



SELECT ELEMENTS UNDER THE IAIA CLIMATE CHANGE AND IA ACTION PLAN

The full IAIA Climate Change and IA Action Plan was prepared by the Climate Change Section of the [International Association for Impact Assessment \(IAIA\)](https://www.iaia.org/) and approved by the IAIA Board of Directors. This document contains only selected elements of the complete plan.

CONTRIBUTORS

IAIA would like to thank the following individuals who contributed their time and expertise to developing the Climate Change Action Plan, and who continue to be involved in moving the activities forward:

Weston Fisher, Phil Byer, Arend Kolhoff, Kin Che Lam, Shirley Lee, Peter Croal, Paul Sage, Charles Kelly, Meinhard Doelle, Arlene Fleming

BACKGROUND

After nearly 40 years of scientific debate, the mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and adaptation to the effects of GHGs on climate and the biosphere are now central concerns among scientific, financial, and political decision makers worldwide. To support the important role that impact assessment can play in addressing climate change, the Board of Directors of the International Association for Impact Assessment, a non-profit organization with nearly 1000 members from over 100 countries, adopted the following Position Statement:

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) stands with the world's scientific community in expressing grave concern that the global climate emergency is accelerating the deterioration of systems that support life on Earth and threatens our common future. IAIA agrees with the overwhelming scientific consensus of published climate scientists that the Earth is warming, and that it is primarily caused by human activity generating greenhouse gases (GHGs). Changes in climate, and in other natural systems, will increasingly contribute to political, social, and economic instability unless action is taken to understand climate risks, to mitigate climate impacts and to drastically reduce the emission of GHGs.

Achieving major reductions in GHGs will require a massive transformation in infrastructure and unprecedented increases in renewable energy systems, affecting all cities and regions and their planning processes. These GHG reductions must be science-based – meaning they are consistent with the level of decarbonization required to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The transformation will have major environmental, social and economic impacts.

Impact assessment (IA) processes provide a systematic way to identify, address, mitigate, and adapt to climate change impacts on natural and cultural resources on the human population.

These impacts will disproportionately affect fragile societies and vulnerable and indigenous peoples. IA also addresses conditions related to climate change that are a direct threat to the stability of the world's financial and commercial systems and institutions. Careful assessments of climate risks, impacts, and mitigation (both short and long-term) must be integral to high-level decision-making. Anticipated climate change impacts will also require application of IA processes for existing projects and programs, including risk analysis, mitigation, adaptation, and management.

To meet the multifaceted challenges posed by the global climate emergency, IA processes will have to evolve rapidly, and be applied effectively, with an increasing reliance on impact assessment processes particularly at strategic levels and taking due account of social, economic, health and environmental issues. These processes will be key in helping countries meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit the rise in global temperatures and other changes in the climate regime at the local, regional and global levels.

IAIA's mission and its cross-disciplinary composition makes our Association uniquely qualified to ensure that both the public and private sectors, investors and wider society have available the best IA practices to identify, assess, and limit the cumulative impacts of projects and programs on GHG emissions, as well as identify, minimize, offset, and manage the impacts associated with the climate emergency, through mitigation and adaptation.

*In support of the **IAIA Climate Change Position Statement**, a set of priority climate change actions will be developed and carried out by the Climate Change Section, which will first be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.*

PROPOSAL FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE SECTION

As requested by the IAIA Board, the Climate Change Section has developed a plan for addressing a set of the priority action items, which are listed below. The plans for each action item include a rationale, strategy, assigned responsibilities, and estimated budget requirements. When developing this proposal, the Section recognized that it must focus on actions that are

Important

We should pursue action items that will contribute effectively to helping address climate change in IA.

