

# IAIA Newsletter

International Association for Impact Assessment

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## From the President ...

Mary Lou Morris

The past couple of months have been remarkable in many ways, including greatly heightened political, economic, social and overall environmental pressures in virtually every corner of the global community. The relevance, value and potential of IAIA, with our goals clearly focussed on best practice in impact assessment, management and policy, are palpable in the search for a sustainable way forward for humanity and our planet.

Whatever specific role each of us has in terms of community or workplace, we are all environmental stakeholders. As such, and especially through our identification with IAIA, it is essential to **renew our efforts** at:

- tapping into the early commitments of governments at every level (particularly timely with so many new administrations)
- gaining/maintaining effective communication with business and industry
- including community values as integral components in all we do

As part of my brief notes cited in the last issue of this Newsletter I asked all members to consider taking an active rather than a passive approach to their membership. I am pleased to report that we have received some very positive responses. New hands have been raised to participate in various representational roles. This is extra heartening because these activities invariably require self funding but have rewards of regular contact with colleagues and organisations as well as advancing the IAIA program of local, regional and global activity.

However, there is a continuing need for additional active involvement within the IAIA committee structure. It is so important to have a regular influence and turnover of perspective reflected in the work of the organisation. **So, once again I would ask those who are able and interested to please let us know.** Without such input it is not possible to take full advantage of the numerous windows of opportunity that we encounter. IAIA has so much to offer and yet we cannot achieve our goals without the hands-on support of members participating in the team effort.

Congratulations are certainly in order for several members who have just taken on very visible roles within the organisation, following the most recent IAIA election process. A very warm welcome to the new President-Elect, Peter Leonard, and three Directors: Raphael Mwalyosi, Elizabeth Monosowski and William Veerkamp. Their terms of office will commence at the time of IAIA'01 in Cartagena. At the same time we will farewell a president and several directors who will have completed their time on the Board but who will be encouraged to maintain their highly valued input through other forms of IAIA activity. In particular, Past President Hobson Bryan and Directors Luis Sánchez and Joanna Treweek will be leaving the Board.

**Please note:** the best and most immediate way to meet all IAIA office-bearers and many fellow members from around the world is to come to IAIA'01 in Cartagena, Colombia. The IAIA annual conference event offers unique opportunities to interact with delegates from many nations and with many areas of experience and expertise. Come to attend training courses, workshops,

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*IAIA has so much to offer and yet we cannot achieve our goals without the hands-on support of members...*

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## SIA of Private Forest Biodiversity: A Canadian Example . . . . .

### SPECIAL TOOLS OF THE TRADE FEATURE

*Note from the IAIA Publications Committee: This article is exemplary of the high-quality materials we wish to include in future issues of the newsletter. Please send your articles, ideas, information and opinions today!*

#### Introduction

More and more, impact assessment is being applied at the program, or strategic, level. Here, tools from decision analysis are extremely helpful. The purpose of this short article is to briefly share with the impact assessment community how strategic impact assessment using a decision analysis approach was applied in Canada to Forest Renewal British Columbia's *Private Forest Biodiversity Program (PFBP)*. The output of this approach is an evaluation framework tool that helps decision makers to understand program impacts and tradeoffs between alternatives. It effectively promotes clear thinking and communication about maximizing beneficial impacts and avoiding adverse impacts in the acquisition of private forest land for biodiversity conservation.

#### The Approach

Over 250 different privately held land parcels were identified for consideration under the PFBP, with new properties regularly being added to the list. All the properties boast significant or important attributes that make them eligible for acquisition consideration under the PFBP. At this strategic level, the work concentrated on answering the following questions:

- *What is important to the PFBP (e.g., how is biodiversity defined in this specific context and what are the key impacts-tradeoffs)?*
- *How can the most biodiversity be conserved with the limited PFBP budget?*
- *How can PFBP decisions be made more efficient, while also being consistent, flexible and accountable?*

To gain insight into a workable

model, an analytical approach based on "value focused thinking," a form of decision analysis, was employed.<sup>1</sup> The approach first identified what is important to the program (values or objectives) by defining fundamental criteria, then performance measures were established to gauge how well alternative land acquisition choices would satisfy these program objectives. Information structured in this way provides program specific insights into tradeoffs that need to be made in the identification of priority properties.

