



INITIATIVE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE REGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA
IIRSA



Contents

Agenda of Priority Projects (APP, in Spanish)

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1. Introduction I

The introduction mentions the achievements and challenges of IIRSA in its first 10 years. Also, the arguments of the Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus (AIC, in Spanish) would be used as the most important background information of the current Agenda of Priority Projects of IIRSA, as well as the evaluation of the AIC carried out in order to briefly compare the objectives proposed and the recorded progress.



Introduction II

- i. Importance of the fact that the initiative is focused on Latin America and that its protagonists are the 12 South American governments and their original guiding principles;
- ii. Importance of the fact that IIRSA has been able to have a lively organization, which has not meant new bureaucracy;
- iii. Importance of wide political consensus regarding the initiative and the factors that promoted it;
- iv. The very innovative conceptual contributions that allowed the implementation of several processes related to indicative territorial planning and how these concepts have evolved up to date;
- v. The qualitative leap that meant the definition of the 2005-2010 Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus through the 31 projects;
- vi. Progress and challenges related to the implementation of the AIC;
- vii. The results (tangible as well as intangible ones) of the AIC;
- viii. The way in which IIRSA mobilized the International Cooperation; and
- ix. The preliminary actions developed to conform the Agenda of Priority Projects.



2. Reference

- 2.1. UNASUR, its agencies and its Integration objectives
- 2.2. The role of the Council of Infrastructure and Planning Ministers (COSIPLAN)
- 2.3. The articulation of the COSIPLAN with the IIRSA initiative
- 2.4. Summary of the Integration Agenda



2.1. UNASUR, its agencies and its Integration objectives

- The creation of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR, in Spanish), in May 2008, represents a new frame for the integration process. This section starts with a summary of the most important guidance concepts and purposes stated in the Constitutive Treaty of the UNASUR.
- This section summarizes the way the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council of the UNASUR (COSIPLAN, in Spanish) was created in August 2009, at the 3rd Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the UNASUR, in Quito.
- Finally, the rest of the relevant agencies of the UNASUR are described, which are related to the integration processes and the integration objectives of the Constitutive Treaty and of all the important groups of the UNASUR.



2.2. The role of the Council of Infrastructure and Planning Ministers (COSIPLAN)

- Here, it is worth describing the role of the Council and the importance of the fact that it is able to get the necessary political support for the actions related to integration as well as to the activities that promote sustainable economic and social development.



2.3. The articulation of the COSIPLAN with the IIRSA initiative

- In this section, there is an explanation of how it was decided to articulate the IIRSA Executive Steering Committee and what is the importance of the articulation of the top-level instance of IIRSA within the COSIPLAN.



2.4. Summary of the Integration Agenda

- In this section, there is a summary of the challenges for the future: the key ideas would be worked taking as a base chapter VI of the document: “IIRSA 10 years later: its Achievements and Challenges”. Among the main concepts to be addressed, the following can be mentioned:
 - i. the need for the physical integration to be progressive and continuous;
 - ii. the reasons why physical integration is part of the regional integration;
 - iii. the factors that determine the South American suitability for regional integration;
 - iv. the importance of territorial planning with a vision of regional physical integration;
 - v. the challenge of managing a complex agenda with a lot of technical and political dialogue;
 - vi. the importance of the environmentally sustainable development;
 - vii. the opportunity for the incorporation to the business private sector and the civil society; and, finally,
 - viii. the need to establish an agenda focused on results in relation to the 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan and to the Agenda of Priority Projects.



3. Background Information on the Agenda of Priority Projects

- 3.1. Progress under the UNASUR and challenges
- 3.2. Achievements under the IIRSA initiative
- 3.3. Steps to reach the Agenda of Priority Projects
 - 3.3.1. Conceptual instruments and planning methodologies
 - 3.3.2. IIRSA Portfolio
 - 3.3.3. 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan - COSIPLAN



3.1. Progress under the UNASUR and challenges

In this section, the progress in integration, as of the creation of the UNASUR, in May 2008, to date are highlighted. The future challenges must be planned consistently with the ones pointed out in the Strategic Action Plan (Plan de Acción Estratégico –PAE, in Spanish). Among the fundamental ones, the following are worth mentioning:

- i. achieve political support and feasible funding conditions for the projects in the prioritized portfolio;
- ii. develop, spread and generalize the use of territorial planning methodologies;
- iii. optimize the infrastructure networks among the countries;
- iv. make the works and activities related to integration under the COSIPLAN more widely known;
- v. optimize the role of the council in relation to the monitoring to make progress in the performance of the projects; and vi) make progress in sectoral and normative convergence processes.



3.2. Achievements under the IIRSA initiative

On the basis of the achievements identified in the Evaluation Report of the Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus (July, 2010) and in the document: “IIRSA 10 years later: its Achievements and Challenges”, the main achievements of the IIRSA initiative will be summarized. The tangible and intangible results, that were briefly mentioned in the introductory section, will be described. Among the tangible results, the following will be mentioned: i) the 2010 IIRSA Project Portfolio; ii) the process by which the IIRSA project portfolio was created; and iii) the Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus.

