the National Geographic Institute of Spain; significance and projection of the 10 years of collaboration with the United States Geological Survey –USGS; GEOSUR seen through 10 achievements; presentation of the new geoportal of the GEOSUR Program; the geographical institutes and the development of GEOSUR; SIRGAS, GEOSUR and the Joint Plan for SDI of the Americas.

Additionally, the GEOSUR Award, sixth edition was presented, with an exposition by the winner of the Award. Blanca Alarcon, Associate Director of CAF closed the event, presenting the vision of GEOSUR.



10th meeting of GEOSUR (Photograph: PAIGH)

2017 GEOSUR Award

During the 10th GEOSUR Meeting, the winner of the first place was announced and honorary mentions of the sixth edition of the GEOSUR Award. On this occasion Ecuador's initiative entitled "GEOEDUCATES" was recognized and two honorary mentions was made for the initiatives in Peru and Mexico titled: "GEOCATMIN" and "Atlas of zones with high potential for clean energy from Mexico" respectively.



In the framework of the 21st General Assembly of PAIGH (Panama 2017), the 10th GEOSUR Award was presented, on this occasion Ecuador's initiative entitled "GEOEDUCATES" was recognized

GEOSUR newsletter

The "GEOSUR Newsletter" continues to be published; communicating news of interest for the geospatial community of the Americas. During this period five issues have been published and are available on the PAIGH web site and through social networks.



(Source: Newsletter Editor, Dr. Nancy Aguirre)

Instruments for cooperation between CAF and PAIGH in the context of GEOSUR

During 2017, the following instruments of cooperation were satisfactorily concluded between CAF / Latin American Development Bank and the PAIGH:

- Contract for the provision of services in support of the GEOSUR Program (2015 – 2016), which in general contemplated the following administrative activities for PAIGH for the benefit of the GEOSUR Program:
 - Specialized Metadata Cataloging
 - Latin American Profile of LAMP metadata v 2.0
 - Consultancy in Geomatics
 - Administration of: GEOSUR Newsletter, software, technical activities of the GEOSUR Program

This shows the importance that CAF gives to the initiative of the GEOSUR Program, the objective of which is to continue with the services to build the capabilities aimed at the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Second MIAS Workshop

Venue of the workshop: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the offices of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics

Objectives:

Specialized Catalogue of metadata

- Complete integration of Guyana and Suriname
- Resolution of county contours and planning pending tasks
- Finalization of topics and planning pending tasks
- Presenting the methodology to prepare the data for the hydrography graph and the start of the work
- Planning for data generation from Guyana, Paraguay and Suriname
- Planning for follow-up teleconferences

Date held: June 5-9, 2017

Participants at the Workshop: 28 participants from 11 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, Suriname and Uruguay).



2nd MIAS Workshop, Rio de Janeiro, June 2017 (Photograph: PAIGH)

Third MIAS Workshop

Venue of the workshop: Montevideo, Uruguay at the Military Institute of Higher Learning

Objectives of the workshop:

- Integration of French Guyana (France) and Venezuela in the project
- Resolution of country contours between Brazil, French Guyana, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela and neighboring countries
- Planning individual situations surrounding the country that needs consultancy outside of MIAS
- Planning pending aspects of the case themes
- Resolving problems detected in geomatics between workshops
- Presentation and discussion of the hypsometric layer undertaken by SAF Chile
- Discussion and consensus on incorporating miscellany and generating MIAS nomenclature
- Planning and analysis of alternatives to implementing download services for individual objects (WFS) and files (FTP)
- Exposition and analysis of the methodology to generate the hydrographic network for each country to work independently between workshops
- Evaluation of the progress in the generation of river axis and limits of basins necessary for the calculation of the hydrographic network.
- Planning for follow-up teleconferences
- Delivery of the first versions of the MIAS data and hydrographic networks for review by the facilitators from CNIG and USGS respectively.

Date held: November 20-25, 2017

Participants at the Workshop: 28 participants from 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, French Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela).

