IN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The UK Government has given a policy commitment to carry out SEAs to inform all future offshore wind licensing decisions and an initial SEA is currently being prepared by UNEP. An international Working Group, which will provide technical support to this initiative, met in Geneva in February 2003. The project aims to enhance capacities of countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to undertake integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development, with particular focus on poverty eradication and sustainable trade promotion. The project will develop and test a pilot integrated assessment and planning for sustainable development approach in eight developing and transitional countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. UNEP will provide technical assistance. Outcomes of the project will be disseminated by UNEP for wider use by international donors, national agencies and others involved in poverty eradication. For further information please visit www.unep.ch/etu/ or contact Hussein Abaza (UNEP): Hussein.Abaza@unep.ch. • Hussein Abaza

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IAIA Members Speak: IAIA Services

Respondents were asked to rate IAIA membership services on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “no value” and 5 being “great value.” More than 52% indicated that IAIA membership has great value to them by rating it with a 5. The annual conference event and Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal (IAPA) were also deemed to hold great value by 48% and 45% of the respondents, respectively. All three services received a mean score of 4.3. At right is a table showing both the mean score and the percent of respondents rating each item with great value.

Both the web site and the member discount for conference registration received mean values of 4.1, with just over 1/3 of respondents ascribing those services with great value. Considering the relatively small proportion of IAIA members who participate in post-conference tours, it is not surprising that only 7% of respondents identified that service as having great value.

Respondents were grouped geographically into five categories: USA, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Europe, and Less Developed Countries (LDCs). Those from Australia/New Zealand and LDCs were more likely to rate IAIA membership and IAPA with a 5 than respondents from the USA, Canada, or Europe. Canadian and European respondents found more value in the listservs and news postings than the other three regions. Respondents from LDCs found greater value in the conference registration discounts offered to members than did the other regions.

Watch future newsletters for the final installments of this series.

Impact Dynamics Section Forming

The purpose of the proposed Impact Dynamics (ID) Section is to investigate and document the explicit mechanisms of how environmental impacts occur as a result of human activities. The R&D activities of the ID Section are to commence with the analysis of specific case studies (documented or new cases), thus building a knowledge base on the subject. Direct applications of the particular advancement introduced by the ID Section include an improved impact forecast, more efficient addressing of cumulative impacts, an infinitely better impact mitigation, and a far better organization of monitoring plans. The ID Section of IAIA may collaborate on methodological issues and/or case studies with the Environmental Dynamics Special Interest Group of the System Dynamics Society (www.utad.pt/ed/sig), and the Environmental Dynamics Institute (www.utad.pt/ed/institute). To express interest or for further information, contact Anastássios Perdicoúlis • tasso@utad.pt

Help Wanted: Professional News Co-Editor

The Publications Committee is seeking an individual interested in volunteering as a co-editor of the IAIA newsletter’s Professional News section.

The position would commence in June 2003 in preparation for the July issue of the newsletter. In collaboration with co-editor Angus Morrison-Saunders, tasks involve reviewing and editing submitted articles, communicating with authors, and forwarding finalized articles to HQ. This person also takes a proactive role in identifying and obtaining appropriate material, and as a member of the newsletter task force, provides input on newsletter issues as needed. Excellent English skills are required.

The closing date is 15 May. For further information, or to submit an expression of interest, contact Jill Baker • Publications Committee Chair • jill.baker@sympatico.ca
**Tips, Information and Invitations...**

**Registration.** The importance of early registration can not be stressed enough. From savings on your registration fees, airline tickets, and hotel room to fast and convenient check-in to ensuring the presenter is there to give the paper you came to hear to ordering enough catering, early registration ensures a better and more enjoyable conference for all. See the final program for confirmed registration hours. You can avoid long lines by checking in the afternoon prior to the opening plenary; this also allows you time to read through the program, orient yourself to the convention and resort area, and rest from your travels before the busy days ahead.

**Council meeting.** The IAIA Council is an advisory resource to the Board of Directors, is chaired by the President, and comprises the Board, all Committee chairs, and representative(s) of Affiliates, Branches, and Secretariats. The Board may designate other members for inclusion on the Council, as appropriate, from time to time. All IAIA members are welcome to sit in on the Council meeting that takes place during IAIA’03.

**Final program and abstracts.** Abstracts for confirmed papers will be placed on the web site prior to the conference as time permits. The final program and abstracts volume will be posted on the web site about 1 June and distributed at the conference.

