

IAIA 07 Training Course 6

Professional Ethics in Impact Assessment

SECTION 1:

- A. Presenter: Professor Richard Fuggle
Department of Environmental and Geographical Science
University of Cape Town
Private Bag X3
RONDEBOSCH
7701, South Africa
- Tel: +27 21 6504741
Fax: +27 21 650 3791
email: fuggle@enviro.uct.ac.za
- B. Title of Course: Professional Ethics in Impact Assessment
- C. Mode of Instruction: *Inter alia*, guided readings, small group discussion, case studies, role play exercises, plenary analyses, summaries of learning points.
- D. English
- E. Duration: Two days
- F. Class size: Minimum 6, Maximum 12

SECTION 2:

A: The quality of professional work is of increasing concern in many fields. Various factors contribute to product quality: training, professional standards, legislation and regulations, professional ethics and personal ethics. People differ as to which of these is more important. It is common cause that all play a role, also that ultimately it is the practitioner's own values and morals that underpin the quality of their work.

Ethics, or moral philosophy, concerns itself with systematic evaluation of human conduct with a view to answering why certain actions are right, or ought to be done. Morals relate to what is considered to be right, or ought to be done. Morality and ethics are inter-related: the concern of these seminars is nevertheless not environmental mores (what human actions are judged to be right for the environment) but the basis for reasoning why personal and professional actions affecting the environment may be judged to be right or wrong.

The aim of this course is to expose impact assessment professionals to some fundamental ethical considerations that will affect the quality of their future professional activities. Participants will be challenged to explore and establish a basis for their own personal and professional environmental morality.

The course will comprise eight interactive sessions. Participants will be provided with short pertinent readings that will be followed up through case studies or interactive role play exercises. Each discussion session and case study will require individuals to participate actively. No attempt will be made to prescribe what is right and what is wrong or to promote any one moral philosophy above another.

B: Course Outline

Time	Theme	Mode
Day One		
09:00–10:30	The basics of moral philosophy: on what basis do we decide right and wrong?	Introductory principles, comparative readings; plenary discussion
10:30–11:00	Break	
11:00–12:30	Principles of environmental and development ethics	Rôle play and small-group discussion
12:30–14:00	Lunch	
14:00–15:30	Environmental ethics	Case Studies (conservation); plenary discussion
15:30–16:00	Break	
16:00–17:30	Development ethics	Case studies (development); plenary discussion
Day Two		
09:00–10:30	Principles for professional ethics	Introductory talk; short readings; plenary discussion
10:30–11:00	Break	
11:00–12:30	Problems in professional practice	Case studies; small group discussions.
12:30–14:00	Lunch	
14:00–15:30	Review of various professional codes	Reading; small group discussions
15:30–16:00	Break	
16:00–16:30	General discussion	Group discussion
16:30–17:30	Review of learning; consolidation	Visual gathering; discussion of clusters

- C: Participants will be provided with copies of:
1. Essential background readings (copyright clearance will be obtained).
 2. Ethical case studies, prepared by the presenter and drawn from delegate experience.
 3. Copies of individual roles to be assumed in role play exercises.

The materials WILL NOT be made available to non-participants as they are designed for teaching and to stimulate participation and group discussion of ethical issues. If taken and used out of context the materials may be assumed to present solutions or answers to complex ethical problems, which is not the case.

- D: The course is designed to help those who have experienced, or anticipate experiencing, ethical dilemmas in the professional practise of Impact Assessment to understand and analyse the issues involved.. It is preferable, though not essential, that participants have had personal experience in

conducting Impact Assessments and that they have an interest in why courses of action may be deemed right or wrong by the profession.

E: Pre-conference contact and distribution of readings will be via email.

F: A summary of participant reactions to the course.

SECTION 3: Trainer

A: Richard Fuggle obtained his PhD from McGill University, Canada in 1971, he has held the Shell Chair of Environmental Studies at the University of Cape Town for the past 33 years. He is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science and is Director of the Environmental Evaluation Unit. He is a Founder Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, is a Registered Natural Scientist, a Certified Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner, and Professional Member of the South African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists. He is a Past President of the International Association for Impact Assessment. Richard Fuggle has received both national and international awards for his contributions to the advancement of Environmental Assessment. He has served on both national and international Commissions of Enquiry into environmentally sensitive projects. He has also advised the World Bank's Inspection Panel on environmental matters pertaining to their inquiries in many parts of the world. How quality is best assured in Impact Assessments is a particular interest and as a consequence of this he has taught a graduate seminar series on ethics for environmental impact assessment professionals for many years. He won the Southern African Environmental Planning Professions National Premium Award for the training course *Practical Techniques in Environmental Impact Assessment*.