#### The Results – Five Steps of Strategic Assessment.

Using the structured decision approach, and after much iterative analysis with representative stakeholders and key professionals, a framework with five distinct steps was developed. Each step is defined by a specific analytical filter with associated criteria (*performance measures are identified in parenthesis*) as described below.

**Step 1: Evaluation by Program Principles.** Before impacts to program objectives would be considered, two basic program standards must be met:

- 1) compliance with FRBC's Mandate (*to promote provincial environmental values and promote cost effectiveness*); and,
- 2) consistency with a common definition of forest land (*greater than 10% of crown closure*).

**Step 2: Regional Evaluation.** To identify priority provincial regions, biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC) units were used, rather than political or administrative boundaries. The regional filter includes:

- 1) species and community rarity (*rare and endangered*

*species and communities*)

- 2) biologically exceptional areas (*diversity of priority species*)
- 3) habitat at risk (*amount of unit already protected and amount unit under private ownership*)

Land parcels located within high priority regions based on these criteria could then be considered for more detailed evaluation in steps 3-5.

**Step 3: Site Evaluation by Key Criteria.** Identified properties located in these priority regions were then considered in a relative evaluation using an expanded set of criteria, including:

- 1) species and community rarity (*rare and endangered species and communities*);
- 2) biologically exceptional areas (*diversity of priority species*);
- 3) habitat at risk (*existing or proposed land use change*);
- 4) partnerships and program coordination (*corridors/buffers between/adjacent managed areas*); and,
- 5) public acceptability (*degree of support, disagreement*).

The process of identifying priority properties focused on significant impacts that affect key tradeoffs between subject properties.

**Step 4: Site Evaluation by Key Constraints.** Critical considerations underlying any land acquisition decision are:

- 1) cost (*total cost, cost per hectare, cost per biodiversity score*); and,

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- 2) availability (vendor willing to negotiate, for sale/exchange/donation).

These factors, however, did not enter the decision until after sites were prioritized on fundamental criteria.

**Step 5: Additional Site Evaluation Criteria.** As a final check on biodiversity decisions, other factors were qualitatively considered, including:

- 1) unique or exceptional biophysical attributes (description);
- 2) education, research and recreational opportunities (description); and,
- 3) culture and heritage values (description).

### Conclusion

Impact assessment professionals are getting more involved in strategic assessments. Employing the approach described in this article can significantly help to improve program effec-

tiveness by focusing efforts and resources. The results from the PFBP suggest that this approach is transferable to other challenges and will improve debate, promote communication and achieve better, more accountable decisions.

<sup>1</sup> Kenney, R. 1994. Value Focused Thinking. Harvard University Press. Cambridge.

- William Trousdale, MCIP, AICP. For more information on the approach used contact: William Trousdale, EcoPlan International, Inc. wtrousdale@ecoplanintl.com. Phone: +1 604-228-1855. For more information on the PFBP visit the FRBC website at: [www.forestrenewal.bc.ca](http://www.forestrenewal.bc.ca).

### Acknowledgements

The work described in this brief overview is the result of a collaborative effort of Forest Renewal British Columbia and The Nature Trust of British Columbia, with the support of EcoPlan International, Inc. and Adair Consultants, Ltd.

## 2001 Election Results

Ballots for the offices of President-Elect and three Directors for 3-year terms were tabulated 16 March 2001.

