Evaluation of Cumulative Impacts in Hydropower River Basin Inventory Studies in Brazil

Brazil possesses considerable hydro-based generation capacity. In 2007, Brazil’s hydropower potential was approximately 246,133 MW; 28% is in operation, but 30% still requires an inventory study (79% of this is located in the Amazon Basin).

Hydropower River Basin Inventory Studies occur at the start of the planning process for electricity expansion, when resources are not yet committed to future hydropower facilities in a particular river basin partition. This is the ideal moment to study all alternatives and select one that presents the best energetic and social-environmental efficacy. Alternatives analysis aims to maximize economic-energy efficiency and minimize negative social and environmental impacts, considering also cumulative effects and positive impacts from multiple purposes such as energy generation, irrigation, and flood control.

The methodology and analytical procedures for Inventory Studies are described in the Hydroelectric Inventory of Hydrographic Basins Manual. The approach presented in the Manual and the Computational System (SINV) that uses a Windows graphic interface to aid multi-objective analysis for selection of river basin hydropower partitions were developed by CEPEL (Eletrobrás Electric Power Research Center). For more information about the Hydropower River Basin Inventory Studies in Brazil, contact dea@cepel.br. 

EU Study on EIA and SEA Directives

The European Commission (EC) recently commissioned a study on the implementation and effectiveness of the European Union (EU) Directives on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The Directive on EIA was published more than twenty years ago, and there has been considerable practice meanwhile, whereas the Directive on SEA only fully came into force in 2004. The requirements of both Directives have been implemented in a different way by Member States, as the Directives set only the procedural framework for EIA and SEA processes. The EU study covers all 27 Member States and is aimed at supporting the EC in reviewing and updating both Directives, and potentially merging them into a single Directive on environmental assessment. The study results are expected to be available to the public in the first half of 2009.

IAIA09: Impact Assessment and Human Well-Being
16-22 May 2009 • Accra, Ghana

In this issue
1. Professional News
2. From the President
3. Focus on Affiliates
4. Focus on Sections
5. New IAPA Editors Announced
A Cumulative Effect of Conducting IA in a Society

Sachihiko Harashina • Tokyo Institute of Technology • Sahara@depe.titech.ac.jp

This year is the 40th anniversary of the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The first EIA system in the world was created under the Act, and the concept and methods of impact assessment have since prevailed all over the world. It has been 40 years since the article “The Tragedy of the Commons” by Garret Hardin appeared in the journal Science in 1968. Now we are facing the tragedy of commons of climate change, the negative effect of accumulation of human activities on the Earth.

On the topic of cumulative environmental effects, IAIA held a very successful meeting in Calgary, Canada, in November. About 350 participants gathered there and exchanged their experiences and diverse information on managing and assessing cumulative effects. The first snow of this winter in that area welcomed the delegates. It was nice, as they could have cool heads while they conducted hot discussions.

The topic of the meeting could have dated back to the early ’70s in the U.S. It was a problem of accumulation of mining in the northern part of the US. The same thing also happened Canada. This type of problem had already been posed in “The Tragedy of the Commons.” Hardin argued that an environmental problem is essentially a population problem. It was a very influential article at that time, and many discussions followed. Hardin warned of cumulative effects from human activities on the environment, calling the negative situation the tragedy.

Today we are facing an emerging tragedy of the commons, that is, “climate change.” Climate change might be a problem which Hardin identified with no technical solution; he insisted that the answer to this class of human problems could not be found in science and technology, but only in the mind of the people. What do you think? Can we ameliorate cumulative environmental effects without changing the mind of the people?

I would like to point out the educational function of IA in a society in this context. IA is a communication process to provide information and knowledge for sustainable development. The information and knowledge provided in the process of project EIA is very concrete, but quite narrow for awareness of sustainability. Successful SEAs should be more effective in explaining cumulative effects and considering sustainability.

IA should work as a measure not only for supporting decision-makers but also for enlightenment and education of the people. IA has been conducted in many countries and regions in these four decades, and the concept of sustainable development has been gradually shared. This is a cumulative effect of conducting IA. I think that we could expect to build consensus among the public to have a policy towards more sustainable direction by changing the mind of the people. This is to create “Heart-ware” among people.

Washington Area Branch of IAIA Participates in Meeting at Canadian Embassy; Focus on Climate Change

The Washington Area Branch (WAB) of IAIA participated in a presentation and reception at the Canadian Embassy on 18 November. The occasion marked the start of a trade mission of Nova Scotia companies showcasing climate change tools and technologies and coinciding with the 9th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Technologies held in Washington DC from 16-20 November 2008. Major new directions for current global climate change strategies by international financial institutions were provided by Kseniya Lvovsky, Program Manager, Climate Change, World Bank, and David Wilk, Director, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI), Inter-American Development Bank.

