



UNDERSTANDING

# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

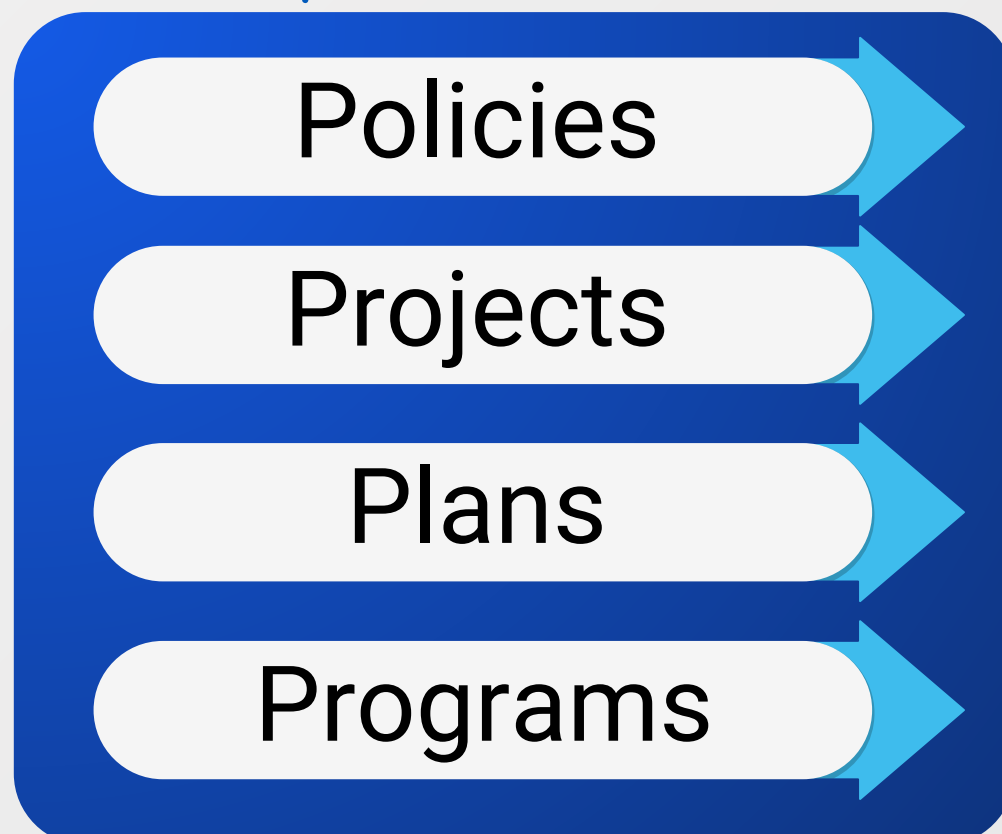
AND

IAIA

# WHAT IS IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

**Impact assessment (IA)** is a transformative process designed to **inform and guide decisions and actions** by government, businesses, or individuals. It aims to **maximize positive outcomes** while **minimizing negative effects**, ultimately supporting sustainable development.

*It evaluates the  
impact of this...*



*...on this:*





# A FEW TYPES OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** *A project's impact on the physical environment: air, water, soil, biodiversity, etc.*
- **Social Impact Assessment (SIA):** *Effects on people and communities: displacement, livelihoods, culture, etc.*
- **Health Impact Assessment (HIA):** *Impacts on public health, including mental health, access to health services, etc.*
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** *For policies and planning, assesses broader, long-term impacts for decision-making strategy.*
- **Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA):** *Combined, incremental effects of multiple activities over time and space on the environment or society.*
- **Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA):** *Evaluates if a project or policy respects, protects, and promotes international human rights.*



# WHY DOES IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATTER?



Improves project outcomes and economic returns



Reduces environmental and social risks



Encourages inclusive, participatory decision-making



Builds public trust and transparency



Supports compliance with laws and policies



Helps align with sustainable development goals (SDGs)





# IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS A STRATEGIC TOOL

When done well, impact assessment is not just an input into decision-making but **an opportunity to shape strategic choices early.**

# THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS AT A GLANCE





# GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- ✓ Required in 190+ countries
- ✓ Integrated into lender and donor requirements
- ✓ Informs policies on climate, biodiversity, and human rights
- ✓ Guided by global frameworks: Espoo Convention, SDGs, etc.



# ABOUT IAIA

INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT



## **What we do...**

We are a non-profit association dedicated to the study and application of impact assessment.



## **Who we are...**

We are a 45-year-old global network of 1,300 individual and organization members from 110 nations.



## **What we believe...**

We believe in creating meaningful change by making better, informed decisions that lead to positive outcomes for the environment, nature, and societies across the globe.





# IAIA'S OFFERINGS

- **Global conferences** and regional symposia
- **Professional training** (virtual and in-person) and webinars
- Open-access guidance and best practice **publications**
- **Membership and networking** through 17+ special interest Sections



# WHY IAIA IS UNIQUE



Interdisciplinary,  
cross-sectoral,  
and international



Trusted by  
governments,  
industries, lenders,  
NGOs, and academics



Neutral platform  
for dialogue and  
learning across  
borders



98% of event  
participants would  
recommend IAIA



# WHO ARE IAIA MEMBERS?



- Environmental and social consultants
- Government regulators and policymakers
- Researchers and educators
- Financial institutions and donors
- Indigenous and local community reps
- Industry professionals and corporate sustainability teams



**Diverse.** *1,300 individual and organization members from 110 nations.*



**Successful.** *63% are executive/senior level; 26% are mid-level.*



**Established.** *51% are 45–64 years old; 22% are 35–44 years old.*



**Loyal.** *65% have been members for 3+ years; 33% have been members for 10+ years.*



**Engaged.** *73% make use of the IAIA and members-only websites.*

# HOW TO LEARN MORE



## Join our mailing list

[mailchi.mp/iaia/enews-signup](https://mailchi.mp/iaia/enews-signup)



## Explore IAIA resources

[www.iaia.org/resource-library](https://www.iaia.org/resource-library)



## Connect on socials

LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube



## Become a member

[www.iaia.org/individual-membership](https://www.iaia.org/individual-membership)



## Attend an event

[www.iaia.org/events](https://www.iaia.org/events)



## Contact us

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**TOGETHER**



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