**President-Elect: Peter Leonard** (Canada)

**Director: Raphael Mwalyosi** (Tanzania)

**Director: Elizabeth Monosowski** (Brazil)

**Director: William Veerkamp** (The Netherlands)

Mwalyosi was elected to a three-year term after serving a special one-year term created by the change to the 12-member Board.

Heartfelt appreciation on behalf of all IAIA members to **Hobson Bryan, Luis Sánchez** and **Joanna Treweek**, whose three-year terms are coming to a close. Good luck to incoming Board members as they take on their new roles with IAIA, and many thanks to all those who volunteered to stand as nominees. - HQ

## AGM Announced

The IAIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during IAIA'01 (final program to specify time). This is the business meeting of the Association; all IAIA members have the right to participate at the AGM and raise their concerns or offer suggestions regarding the activities and policies of the organization. If you have any issue that you want to raise at the AGM, send the following information to the HQ or pick up a proposal form at the registration desk during the conference.

Information required:

1. Title of proposal/suggestion
2. Your name and contact information
3. Date
4. The issue is: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Alternatives. For each alternative, include (a) cost in time, (b) cost in money, (c) cost in resources, (d) advantages, (e) disadvantages
6. Who is/would be affected
7. Recommendation

The Board reserves the right to table proposals received less than thirty days prior to the start of a scheduled Board meeting for review and/or discussion at a later date.

## Associated Organizations Sought

IAIA is looking to develop relationships with other organizations (regional, national, and international) whose members have similar or complementary interests with us. If you belong to such an organization, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Bridget John ([bridget@iaia.org](mailto:bridget@iaia.org)) with a brief description of the organization and its purpose as well as contact information, including web site if available. - HQ

## Resources

The Internet Research Register (IRR) on projects focusing on the environment, environmental health and sustainability is growing strong and is now being expanded. Researchers and practitioners are warmly invited to submit their research, which is helpful to career development since (i) it identifies oneself and his/her research, for the public record, (ii) it makes the information on your research available to the wide community, whilst it is underway; including links to related conference papers or published works; (iii) it allows you to update that information at any time during the project/research life cycle.

Interested colleagues are invited to visit the research register web site at [http://www.mcbup.com/research\\_registers/emh.asp](http://www.mcbup.com/research_registers/emh.asp). Simply click on the "add research" field at the top of the Welcome page and complete the form. To save time, the project summary can be cut and pasted directly into the appropriate field. You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement of your registration once it has been checked and entered into the public domain. (Source: [INFOTERRA@CEDAR.AT](mailto:INFOTERRA@CEDAR.AT), 12 February 2001)

## EIA Capacity Building in the Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities for IAIA . . . . .

The region called "the Middle East" covers many countries in western Asia and some in northern Africa. Few other parts of the globe can match the rich contribution this region has made to the development of human civilization. Countless world famous prophets and preachers, saints, sinners and scholars, worshippers and warriors, traders and tradesmen were born here or were drawn towards this region throughout the recorded human history.

Tragically, the region has also been and still remains the battle ground for some of the worst religious, territorial and colonial conflicts. The presence of oil and ongoing violence between neighbouring nations have made this region perhaps one of the most volatile and sensitive spots on the globe.

I have had the good fortune of frequently visiting the Middle East. Based on my discussions with managers and professionals working in the private sector especially oil and gas, members of the academic community and

some representatives of non-governmental organizations, I can conclude that:

1. Officials at senior levels recognize EIA as an essential component of comprehensive natural resource management and protection strategy and plans.
2. EIA is a legal requirement in most if not all countries of the region.
3. There is nonetheless a confusing bureaucratic web rather than a practical, efficient and environmentally beneficial assessment process.
4. Roles have not been clearly defined for the various government departments and agencies, including the one responsible for administering the EIA process and procedures.
5. Similarly, the role and responsibilities of project proponents are not clearly defined for ensuring proper balance and fairness in both the assessment and follow-up phases of the EIA process.
6. There is an urgent need to develop and implement an EIA/EHIA capacity-building strategy in every country for producing skilled professionals and for making the process workable and beneficial.