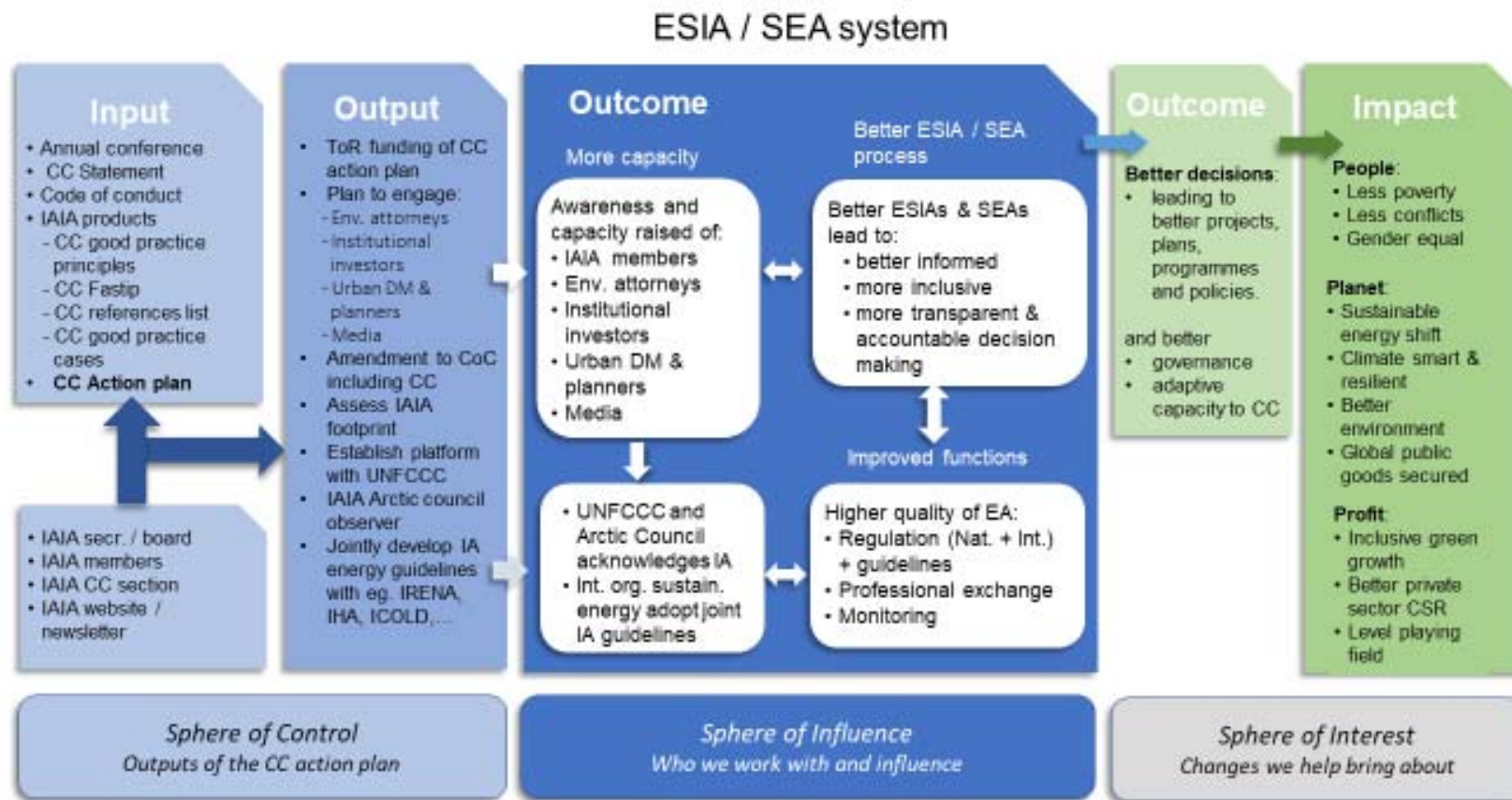
Realistic

We should pursue action items whose outcomes can realistically be achieved by relatively few volunteer members or IAIA staff, including seeking funding to be able to pursue further actions.

Consistent with IAIA's Mission

IAIA's mission "provides the international forum to advance best practice and innovation in impact assessment and advocates for its expanded use for the betterment of society and the environment."

Theory of Change - IAIA Climate change action plan



Graphic prepared by Arend Kolhoff of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), and Co-chair of IAIA's Climate Change Section

THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT

IAIA's Climate Change Section was dedicated to expanding the target audience for its activities beyond the impact assessment community, but it also wanted to increase the knowledge of those communities in impact assessment. For the purposes of this action plan, the Theory of Change as detailed on the previous page was used as the basic template for the strategy.