Cooperation with the National Geographic Institute and the National Centre for Geographic Information (IGN-CNIG) of Spain

The IGN of Spain and the PAIGH, as members of the “Red Iberoamericana de Infraestructuras de Información Geográfica” (Ibero-American network of Geographic Information Infrastructures (R3IGeo), have encouraged and supported the training of technical experts through courses and the development of training projects that enable the experts of the countries that are members of the Pan American Network to improve their knowledge. These training courses and projects have been developed directly by the R3IGeo in conjunction with institutions and universities of the member or observer countries, and as such the development of the training activities planned have the support of the Operational Secretariat of R3IGeo, which is in charge of the National Centre for Geographic Information (IGN-Spain). Therefore, in April 2016, a ‘Singular Specific Document’ was signed between the IGN of Spain and the PAIGH, which covers the following:

- To provide specialized advice and guidance for the Integrated Pan American Map (it includes the PAIGH Member Countries, others from the Caribbean and Latin America)
- To teach virtual courses, During 2017, no-cost grants were offered for the following courses:
 - Spatial Data Infrastructure
 - Remote sensing, Photogrammetry, LIDAR and land use
 - Thematic Cartography
 - Geographic Information Systems (basic)

2. Program of Publications

Status of the Periodic Publications

The following chart provides details of the status of each periodic journal of the PAIGH:

<i>Journal</i>	<i>Frequency of publication</i>	<i>Most recent issue published</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cartographic	Twice yearly	93	July –December 2016	Published and being distributed
	Twice yearly	94	January - June 2017	Published and being distributed
	Twice yearly	95	July –December 2017	
Geography	Annual	157	2016	Published and being distributed
	Annual	158	2017	Published and being distributed
Geophysics	Annual	65	2015	Published and distributed
	Annual	66	2016	Being prepared by the editor
	Annual	67	2017	Being edited
History of America	Annual	153	2017	Being prepared by the editor
	Twice yearly	154	January-June 2018	Being prepared by the editor
American Archeology	Annual	35	2017	Being prepared by the editor
American Anthropology	Twice yearly	Vol. 2, no. 4	July-December 2017	Being prepared by the editor

Table No.9 Status of the periodic journals up to the 28th of February 2017

These journals provide information on the results of the research work carried by scientists and experts in the region, which is mainly information resulting from the Technical Assistance projects from PAIGH.

On the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of the Institute, the publications “PAIGH, A History of 90 years”, a valuable research tool which chronicles the titles of all occasional publications, co-editions, outstanding events, important documents and also some narratives of people who have been associated with the institution.

Digital distribution of the Periodic Publications

The distribution and sale of articles from its periodic publications is being channeled through academic databases Cengage Learning, ProQuest, Ebsco, JStor and LatAM Studies. Every time that a user consults a database, PAIGH receives a percentage of the cost as a royalty.

The periodic journals are part of the Latindex directory and catalogue. In order to reach a wider audience, some of the most recent publications are available on Amazon (in Kindle format).

In this regard, the National Library of Anthropology and History (BNAH) of the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico, under the coordination of its director and with the collaboration of PIGH is working on a project to convert complete collections of the periodic journals to digital media. Currently the complete collection of the “Revista de Arqueología Americana” (American Archeology Journal) and the most recent volumes of other periodic publications can be consulted at the following link: http://bibliotecas.inah.gob.mx:8092/INICIO_IPGH.html

Project for improving the quality of the PAIGH Journals

In accordance Resolution no. 17 Editorial Policy of PAIGH (21st General Assembly, Panama, 2017) it was resolved:

- To entrust the Working Group of Editors of the PAIGH journals to present a proposal to the 89th Authorities Meeting (first semester of 2018). This proposal will be of an editorial policy founded on the principles contained in the Organic Statutes, in the Pan-American Agenda and in the characteristics of quality that each publication should have, This editorial policy should consider the justification of the number of journals that PAIGH will publish, taking into account the foundations of the trans disciplinary nature of the sciences, the editorial costs of the publication, the implementation of the Open Journal System platform for the editorial management, quality, and the type desired indexing. Perform the technical and economic assessment of implementing a server or of hiring a service.
- Determine and evaluate the stages by which an Open Journal System (OJS) may be implemented for the editorial management of each journal.
- Propose recommendations for improving the quality of procedures, contents and recognition of the PAIGH journals.

With this Project it is intended to establish a process of continual improvement with the aim of having the periodic publications published reasonably promptly and on time, available to the Pan – American

community while positioning them as a means for communicating the results of research financed by the PAIGH in its four Commissions.