In addition, there is need to assist decision makers in recognizing the benefits of cooperation in trans-boundary EIA as precious natural resources, especially water bodies, span national boundaries.

### Opportunities for IAIA

Given IAIA's mandate of promoting and assisting EIA capacity-building around the globe, and the fact that a significant number of IAIA members have the EIA related expertise, cultural sensitivity and knowledge of regional languages, I would like to propose the following steps:

1. The IAIA Board should consider establishing a task force to explore various avenues of IAIA involvement in EIA capacity-building in the Middle East.
2. The task force should explore possibilities for IAIA collaboration on this initiative with agencies like IUCN, WHO, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, African Development Bank, Arab Fund for Development and various donor agencies of G-7 nations.

Such an initiative if developed and implemented properly should be of mutual benefit, both to the Middle East and IAIA.

- Dr. M. Husain Sadar. Dr. Sadar is an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science with the College of Natural Sciences at Carleton University, Canada. He was awarded the 1998 Rose-Hulman Award for his outstanding contributions to EIA.

*The IAIA Board welcomes suggestions for deliberation from all IAIA members. Contact the HQ for proposal submission information.*

## News from the Branches & Affiliates Committee (BAC)

Affiliate	Representative
AQEI (Québec, Canada)	Peter Leonard
Brazil	Luis Sánchez
Central/Eastern Europe	Ingrid Belcakova
Ghana	Jonathan Allotey
Nigeria	Emuobonuvie Amy Akpofure
OAIA (Ontario, Canada)	Lee Doran
Senegal	Abdoulaye Sene
South Africa	Michelle Audouin

**Membership.** The Branches and Affiliates Committee (BAC) has now formalised its membership with the representatives listed at left from IAIA affiliates in good standing. We again invite affiliates who have not yet responded, and any new affiliates, to delegate a representative to serve on this important committee.

**Activities.** A letter of invitation to join the BAC was sent to all IAIA affiliates in good standing, and included the minutes from the first BAC meeting, which was held during IAIA'00 in Hong Kong. The minutes reflect a number of suggested activities which participants thought were a priority and which would help implement the committee tasks (see IAIA newsletter, October 2000) and the letter asked all affiliates to respond with comments and/or additional suggestions for fulfilling the BAC mandates. Several, but not all, affiliates have responded. Heading suggestions from responding affiliates is the formation of an affiliate web page. An affiliate web page is viewed as a useful tool for fostering communication, providing a forum for exchange of information and encouraging contact between affiliates, and between affiliates and IAIA.

The BAC mid-year report calls for planning of an affiliates web page to be undertaken during the first few months of 2001. As part of the planning process, the comments already received by the BAC in response to the letter of invitation are being sent to BAC representatives for additional ideas and suggestions. Implementation of BAC activities, including a web page, its format and content, will be based on input from the BAC representatives. The committee hopes that a formal proposal for an affiliate web page can be completed by the end of April 2001 and submitted to the International Headquarters and Publications Committee at that time. — Betty Hansen, BAC Chair

Betty may be reached at [ecosystm@echo-on.net](mailto:ecosystm@echo-on.net).



## IMPORTANT CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM . . . . .

**Session Added.** Environmental Legislation and Impact Assessment: Public Information and Participation in Urban Environment. See preliminary program addendum on the web site for details.

**Transportation from Cartagena Airport to Hotels.** T&CI Estrellas Ltda., the hotel/tour operator for IAIA'01, has informed us that they have an office at the airport and will offer transportation to the hotels. By taxi: US\$8.00 per person / By bus or van: US\$6.00 per person. Please contact T&CI Estrellas Ltda. to book this transportation and/or to receive additional information. Contact information is on page 27 of the preliminary program.