**Section meetings.** IAIA has a number of special-interest area Sections. Join in! Meet new people! Section meetings are open to everyone.

**‘Round the World Raffle.** We hope IAIA’s 3rd annual raffle is bigger than ever! Please contact HQ by 1 May if you plan to donate an item. Proceeds go to a good cause!

**Meet your friends and colleagues.** The Palmerie Golf Palace & Resort has numerous lounges, restaurants, and poolside decks where you can arrange to meet fellow attendees on arrival.

**Book share.** Remember to take one or two of your favorite new or recycled environmental reference books for the IAIA book share table. The books are then available cost-free on a first-come, first-served basis to delegates who might not readily find such books in their own localities.

Mix business and pleasure... IAIA’03 offers many opportunities for both! Learn the latest in training courses, technical visits and sessions; attend the conference dinner and join a post-conference tour to network, relax, and enjoy the Moroccan experience.

---

**Tips for Effective Presentations**

- Prepare a one-page bulleted outline of your presentation and include your contact information. This helps your audience follow along, especially those whose native language is not your own, and allows them to contact you after the conference for more information or to request a copy of your full paper.
- Get to the subject matter quickly.
- Within the first 2 minutes, tell why what you are going to say is important and how it will affect your audience.
- Be specific and concrete. Use numbers and examples.
- Stick to the time schedule.
- Look for audience participation and questions throughout.
- Be positive. Support the program and other speakers, and most of all, have fun!

(Adapted from “Effective Conference/Seminar Marketing” by Ralph Elliott.)

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**Tips for Poster Presenters**

- Preview/review: posters should be made up before you arrive. Put it up in your own conference room, view, discuss, and make changes before setting off for the conference.
- Content of posters: may be divided into sections, including introduction, problem definition or aims of the research, work summary, results and conclusions.
- Use large, easy-to read lettering. Posters should be legible from a distance of 2 meters.
- Include a heading label which includes the poster’s title and the author’s name and contact information (a tearoff sheet also works).
- Do not paste up typed pages of a written paper, or clutter the poster with unnecessary details.
- See www.iaia.org > Conference > Say It with a Poster! for more tips and information.
Professional News

Impact Assessment at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Some 10-12,000 projects are referred to Canada’s Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) annually for review and assessment of their impact on fish habitat. The assessments are conducted to establish if each project meets the requirements of section 35 of the Fisheries Act that prohibits the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) to fish habitat unless authorized by the Minister. The Act defines fish habitat as “spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes.”

Assessment is guided by the 1986 Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat and the principle of “No Net Loss” (NNL). The Policy aims to avoid adverse impacts on fish habitat by alternate siting, redesign or using mitigation to minimize or eliminate impacts. Compensation initiatives are also used to offset residual adverse impacts and therefore achieve NNL. Authorization of the HADD is provided by s35(2) of the Fisheries Act. The exercise of this regulatory power requires that an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) be conducted before issuing an authorization. Our Habitat Management Program information is available at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/index.html.

Ray Lamoureux • President, OAIA • ray.lamoureux@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

SEA Conferences in Europe

The latest deadline for implementing the provisions of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is July 20, 2004. Consequently, EU Member States are improving their activities in that context and some conferences on SEA have been scheduled. One will take place in Graz, Austria, on April 24, 2003, focusing on practical aspects of three topics: “Integration of SEA Methodology into Existing Planning Procedures,” “Effective Processes,” and “Public Participation” (for details please browse www.sup2003.at). Another will be held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, at the European Institute of Public Administration, on May 15-16, 2003 (see www.eia.nl or contact Mr. Unfried, via m.unfried@eipa.nl.com). On August 25-26, 2003, the 5th Nordic EIA conference will take place in Reykjavik, Iceland. One of its main issues will be SEA (for information please e-mail holmfridur.bjarnadottir@nordregio.se).

Ralf Aschemann • Austrian Institute for the Development of Environmental Assessment • office@anidea.at

Montreal Workshop on Assessment of Transboundary Impacts

In February 2003, l’Association pour l’évaluation d’impacts (AQÉI) and the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA) jointly hosted a workshop on the assessment of transboundary impacts entitled “Impact Assessment without Borders.” It was the first joint event undertaken by the two Canadian affiliates of IAIA since they signed a Memorandum of Understanding in late 2001 to encourage closer cooperation. The workshop was sponsored by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Environment Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and le Ministère de l’environnement du Québec.

