

Sections Coordination Committee

Midterm report to IAIA Board – September 2007

Name of Committee Chair

Lea den Broeder

lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl

1. List of committee members

Name	Section
Bert Enserink (b.enserink@tudelft.nl) John Devlin (jdevlin@uoguelph.ca) Dusica Radojicic (dusica.pula@inet.hr)	Public Participation
Ilse Aucamp (ilsea@lantic.net)	Social Impact Assessment
Martin Bjerregaard (mbjerregaard@golder.com) Michel Bouchard (michel.a.bouchard@cogeos.com) Charles Kelly (72734.2412@compuserve.com)	Disasters & Conflict
Ben Cave (ben.cave@caveconsult.co.uk) Suphakit Nuntavarokarn (suphakijn@yahoo.com)	Health Impact Assessment
Jan De Mulder (jan.demulder@bz.vlaanderen.be) Karen Moore (Karen.Moore@ceaa-acee.gc.ca) Susan Waters (susan.waters@ec.gc.ca, <i>stepping down June 2007</i>)	Impact Assessment Law, Policies & Practice
Patrick Duffy (pjbduffy@cs.com)	Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (AFF)
Bob Tai (bob.tai@ecan.govt.nz)	Indigenous People
Thomas Fischer (Fischer@liverpool.ac.uk)	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Bernice Goldsmith (Bernice@encs.concordia.ca) Rachel McCormick (Rachel.McCormick@international.gc.ca)	Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies (IATRP)
Verina Ingram (verina_ingram@hotmail.com) Asha Rajvanshi (ar@wii.gov.in)	Biodiversity & Ecology
Debra Zanewich (dzanewich@edc.ca)	Environmental Management Systems. <i>This position will be up for nominations for 2007-2008.</i>

2. Section Coordinating Committee responsibilities

The Sections Coordination Committee is made up of section representatives who may be the section conveners or someone designated by the section. The IAIA handbook states the objective of the Committee as follows:

“The Sections Coordination Committee ensures that special interest areas are catered for within IAIA and that the full spectrum of environmental impact assessment issues can be widely discussed.”

Responsibilities of the Sections Coordination Committee are also stated in the IAIA handbook:

- provide a focus, within IAIA, to ensure that the academic, professional and practical interests of members are well served by the Organisation
- facilitate interaction between/among Sections, and identify issues in common
- fully support the process for input from Sections to the Board
- assist members wishing to establish new Sections and provide related recommendations to the Board for approval
- ensure that each annual IAIA Conference reflects the complete range of member interests, via Sections coordination Committee representation on each conference task force
- promote development of best practice within Section interest areas
- promote listserv mechanism to encourage active topical debate
- strengthen links between IAIA and other relevant organisations, as appropriate for the range of Section topics.

3. 2006-07 activities

- **Sections information.**

Maintain an up-to-date list of sections and their conveners - see attached - and maintain information on sections and their objectives in the IAIA Handbook and on the IAIA website. Ongoing process.

- Maintain up-to date info on developments in sections, to be provided to the Board. Ongoing process. This midterm report provides the relevant information.
- Section Visibility Strategy. The sections are the life-blood of IAIA. Therefore it was decided to develop ideas on how to make sections better servicable to members, as well as how to make the work sections do known to (new) IAIA members. This work is still in progress.

- **Annual conference preparation**

Support sections in their role developing the annual conference programme through themes relevant to their interests, proactive approaches to setting up workshops, round tables and joint sessions with other sections, the allocation of papers into appropriate paper streams, and quality abstracts and papers. At the 2007 Annual conference contacts with the organisation committee for the 2008 conference were established. Committee members are involved in planning IAIA 08. They provide input to the conference programme via participation in the organisation committee.

To better ensure effective input from sections in the conferences the Sections Coordinating Committee decided that the process should start as early as possible. Contact with the IAIA 09 organising committee (Ghana) will therefore established by the SCC chair before the 08 annual conference.

- **Section names/objectives/reviews**

The IAIA Handbook 2006 states that 'Sections will submit a request for review and continuation (or dissolution) to the IAIA Board of Directors once every three years'. The Board suggested that sections should carry out a self-review. A sections self assessment tool was developed, which can be used to assess the viability of the section. Its conclusions can be used as an aid to make decisions on e.g. closing the section, joining up with other sections or setting up new (sub) sections. The Urban Governance Section was closed down due to lack of involvement of IAIA members with the section.

