Section 1. Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Achieve excellence in international multidisciplinary research.

- Awarded $2,000 by the Office of the Vice President for Research to sponsor the “22nd Biennial Workshop on Aerial Photography, Videography, and High-Resolution Digital Imagery for Resource Assessment” of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) that will be held at Texas Tech on March 17-19, 2009.
- Awarded $219,987 by the US Department of Education to work on Project: “Weather and Climate Impacts on Agricultural and Water Resources”. This is a consortium project that will expand the academic, cultural, and professional horizons of American and Brazilian students and contribute to develop their interests in topics related to agriculture and water resources management. The program will exchange 32 students between Texas Tech University (TTU) and the University of Florida (UF) in the US and the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the Universidade Federal do Para (UFPA) in Brazil from 2008 through 2012.

Goal 2: Provide quality education outreach and coordinate ALSID graduate program.

- The Interdisciplinary Studies Master's program on Arid Land Studies and International Development currently has two new registered students.
- ICASALS awarded a $1,000 scholarship to Interdisciplinary Studies Master’s student Ange Abena Mbarga.
- ICASALS is the U.S. lead in FIPSE’s "Consortium for Resource Development in Drylands" that provides Texas Tech students with scholarships to study during one semester in partner universities in Brazil. The consortium sent 2 students (1 from TTU and 1 from University of New Mexico) to study in Brazil during the 2008-2009 academic year. A total of 18 American students will benefit from this program during this four-year project.

Goal 3: Lead studies addressing water related issues in arid/semiarid lands in the U.S. and abroad.

- ICASALS hosted postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Anwar Elkharbotly, from June 2008 to March 2009. Dr. Elkharbotly is from the Desert Research Institute in Cairo, Egypt and conducted research on sand dune migration during his stay in the U.S.
- ICASALS hosted lectures by: Dr. Tony Allan, Kings College London, and the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate. “Virtual Water: Capturing the Invisible Is Easier than Communicating the Invisible to Move the Minds of Consumers. The Importance of Managing Ourselves” on September 26, 2008. This event was covered by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and was the newspaper’s front page feature article (September 27, 2008).
- ICASALS has been an active member of TTU’s Water Leadership Council. Dr. Correa is one of the five council members.
- ARCHWAYS, a serialized monograph of the Office of the Vice President for Research, published in 2008 an issue dedicated to water related activities at Texas Tech. Dr. Correa and the other members of the Water Leadership Council were highlighted on the cover.

Goal 4: Increase activity with local and international institutional partnerships.

- ICASALS is the U.S. lead institution in U.S. Dept. Education FIPSE "Consortium for Resource Development in Drylands" involving the University of New Mexico in the U.S. and the U. São Paulo, U. Brasilia and U.Federal de Pernambuco in Brazil.
- ICASALS is the only U.S. institution in the International Consortium for Semiarid Research (CISA) with $850,000 in funding from Brazil’s Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ICASALS established active partnerships with: University of Florida; Universidade Federal do Para (UFPA), Brazil; Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil; University of Sheffield, UK; Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; University of Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil; University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; and University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- ICASALS is a founding member of the Global Network of Drylands Research Institutes and continues work in establishing this collaborative organization.

Goal 5: Improve overall resources and infrastructure of ICASALS.
ICASALS has a full-time Administrative Assistant to provide secretarial help and to support center activities.

- A full-time Grant Writer was hired in May 2008 to support and expand ICASALS search for external funding.
Section 2. Universal Quantitative Data

There are no Universal Quantitative Data for this area/unit.
### Section 3a. Quantitative Information

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There is No Area Specific Data in Fall Section.
There is No Area Specific Data in Fiscal Year Section.
Section 3b. Qualitative Information.
There is no qualitative information for the current year.
Commentary:

ICASALS was reactivated in late 2004 and during the last years it has achieved a solid reputation at Texas Tech for initiatives and accomplishments in research, education and community service. ICASALS was awarded in 2008 a second Department of Education grant to establish a new consortium of U.S. and Brazilian universities under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) U.S.-Brazil Program. This new grant is focused on agriculture and geosciences under the theme “Weather and Climate Impacts on Agricultural and Water Resources”. During 2008 ICASALS remained very active in international research and established valuable cooperation links that open the way for collaboration between Texas Tech researchers and those in other countries not only in dryland but also in other areas of interest. In 2008 Dr. Correa hosted at ICASALS the post-doctoral research of Dr. Anwar Elkhobotly of the Desert Research Institute in Cairo, Egypt. ICASALS is the only Texas Tech academic center fully focused on international work leading to research and education projects. It is for this reason that its success depends on the ability to establish contact with people and organizations abroad. Dr. Correa has been able to secure grants that allow for the expansion of ICASALS-related projects in Brazil. However, ICASALS’ work in other countries is severely constrained because of internal funding limitations.

Implementation Plan:

• The ICASALS work plan for 2009 will include the development of new research and project proposals in collaboration with academic departments and other research centers at Texas Tech. • There will be a continuing focus on the development of programs supported by USAID, USDA, NASA and other federal agencies. • There will be continuing emphasis on starting new funded projects in Brazil and other countries in Latin America. • ICASALS will continue to pursue funding opportunities for projects in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia where we have established institutional agreements.