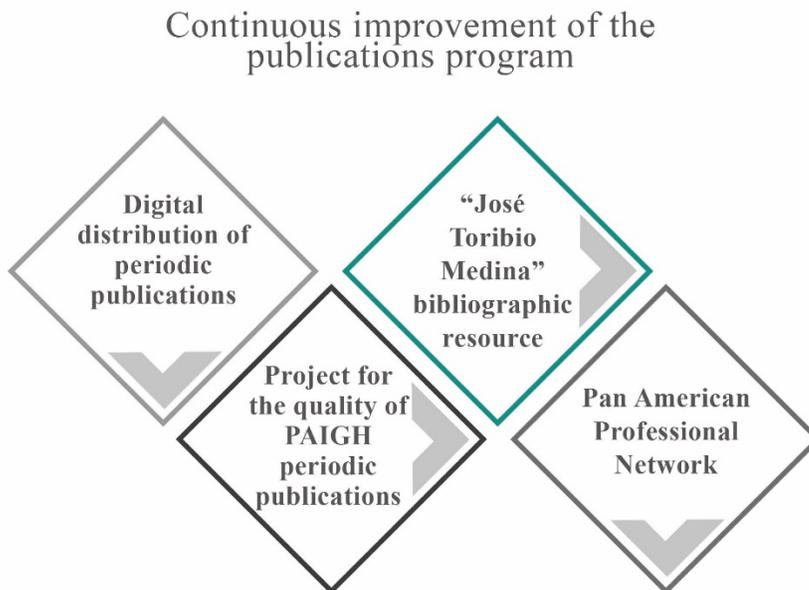
“José Toribio Medina” Bibliographic Resource

The bibliographic exchange continues through the National School for Anthropology and History (ENAH). And new journals re received at regular intervals at the General Secretariat, which has, to date; 232,575 copies.

Considering the fact that the most recent periodic publications are available online with free access, during this year the option of electronic exchange will be introduced, thereby producing an important savings which will almost cancel out the expense of distribution by ENAH (responsible for distribution to the respective institutions). IT is important to mention that if needed, the necessary copies can be printed.

Pan American Network of Professionals

The General Secretariat manages the Pan American Network of Professionals, and currently 1,052 experts are registered; important activities of interest are publicized. These activities are also promoted on social media, especially Twitter which has 1,497 followers.



3. Financial Program

The quotas that the Member States contribute have enabled the scientific and publications programs to be funded, and also to support the administrative functions of the Institute, within a tight budgetary framework and orderly finances.

There have been communications and the relevant coordination with the countries with the largest outstanding arrears, and it is expected that the corresponding authorities will provide a solution shortly.

With the aim of improving the current economic situation of the Institute, the General Secretariat has planned the following activities in order to obtain further resources to support the Technical Assistance and Publications Programs:

Activity 1

Prepare a new scale of quota increases for the Member States to be approved during the Meeting of the Directing Council of 2018.

Activity 2

PAIGH participation in academic and scientific events within the fields of the Institute such as: seminars, symposiums, conferences, workshops, certifications, among others.

Activity 3

Participation of the PAIGH in academic and scientific events related to the fields of action of the PAIGH such as: seminars, symposiums, conferences, workshops, certifications, among others.

4. Inter-institutional Relations

Relations with the OAS

The PAIGH Secretary General presented the annual report of the PAIGH (2017) at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat (Washington, D.C., USA). On this occasion, the most relevant activities of the period were described and explained mainly in the context of the Pan-American Agenda.

Likewise he has also participated in the General Assemblies of the OAS, during the 47th Ordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, held in Cancun, Mexico on June 2017, PAIGH was recognized in resolution entitled “Strengthening of organs organizations, entities, initiatives and mechanisms of the OAS”, which among other topics, resolved: “To Support and promote the work of PAIGH which seeks to integrate the concepts contained in the Pan-American Agenda of the Institute with the execution of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in compliance with the Objectives of Sustainable Development”.

As in previous years, specialized consultancy was provided to the office of the OAS regarding the border zone between Belize and Guatemala in order to determine the coordinates of points in relation

to the line of adjacency between the two countries. The Working Group “Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) also provided specialized contributions.