The workshop addressed existing institutional mechanisms for assessing transboundary impacts, specific case studies, and health issues associated with transboundary movements of air contaminants from thermal power stations.

Presentations were made by representatives of the governments of Canada, Québec & Ontario; International Joint Commission; Lake Champlain Basin Program; and the electricity, health and consulting sectors. Their presentations will be posted on the web sites of AQÉI (www.cam.org/~aquoi/) and OAIA www.oaia.on.ca). Ray Lamoureux • President, OAIA • ray.lamoureux@ceaa.gc.ca

Control System of Environmental Damage in Road Areas in Cordoba, Argentina

Since June 2002, the Environmental Unit of Cordoba Highway Administration has elaborated a system to control the different situations that produce environmental damage to the road areas. The first step of the Control System is to complete an Environmental Verification Form, in which the detected situation including data such as site place, name of who caused the situation, description of the situation, etc. On the basis of this information, the Environmental Unit, as the second step, analyzes the information and reports the situation to the Competent Authority to promote the necessary corrective actions. So far, this control system has proved quite effective in protecting road areas.

Norberto Jorge Bejerman • Environmental Unit, Cordoba Highway Administration • jbejerman@infovia.com.ar
President’s Report on the Annual General Meeting and Environmental Impact Assessment and Transportation Conference

Western and Northern Canada Affiliate IAIA • Yellowknife, Northwest Territories • March 2003

The W&NC Affiliate’s second annual general meeting was held in Yellowknife, NWT, on March 7. It was coupled with a conference on EIA and Transportation held on March 6 and 7. The conference was a great success, with nine papers (authors came from sea to sea to sea – Vancouver in the west, St John’s, Newfoundland, in the east, and the Mackenzie Delta was the topic of a paper in the north) and over sixty participants. The papers were of good quality and, more important, they triggered much interesting and enjoyable discussion among participants. This was not only during the sessions but also during the pub night, where discussions dealt with who should do impact assessments – governments or proponents. (Well, that was where the discussions started.)

The conference and AGM were held in a float plane base above a portion of the Great Slave Lake. Because the lake is frozen at this time of the year, the section next to our location served as a landing strip. Thus, we were occasionally interrupted by planes landing or taking off on the ice, a truly northern experience.

Another northern experience was the cold weather. The receptionist at one hotel mentioned that the temperature on the morning of the second day was -41 degrees Celsius (-42 degrees F for our American friends). But it was clear and the bright sun made it pleasant by the afternoon.

The main topic of discussion (aside from EIA and transportation) was the Vancouver IAIA annual conference (IAIA’04). There are several W&NC members interested in contributing to the organisation and several ideas for the conference as well.

The conference and AGM were, in my view, very successful. A great thank you must go to the northern organisers: Robin Staples, Sherry Lovely, Tamara Hamilton, Lorraine Seale, Jason McNeil, Sean Kollee and, especially Alan Ehrlich, the NWT director whose drive to get the conference going was far above and beyond the call of duty. On behalf of the entire Western and Northern Canada Affiliate, I thank them all! • Bill Ross • University of Calgary • ross@ucalgary.ca

First Spanish-Portuguese Meeting on EIA Held

Jointly organized by the Spanish Environmental Impact Assessment Association and the Portuguese Association for Impact Assessment, the First Spanish-Portuguese Meeting on EIA was held in the Spanish city of Huelva, from 4th to 6th November 2002.

The central theme of the meeting was transboundary impact assessment concerning Spain and Portugal, and the organizing committee reached the following conclusions, presented to the participants at the closing session:

• Coordination. It is necessary to improve the coordination between all the stakeholders involved in transboundary EIA.

• Information. It is necessary to implement new mechanisms for providing access to relevant information, in transboundary EIA.

• Public participation. The existing procedures for public participation in transboundary EIA are inadequate and the public is not getting involved; such procedures should definitively be improved.

• Monitoring. Common criteria should be established for the design of monitoring programmes in transboundary contexts.

• Strategic Environmental Assessment. Both countries have to introduce in their national legislation the provisions of European directive 2001/42/CE concerning the environmental assessment of plans and programmes; the preparation of that legislation should include provisions for transboundary assessments and be assisted by a Spanish-Portuguese committee including representatives of the different concerned stakeholders.