**CANCELLED: Training Course #9.** Environmental Impact Assessment: A Potentially Powerful Tool for Indigenous Peoples

## HORSEBACK RIDING NOT REQUIRED . . . . .

In the early twentieth century, some innovative rural church congregations in Georgia, USA, supported themselves with a unique raffle which required some skill in horseback riding. For fifty cents, one could enter a contest by which each participant would ride as fast as possible under a certain tree. Tied to a high branch of the tree by its legs was a live goose with a greased neck and head. The contestant who reached out and pulled the head off the goose won the fowl.

Fortunately, no horseback riding skills are required to participate in the first ever IAIA 'Round the World Raffle in Cartagena. (Aren't you relieved?!) And, as far as we know, no decapitated greased goose will be donated as a prize! We have received some great donations so far, ranging from Irish music CDs, Brazilian hand-embroidered linen tablecloths, Vietnamese handcrafts, and Guatemalan ceramics to "the finest" South African wine and smoked salmon from the northwestern United States.

**Even if you have already contacted the International Headquarters (HQ) with your intentions to donate for the raffle,** please fill out the form on page 22 of the IAIA'01 Preliminary Program. More details about the raffle can be found there, or look for the link to the program on our web page.

*Let's have fun together and make a great donation to the City of Cartagena!*

## WATCH THE WEB SITE . . . . .

Further updates will be posted as they become available. Times and dates are currently tentative; watch for the final program on the web site about 15 May.

## TIPS, REMINDERS, INVITATIONS . .

**Registration.** Register early—even if you have to pay on-site. That way your name tag, delegate packet, and event tickets will be ready when you arrive. Check the final program for registration desk hours—you can avoid long lines by checking in the afternoon prior to the opening plenary, and then have plenty of time to look through the convention area and the surrounding neighborhood.

**Orientation Session.** Anyone currently involved in, or interested in, an IAIA leadership or committee role, or anyone who just wants to know more about IAIA, please plan to attend the IAIA orientation session tentatively scheduled from 9:00am–11:00am Friday, 25 May. You'll gain valuable insight into the workings of IAIA and discover ways to make the most of your IAIA membership!

**Council Meeting.** The Council is tentatively scheduled to meet 2:00–5:00pm Friday, 25 May at the convention center. Everyone is welcome!

**Final Program and Abstracts.** The final program and conference abstracts will be posted on the web site about 15 May and distributed at the conference.

**Join In—Meet New People!** If you are interested in joining a special-interest Section, feel free to attend the evening meetings!

**Greet Your Friends and Colleagues.** Each hotel has lounges, pools, and restaurants where you can arrange to meet fellow attendees. The IAIA Web site has links to hotel information.

**Technical Visits.** This year's conference organizers have reached the ultimate in mixing business with pleasure. Check with HQ to see if space is still available for these educational yet enjoyable excursions.

**Book Share.** Don't forget to bring 1 or 2 of your favorite new or recycled environmental reference books for the IAIA book share table (new this year). The books would then be available cost-free to delegates who might not readily find such books in their own localities.

## WHERE'S THE AUTHOR? . . . . .

You previewed the final program on the web and found a "can't-miss" session—planned your conference schedule around it and promised your boss you would return with a great new tool in your knowledge kit. You show up early at the session, choose your seat in the front row, and wait expectantly. What? Only two of the six scheduled papers are presented? The author you traveled 10,000km/6,000 miles to hear is not in attendance? Or maybe you sent your paper early and expect to see your name on the program, but it's not there...

For this and every conference, we can't stress enough the importance of early registration. From savings on your registration fees and airline tickets to ordering enough lunches to ensuring someone is there to present a scheduled paper, early registration ensures a better and more enjoyable conference for all! Please... watch the deadlines and register early!