The permanent has been a permanent inter-relationship with the Committee on Experts for the Management of Geospatial Information, not only at the global level but also in the Americas (UN-GGIM in English), participating in the Fourth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee: Americas, in Santiago, Chile in April, and also in the 7th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee in New York in August.

The Secretary General also participated in the International Infrastructure Seminar on Spatial Data held in April in Chile.

National Sections

During this period, there have been changes in the Presidencies of the following National Sections:

Chile	: Mr. Eduardo Cayul Aristondo
Ecuador	: Mr. Frank Patricio Landazuri Recalde
Guatemala	: Mr. Edwin Domingo Roquel Cali
Paraguay	: Mr. Jose Sinjiro Tokunaga Udo

The directory of the National Sections can be consulted at: <http://ipgh.org/directorio/home.html>

Brazil

A Meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the National Section on the occasion of the 2nd Workshop of the Integrated Map of South America (MIAN), during which projects and activities of mutual cooperation were analyzed. There was a meeting between Dr. Barriga and Secretary Luiz Marfil, Head of the Division of American States of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil (MRE). Likewise the Ambassador of Brazil in Mexico paid a courtesy visit to the PAIGH General Secretariat in June of the same year.

Chile

There was a meeting of the National Section of Chile at the Military Geographic Institute, and a meeting at the Bernardo O’Higgins University.

United States

The Secretary General of PAIGH participated in the meeting of the United States National Section from April 24-26, taking part in the following activities:

- Meeting with the U.S. Department of State
- OAS Water Security Meeting
- Meeting with Ambassador Gonzalo Koncke, Chief of the Office of the Secretary General of the OAS
- Lunch with the members of the US National Section.

Panama

Participation in the XXI General Assembly of the Institute, Panama, October 23-27

Dominican Republic

Thanks to the Invitation of the Chairman of the National Section of PAIGH in the Dominican Republic and the Director of the “Jose Joaquin Hungria Morell” National Geographic Institute, the Secretary General of PAIGH attended the *XIV Dominican Conference on Geographic Sciences* from September 15-16.

Uruguay

The 3rd Workshop of MIAS *was* held in Montevideo from November 20-24 (military Institute of Higher Learning)

Online Seminars

Throughout the year, the Secretary General participated online conferences and webinars hosted by the various entities among which we can highlight:

- Webinar: gvSIG Online
- UN-GGIM Fundamental Geospatial Datasets
- Webinar – GEOSS Interoperability Workshop – 2017
- Eye on Earth Webinar
- UN Environment present The Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS)

Relevant Activities in Mexico

Regarding activities in Mexico, there was participation in diverse protocol-related activities hosted by the Foreign Relations Secretariat and other event related to status of PAIGH as an international organization, among which are the following:

- On January 26 the Secretary General participated in the seminar “Building the future: sustainable development and gender equality”, organized by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC). In this regard PAIGH has not only contributed to gender quality, responding to the annual questionnaire of the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM), it has subscribed to and adopted the guidelines regarding gender equality by its actions.
- On September 1, the Secretary General attended the 5th State of the Union Address of the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto.
- The Secretary General participated in the Seminar “Towards the integration of statistical and geospatial information”, which took place within the framework of the Ninth Conference on Statistics of the Americas of CEPAL, from November 14-16, 2017 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The importance of having geospatial and independent statistical information was highlighted, as it is opportune and relevant to have both in order to achieve the sustainable development objectives.



ECLAC Ninth Meeting of the conference on Statistics

Statutory Meetings

87th Meeting of the PAIGH Authorities (Mexico. 2017)

The authorities of the PAIGH met in Mexico City from June 25-26. On the agenda, issues involving the Technical Assistance Projects of 2018, the compliance with resolutions of the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council, and preparations for the XXI General Assembly among others, were covered. One of the most relevant topics discussed was the link between the Pan-American Agenda of PAIGH and the UN Sustainable Development Objectives for 2030.



87th Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH Mexico 2017 (Photograph: PAIGH)

88th Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH (Panama 2017)

On October 22, the 88th Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH was held in Panama City. Photo above for left to right; Rigoberto Magana (President of PAIGH), Rodrigo Barriga (Secretary General of PAIGH), Israel Sanchez (Chairman of the National Section of Panama), Roberto Aguiar (Vice President of PAIGH), Carlos Lopez (Chairman of the Commission on Geography), Jean Parcher (Chairman of the Commission on Geography), Patricia Galeana (Chairman of the Commission on History), Walter Fernandez (Chairman Commission on Geophysics).



