

Title:	Understanding impact assessment: principles, methods and practice
Level:	Introduction
Prerequisites:	none
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days
Numbers:	5-40
Trainer:	Prof. Richard K. Morgan <i>Centre for Impact Assessment Research and Training</i> Department of Geography University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Course description

Purpose of the course

Every year, a substantial proportion of IAIA conference participants are people new to impact assessment, or with experience in a particular sub-field of impact assessment (such as social or ecological impact assessment). The overarching purpose of this course is to provide such people with a means for broadening their understanding of the wider field of impact assessment, for their own professional development but also so they can interact more effectively with other participants at the conference.

The first part of the course sets the scene, addressing the purposes and benefits of well grounded impact assessment. A generic model of impact assessment is then employed to explore the broad methods and approaches of IA. That model underpins the consideration, in the second part of the course, of the various forms of impact assessment: from social, cultural, and health, to ecological/biophysical; and from strategic assessment of policies to project level IA. The generic model emphasises an integrated perspective of impact assessment, and the various forms of IA are seen as being interdependent.

The course concludes with an overview of IAIA as an organisation, and a guide to the conference, reviewing the key themes addressed in the plenary forums, and in the section-oriented sessions, linking back to key issues discussed in the earlier parts of the workshop.

Part I (first day)

Introduction: Why do we need impact assessments? Who do they serve, who benefits? What are the implications for the information generated by the IA process?

The IA process: What are the main steps in an impact assessment? What are the guiding principles of good practice?

- v *Scoping:* how to focus an impact assessment on the important issues.
- v *Forecasting the future:* issues about the practice of impact prediction, and associated issues of mitigation, and monitoring .
- v *Impact evaluation:* significance, values, and trade-offs.
- v *Public involvement:* opportunities and purpose in impact assessment.
- v *Quality control:* why review IAs; a structured approach to reviewing IAs.

Part II (second day)

Forms of impact assessment.

- v Social and cultural impact assessment
- v Health impact assessment

- v Ecological impact assessment
- v Strategic environmental assessment

Introduction to IAIA.

- v Aims and activities
- v Role of sections

Making the most of the IAIA 07 conference

- v Review of main themes
- v Insight into plenary forums
- v Insight into key paper sessions

Approach

The workshop will be conducted through a series of short modules, with discussion of key principles, and the use of short practical activities, based on two or three running examples (examples that are returned to several times to illustrate different points or themes) to provide reinforcement of the key ideas. The examples will comprise a recent major project from New Zealand (the proposed hydro development, Project Aqua, is a possibility); a recent project from a developing country (a resort development from a Pacific example is a possibility) and a recent policy proposal (several possible examples from, for example, the Maldives, Fiji, New Zealand). The final choice of examples would be guided by the relative balance of developed versus developing country participants attending the course, and the main nationalities represented. If there is a large group of South Koreans, for example, I would look for a recent project or policy that would be familiar to many of them.

Question/discussion periods will be included to provide an opportunity for participants to raise other issues of interest to them, or to explore themes from a session more fully.

The overall purpose is to stimulate thinking about the purpose and nature of impact assessment as a process of inquiry and social negotiation, and the challenges raised by embracing a wide range of impacts in an integrated assessment.

The first part of the course draws on my book (see below) and the second part draws on my experience with the various areas of impact assessment - I have researched and written on all of the main areas of IA - and my in depth understanding of IAIA.

Resources

Participants will be provided with a course work book, containing notes, key materials for practical and group work over the two days, plus a CD of specific resources relating to the forms of IA covered in the course. The purpose of the CD resources is to provide a basis for continued independent learning after the course, so will comprise key guides and papers for each of the areas of IA addressed in the course.

About the trainer

Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Otago, New Zealand, with teaching and research interests in environmental impact assessment, environmental management, and the scientific study of human impacts on soil and vegetation systems. I am the author of an international text, *"Environmental Impact Assessment: a methodological perspective"*, published by Kluwer Academic Publishers., 1998/1999, and numerous other papers and reports on aspects of impact assessment implementation and practice.