It should be noted that the work on the Board Statement and proposed actions were initiated prior to the current pandemic, which will have implications for IAIA and attention to climate change. While general awareness of climate change impacts is now high, the complexities of climate change, the deterioration of planetary systems, and the choice of specific mitigation and adaptation responses have received insufficient focus in our public dialogue. This deficiency is now reaching a critical level as public attention focus has shifted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts on global unemployment, and the search for recovery solutions.

Impact assessment provides the type of systematic social, cultural, and environmental oversight processes needed to select among preferred alternatives for both recovery infrastructure and for climate change mitigation and adaptation best practice, etc. This need extends to improving IA processes for existing policies, programs, and projects worldwide.

SELECT ELEMENTS FROM THE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Change Action Plan intentionally engages with multiple audiences through its various elements. Select elements within the plan, along with the responsibility, budget, rationale, and strategy for each are described below.

PROPOSE HOW THE IAIA BOARD SHOULD SEEK TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM TO SUPPORT ACTIONS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND REQUEST THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) AND THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) TO CHAMPION THE PRECAUTIONARY USE OF IA PROCESSES AS ESSENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION/MITIGATION TOOLS.

RESPONSIBILITY

Arend Kolhoff (Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA))

ESTIMATED BUDGET

The estimated budget will be developed and refined through discussion with the UNFCCC-secretariat and IUCN. It is expected that this will involve time consuming interaction and therefore be an expensive activity.

RATIONALE

The UNFCCC is the platform of countries and organizations aiming to secure and monitor the objectives set forth in the Paris Agreement (2015) through the intended nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Green House Gas (GHG). For the NDCs, each country determines the intended reductions in GHGs. Based on the country-specific NDCs, countries are in the process

of deciding on the rapid transformation of their energy sectors. In most countries, this will require systemic changes, including energy infrastructure and changes in other sectors producing GHGs. Government authorities can use Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to support strategic decision-making by developing and assessing the pros and cons of alternative pathways for the energy sector and other relevant sectors. EIAs can be used to assess how investments at project-level can contribute to mitigation and adaptation. The UNFCCC is for the most part unaware of the value IA processes, and especially SEA, play in decision-making at all levels; therefore, its potential is largely untapped. IAIA wishes to work with the UNFCCC to (i) incorporate SEA and IA processes in supporting the achievement of country NCDs and (ii) encourage individual countries to make use of SEA and other IA processes.

STRATEGY

IAIA has Observer Status at UNFCCC. Our Association makes use of its status to identify opportunities/approaches to having SEA and IA processes acknowledged, endorsed, and adopted by the UNFCCC. IAIA will therefore initiate close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn. IAIA will also work with the organization IUCN with whom we collaborate on other impact assessment issues, as they also have Observer Status and are actively involved with the UNFCCC and effective in providing advice and support.

PREPARE A DRAFT ACTION PLAN, IDENTIFYING A SELECT NUMBER OF POTENTIAL IAIA-SPONSORED INITIATIVES, INCLUDING ESTIMATED BUDGETS, TO INFORM PRIORITIZATION OF OPTIONS. THE ACTIONS SHOULD HELP ENSURE THAT BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS ARE USING THE BEST IA PROCESSES AND MODEL APPROACHES TO IDENTIFY, AVOID, MINIMIZE, OR MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S 2050 TARGETS.

This element has several sub-activities associated with it.

LIAISE WITH INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND RISK ANALYSTS

RESPONSIBILITY

Contributors: Michelle Nuijen, Sustainability Consultant, and Peter Croal, International Environment and Development Advisor

ESTIMATED BUDGET

US \$110,750/year

RATIONALE

Decisions made in these sectors have far reaching effects on the long-term sustainability of policies and programs as well as individual projects, including those affecting climate change mitigation and adaptation. IAIA initiated a very useful outreach effort on Impact Assessment for the Insurance/Reinsurance Industry at the IAIA Special Symposium on Climate Change held at the World Bank in November 2010. At IAIA'15, a pre-conference workshop was held with the European Investment Bank. Other development banks, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, have also expressed interest in working with IAIA. However, IAIA has had only limited capacity to work with and influence these sectors.

STRATEGY

A more concerted effort will be made through the IAIA Board and the Climate Change Section to engage with central/commercial and development banks, the insurance and reinsurance industry, and risk analysts.

