



**IAIA**  
International Association  
for Impact Assessment

## IAIA CLIMATE CHANGE 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. This 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.