

# International Sediment Initiative (ISI) Call for Scientific Advisory Board Members (Regional and Thematic Coordinators)

## Background

Established in 2002, the International Sediment Initiative (ISI) is a global initiative to assess erosion and sediment transport to marine, lake or reservoir environments aimed at the creation of a comprehensive approach for the remediation and conservation of surface waters, intricately linking science with policy and management needs.

ISI is one of the fifteen Flagship Initiatives approved by the Intergovernmental Council of IHP, based on the needs of UNESCO Member States. Flagship Initiatives work on long-term crosscutting themes related to hydrology and water management issues and their global aim is to enhance the management of water resources through science-based recommendations, education, and capacity building. From this inception, ISI has the aim to increase awareness and understanding of erosion and sedimentation dynamics and sediment issues in all spheres of water management. The initiative promotes sustainable management of soil and sediment resources at local, regional, and global scales.

## Call for Regional and Thematic Coordinators

As approved by the IHP Council in 2022, all Flagship Initiatives are required to setup an Advisory Board, with regional representation, as well as thematic scientific advisors, and to align their new strategies with the Strategy of the IXth Phase of the IHP. A call is therefore launched for candidates for 1) Regional Coordinators 2) Thematic Working Group Leads for the ISI Programme. Detailed Terms of Reference for the assignments are available in the Annex below. The draft ISI Strategy is provided as a separate document.

## Application procedure

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and application letter by **15 October 2023** to Dr Hongling Shi ([shihl@iwahr.com](mailto:shihl@iwahr.com); ISI Secretariat), with copy to Dr Koen Verbist ([k.verbist@unesco.org](mailto:k.verbist@unesco.org)). Candidacies will be assessed by the current ISI Steering Committee in consultation with the IHP Secretariat. The IHP Secretary will review the recommendations from the Steering Committee and decide on the appointment of the Regional and Thematic Working Group Leads.

# Terms of Reference

## ISI Scientific Advisory Board

### Objective

1. The Scientific Advisory Board for the International Sediment Initiative (ISI) — ISI SAB — is established to provide expert guidance, advice, and recommendations on scientific matters to ISI, and to support regional implementation of the programme.
2. ISI SAB will assist in shaping research initiatives, by supporting the scientific programme of ISI, and advising on strategic decision-making to enhance the scientific impact and effectiveness of the flagship initiative at the regional level.

### Composition

1. The Scientific Advisory Board integrates the regional coordinators and the thematic working group leads for each of the Expected Results of the programme, as indicated in Figure 1.
2. The regional coordinators of the ISI SAB shall consist of six members, representing each of the UNESCO Regions, and will be selected and appointed by the IHP Secretariat based on their demonstrated scientific achievements, knowledge and regional networks.
3. The thematic working group leads of the ISI SAB shall consist of three members, and will be selected and appointed by the IHP Secretariat based on their expertise in the relevant scientific disciplines linked to each of the Expected Results (ERs) of the ISI Programme.
4. The ISI SAB composition shall be diverse, considering factors such as expertise, background, geographic representation, age group and gender
5. Members will serve a term of four years, with the possibility of renewal