Examples of IAIA social and environmental assessment support:

- promote climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices.
- respond to requests for climate change and IA best practice guidelines, FasTips, models, web resources, and specialist IA services.
- form a biweekly working group among IA practitioners and climate finance design, evaluation and oversight groups, to strengthen the application of effective IA processes in climate financing. Examples of collaborating organizations are the [Climate Policy Initiative](#); [The World Bank's Climate Finance and Initiatives](#) (see especially the [CFI Learning and Evaluation Initiative](#)), the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) the [European Investment Bank's Climate and Environment](#) initiatives, the Equator Principles Banks, [Climate Market and Investments Association](#), [The Overseas Development Institute's \(ODI\) Climate Finance Assessments](#), the [NDC Partnership](#), the Black Rock supported [Climate Fund Initiative](#), and consulting advisors (e.g. [Climate Finance Advisors](#), [Climate Analytics](#), among others.
- organize webinar to examine use of IA processes to help guide climate financing decisions as part of program and project design and to evaluate model IA and CC management and monitoring plans and vulnerability assessments. See for example [Improving the Effectiveness of Climate Finance: A Survey of Leveraging Methodologies](#) or [Applying New IFC Standards on Climate Change Risk Analysis](#).
- support a joint online one-day workshop with international financial institutions (max 25 discussants).
- become a Supporting Institution to UNEP's *Finance Initiative and Principles of Sustainable Insurance* <http://www.unepfi.org/psi/>.
- support a joint webinar with the international reinsurance industry.
- organize online one-day workshop with risk analysis professionals (max 25 discussants).
- develop and coordinate a two-day **IAIA Special Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Infrastructure Oversight** using model tools of Impact Assessment, Sustainable Finance, the Insurance/Reinsurance industry, and Vulnerability and Risk Analysis.
- enlist IAIA technical liaison and assistance in social and environmental impact assessment with institutional investors, insurance industry, and risk analysts (IIR).

LIAISE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ORGANIZATIONS

RESPONSIBILITY

Stacey Fineran, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Environmental Assessment at Ohio State University, and Weston Fisher, Co-chair IAIA Climate Change Section, to coordinate.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

US \$108,500/year

RATIONALE

IA professionals have worked with the legal profession to improve the promulgation of strong impact assessment legislation and regulations as well as mitigation and monitoring requirements. Given the challenges ahead, a need exists for IAIA to more actively engage with the environmental law profession to advance the use of social and environmental IA processes and best practice to select among preferred alternatives and to oversee climate change mitigation and adaptation for both new and existing policies, programs, and projects worldwide.

STRATEGY

Increase engagement with the environmental law profession to advance IA social and environmental oversight processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This may take the form of dissemination of best practices, guidelines, successful models, webinars, workshops, and direct support with specialized expertise.

This action will draw on models and expertise worldwide, especially from Scandinavia, Netherlands, Canada, Australia/New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, Thailand, and Latin America. It will also reach out to institutions/organizations recommended through the Ecological Law and Governance Association (EGLA) and Section use of IAIA Connect. U.S. institutions might include The Environmental Law Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Earth Justice, International Network for Compliance and Enforcement, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER), and the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL), among others.

Examples of IAIA social and environmental assessment support:

- promote climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices.
- respond to requests for climate change and IA best practice guidelines, FasTips, models, web resources, and specialist IA services.
- form a biweekly working group among IA practitioners and the environmental law profession to advance IA social and environmental legal and regulatory models for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- support a joint webinar to examine the use of IA processes in model climate change legislation and regulations.
- support a joint online one-day workshop with environmental law organizations on model climate change legislation and regulations (max 25 discussants).
- develop and coordinate a two-day **IAIA Special Symposium on Climate Change Law and Impact Assessment** focusing on successful legislative and regulatory models.

- enlist IAIA technical liaison and assistance in social and environmental impact assessment and oversight to advise on:
 - improving the effectiveness of IA processes and sound safeguards in legislation, and regulation development, as well as in implementation/enforcement of law, and execution of environmental management plans.
 - technical coordination and organization for webinars, workshops, and symposia.
 - selection and promotion of successes and more effective international IA and CC models.
 - participation in ELO CC and IA strategic planning and IA processes.
 - support for key ELO CC and IA initiatives election and dissemination of results.
 - outreach to ELO associations and collaboration.
 - response to ELO requests.
 - interaction with IAIA membership through blogs, Twitter, LinkedIn, IAIA Connect, and the IAIA newsletter.
 - communicate activities with IAIA membership and with journalists.