88th Meeting of Authorities, Panama 2017 (Photograph: PAIGH)

Meetings of Consultation of the PAIGH Commission (Panama, 2017)

The Meetings of Consultation of the Commissions were held on October 24

- 23rd Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Cartography



(Photograph: PAIGH)

- 20th Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Geography



(Photograph: PAIGH)

- 19th Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on History



(Photograph: PAIGH)

- 13th Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Geophysics



(Photograph: PAIGH)

21st General Assembly (Panama, 2017)

The 21st General Assembly was held in Panama City, Panama from October 25-27, 2017. It was organized by the National Section of PAIGH and was held at the “Tommy Guardia National Geographic Institute”.

On this occasion, delegates from the following Member States participated: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, with Spain as Permanent Observer.

It was a very productive meeting, which provided the opportunity to exchange ideas among the delegates of countries in attendance.

The main outcome of the meeting was the approval of 33 resolutions. Progress on compliance is provided at the end of this report.



*21st General Assembly, Panama 2017
(Photograph: PAIGH)*

Fulfilment of the Resolutions of the XXI General Assembly

(Panama, 2017)

On scientific topics

“Development Strategy of PAIGH”

The General Secretariat is preparing an institutional development plan to present to the Authorities and subsequently to the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council in 2018.

“Version 2 of the Latin American Metadata Profile (LAMPv2)”

The General Secretariat will ask the National Sections to cooperate with the promotion and implementation of LAMPv2 in the respective institutions involved with geo-information in their countries.

“Editorial Policy of PAIGH”

The Working Group of Editors will be asked to present an editorial policy proposal to the 89th Meeting of Authorities (first semester of 2018). In this regard the General Secretariat will update the Publications guidelines.

“Participation in the United Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)”

The General Secretariat in coordination with the respective Working Group will inform the 89th Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH (first semester of 2018) of the feasibility of PAIGH participating in the United Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), as a regional representative.

On Financial topics

“2016 Financial Report”

It was approved by the General Assembly and is available on the PAIGH website.

“2016 Audit Report”

It was approved by the General Assembly and is available on the PAIGH website.

“Maximum Limit of the Program Budget and Scale of Quotas of the Member States for 2018 ”

The General Secretariat is sending out communications requesting the payment of quotas. .

“Annual Quotas of the Member States as of 2020”

The General Secretariat will prepare a new scale of quotas to be presented at the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council.

“2018 Program Budget 2018”

The General Secretariat will be in compliance and follow-up, as the quotas are received by the Finance Department.

“Cooperating Partners of PAIGH”

The General Secretariat will continue inviting more entities to become Cooperating Partners.

On Administrative topics

<i>“Election of the Secretary General of the Institute”</i>	A letter was sent to the Uruguayan Foreign Office, attaching the resolution.
<i>“PAIGH Authorities and Commission Vice Presidents ”</i>	A communication was sent to the Foreign Offices of the countries of the Authorities and Commission Vice Presidents elected, attaching the resolution”.
<i>“Scope of the Products, Services or Studies of PAIGH”</i>	The General Secretariat, through the Department of Publications will propose updating the Organic Statutes Regulations and Agreements of PAIGH, for the 2018-2020 version to be published.
<i>“Electronic Exchange”</i>	The General Secretariat will coordinate with organizations and institutions with whom they exchange of publications, to switch to electronic exchange.
<i>“90th Anniversary of PAIGH”</i>	On February 7, 2017 the celebration was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat. On that occasion the publication <i>PAIGH a History of 90 years</i> , prepared by Hector Oscar Jose Pena, was presented.
<i>“Locations and Hosts of the 2018 and 2019 Statutory Meetings ”</i>	Proposals were received and accepted from the United States, Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Chile to host the statutory meetings in 2018 and 2019.
<i>“Gallery of Portraits of Pan-American Historians and Geographers ”</i>	The General Secretariat was charged with making arrangements to habilitate the Gallery of Pan American Historians and Geographers to display portraits and national maps of the National Sections of the Member States. The National Sections will also be requested to return any portraits and maps to be part of the permanent display at PAIGH headquarters.
<i>“Ratification of the Agreement signed between PAIGH and the National Library of Anthropology and History of Mexico”</i>	The General Secretariat through the Finance Department is following-up with this contract.