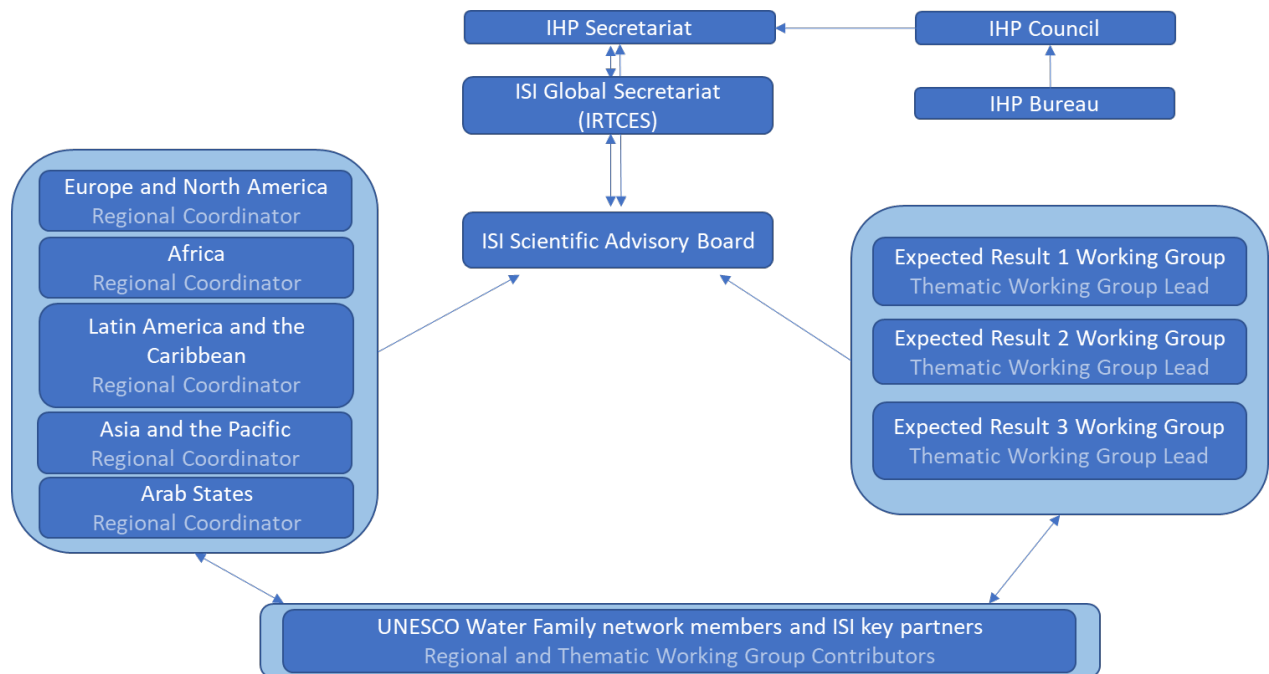


Figure 1. Governance structure of the ISI programme

## SAB Meeting frequency

1. ISI SAB shall meet at least twice per year, either in person or virtually, as determined by the ISI Global Secretariat.
2. Meetings shall be scheduled in advance, with agendas circulated to members prior to each meeting.
3. Members are expected to actively participate in meetings, engage in discussions, and contribute their expertise.
4. Additional ad hoc meetings or teleconferences may be arranged as necessary.

## Roles and responsibilities

### Regional Coordinators

1. Setup and maintain a network of regional experts and stakeholders that are related to the ISI objectives
2. Work together with the IHP secretariat, the ISI Global Secretariat and other SAB members to organize capacity building workshop in member states
3. Seek information and news from all members of the regional network to be published as news item on the website of the Global ISI network
4. Maintain a record of the members of the network and their activities and lead the implementation of the approved global workplans adapted to the regional setting
5. Maintain records of the ISI regional meetings and seek possibilities to provide necessary support if requested from regional contributors. This could include the establishment of a mechanism for exchange of experts
6. Act as liaison between the regional and Global ISI network

7. In close coordination with the IHP Secretariat and Global Secretariat and other SAB members, prepare an annual plan of action
8. Assist in identifying and evaluating potential collaborations, partnerships, or funding opportunities at the regional level
9. Collaborate with ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO to enhance public awareness at the regional level

### Working Group Leads

1. Lead the identification of the key activities required to achieve the Expected Results of the ISI Programme
2. Review and provide expert assessment of research proposals, scientific programs, and projects initiated by ISI, in line with the identified Expected Results
3. Offer recommendations and guidance on emerging trends, technologies, and scientific opportunities that align with ISI goals and its different Expected Results
4. Work together with the IHP Secretariat, the ISI Global Secretariat and other SAB members to organize capacity building workshops in member states
5. Advise on the translation and wider circulation of the implications of scientific research for policy and actionable strategies
6. Contribute to the evaluation of ongoing scientific initiatives, providing feedback and suggesting improvements
7. Assist in identifying and evaluating potential collaborators, partnerships, or funding opportunities in the scientific community
8. Collaborate with the ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO to enhance public awareness and understanding of scientific advancements

### Reporting mechanism

1. The ISI Working Group Leads shall provide annual reports on the progress of work aimed at achieving the Expected Results, including recommendations for adjustments, to the ISI Global Secretariat.
2. The ISI Regional Coordinators shall provide annual reports on the progress of regional implementation of the ISI Programme, including recommendations for adjustments, to the ISI Global Secretariat
3. Reports may include actionable steps, suggested strategies, or policy considerations based on scientific expertise and the topics of the diverse Expected Results. It shall also include a regional and sub-regional scope.
4. Oral presentations may be requested by the ISI Global Secretariat to facilitate dialogue and discussion on specific topics.

### Collaboration and confidentiality

1. ISI SAB members are encouraged to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and share insights among themselves.
2. Members shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information, proprietary data, or any discussions designated as confidential.

3. ISI SAB shall adhere to all applicable legal and ethical guidelines regarding intellectual property, conflicts of interest, and data protection, particularly under the framework of UNESCO's rules and legal framework.
4. ISI SAB operates in an advisory capacity and does not have decision-making authority within UNESCO.
5. The ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO will provide updates to ISI SAB on the status and outcomes of their recommendations, as appropriate.

## Term duration, review and renewal

1. Each member's term shall be of four years. At the end of the term, members may be reappointed or replaced based on ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO IHP Secretariat assessments of their contributions and expertise.
2. Vacancies occurring before the end of a term may be filled at the discretion of ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO.
3. The performance, effectiveness, and impact of the ISI SAB and its members will be periodically reviewed (every 4 years) by the ISI Global Secretariat and UNESCO to identify the need for adjustments to the ISI SAB where necessary.