ENGAGE WITH JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

RESPONSIBILITY

Bridget John and David Bancroft to coordinate

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Year 1 US \$6,900, Year 2 US \$57,400 = \$64,300 (Fund raise \$10k from five large IA firms)

RATIONALE

There is a significant need for the public to better understand the value of IA processes in helping to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. Journalists can transfer that knowledge and understanding from specialists to the public as well as bring into focus potential alternatives that might otherwise be overridden by the near-term economic interests of proponents rather than the concerns of societies seeking long-term sustainability. Journalists and IA practitioners can also serve as ombudsmen for the public where governance and judicial systems are inadequate.

STRATEGY

Establish a working group to find new and more effective means to communicate issues about IA in relation to climate change and to engage stakeholders and the public. Seek out journalism and communication organizations and work with them to improve public understanding of the importance of the impact assessment process and its many benefits, both short and long-term. The working group will tap new social media approaches for knowledge sharing and will support coordinated communication of impact assessment and climate change through the internet, smart phone technology, Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, Twitter, and other platforms.

Activities to be conducted to develop a stronger working relationship between journalism organizations, IAIA, and their respective memberships:

- IAIA staff attending associations' meetings
- Journalist association members attending IAIA meetings
- Two-page publication on what to look for in an impact assessment
- Presentations at annual journalism association conferences
- Workshops at journalism association meeting
- Webinars – one each in 2021 and 2022

ENGAGE WITH DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITIES AND URBAN PLANNERS

RESPONSIBILITY

Luis E. Sánchez, Full Professor at the University of São Paulo, and Frederico (Fred) Campos Viana, Environmental Engineer, Renovo Foundation Belo Horizonte, Brazil

ESTIMATED BUDGET

US \$107,000/year

RATIONALE

This action item is identified as a priority for three reasons: 1) the rapid urbanization of the global population, 2) mayors have demonstrated they are more effective than other decision-makers in achieving climate action results, and 3) because model Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments and Cumulative Effects Assessments (CEAs) can have major beneficial impacts over the globe's many major urban regions. Thus, time and monetary resources invested in IA development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures may have an exceptional payback. For example, building cost effective as well as environmentally and socially sound "climate resilient communities" involves the anticipation, weighing, and screening of a full range of alternatives to address unique urban vulnerabilities to extreme events (e.g., heat, floods and violent storms, water shortages, pandemics). The application of IA processes is key to addressing these vulnerabilities.

According to the [World Bank Urban Development Overview](#), the world's cities contain over 4 billion people, more than half the global population. The urban population is 9 times larger than it was 100 years ago. Urban growth is expected to continue, more than doubling to greater than 9 billion with nearly 7 of 10 people in the world living in cities by 2050. Currently, urban areas consume two-thirds of the world's energy and create over 70% of global CO₂ emissions.

A major force for change, [C40 Cities](#) notes, is that the significant accomplishments in climate change mitigation and adaptation can be attributed to city mayors being "directly accountable to their constituents for their decisions, and [for being] more nimble than state and national elected officials to take decisive action... What our cities do individually and in unison to address climate change can set the agenda for communities and governments everywhere."

STRATEGY

Engage more actively with decision-making authorities and urban planners, especially through associations like [C40 Cities](#) and the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) to advance IA social and environmental oversight processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This may involve dissemination of best practices, guidelines, successful models, webinars, workshops, and direct technical expert support. The objective is to advance IA mitigation and adaptation best practice and also to defend existing regulation where appropriate. Successful urban IA models are to be advanced at all scales (from towns to megacities).

This action would draw on and share models and expertise worldwide, for example, from cities like Copenhagen, London, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York City, Paris, Portland, San Francisco, Stockholm, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Toronto, Vancouver, Beirut, Abuja, and São Paulo. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Cumulative Effects Assessment processes may be particularly valuable tools for urban megacities.