Climate change from an IAIA perspective was presented as a global “Tragedy of the Commons” which will result in significant cumulative impacts throughout the 21st Century. Norval Collins, an IAIA member from Nova Scotia, made the point that Canada is uniquely positioned to address climate change issues as a major energy exporter and consumer, and due to major changes occurring as a result of climate change in Canada’s North. Collins, president of CEF Consultants, briefly described several activities underway in Canada and internationally by climate specialists Cameron Ells from Cameron Consulting and Zoë Caron from Zerofootprint Inc. Robert Niven, President of Carbon Sense Solutions, described the need for new technologies, stressing the current emphasis on carbon capture and the pilot project being launched in Nova Scotia in cooperation with Dalhousie University. Other Canadian technology companies participating were LED Roadway Lighting, Stantec Consulting, and Trijac Geological Consulting.

The insightful discussions were followed by a delightful reception hosted by the Canadian Embassy. An enjoyable time was had by all participants. • Will Knowland, will.knowland@mottmacinc.com and Gene Owens, Geneowens2@aol.com, WAB Co-Directors
NZAIA Annual Meeting Focuses on Coastal and Lake-Front Environments

The New Zealand Affiliate of IAIA, NZAIA (New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment), held its annual conference 27-28 November in Nelson, a small town at the northern end of the South Island, set on a beautiful bay and basking in warm sunshine—a very apt location for this year’s theme: “Assessing Impacts on Coastal and Lake-Front Environments.” The conference was enjoyed by just under 50 participants.

For 3-4 years we have been running our meetings using a specific model: we decide a particular topic (last year urban growth, the previous year energy development), we have only invited speakers, and we try to ensure plenty of time for discussion to make more of a workshop environment for participants. The emphasis is on providing high-quality information on recent case studies, new methods, or just current challenges facing impact assessors, and we attract a broad practitioner audience: planners, resource managers, consultants, researchers and academics.

This year we opened with a talk from Prof. Nick Harvey, University of Adelaide, whom many know from his EIA work in Australia and Asia, but he also specializes in coastal geomorphology and coastal management. Harvey brought valuable lessons from South Australia, in particular, for the New Zealand practitioners to compare with their own experiences. The main programme then covered strategic concerns, specific issues involving land, marine and lacustrine activities and their impacts, community engagement and partnerships, and monitoring.

One of the striking things about this year’s conference was the degree of connection made between participants who normally attend separate conferences in their own disciplines. Because the problems of development in coastal and lake-front environments involve all aspects of environment, at varying spatial and temporal scales, they require integrated approaches, both to the assessment of impacts as well as managing the solutions. Participants from very different backgrounds found this kind of conference was of a kind, and a size, that really promoted discussion with each other.

For more information on NZAIA and this conference, see www.nzaia.org.nz. All the PowerPoint presentations will be collated onto a CD for distribution to participants, speakers, and our members. • Richard Morgan, NZAIA Convenor • rkm@geography.otago.ac.nz

Impact Assessment Follow-Up, Myth or Reality?
3rd Annual Portuguese Conference on IA Promoted by IAIA-Portugal

The 3rd National (Portuguese) Conference on Impact Assessment (CNAI’08) was held 22-24 October 2008 in Beja. This event was promoted by the IAIA Portuguese Affiliate, APAI (Associação Portuguesa de Avaliação de Impactes), in partnership with EDIA, S.A. (Empresa de Desenvolvimento e Infraestruturas de Alqueva - Company for the Development and Infrastructure of Alqueva) and the Polytechnic Institute of Beja).

CNAI’08 was attended by 180 participants. The 3-day conference program included opening and closing sessions; 13 technical sessions presenting 8 guest speakers, one of them Iñigo Sobrini from the Spanish EIA association; 41 papers; 26 posters; and 2 technical visits.

In addition to the focus on Impact Assessment Follow-Up, Strategic Environmental Assessment was also one of the most debated themes. Water Management and Cultural Heritage were other issues discussed with the presentation of several case studies. A dynamic session on public participation was one of the innovations of the conference.

Beyond technical debate, the conference was also the occasion for less formal moments, with technical visits on hydraulic infrastructures and archaeological sites under excavation. The conference dinner delivered cultural heritage, hosted in the beautiful Pousada de S. Francisco, a restored convent of the XIII Century and closing with a performance by the famous taleteller Jorge Serafin.

