

Objectives and themes

Climate change may be the biggest environmental challenge of our time. International consensus has formed around the problem, its causes and impacts but not the solutions.

Adaptation and mitigation measures need to be addressed at the level of policies, programs and projects, locally, regionally and globally, because climate change is expected to:

- Affect the productivity of biological resources and ecosystems.
- Alter the emergence and distribution of infectious diseases in plants, animals, and humans.
- Increase the costs of extreme weather for transportation, trade, tourism, and other infrastructure—especially in developing nations.

Dialogue within as well as across groups and disciplines is key in the effort to build sustainability in societal decision making. But dialogue is only a precondition! The true aim is commitment, specific action, innovation and investments necessary to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Innovative work on methodological developments, the institutionalisation of assessment methodologies, the construction of regulatory frameworks, and governance perspectives will be brought to the fore during the symposium. The outcome will be an array of proven and possible actions to be taken and started right now.

This Symposium will emphasize practical examples and guidance useful for planning, design and operational management associated with climate change impacts. The focus will be on a selected number of themes and their possible interaction with and application to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Conclusions from the European Special Symposium on Climate Change and Impact Assessment will be brought forward to the [special climate change symposium](#) in Washington, D.C., 15-16 November 2010.

Themes presented at the symposium

- Climate Change & Development Co-operation
- Health Impact Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- Scenario Development
- Urban Planning and Regional Strategies
- Carbon Calculators
- Embedding Climate Change in Professional Practice
- Climate Change & Infrastructure
- Decision Making & Governance
- Biodiversity & Natura 2000
- Water & Climate Change

Key questions for sector experts and decision makers

- What effects will climate change have on the feasibility, viability and long-term sustainability of policies, plans, programs or projects?
- Will climate change exacerbate the impacts of a project?
- To what degree does a project, program or policy or intervention promote reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- How can flexibility in responding to the impacts of climate change be assured through impact assessment?
- How can impact assessment apply climate change projections to site-specific projects?

- What tools does impact assessment offer for understanding, assessing risk and responding to climate change?

Organisation of the Symposium

- In-depth presentations by experts on key topics
- Concurrent forums with interactive table-top Q&A components
- Facilitated dialogue sessions among keynote speakers and delegates
- Use of impact assessment tools and methods working groups

About the Organisers

The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment (DCEA) is an innovative research and knowledge platform at Aalborg University. The Centre works with environmental assessments of plans and programmes, projects, products and services from a life cycle perspective. The Centre is a non-profit organisation which is involved in collaboration and partnerships with authorities, companies and the general public, and with the aim of ensuring democratic and sustainable development.

Aalborg University (AAU) holds a strong international position in the field of sustainability, planning and impact assessment. This is achieved by a critical understanding of the technical aspects of the methodologies and an understanding of how institutions and different types of decision making processes support or hinder the inclusion of environmental assessment.

International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is a forum for advancing innovation, development, and communication of best practice in impact assessment. Our international membership promotes development of local and global capacity for the application of environmental, social, health and other forms of assessment in which sound science and full public participation provide a foundation for equitable and sustainable development.