I established the *Centre for Impact Assessment Research and Training* (CIART) in early 1999, to promote the activities of the IA research group at the University of Otago and to support the

development of better IA practices in New Zealand and the wider Pacific region. Convenor of the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment 1999-2002.

President of IAIA 2003-4, President elect 2002-3, Past President 2004-5.

Previous training experience

I teach a 13 week (4 hours per week) graduate paper on impact assessment every year, which covers all the material proposed in this course (28 enrolled this year). In addition I have conducted one- and two-day training courses over the last decade for a variety of professional groups (planners, environmental health officers, forestry staff, environmental managers, conservation staff, banking staff, etc.) and have experience with training workshops in a variety of developing countries, especially in the Pacific and South East Asia. I ran a similar course to that proposed at IAIA 2002, in the Hague, which was very well received (this evaluation should be on file in IAIA HQ). Presidential duties since that time have prevented a repeat of the course until now.

Professor Richard Kevin Morgan BSc(Hons) PhD

Centre for Impact Assessment Research and Training
Department of Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

President, International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) June 2003-4;

Past President June 2004-5; President Elect June 2002-3)

Teaching and research specialisms:

- } Environmental impact assessment:
- } Land use impacts on soil and related systems:
- } Ecology and dynamics of introduced vegetation

Recent training and consulting work:

- } IA training workshops (e.g. forestry company staff (various); Dept. of Conservation staff; planners; staff of the Bank of Vietnam; etc.) (ongoing, periodic)
- } half day seminars on HIA and the Resource Management Act for Environmental Health Officers at the Dunedin City Council, December 2003 and February 2004.
- } HIA workshops in New Zealand, Australia and Thailand (2001-2005)
- } staff training programmes in EIA, Canterbury Regional Council, Resource Consents section, (2000-2002)
- } CIART pre-conference training programmes IAIA, 2002; NZAIA, 2001;1999.
- } Founder member of the New Zealand Certification Panel for the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), Certified Environmental Professional. (2005-)

Selected impact assessment publications

- Woodley, D. and Morgan, R.K.** *Certification of Environmental Assessment Practitioners: A Recommended Scheme for Developing Countries*. Report for the World Bank, Centre for Impact Assessment Research and Training, Department of Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. (Feb 2004) pp. 51.
- Wang, Y, Morgan, R.K.** and Cashmore, M. Environmental impact assessment of projects in the People's Republic of China: new law, old problems. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 23: 543-579 (2003).
- Morgan, R.K.** The Contribution of Impact Assessment to Policy Change: Perspective, Reality and Possibility. Invited paper, *Proceedings of the 2nd International Workshop on Health Impact Assessment for Healthy Public Policy in Thailand*. Rayong, Thailand (December 2003) pp.11
- Morgan, R.K.** Initial International Co-operation Network for the Development of HIA for HPP. Invited paper, *Proceedings of the 2nd International Workshop on Health Impact Assessment for Healthy Public Policy in Thailand*. Rayong, Thailand(December 2003) pp. 8
- Mahoney, M and Morgan, R.K.** Health impact assessment in Australia and New Zealand: an exploration of methodological concerns. *IUHPE - Promotion & Education*, 8: 8-11 (2001)
- Memon, P.A. and Morgan, R.K.** Social impact assessment in New Zealand: an overview. In *Social Assessment in Natural Resource Management Institutions*. A. Dale, N. Taylor and M. Lane (ed). CSIRO Publishing, Canberra. (2001) pp. 61-73
- Morgan, R.K.** and Onorio, K. Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Neiafu Masterplan, Vava'u, Tonga: a case study. In: Partidario, M.R. and Clark, R. (eds.) *Perspectives on Strategic Environmental Assessment*. Lewis/CRC Press, Boca Raton, USA. (2000.) pp. 197-21
- Morgan, R.K.** *Environmental Impact Assessment: a methodological perspective*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht. (Pb: May 1999/Hb: Dec. 1998) 312 pp.

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