Two awards were delivered during the dinner: 2008 “Best EIA Non-Technical Summary,” for the Non-Technical Summary Report of the EIS “Valley of the Relvinha,” prepared by VISA Consultants to PEDRA-MOCA; and CNAI’08 “Best Poster,” for “Environmental impact assessment: the process of post-assessment in LIPOP II,” authored by Paula Mata, Miguel Coutinho (IDAD, Institute for Environment and Development) and Carlos Borrego (University of Aveiro).

CNAI 4, in 2010, will be co-organized with the University of Trás-Os-Montes e Alto Douro and will be hosted in the university campus, located in the city of Vila Real, in the beautiful region of Douro, a cultural landscape classified by UNESCO as world heritage. For more information on APAI, see www.apai.org.pt.

• Rita Fouto • APAI Secretariat • rfouto@apai.org.pt
Disasters & Conflicts Section Members Organize Workshop

“A NATO Partnership for Peace workshop on Environmental Security Concerns Prior To and During Peace Support and/or Crisis Management Operations” took place on 25 and 26 November 2008 in Umeå, Sweden. The workshop was hosted by the Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI) together with the Swedish Armed Forces, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The workshop was organized by IAIA Disasters and Conflicts Section members Annica Waleij and Birgitta Liljedahl (both of FOI). Section co-coordinators Michel Bouchard and Charles Kelly, as well as Birgitta Liljedahl, made presentations on “Environmental Assessment in Conflict Affected Areas,” “Crossing the Fence: Local Involvement in Environmental Action Plans in Non-Kinetic Operations,” and “Environmental Intelligence,” respectively. Further information on the workshop can be secured from Annica Waleij (annica.waleij@foi.se).

Discussions were held on the side of the workshop on Disasters and Conflicts Section preparations for the upcoming IAIA conference in Accra. The Section has two sessions accepted for the Accra conference: “Conflict, Disasters and the Environment in Africa” and “Environmental Impact of Response: Humanitarian Operations and the Environment.” It was agreed that specific outreach efforts would be made to ensure a strong Africa-based participation in the Conflict, Disasters and the Environment in Africa session. Section members and other potentially interested parties will be contacted shortly to solicit presentations for the two sessions. For additional information, contact C. Kelly (72734.2412@compuserve.com) or Michel Bouchard (michel.a.bouchard@cogeos.com). • Charles Kelly and Michel Bouchard, Disasters & Conflicts Section Co-Coordinators

About Sections

IAIA currently has eleven Sections that cover different types and aspects of impact assessment. These Sections provide opportunities for IAIA members with these mutual interests to share experiences and discuss ideas in an informal setting. Sections provide a forum for active topical debate and for development and promotion of good practice.

Through the Sections, IAIA members can feed into the organization of each annual conference, publish different materials, and develop new lines of thought. While Sections have the chance to meet at the annual conference, they also have a rolling program of work throughout the year.

Sections comprise a networking forum that promotes professional development and provides the opportunity for activities that you may want to join.

For more information, see the IAIA Web site or contact Lea den Broeders (lea.den.broeders@rivm.nl), the Sections Coordinating Committee chair, or the coordinator of a Section listed on page 5.

North American HIA Workshop Held

We are pleased to announce the success of the first ever North American HIA Practitioners’ Workshop, held 24-26 September 2008 in Oakland, California, USA.

The workshop, which was attended by 20 participants from the USA, Canada, Jamaica and—surprisingly—Australia, focused on evolving the practice of HIA in the Americas and on identifying unique regional attributes.

Through individual presentations, break-out sessions and whole-group discussions, participants were able to a) develop a list of challenges that HIA practitioners face in the areas of values and principles, regulatory integration, and evidence and analytic methods; b) summarize key areas that needed attention; and c) develop a list of action items to move the field forward.

Notably, the use of PowerPoint was banned—a strategy that we highly recommend to other groups seeking to foster dialogue!

Small groups are continuing to work on the identified issues, and will be reporting back to the whole group periodically.

Overall, this was a very rewarding and rejuvenating experience. Many participants had commented that they felt isolated, as there are so few HIA practitioners in the Americas. One of the greatest successes of the workshop may have been the opportunity for collaboration and sharing that it fostered.

The workshop was organized by Marla Orenstein and Murray Lee (Habitat Health Impact Consulting, Canada); Rajiv Bhatia and Lili Farhang (San Francisco Department of Public Health, USA); Jonathan Heller (Human Impact Partners, USA); and Aaron Wernham (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, USA).