- **SCC listserv**

At the request of the Sections an SCC listserv facility (sectionchairs@iaia.org) was created. The listserv was evaluated at the Seoul meeting. It was noted that to effectively

work together a blog would be preferable. This was created on the spot by HIA section leader Ben Cave and is currently in use. At the Perth conference in 2008 we will again evaluate working with this blog.

- **Role in updating key citations**

At the request of the Publications Committee sections are to take an active role in updating Key Citations on IAIA's Website in their own areas of interest. An update every 3 years is considered optimal in terms of effectiveness. Some sections wish to pilot providing relevant citations through links to other websites relevant to their work field. Their experiences will be discussed at the Perth conference.

- **Role in developing listservers, glossaries and bibliographies**

The IA glossary structure was renewed in 2006 and sections agreed to stimulate IAIA members to stimulate them to insert new terms.

- **Section leadership**

Sections are encouraged to rotate leadership and plan for succession. Co-conveners are now in place for most sections, to help with continuity of leadership over time and to spread the workload around. The IAIA handbook states that only one person per section can be member of the Section Coordinating Committee. Given the current situation this may need to be changed. This is a discussion point Put forward to the Board and will be followed up at the Perth meeting.

3. List of Sections – Objectives and Activities

Public Participation

The Public Participation Section includes professionals, academics and students interested by any type of public involvement within the context of impact assessment. Its aims to:

- Advance and improve the practice of EIA and PP globally.
- Disseminate information, and stimulate discussions and exchanges on public participation practice and experience between members,
- Implement Public Participation Best Practice Principles,
- Stimulate members to publish papers on public participation,
- Keep IAIA members informed on public participation issues and challenges.

Outline of activities:

The Public Participation Section's objectives are to:

- Improve the way that the Public Participation Section works by the delegation of more responsibilities to members,
- Produce a list of Public Participation Section members
- Make available the renewed list of key articles
- Discuss the approved and published Public Participation Best Practice Principles document
- Play a critical role in making IAIA's Annual Conference more participatory
- Lead the Public Participation stream of papers for IAIA'08
- Initiate some very specific call for papers to be published as part of IAPA issues, and/or in other journals like IJPP.

Social Impact Assessment

The general responsibilities of the SIA Section includes the development of professional good practice in all aspects of SIA, drawing on the experience of SIA practitioners in the private, public and academic sectors around the world. Through the efforts of its members, the SIA

Section has focussed previously on updating and extending the work on principles and guidelines for good practice in SIA (see IAIA website), updating the key citations as an introductory resource for practitioners and others interested in SIA (see IAIA website) and coordinating contributions to a Special Issues of IAPA, Volume 21: 2 and 3 devoted to the current practice of SIA. The section also initiated a roundtable on Ethical Issues in SIA for IAIA '05 in Boston, where practitioners/anyone interested met to exchange practical experience of ethical issues faced in current SIA practice, with the aim of finding pragmatic resolutions to such issues so that individual practitioners are better equipped to address them in the future. Since then the roundtables have been conducted with great success on a yearly base, and it is foreseen that this will continue in future. For the next conference there will be joint activities with the Public Participation section, as well as collaboration with some of the other sections. The SIA section is committed to the integration of activities between different sections and is actively moving away from following a "silo" approach, as it is acknowledged that learning will be enhanced by joining experiences and knowledge. The SIA section sees human issues as an integral part of the greater environmental issues and acknowledge that social issues are not limited to or only the responsibility of the SIA section.

Outline of activities:

- Review abstracts and prepare for SIA stream sessions at IAIA08
- Attempted to update SIA listserv by getting active SIA practitioners to sign on
- Progressing a searchable SIA bibliography by getting active SIA practitioners to contribute entries to the on-line SIA bibliography database
- Successfully participated in a second workshop with the HIA section to work on developing TOR for integrated impact assessment.
- Attempting to get SIA practitioners more involved in the SIA section and organisation of the conference, which have been successful so far.
- Encouraging joint activities with other sections e.g. PP, Indigenous People and HIA
- Constantly seeking to move with the time and investigate new development in the field of SIA and bring it to IAIA members at the conferences.

