



# Assessing and Managing Cumulative Environmental Effects

- *What works?*
- *What doesn't?*
- *How do we improve cumulative effects assessment and management?*

## THE PROGRAM

The program will take stock of key trends, issues and approaches to cumulative effects; identify areas of strength and weakness of current impact assessment and resource management approaches in addressing cumulative effects; document good practice and ways forward to improve and integrate the institutions, science and practice of cumulative effects assessment and management; and include plenary, theme, concurrent and poster sessions and invited speakers for plenary and theme forums.

## SESSIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED AROUND FOUR MAJOR THEMES

1. **Institutional arrangements** (including legal and policy frameworks, processes and instruments) for assessment, planning and management of cumulative impacts.
2. **Science-based frameworks, knowledge systems and methodologies and tools** in support of decision-making, particularly within sustainability frameworks.
3. **Operational practice** in analysis, mitigation and monitoring of cumulative effects and in ex-post evaluation of process, practice and performance.
4. **Integrated approaches** that demonstrate the effective linkage of institutions, science and practice in strategic (top down) and/or project (bottom up) approaches to assessing and managing cumulative effects.

## DELEGATES CAN EXPECT

- Exposure to state-of-practice information
- Professional networking opportunities
- Learning about relevant case studies and approaches used
- Identification of effective methods for the practice of CEA
- Brainstorming on ways to better address cumulative effects management and synergistic cumulative effects

**Does your anxiety level rise when your project requires  
cumulative effects assessment or management?**  
This meeting is for you and the work you do for your organization and clients!

## WHY THIS TOPIC? WHY NOW?

In response to several recent surveys, IAIA members agreed that the current processes for impact assessment, strategic planning and resource management do not effectively address cumulative effects.

Experience with assessing and managing cumulative environmental effects in EIA dates back to the early seventies in the US, slightly later in Canada. Despite this track record, cumulative effects remain an area of continuing difficulty in impact assessment and resource management practice in nearly all countries.

Many practitioners also believe that cumulative effects are increasing in severity and across larger scales in time and space. In some cases, this is connected to global or world-wide changes, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, through processes and interactions that are not well understood. For most purposes, the regional or ecosystem level will provide the more appropriate framework for assessing and managing cumulative effects of policies, plans and projects, particularly against critical thresholds of resource productivity and ecosystem integrity, resilience and health. Ecosystem approaches are not only scientifically challenging but also typically expose institutional and policy gaps that impeded their translation into action.

This meeting will highlight the track record of our experience, focusing on what works well, what does not work and where improvements are needed in coming to grips with cumulative effects.

## CALL FOR PAPERS / POSTERS / PRESENTERS

Abstract submission will open soon ... start thinking now about ways to share your ideas, experience, or promising approaches from any of the relevant fields of practice of cumulative effects assessment and management (CEAM). Case studies and practical examples will be given preference in the program.

Fields of interest include:

- Impact assessment including EIA, SEA, area-wide or CEAM-specific processes
- Capacity-based resource and stock analysis
- Ecosystem, biodiversity and habitat assessment
- Policy analysis of major development options in energy, transport and other sectors
- Hazards, vulnerability and climate change adaptation planning, particularly for arid and water-stressed areas, small islands or Northern and Arctic regions
- Role of regional development and spatial planning in managing cumulative effects
- Integrated land use planning resource management, particularly for river basin or watersheds, coastal zones or large ocean and marine areas
- Regional and local interagency management programs

## INTERESTED?

- Join the Cumulative Effects meeting mailing list! Contact [info@iaia.org](mailto:info@iaia.org) now to be notified of abstract submission information and program updates as they become available.
- Watch [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) for details.

## CALGARY

*Heart of the Old West and the New West  
as well as the center of the oil and gas  
industry in Canada.*

Allow time to explore this vibrant city, a very real example of a modern boom town that still retains the trappings of its frontier past, home to the oil and gas industry and with many local and regional examples of cumulative effects.

Calgary offers Devonian Gardens (indoor), the Glenbow Museum, the Zoo (with many indoor exhibits), Botanical Garden and Prehistoric Park, the venue of the world-famous Stampede, Fort Calgary, and Olympic Park as well as many chic dining, shopping, theatre, and ballet opportunities.

A few hours' drive will take you to Canada's most beautiful scenery: the Canadian Rocky Mountains, including Banff National Park; the dinosaur beds of Alberta's Badlands; Aboriginal history, arts and crafts; Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and more.

[www.toursimcalgary.com](http://www.toursimcalgary.com)

## ABOUT IAIA

The **International Association for Impact Assessment** promotes and perfects the use of impact assessment. The inputs and results of this special topic meeting are expected to help IAIA document and disseminate good practices in the assessment and management of cumulative effects and to contribute to the update of the 1996 effectiveness study.



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