HIA practitioners who would like more details about the workshop or who wish to be informed about future events should contact amelia@habitatcorp.com. • Marla Orenstein • Habitat Health Impact Consulting • maria@habitatcorp.com
Morrison-Saunders, Retief Selected as IAPA Editors

The selection process for Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal (IAPA) editor(s) has been finalized. At its midterm meeting in Calgary, the IAIA Board of Directors ratified the recommendation of Angus Morrison-Saunders and Francois Retief to be named the new co-editors. Following a transition period beginning in January 2009, the transfer will be finalized in May 2009.

The Board extends its appreciation to all applicants, the selection panel, under the leadership of Maria Partidario, for its comprehensive evaluation of the applications submitted, and to retiring editors Carys Jones and Colin Kirkpatrick for their dedication to improving the quality of IAPA during their term as editors.

IAPA Seeks Inclusion in SSCI

Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal is IAIA’s journal. It is one of the few journals in the world fully dedicated to impact assessment. IAIA aims to continue improving this journal and keep it at the level of the best international journals; an important step is to have IAPA indexed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI). Inclusion in SSCI will improve the international recognition of IAPA as being among the best.

To achieve this status, IAPA needs to be cited in other journals that are already in the SSCI. And it needs to receive good and even excellent articles. You can help us in this effort. If you are submitting a paper to another journal, please make sure that the journal is already in the SSCI and please cite IAPA papers. And if you are submitting a paper to IAPA, remember that IAPA goes to over 120 countries, to libraries as well as to members, and is widely read by policy makers, consultants, etc., and by academics and students.

Notes for authors are available in the journal and on the Web (www.scipol.demon.co.uk/iapanote.htm); submit papers to the editor at editor.iapa@manchester.ac.uk. • William Page • BeechTree Publishing • page@scipol.co.uk and Maria Partidario • Instituto Superior Técnico and chair, IAPA editorial board • mcp@civil.ist.utl.pt

Research Corner Seeks Input

This newsletter feature was suggested by a group of Students and Early Professionals (SEPs) who attended IAIA08 in Perth.

SEPs in Perth felt that all IAIA SEPs would be able to better engage and network with the more established IAIA members if they were provided with space for disseminating their research (e.g., developed through Masters or Ph.D. dissertations) and for sharing their findings on cross-cutting themes and topical issues on impact assessment.

This space is for SEPs to develop, so please send your contributions and help make the IA Research Corner a lively feature of the newsletter! Articles will be due 1 March for the April issue.

Kurubai Completes Internship

Faraja Kurubai has completed a four-month internship with IAIA HQ. Her duties included updating database records, assisting with mailings and committee work, and marketing projects. Faraja is from Tanzania and attends Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, USA, majoring in accounting and international business. HQ staff enjoyed working with her and wish her well in her studies.

Environmental Training & Consulting International, Inc.

“Integrated Environmental Management Solutions for Business and Government”

The USA’s oldest, most experienced EIA training company

Custom-designed workshops that meet your specific training objectives, and specialized consulting in:

EIA, ISO 14001, sustainability, environmental leadership

International experience in Latin America, Africa, and Asia

Visit www.envirotrain.com to learn more about what we do and how we do it (and to sign up for our free Internet-based ETCI Interactive features)
Resources

Spitz Publishes Textbook

Have a Web site that is particularly helpful to you? Share it with the IAIA membership!
Please send suggestions in care of jen@iaia.org.

YOUR AD HERE
Advertising and sponsorship space is available in the newsletter. Reduced rates for IAIA members! Please contact IAIA Headquarters for information.

IAIA Career Central
Where do you go to find the best jobs and most qualified candidates in Impact Assessment? The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) has created IAIA Career Central to be your resource for making online employment connections in the field.

Job Seeker Benefits
• Services are FREE!
• Online job search and application.
• Confidential resume posting.
• Save jobs and apply when ready.
• Email notification whenever posted jobs match your search criteria.

Employer Benefits
• Targeted talent pool — reach a focused audience of qualified professionals.
• Easy online job posting and management.
• Resume search included with job posting.
• Email notification whenever job seekers match your requirements.

Post your job or resume at http://jobboard.iaia.org

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming IAIA Events

Upcoming Affiliate/Branch Events

Other Conferences/Events
27 February - 1 March 2009. Implementing the EIA Law in China: Five-Year Review and Prospect. Hong Kong. www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=102 or contact Dr. WU Jing, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, wujing@cuhk.edu.hk

Earth Calendar
1 January
Global Family Day

8 March
International Women’s Day

22 March
World Day for Water

Sponsorship Opportunities Available for IAIA09!
Sponsoring an IAIA conference is a great way for your company or organization to demonstrate its commitment to the environment and contribute to the improvement of impact assessment around the globe.