Disasters & Conflict

The Disasters and Conflict Section promotes the use of IA in disasters and conflicts. While disasters in their various forms have not received much attention in IAIA, disasters do cause a variety of impacts, so there should be some home in IAIA for practitioners assessing these events.

Outline of activities:

- organise sessions on disasters and conflicts at the annual IAIA meeting.
- sharing of reports on IA during disasters and conflicts using the Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Project web site http://www.benfieldhrc.org/rea_index.htm
- work with the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit and UNEP Post Conflict Unit on development of a disaster-focused strategic environmental impact assessment process.
- promotion of the IA process among disaster managers.

Health Impact Assessment

The objectives of the HIA Section are to further HIA by stimulating learning and mutual exchange

of experiences and knowledge, promote integration of human and health-concerns into impact assessment and promote integrated impact assessment.

The specific topics of interest are methods for integrated impact assessment, development of

methods/tools for inclusion of health aspects in SEA, HIA institutionalization, community empowerment, and evaluation of HIA

Outline of activities:

- work on a one page overview and summary TOR for integrated impact assessment is ongoing (continue from the pre-conference workshops: integration theory to practice (with SIA section) at IAIA 06 and IAIA 07, and the generic TOR for integrated impact assessment)
- met with representatives of IAIA Board and WHO at IAIA07 and discussed issues related to MOU between IAIA & WHO, including capacity building, badging training as IAIA and WHO, and IFCs standards
- develop one theme forum for IAIA08
- develop WHO sponsored training course on principles and inter-sectoral action on HIA submitted to the board for IAIA08
- on-going exchange through the HIA Quarterly
- active involvement in IAIA-wide activities and committees.
- develop and circulate survey to section members about the section's role and the involvement of all members

Impact Assessment Law, Policies and Practice

The objectives of the Impact Assessment Law, Policies and Practice section are to provide a forum for information, discussion and exchange on impact assessment law, policies and practice at the international and domestic level. The target audience includes lawyers, judges, enforcement officers, public servants assessment practitioners, economic sectors and civil society. The section aims to improve the development and implementation of impact assessment legislation and build capacity with the aim of strengthening institutions for the development and implementation of impact assessment law and policy. The focus of the section's work includes not only EIA and SEA legislation but also any institutionalized impact assessment tool.

Outline of activities:

- expand IAIA database to include a database on (environmental and other) impact assessment legislation and key court decisions from around the world
- work with other organizations to provide technical assistance including the promotion of the adoption of national environmental assessment legislation in all countries
- explore the possibility to prepare practical legal tools (including a basic, best practices legal framework) for (environmental or other) impact assessment law that could be adapted to a variety of legal systems; (this work maybe prepared through a workshop held in conjunction with an annual conference)
- prepare guidance material and networks to facilitate temporary assignments/exchanges/internships for impact assessment legal professionals, both nationally and internationally
- compiling a contact list of section members to facilitate future exchanges
- the challenge for the "law section" in 2007 will be to find some "fresh" candidates in order to prepare IAIA 2008 in Perth.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The overall long-term objectives are to improve and extend the application of EIA to these three sectors, and to do this in all possible jurisdictions. This is because EIA has not been

focused on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, despite the massive negative impacts that result from chronic and damaging practices in some terrestrial, aquatic and social-cultural environments. Recent work has demonstrated that obvious benefits can be conferred by the application of EIA tailored to the specific sectoral activities.

Outline of activities:

As in the past the AFF section will continue to work to expand the membership and network for IAIA in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, responding to the profound and ongoing environmental and social impacts related to these sectors.

Indigenous People

The Indigenous People Section includes indigenous people and other practitioners interested in any issues around indigenous peoples and impact assessment. The principal objective of the section is to share knowledge of indigenous peoples and give assistance where possible. The section aims to disseminate information and stimulate discussions and exchanges on experiences involving indigenous people and impact assessment and encourage and organise participation by indigenous people in IAIA. In particular, the section assists indigenous people to present Indigenous issues through the IP section knowing this will take place in a supportive way, thereby encouraging them in time to present throughout the IAIA forum.