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conference sessions and to discuss your own possible contribution to the organisation of IAIA. Encourage your work and community colleagues to attend and share the special learning and motivational experience that we all gain from the comprehensive program specifically planned to meet the needs of environmental stakeholders in 2001 and beyond. **Your registration, as soon as possible, would greatly assist our efforts and I look forward to seeing you there.** - MLM

## Welcome ... Welcome Back!

New and returning IAIA members 16 December 2000–15 March 2001

**Jack Krohn**, AUSTRALIA; **Paul Morgan**, BARBADOS; **David Taylor**, CANADA; **Davin de Kergommeaux**, CANADA; **Deborah L. Muggli**, CANADA; **Jason Quigley**, CANADA; **Michael Raine** and **Bette Beswick**, CANADA; **Davey Harper**, CANADA; **Leigh Speed** and **Carrie Oloriz**, CANADA; **Debra Zanewich**, CANADA; **Paul Schafer**, CANADA; **Uargarita De Castro**, COLOMBIA; **Bernard J. Yon**, FRANCE; **Aleg Cherp**, HUNGARY; **Nick Marchesi**, ITALY; **Takehiko Murayama**, JAPAN; **Yoko Okamoto**, JAPAN; **Raul Antonio Garza Cuevas**, MEXICO; **Irving Diaz**, PANAMA; **Rui Jorge Godinha da Silva**, PORTUGAL; **Ross Marshall**, SCOTLAND-UK; **Richard Charles Hill**, SOUTH AFRICA; **Gavin Hellstrom**, SOUTH AFRICA; **Rodrigo Jiliberto**, SPAIN; **Davide Geneletti**, THE NETHERLANDS; **Elena Correa**, USA; **Cynthia Pratt**, USA; **Jimmy Hueck**, USA; **Michael D. Spitz**, USA; **Danielle Mendiburu**, USA; **Godlove Fonjweng**, USA; **Nicolas Kotschoubey**, USA; **James E. Burke**, USA; **Leo Amado Merida**, USA; **Michael Kent**, USA; **Bob Blenker**, USA; **Linda Oxendine**, USA; **Timothy McKeenan**, USA; **RaNae Vaughn**, USA; **Hendrik Snow**, USA; **Ricio Diaz-Chavez**, WALES-UK; **Luke Mabvudza**, ZIMBABWE; **Naome Chimbetete**, ZIMBABWE

## Membership Renewal Procedure

As an environmental organization, IAIA is obviously concerned about preserving the environment. For this reason, the International Headquarters (HQ) mails only one paper renewal notice per year to each member. If members have e-mail, they will also receive one e-mail reminder before being considered inactive and removed from IAIA's current mailing list. —HQ

## Time to Update Your Address Book and Bookmarks! IAIA's Francophone Secretariat—New Contact Info

Secrétariat francophone  
380, rue Saint-Antoine ouest, Bureau 3200  
Montréal (Québec) Canada H2Y 3X7  
Téléphone: +1 (514) 288-2663  
Télécopieur: +1 (514) 987-1567  
**iaia@aiei.org** **www.aiei.org**

## IAIA CALENDAR/IAIA'01 deadlines

### April

- 1 Regular registration rate ends
- 1 Last day to register for technical visits
- 1 Newsletter mailed
- 15 Deadline for submission of abstract, registration and payment of registration fee in order for presentation to be included in the IAIA'01 final program
- 15 Last day to register for IAIA'01 training courses
- 15 Affiliate annual reports due
- 15 Action items for Board, Council, and AGM meetings due

### May

- 1 Board, Council and AGM agendas set
- 1 Committee and liaison year-end reports due
- 1 Nominations Committee begins solicitation of new officers

27 - 2 June IAIA'01

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*We must become  
the change we want to see.  
~ Mahatma Gandhi ~*

## IAIA Newsletter

**Next issue:** July 2001

**Submissions due:** 15 June 2001

Articles should be a maximum of 500 words and of interest to a majority of IAIA members. Send to Jennifer Howell (jen@iaia.org) or mail/fax to the HQ. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

