



UNDERSTANDING

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

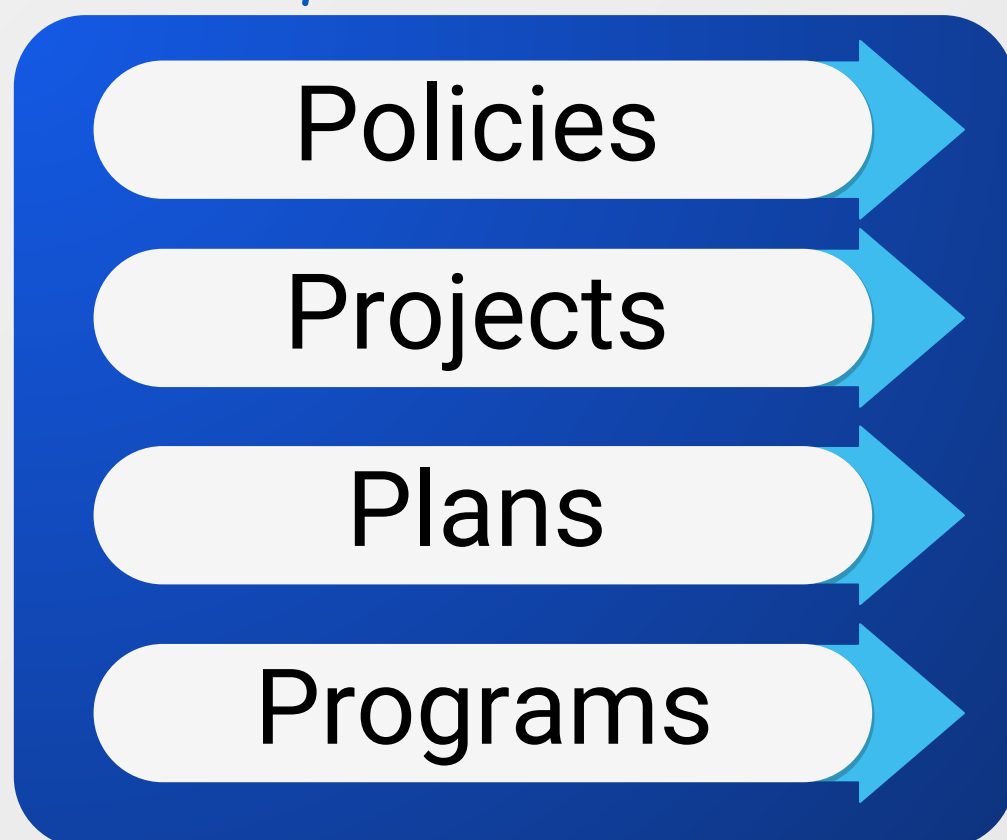
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IAIA

WHAT IS IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

Impact assessment (IA) is a transformative process designed to **inform and guide decisions and actions** by government, businesses, or individuals. It aims to **maximize positive outcomes** while **minimizing negative effects**, ultimately supporting sustainable development.

*It evaluates the
impact of this...*



...on this:





A FEW TYPES OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** *A project's impact on the physical environment: air, water, soil, biodiversity, etc.*
- **Social Impact Assessment (SIA):** *Effects on people and communities: displacement, livelihoods, culture, etc.*
- **Health Impact Assessment (HIA):** *Impacts on public health, including mental health, access to health services, etc.*
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** *For policies and planning, assesses broader, long-term impacts for decision-making strategy.*
- **Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA):** *Combined, incremental effects of multiple activities over time and space on the environment or society.*
- **Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA):** *Evaluates if a project or policy respects, protects, and promotes international human rights.*

WHY DOES IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATTER?



Improves project outcomes and economic returns



Reduces environmental and social risks



Encourages inclusive, participatory decision-making



Builds public trust and transparency



Supports compliance with laws and policies



Helps align with sustainable development goals (SDGs)



IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS A STRATEGIC TOOL

A photograph of a cave interior, likely the Blue Grotto in Capri, Italy. The cave is filled with water, and the rock walls are illuminated with a strong blue light, creating a monochromatic scene. The water is calm, reflecting the blue light. The rock formations are intricate and layered, with some areas appearing more eroded than others. The overall atmosphere is serene and mysterious.

When done well, impact assessment is not just an input into decision-making but **an opportunity to shape strategic choices early.**

THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS AT A GLANCE



GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- ✓ Required in 190+ countries
- ✓ Integrated into lender and donor requirements
- ✓ Informs policies on climate, biodiversity, and human rights
- ✓ Guided by global frameworks: Espoo Convention, SDGs, etc.



ABOUT IAIA

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
IMPACT ASSESSMENT



What we do...

We are a non-profit association dedicated to the study and application of impact assessment.

Who we are...

We are a 45-year-old global network of 1,300 individual and organization members from 110 nations.

What we believe...

We believe in creating meaningful change by making better, informed decisions that lead to positive outcomes for the environment, nature, and societies across the globe.



IAIA'S OFFERINGS

- **Global conferences** and regional symposia
- **Professional training** (virtual and in-person) and webinars
- Open-access guidance and best practice **publications**
- **Membership and networking** through 17+ special interest Sections

WHY IAIA IS UNIQUE



Interdisciplinary,
cross-sectoral,
and international



Trusted by
governments,
industries, lenders,
NGOs, and academics



Neutral platform
for dialogue and
learning across
borders



98% of event
participants would
recommend IAIA

WHO ARE IAIA MEMBERS?



- Environmental and social consultants
- Government regulators and policymakers
- Researchers and educators
- Financial institutions and donors
- Indigenous and local community reps
- Industry professionals and corporate sustainability teams



Diverse.

1,300 individual and organization members from 110 nations.



Successful.

63% are executive/senior level; 26% are mid-level.



Established.

51% are 45–64 years old; 22% are 35–44 years old.



Loyal.

65% have been members for 3+ years; 33% have been members for 10+ years.



Engaged.

73% make use of the IAIA and members-only websites.

HOW TO LEARN MORE



Join our mailing list

mailchi.mp/iaia/enews-signup



Explore IAIA resources

www.iaia.org/resource-library



Connect on socials

LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube



Become a member

www.iaia.org/individual-membership



Attend an event

www.iaia.org/events



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LET'S SHAPE BETTER DECISIONS
TOGETHER



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