Outline of activities:

- develop an indigenous people's programme for the conference and make conferences a success with indigenous people's issues recognised and integrated throughout
- maintain current interest with participants
- continue to encourage Indigenous People to participate in the IP section by submitting abstracts
- encourage others to also participate in the IP section or joint presentations to other sections
- integrate IP throughout the IAIA annual Conference.
- Meet with at least one other section at the annual conference for relationship building and best practise
- Record IP attendees in a record book and update communications of members each year
- Group Photo

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Over the past decade, the SEA Section has developed into one of the biggest theme-related sections of IAIA. There are now a multitude of tasks, initiatives, and actions in which the Section is involved. Our overall objectives are to promote SEA, support practitioners and researchers in carrying out high quality practice and research and get involved in SEA-related international, national and regional initiatives and projects.

In the past, the Section has been involved in a range of activities, including the preparation of SEA training material, SEA-related special issues of international journals, development of SEA principles and good practice examples. Furthermore, a range of debates have been conducted on the SEA list server and the Section has had a fair share in organizing IAIA conference workshops and sessions. For the future, the ever-increasing scope of tasks is likely to trigger the creation of new, theme-related SEA Sections within IAIA.

Outline of activities:

- provide help through the SEA list server

- organise SEA-related streams, workshops and sessions at IAIA meetings
- organise the conference on SEA in Prague
- prepare a list of SEA experts for training in China for the World Bank
- get involved in UNEP training on SEA in regions of natural disasters
- prepare the SEA stream for IAIA 2008

Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies

The main objective of this Section is to promote the adoption of impact assessment of trade-related policies and to further good practice within the context of IAIA.

Outline of activities:

In 2005-06 work was done to develop a special Issue of IAPA on Trade which was published in December 2006.

The action plan for, including any carry-over items from the previous years consists of the following activities:

- Provide Guest Editor for Special Edition of IAPA on Trade Impact Assessment
- Management of the trade impact section of the annual conference including drafting advertising material, emailing potential speakers, reviewing abstracts, and organizing sessions.
- Prepare a list of terms and definitions used in the area of Impact Assessment and Trade-related topics.
- Prepare final version of Discussion document on Principles and Guidance on Assessing the Biodiversity Impacts of Trade

Biodiversity and Ecology

Formed in 1998, the Biodiversity & Ecology Section promotes the development of good practice for 'biodiversity-inclusive' impact assessment and provides a focus for information exchange and collaboration of practitioners working in the public, private, and academic sectors around the world.

Outline of activities:

- Organises a Biodiversity workshop stream at the IAIA annual conference
- "Runs" the Biodiversity & Ecology list server (an electronic discussion group which currently has over 100 members)
- Progresses the IAIA Action Programme for Biodiversity & Impact Assessment. This programme sets out a series of activities which the Section is taking forward, including the production of guidelines and collection of case study material.
- Collaborates with biodiversity Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS))
- Provides input to the current IAIA project on capacity building for biodiversity in impact assessment (CBBIA)
- Provided inputs to voluntary guidelines on biodiversity inclusive impact jointly endorsed by Convention on Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species.
- Compilation of a glossary of key biodiversity/ecological impact assessment terms
- Input to joint Trade and B&E Section working group in the production of good practice principles

- Continued input into the CBBIA project
- Preparation of regional guidance manuals for biodiversity inclusive impact assessment in progress

Environmental Management Systems

Environmental Management Systems

The EMS Section aims at linking impact assessment with implementation of commitments related to policies, plans, and projects through environmental management systems (plan-do-check-act cycle). This Section also aims at communicating the practice of EMS and explores the application of other environmental management tools (e.g., environmental performance evaluation, life cycle assessment, etc.). The EMS section looks at how to make environmental management happen by integrating it within the concept of sustainability.

An EMS is one tool that can provide a structured process for assisting organizations to communicate (social accountability) and track commitments made in impact assessment reports, such as implementing mitigation measures and environmental management plans. It can also be used to track compliance with legislation, address stakeholder concerns, and raise environmental awareness within the organization itself. EMS can contribute to corporate social responsibility and track compliance.

Outline of 2007-08 activities:

- identify key terms used within EMS and provide 'internationally recognized' definitions, which will be implemented into IAIA's Glossary of Terms initiatives
- conduct a self-assessment of the EMS Section
- share applications and experiences where EMS has facilitated more efficient and effective auditing, monitoring, and follow-up practices.