Examples of IAIA social and environmental assessment support:

- promote climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices.
- respond to requests for climate change and IA best practice guidelines, FasTips, web resources and models, specialist IA services, including requests from urban and regional planning organizations for short-term IA assistance (e.g., in SEA, CEA design, execution of environmental and social management plans, monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up).
- form a joint biweekly IAIA on-line working group initiative with C40 and the Global Covenant of Mayors to identify and promote model city or regional actions that incorporate use of IA processes to new and existing climate adaptation, mitigation, or resilience actions (e.g., through SEA and CEA).
- organize a two-day special symposium to share model urban and regional impact assessment and climate change initiatives, successes, and lessons, among the C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors, or other similar urban or regional organizations.
- enlist technical liaison and assistance in IA and CC social and environmental impact assessment with decision-making authorities (DMA) and urban planners (UPL) including:
 - coordination and organization of webinars, workshops, and symposia.
 - selection and promotion of successes and more effective international IA and CC models.
 - participation in DMA & UPL CC and IA strategic planning and IA processes.
 - respond to requests from urban and regional planning organizations, including short-term IA assistance, especially in SEA, CEA design, and execution of environmental and social management plans.
 - IA and CC monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up.
 - support for key DMA and UPL CC and IA initiatives and dissemination of results.

- outreach and collaboration with DMA and UPL associations.
- interaction with IAIA membership through blogs, Twitter, LinkedIn, IAIA Connect, and the IAIA newsletter.
- communicate activities with IAIA membership and with journalists.

OUTLINE ADDITIONAL STEPS IAIA SHOULD TAKE TO PROMOTE TO MEMBERS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION BEST PRACTICES, INCLUDING THE USE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE.

RESPONSIBILITY

Phil Byer to coordinate with Section Chairs and Arend Kolhoff to lead the development of the SEA guidelines.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Year 1 US \$106,000, Year 2 US \$6,000 = \$112,000

RATIONALE

Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation in impact assessment processes has evolved to a point where there are now documents that provide excellent advice to practitioners, such as those listed in IAIA's "Key Citations: Incorporating Climate Change Considerations in Impact Assessments." One such best practice document is IAIA's "Climate Change in Impact Assessment: International Best Practice Principles" (2018). Greater understanding and use of these best practices is needed. In addition, climate change touches on various other areas of impact assessment, such as public participation, biodiversity and ecology, social impacts, culture, health, and indigenous peoples, for which there are also IAIA Best Practice documents. These should be reviewed and revised to ensure they adequately address climate change concerns.

There are also several areas of impact assessment where best practice guidelines do not exist but would be helpful to practitioners. These include areas of practice covered by IAIA Sections on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Corporate Stewardship and Risk Management; Cultural Heritage; Disasters and Conflicts; Emerging Technologies; and Government and Implementation Systems. These sections should be encouraged to develop best practices for addressing climate change in their areas.

Finally, there are areas not covered above that are particularly relevant to climate change, and guidelines are needed for these. One such area is the energy sector. Most of the GHG reductions will be the result of a major shift in the energy fuel mix towards the production of more renewable energy. To support the energy transition, countries are developing national energy plans and sector specific plans that can benefit from the use of impact assessment processes such as SEA; guidelines are needed on how to do IA to support strategic decision-making of the energy and related sectors.

STRATEGY

Most of this work involves harnessing the commitment and time of IAIA members in the various sections, with support from IAIA staff, to review and revise existing best practice documents and develop new ones. In addition, consideration should be given to having some of these documents translated. Promoting use of best practices is the next key action, which would involve reaching out to IAIA members through section blogs, IAIA Connect, conference presentations, and webinars. Up to eight webinars over several years would be developed and presented by IAIA members. Outreach to others, such as environmental lawyers and institutional investors (e.g., commercial and development banks), is a logical expansion of these activities and is included under Action Item 2.

IAIA members would also help develop guidelines for SEA to support strategic planning for the necessary shift towards the use of more renewable energy systems. This could take the form of the following sets of guidelines:

1. SEA Guidelines for the energy sector in a jurisdiction (country, state, province, city, etc.).
2. SEA Guidelines for the renewable energy sector.
3. SEA Guidelines for the hydropower sector.