• Iñigo Sobrini • President of the Spanish Environmental Impact Assessment Association • info@eia.es

• Julio Jesus • President of the Portuguese Association for Impact Assessment • apai@netcabo.pt
**Resources**

**International Principles for Social Impact Assessment Released**

Five years of discussions, negotiations and development have led to the publication of the International Principles for Social Impact Assessment by the SIA Section of IAIA. The International Principles will soon be available for downloading on the Publications page of the IAIA website (www.iaia.org). The Principles will also be published in the IAIA journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*.

The International Principles is a follow-on from the Interorganizational Committee for Social Impact Assessment 1994 report on “Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact” which were developed for the USA/NEPA context. In the process of developing an international version, it became apparent that principles had to be developed before guidelines. The SIA Section therefore now releases its statement on the International Principles for SIA, and intends to continue the development of guidelines with various sectoral groups.

This official IAIA Project was initiated at the 1997 New Orleans meeting. The Principles were developed through a series of workshops held at IAIA conferences (from 1998 to 2002) as well as several other conferences in South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, UK, and Australia. Inspired by Rabel Burdge, the process of development was coordinated by Frank Vanclay. With a gestation of over five years, hundreds of people were consulted in the course of their development, and some fifty people actively participated in the drafting of the principles.

The intended audience of International Principles will change over time. In the first place, the intended audience is SIA practitioners and IAIA members. Over time, however, the intended audience is all environmental professionals, regulatory agencies, and developers. The International Principles are intended to be a springboard to the development of country-specific and sector-specific Guidelines.

Members of the SIA Section of IAIA are willing to provide professional support and assistance to individuals and organisations wishing to take this next step of developing guidelines. Enquiries in this regard may be addressed to Frank Vanclay (IAIA Project Coordinator – Frank.Vanclay@utas.edu.au) or James Baines (SIA Section Chair – j.baines@tba.co.nz).

The main purposes of the document are to:

- provide, in a form that is easily accessible and referenced, a working definition of SIA and a statement of the core values and principles of social impact assessment that has official imprimatur from the international professional body
- promote the concept of “good practice” in SIA with reference to current professional experience
- foster the continuing debate and evolution of ideas underpinning SIA good practice
- consider the challenges that an international context provides for the discipline of SIA
- advance awareness of the social issues of development

**Plantlife International Publication Identifying Important Plant Areas Now Available**

The Plantlife International publication *Identifying Important Plant Areas - A Site Selection Manual for Europe and a Basis for Developing Guidelines for Other Regions of the World* is now available.

The manual is focused on providing a framework for parties/governments worldwide to achieve target 5 of the CBD’s Global Plant Conservation Strategy (i.e., protection of 50% of the world’s most important areas for plant diversity assured by 2010) and includes guidelines for site selection criteria, a questionnaire template, etc. For anyone working in biodiversity (especially plant) conservation, use, mapping, planning, etc., this is an extremely useful reference document, giving the latest thinking on this from Europe.

Copies are obtainable from andy.brown@plantlife.org.uk and together with updates on project implementation will ‘soon’ be available (the criteria, etc., already are) on PI’s website: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/html/important_plant_areas.htm.

**IAIA Members: Receive EIAR Journal at Reduced Rate**

IAIA has arranged with the publisher of *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* to offer the journal at a reduced rate to IAIA members. See the flyer enclosed with this mailing for details on how to take advantage of this offer.

**AJEAM/RAGEE Goes Online**

The African Journal of Environmental Assessment and Management/Revue africaine de gestion et d’évaluation environnementales (AJEAM/RAGEE) is an academic journal as well as a “best practice” forum on the EIA experience in Africa. The journal publishes articles in English and French. AJEAM/RAGEE is developing a web site where articles may be downloaded. See http://ajeam-ragee.sl-writers-series.org/default.htm or contact ajeam_ragee@yahoo.com for more information.
In electronic decisions taken since the mid-term Board of Directors meeting in November 2002, the IAIA Board of Directors has:

- approved the Board minutes from June 2002
- approved the Board minutes from November 2002
- approved a proposal from the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA), the Eastern African Association for Impact Assessment (EAAIA), and the Stockholm Environment Institute-Boston/Tellus Institute (SEI-B/Tellus) for IAIA to become a full partner in the African Professional Development Programme in Environmental Impact Assessment. This programme is seeking grants to support 200 EIA learning-by-doing Fellowships for promising African EIA professionals throughout sub-Saharan Africa over five years. IAIA will contribute IAIA memberships to supplement the Fellowships and serve on the partnership’s Steering Committee.
- approved the publication of the SIA Principles on the IAIA web site, and authorized their distribution in hard copy form under the IAIA logo.

