

A new IAIA initiative

Climate change is a major driver towards today's energy transition away from fossil fuels to renewable sources. Recognizing the necessary shift required towards the use of more renewable energy (RE), IAIA has launched a multi-phase project over the next five years to:

- **Develop guidance** (building on relevant existing initiatives) for the application of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to policies, plans and programmes that support the transition towards for renewable energy development and future fuel mix. The guidance will cover the basics of SEA (origins, theory, key steps, methods, and tools, etc.) and include chapters on key issues for hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, tidal and bioenergy as well as the retirement of coal-fired power plants and closure of associated coal mines.
- **Establish a learning platform** to share experiences with a broad group of stakeholders using guidelines and other platforms;
- **Support application of the guidelines** in selected countries to strengthen capacity and raise awareness (with training and coaching of stakeholders), to implement an outreach plan, and to gather experience - supporting up to 20 SEA case applications (across different RE sub-sectors) of the guidelines; and
- **Launch a help desk team** of experienced experts in the field of SEA and energy planning facilitated by respective practice organizations in this field.

A phased approach

The project will involve four phases:

Phase A: Launch phase (January - June 2022):

- Develop a draft outline of the guidance;
- Establish oversight through a 'Partners Council' and 'Technical Advisory Committee', and
- Inception report on how to proceed in Phase B and C.

B and C: Development phases (July 2023 - December 2023)

- Prepare draft & final approved guidelines;
- Secure financial support for the project, and
- Expert focus group sessions, regional stakeholder workshops, capacity strengthening and case studies.

D: Implementation/roll-out (2024 – 2027 onwards)

- Testing guidance in various countries – voluntary application to renewable energy plans and programs;
- Building awareness and capacity, and training for SEA for renewable energy facilities;
- Dissemination of guidelines;
- Case study project applications for different renewable energy facilities, and
- Wrap up and final reporting.

Consultants for Phase A

IAIA has engaged Professor Barry Dalal-Clayton (Environment and Development Service International. UK) and Miles Scott-Brown (Ciera Group, Canada) to lead the work on Phase A.

Launch event at IAIA.22, Vancouver

A presentation progress to date will be made at IAIA22 in Vancouver at lunchtime on Friday 6th May.

Inventory of existing SEA guidelines

A rolling inventory of existing SEA guidelines and related materials is being maintained. These are catalogued as follows:

Please contact the consultants if you know of existing SEA guidance that is missing from the inventory.

Supporting bodies

A **Technical Advisory Committee** has been established to provide technical support and guidance for Phase A, review the draft table of contents for the guidance and help shape steps and activities for preparing guidelines.

A **Partners Council** is also being established to act as a steering group, review project documents, monitor progress of the initiative, advise and assist on securing sources of funding, provide support and advice on opportunities to pilot/apply the guidelines, and advocate for uptake and application of the SEA guidelines for renewable energy.

A larger group of individuals and organizations that are interested in the project will be established as a **Reference Group** to engage in broader debate and information/experience gathering and to build support for the project and its outputs, and subsequent uptake. It is open to all interested individuals and organizations. Please contact the consultants if you are interested to join the Reference Group.

Engaging with the private sector

IAIA is reaching out to private sector actors and organizations engaged in investing in and/or delivering renewable energy to raise awareness about this project and seek their interest and involvement in the initiative.

Contact us

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