To increase the use of these guidelines, they should be developed jointly with and adopted by relevant international organizations that are respected by the energy sectors and sub-sectors. Ideally, these three guidelines would be developed together as there are significant overlapping elements. IAIA would be asked to endorse the guidelines, as it did for the one on biodiversity, and depending on external funding, it might also be asked to provide some financial support.

- Webinars (up to eight).
- SEA Guidelines Development with other organizations: Total cost is approximately \$400,000, based on development cost of the Biodiversity in EIA/SEA Guidelines. IAIA's contribution to be negotiated with the collaborating organization(s).

IN ANTICIPATION OF IAIA'S APPLICATION FOR ARCTIC COUNCIL OBSERVER STATUS IN THE FALL OF 2020, OUTLINE SUGGESTED IAIA RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS.

RESPONSIBILITY

David Bancroft and Paul Sage are to lead the writing of the application with input from Weston Fisher and Arend Kolhoff. Other IAIA members will be asked to be contributors or reviewers.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

US \$30,000/year

RATIONALE

IAIA has been working on developing links to the Arctic Council for the last 4 years. A working group was established within IAIA's Climate Change Section to explore how IAIA could become a member of the Arctic Council as an Observer.

While the Climate Change Section is taking the lead in seeking an Observer membership in the Arctic Council, it is doing so on behalf of IAIA. We believe that most or all of IAIA's Sections would benefit from interacting with the Arctic Council's six Working Groups (WGs). The Council's WGs and IAIA's Sections share many of the same interests/concerns such as environmental, socioeconomic, health, Indigenous Peoples, biodiversity, ocean pollution, climate change, best practices, etc.

In 2016, the IAIA Board approved submission of an application to become a member of the Arctic Council as an Observer. On May 11, 2017, IAIA received notice from the Council that IAIA's application was not granted. The primary reasons given were:

- The Arctic Council received 20 applications in 2017 for Observer status and could not accept that many new Observers.
- To obtain an Observer status in the Arctic Council requires a unanimous vote by the eight Arctic States. After extensive discussion only seven of the 20 applicants received a consensus decision.

However, on May 12, 2017, IAIA received a message from Ambassador Aleksi Härkönen, the chair of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), stating that IAIA was welcome to apply again for Observer status. Given that the SAOs are the reviewers of applications, IAIA's application seemed to be well-received.

IAIA's Board has approved the submission of another Observer application to the Arctic Council. David Bancroft, IAIA's Executive Director (ED), is taking the lead in submitting the application. Paul Sage, the author of our last application, is assisting David. IAIA is optimistic that its application will be successful this time for the following reasons:

- In April of 2018, during Jill Baker's tenure as IAIA's ED, she gave the opening keynote at a meeting of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). SDWG is one of the Council's most active and important WGs. We believe that Jill's presentation to the SDWG gave IAIA name recognition it did not have when we submitted our application.
- At IAIA's Conference in Brisbane, the Arctic Council received IAIA's 2019 Global Award for its contribution to and promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection. The Arctic Council's Chair sent two representatives to Brisbane to receive the award. This provided an opportunity for several IAIA members, including David and Paul, to socialize with the representatives. They encouraged IAIA to submit another application and also offered to review it.
- Subsequent to receiving IAIA's Global award, the Arctic Council issued a news release about receiving our award and posted it on their website.
- David Bancroft and Paul Sage have been developing relationships with Arctic Council representatives from other member states and the Arctic Council's permanent staff.

STRATEGY

Assuming IAIA obtains Observer Status, the first step will be to determine how IAIA might best serve as an Observer by gaining a better understanding of the Council's current programs and projects. Based on what we know now, it appears that the Council's Working Groups have a

wide array of programs and projects underway. Some of them are Sustainable Development Toolkits, Arctic Indigenous Peoples Health, Renewable Energy, Resilience in the Arctic, Best Practices for EIA, Climate Change, etc. Our challenge will be to decide where our best fit is within our budget commitment. The Arctic Council does not directly fund Observers' participation; however, Observers can participate in projects that are funded.

ESTIMATED TOTAL REQUEST:

1st year	\$450,950
2nd year	<u>\$421,450</u>
Total	\$872,400*

*This document includes only select elements of the Climate Change Action Plan, so the total of the elements listed here will be less than the Plan's total.