Note: all IAIA members are welcome to submit proposals to be considered by the Board of Directors and/or the Annual General Meeting at IAIA’03. To expedite the Board’s review and decision-making process and to ensure a place on the agenda, please contact HQ for proposal submission guidelines. Proposals are due 1 May.

Mark Your Calendar

- The 5th Nordic Environmental Assessment Conference. Second Announcement and Call for Papers. Planning for Sustainable Development: the practice and potential of environmental assessment. 24 - 26 August 2003. Reykjavik, Iceland. Organised by the Planning Agency, Iceland and Nordregio in cooperation with the Ministry for the Environment and the University of Iceland. The overall aim of the conference are to describe, analyse and discuss the role of Environmental Assessment with respect to planning and the political goal of sustainable development. The focus will be both on experiences so far and on emerging issues with regard to the assessment of policies, plans and programmes through Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and the assessments of projects in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Furthermore, the theoretical basis for environmental assessment will be explored; in particular the existing theories of planning and policy analysis and recent developments in the field of planning theories with relevance to the impact assessment field will be highlighted. For more information: www.skipulag.is/htdocs/ymislegt/nordregio/nord.htm, www.nordregio.se/confaug03.htm, or www.skipulag.is, or contact Pórodrur Póroddson, Planning Agency, Iceland, toroddur@skipulag.is and Holmfrídur Bjarnadóttir, Nordregio, holmfrídur.bjarnadottir@nordregio.se.

- Earth Day. 22 April 2003.

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Welcome!

New IAIA Members 16 December - 15 March

Jonathan W. Allen, Canada; Sharon Baillie-Malo, Canada; Daniel F. Barone, USA; Marleen Bekker, The Netherlands; Alex Valur Birgisson, Iceland; Ben Cave, England-UK; David Claycomb, USA; Wendell J. Davis, USA; Mark Debello, The Netherlands; Rob Earley, Canada; Mike Fabricius, South Africa; Mikhail Gontier, Sweden; Paddy Gresham, New Zealand; Jakob Gunnarson, Iceland; Flora Hajdu, Sweden; Josh Heltzer, USA; Stephanie Hodge, USA; Leung Hon Man, Hong Kong; Louise Johnson, England-UK; J. Ricardo Juarez, Mexico; Marija Kalisnik, Slovenia; Ruth Kelly, Australia; Rachel Kyte, USA; Hypolile Laboyrie, The Netherlands; Marlene T. Laros, South Africa; Cheuk Nga Denise Leung, China; Michelle D. MacDonald, Canada; Beth L. McCasland, USA; Sheila Mitchell, USA; Jani Paivanen, Finland; Ursula Platzer, Austria; Jenny Pope, Australia; Francesca Racioppi, Italy; Rosaly Sandoval de Holguin, Colombia; John Scanlon and Alejandro Iza, Germany; Geert Schaap, The Netherlands; Jill Slinger, The Netherlands; Lydia Tutein Nolthenius, The Netherlands; Rob Van Iersel, Australia; J. Lennart Veerman, The Netherlands; Frances Wilbur, New Zealand

Free advertising...

... almost! Did you know that IAIA members are entitled to free or discounted advertising in the IAIA newsletter?

Camera-ready commercial advertisement (member rate)
• Half page: US$50 each issue / $175 per year
• Quarter page: US$25 each issue / $90 per year
• Business card size: no charge

Job announcements (member rate)
• Up to 100 words: No charge
• 101-150 words: US$25 each issue

Sponsor-a-Page / Sponsor-an-Issue
Page: US$150 each. Issue: US$1800. A sponsorship listing consists of “This page sponsored by [Company Name/logo]” only.

The newsletter is distributed in hard copy to over 1,000 individuals in over 100 countries and posted in PDF on the IAIA web site in January, April, July and October. Deadlines for ad copy are the 15th of March, June, September, and December. Prepayment is required. For additional information or to place an ad, contact jen@iaia.org.

IAIA Newsletter
Next issue: July 2003
Submission deadline: 1 July 2003

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions to professional practice news editor Angus Morrison-Saunders (angus@essun1.murdoch.edu.au), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 500 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to IAIA Headquarters. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

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