As a sponsor, you have access to a wide array of delegates from a multitude of disciplines, which promotes your company as businesses with a global impact assessment conscience and a valuable partner. Sponsors are entitled to a number of valuable benefits. Contact Bridget John at IAIA Headquarters (bridget@iaia.org) for more information.
Resources

IFC Performance Standards & Equator Principles: Mining & Finance

Biodiversity Offsets Challenges, Opportunities & Realities

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability & CSR Reporting

Download e-brochures here: www.prizmasolutions.com

Contact: Mehrdad Nazari, MBA, MSc Senior ESIA & CSR Advisor, Prisma Ltd Mehrdad@prizmasolutions.com

Short courses:
London, Toronto, Your Offices
Download brochure, secure your seat & early bird discounts

Have you or an IAIA member you know recently made news, celebrated a promotion, retired, or completed a major project? Please send the information to the newsletter and share it with the IAIA community!

IAPA: Free Online!

Full online texts of papers in Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal since March 1999 are free to IAIA members. Tables of contents, abstracts and index, and a contents alerting service are also available. Members can access IAPA via www.iaia.org > log in > Publications > IAPA Login.

As of January 2008, all items in IAPA are open-access to the public 24 months after publication. This content can be accessed via IngentaConnect at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/beech/iapa.

The Principles of Sustainability
Simon Dresner
‘Dresner does in the space of 200 pages what many other writers have failed to do in texts of far greater length.’
Business Strategy and the Environment
This fully revised edition covers the latest on the climate change front, particularly the advances in scientific understanding and political awareness of climate change. Other updates include more recent economic analyses, particularly the Stern Report, and the global shift away from faith in markets over the past five years.

August 2008 ∙ 224 pages

Strategic Environmental Assessment in International and European Law – A Practitioner’s Guide
Simon Marsden
‘I am very impressed! The author has done a tremendous job.’
Dr Thomas Fischer, Reader in the Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool
Understanding the legal aspects of SEA can be challenging. This guide provides a clear analysis of the issues, based on a comprehensive overview of the relevant literature.

Hardback • £65.00 ∙ ISBN 978-1-84407-489-1
August 2008 ∙ 336 pages

The Handbook of Environmental Policy Evaluation
Ann Cribb and Pieter Leroy
‘The broadening field of environmental policy is in great need of evaluation and this handbook will be a most welcome, timely and useful tool for this mission.’
Christine Evert Vedung, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Uppsala University
This handbook is the first guide to environmental policy evaluation in practice, and covers both theory and practical examples from around the world.

Hardback • £49.95 ∙ ISBN 978-1-84407-618-5
September 2008 ∙ 192 pages

Get a 20% DISCOUNT on all Earthscan books with our New Book E-Alerts
To receive an e-alert announcing new books in your field, and take advantage of offers unique to our members, visit www.earthscan.co.uk and choose the subjects that interest you.
Welcome!
New IAIA members 1 September-30 November


The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

* Nelson Henderson *

New on the ‘net

- IAIA09 paper and poster abstract submission and view
- English, Italian and Spanish versions of Newsletter posted
- Beta version of SIA Bibliography for preview (www.iaia.org/sia-bibliography)
- And more... bookmark www.iaia.org today!
- Suggestions for information or services you would like to see on IAIA’s Web site are invited! See www.iaia.org/website_suggestions/ or contact IAIA webmaster effie Torreson (webmaster@iaia.org).

Key Corporate Member
TEC, Inc.

Standard Corporate Members
Commission for EIA
The Netherlands
Czech Academy of Sciences
Czech Republic
International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association
United Kingdom

Environ
United Kingdom
Worley Parsons
Canada
Repsol, SA
Spain
Millennium Challenge Corporation
USA

Thank you to all of our corporate members!

IAIA Newsletter
Next issue: April 2009
Submission deadline: 1 March 2009

Professional practice articles should be a maximum of 150 words. Send submissions or questions to professional practice news co-editors Richard Fristik (Richard.Fristik@wdc.usda.gov) and Bram Noble (b.noble@usask.ca), or see the online Guidelines for News Network Contributors.

General interest articles should be a maximum of 300 words. Send to editor Jennifer Howell (jennifer.howell@iaia.org).

Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

©IAIA2009. Richtman’s Printing, Fargo, ND USA.