Among the intangible results, the following will be mentioned: i) the higher knowledge of the region jointly acquired by the countries; ii) the progress and the learning process directed to a better cooperation among the countries; iii) the methodological developments and training; iv) the setting of the value of the institutional capital; v) and the mobilization of resources related to the international cooperation.



3.3. Steps to reach the Agenda of Priority Projects

- 3.3.1. Conceptual instruments and planning methodologies
- 3.3.2. IIRSA Portfolio
- 3.3.3. 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan - COSIPLAN



3.3.1. Conceptual instruments and planning methodologies

- In this section, the conceptual instruments and the planning methodologies applied to define the IIRSA Portfolio will be listed and described.



3.3.2. IIRSA Portfolio

- In this section, the actions devoted to restate the Integration and Development Hubs, to adapt the Groups of Projects and to redefine the Portfolio will be described. Tables will be shown to present, in different ways, the total current project portfolio and its relevance in the integration process.



3.3.3. 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan - COSIPLAN

- This section summarizes the background information and specific objectives of the UNASUR related to the infrastructure. Also, the COSIPLAN principles, general objectives and specific objectives are specified. Synoptic charts will be included to indicate the coherence of the objectives with the actions proposed. At the end of this section, the instruments for the implementation of the Action Plan as well as the schedule and the monitoring, evaluation and revision outline will be briefly described.



4. The Agenda of Priority Projects (APP)

- 4.1. Importance of the IIRSA APP
- 4.2. The characteristics of the APP
- 4.3. The process for criteria definition
- 4.4. The steps to make progress in the definition of the APP
- 4.5. The Priority Agenda proposed by IIRSA to the COSIPLAN



4.1. Importance of the IIRSA APP

In this subsection, it will be summarized the reason why it is important to have an Agenda of Priority Projects (APP). Emphasis on the need to promote a portfolio with few high-impact integration projects, benefits in more than one country and political convergence. Reinforcement of the need to carry out an intensive follow-up of a priority portfolio.



4.2. The characteristics of the APP

The APP characteristics in relation to the following issues will be explained.

- The development of the integration infrastructure is a tool for the sustainable economic, social and environmental development.
- The portfolio is composed of high-impact projects for the regional physical integration. These projects may be of national, binational or multinational nature.
- The 12 countries are represented and there is a balance regarding the number of projects promoted by each country, with the agreement of two or more countries.
- The projects are selected by consensus, taking the criteria defined as a base.
- The projects belong to the Revised Project Portfolio and/or to the Sectoral Processes.
- Whenever convenient and possible, the projects will seek the relative increase in the different transportation means.
- The priority projects will be complemented by regulatory and territorial planning actions that will make up an Integration Territorial Program.
- A selection of the ongoing projects belonging to the current AIC will be carried out. These projects will be added to the APP, if they meet the criteria established in the APP.



4.3. The process of criteria definition

A recount of the acknowledged errors by IIRSA, in the process performed for the selection of projects for the AIC, will be carried out. These errors should be taken as a lesson from which it is possible to learn. The difference between the AIC and the APP will be explained so as to make clear that the projects in the APP meet the integration objective/s pursued. Also, it will be explained the definition of program, which is the tool that includes every project and the complementary interventions (logistic and productive ones as well as of regulatory harmonization, etc.). The criteria will be presented and upheld:

- The projects must belong to the Project Portfolio and must be a priority regarding government action and performance commitment (evidenced by the allocation of funds in multi-year plans, passed legislation, budget, etc.).
- The projects must have feasibility studies, or the country must have resources allocated in the budget to start their performance.
- The projects must consolidate the connectivity networks with regional scope (cross-border synergies).
- Opportunity or need for the creation of a complementary action program to be developed for the effective delivery of services and sustainable development of the territory, according to the characteristics and modalities of each project.



4.4 The steps to make progress in the definition of the APP

In this section, the steps followed and the debate on the final definition regarding the Agenda of Priority Projects will be explained. Also, it will be presented the record of the additions and withdrawals of projects as of the creation of the Hubs. The specific discussions and the agreements reached in the meetings held in Bogota (June 14th-16th) and in Montevideo (July 19th-21st) will also be mentioned. The efforts corresponding to each of the six steps followed and to be followed in order to create the portfolio will be detailed.

- Revision of the IIRSA Project Portfolio and preliminary identification of the priority projects at a national level (May 2011)
- Revision of the IIRSA Project Portfolio and presentation of the priority projects (GTE, in June 2011)
- Priority project formulation at a national level
- Definition of the Agenda of Priority Projects (GTE, July 2011)
- Approval of the Agenda by the Nat. Coord. –NCs- (XVIII Meeting of NCs)
- Approval of the Agenda by the COSIPLAN



4.5 The Priority Agenda proposed by IIRSA to the COSIPLAN

In this section, an argument will be developed on how the characteristics of the projects adapt to prioritization criteria, and the APP list will be presented. The information handed in by each country will be used to explain how each project meets the criteria defined for the APP. An attempt will be made to broadly express the possible impacts on integration.