<i>“Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan American Development Foundation ”</i>	The General Secretariat will follow up with the Memorandum of Understanding.
<i>“Acceptance of the Report from the Secretary General”</i>	It is available on the PAIGH web site.
<i>“Acceptance of the Reports From the 2014-2017 Commission Presidents ”</i>	Available on the PAIGH web site
<i>“Presentation of the Reports from the National Sections ”</i>	The National Sections will be asked to present their reports on activities for 2017 if they have not yet done so.

Several Resolutions refer to Acknowledgements: to the outgoing President and Vice Presidents of PAIGH, to Spain as Permanent Observer to PAIGH, to CAF-Latin American Development Bank, the recognition of the Organization of American States to the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the recognition to the Committee on Experts on the Global Management of Geospatial Information of the United Nations, to the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, to the Government of to the Republic of Panama, to the “Tommy Guardia” National Geographic Institute , to the Panamanian National Section of PAIGH, to the organizing committee, to the staff of the General Secretariat.:

5. Medium-term projections

General Actions

To prepare a strategic plan for the Commissions of PAIGH, promoting the broad versatility and visualizing as an intermediate milestone, the Centennial of .PAIGH. The starting point will be the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020.

To maximize the presence of PAIGH, through social media, either as host or organizer of events related to techno-scientific fields, not only at PAIGH headquarters, but wherever possible at the headquarters of various National Sections.

To propose a marketing plan which would make PAIGH the symbol of innovation and creativity, preferably utilizing activities relating to training as the base in its different fields (geography, cartography, geophysics and history). To give impetus to the development webinar and online courses, with the sponsorship of well-own Centers of Learning.

To broaden the role of and Academic Honorary Council made up of ex-PAIGH Authorities, who might which to contribute on a voluntary basis, sharing the lessons learnt and best practices in the different fields of PAIGH.

Scientific-Technological Related Actions

To continue strengthening the capabilities of the Geographic Institutes and Official Cartographic Agencies of the PAIGH Member States, in accordance with Resolution No. 9 of the 47th Meeting of the Directing Council, Paraguay 2016.

To promote actions for the fulfillment of the Joint Action Plan 2016-2020, which continue to strengthen the role of PAIGH as the spokesperson for regional initiatives and capacity builder in the scientific- technical fields of knowledge.

To Strengthen team work, emphasizing the benefits of being part of PAIGH.

To increase the personal interaction of the members of the Commissions and National Sections through current Information Technology and Communications.

To encourage the collaboration between the different publications produced by PAIGH.

To propose studies that would make it possible for us to visualize the cost-benefit returns from an investment in a generation of knowledge in fields similar to the objectives of PAIGH.

To stimulate the production of Voluntary Geographic Information (VGI), as one of the most efficient ways to update Geographic Information, validate the work and evaluate the data generated through this means.

Financial-related actions

To consolidate the efforts undertaken and to explore new sources of external financing, such as the creation of a Foundation to collect donations.

To continue the efforts to integrate new members and to reintegrate former ones

To continue the efforts to achieve stable efforts to update the regular quotas of the Member States.

Administrative-related actions

To strengthen the skills of the personnel of the General Secretariat of PAIGH through courses focused on increasing the administrative and operational efficiency of the Institution.

To continue the effort to make PAGH a totally digital organization, not only operationally but through its online presence.

To complete, to the extent possible the process of making all publications accessible online

To ensure compliance in all activities that have defined the profile of PAIGH since its creation, in particular the statutory meeting and the various technical assistance program and the agreements with international organizations

This plan will be put to the consideration of the Member States. The objective is to continue on the path of continuous improvement in the scientific-technical sphere as well as the administrative and

financial. It will also seek to consolidate PAIGH as the natural forum in the consolidation and development of sciences related to its objective, within the framework of the Inter-American System.

The basis of the premise is to further strengthen PAIGH, minimizing existing weaknesses and assuming in all cases, the risks that imply the innovation and constant search for opportunities.

This proposal is based on the concepts of: team work, continuous improvement, effort, and commitments, substantiated in the knowledge and practical sense of those who have had the honorable responsibility to lead the destiny of PAIGH since its inception.