



## South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference 2013

“Raising the Bar on Regional Cooperation”

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

In Partnership with **IAIA**  
International Association  
for Impact Assessment



The Government of Pakistan (GoP) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN-Pakistan) are organizing the **South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference (SAEAC '13) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2013** at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The conference is being organised in collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and will be the first IAIA-supported conference of its kind in South Asia.

The theme for this year's conference is **"Impact Assessment: Raising the Bar on Regional Cooperation"**. As the first conference of its kind in the South Asian region, it will bring together a mix of researchers and practitioners of impact assessment; and aims to facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and sharing of experiences between international, regional and local participants. It will be a high-profile event, and the organisers are planning to invite the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the Inaugural Session.

Conference sessions have been designed around context-specific issues in the South Asian region and will fill the need for EIA and SEA capacity-building. These sessions will run concurrently and participants will be able to pre-select their sessions according to their interests. In addition to the main Conference days there will be four pre-Conference Training Sessions spread over two days. The aim of the pre-Conference Trainings is to improve capacity of the regional stakeholders on specific impact assessment topics. Participants will have the choice of registering in any of these trainings according to their needs.

The Conference is being organized under the ambit of National Impact Assessment Program (NIAP), which is being jointly implemented by GoP and IUCN since November 2009. The Project aims to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan through strengthening the EIA process and introducing SEA in national development planning. The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) has an advisory role in the Project and financial assistance is being provided by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN).

On the following pages, you will find the preliminary program, details of the concurrent technical sessions and the pre-conference training courses.

Regards,

SAEAC '13 Organizing Team

## Daily Schedule

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### Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December

13:00 – 16:00     **Registration** (pre-conference training course participants only)

### Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

08:00 – 09:00     **Registration** (pre-conference training course participants only)

09:00 – 17:00     **Pre- conference training courses**

### Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December

09:00 – 17:00     **Pre- conference training courses**

14:00 – 17:00     **Registration** (conference participants)

19:00 – 22:00     **Exhibit and poster setup**

19:00 – 22:00     **Welcome reception**

### Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December

07:00 – 11:00     **Registration** (conference participants)

09:00 – 10:30     **Opening plenary** (Shamadan)

**Recitation from Holy Quran**

**Opening remarks**

**Welcome remarks** (Planning Commission)

**Welcome remarks** (Climate Change Division)

**Welcome remarks** (IAIA)

**Welcome remarks** (NCEA)

**Welcome remarks** (Regional Director-Asia, IUCN)

**Keynote address** (TBD)

**Welcome remarks** (Dutch Ambassador)

**Remarks** (Minister for Planning & Development or Science & Technology)

**Address by the Chief Guest** (Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan)

10:30 – 11:00     **Tea/ coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30     **Technical Session I: Concurrent Sessions** (three)

12:30 – 13:30     **Lunch break**

13:30 – 15:00     **Technical Session II: Concurrent Sessions** (three)

15:00 – 15:30     **Tea/ coffee break**

15:30 – 17:00     **Technical Session III: Concurrent Sessions** (three)

19:00 – 22:00     **Cultural night/ Dinner** (theme and venue to be decided)

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December**

09:00 – 10:30	<b>Technical Session IV: Concurrent Sessions</b> (three)
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Tea/ coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Technical Session V: Concurrent Sessions</b> (two)
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Technical session VI: Concurrent Sessions</b> (two)
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Tea/ coffee break</b>
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Closing plenary</b> (Shamadan)
	<b>Recitation from Holy Quran</b>
	<b>Prize Distribution Ceremony</b> (Poster Competition)
	<b>Opening remarks (Planning Commission)</b>
	<b>Conclusions &amp; recommendations of the conference</b>
	<b>Closing remarks</b> (Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan)
	<b>Farewell address by the Chief Guest</b>

## Session Plans at a Glance

<p><b>Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> 11:00-12:30</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> 13:30 – 15:00</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> 15:30 – 17:00</p> <p><b>Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 09:00 – 10:30</p> <p><b>Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 11:00 – 12:30/</p> <p><b>Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 13:30 – 15:00/</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session I-A</b> Impact Assessment in South Asia Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Dr. Ram Bahadur Khadka</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session I-B</b> SEA- Is South Asia Ready for it? Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Dr. Bobbi Schijf</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session I-C</b> Can SEA Help in Addressing Transboundary Water Issues? Sheesh Mahal III Chair: Dr. Ganesh Pangare</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent session II-A</b> Is Impact Assessment an Effective Tool for Addressing Climate Change? Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Irfan Tariq</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session II-B</b> National Impact Assessment Programme – An Experience Worth Sharing Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Asif Shuja Khan</p>	<p><b>Concurrent Session II-C</b> Sectoral Guidance: A Must for Effective EIA Implementation? Sheesh Mahal III Chair: Peter-John Meynell</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent session III-A</b> How “Inclusive” is Biodiversity in EIA in South Asia? Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Sri P.R. Sinha / Dr. Asha Rajvanshi</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session III-B</b> Legal Framework for Impact Assessment Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Patti Moore</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session III-C</b> Public Participation: Are we Doing it Right? Sheesh Mahal III Chair: Kanthi de Silva</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent session IV- A</b> Role of the World Bank in Promoting EIA and SEA in South Asia Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Herbert Acquay</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session IV-B</b> NIAP – How to Take the Experience Forward Post 2014? Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Dr. David Annandale</p>	<p><b>Concurrent Session IV-C</b> Role of Media in Driving Impact Assessment Sheesh Mahal III Chair: Talat Hussain</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent session V- A</b> Has Academia Played its Role in EIA and SEA Evolution in South Asia? Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Dr. Thomas B. Fischer</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session V-B</b> How can Impact Assessment Associations Improve EIA and SEA Implementation? Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Dr. Miguel Coutinho</p>	<p><i>Reserved for break-away sessions &amp; meetings Sheesh Mahal III</i></p>
	<p><b>Concurrent session VI- A</b> Accreditation Mechanism for EIA Consultants – Is this an Effective Approach to Address Quality of EIA Reports? Sheesh Mahal I Chair: Vaqar Zakaria</p>	<p><b>Concurrent session VI- B</b> Knowledge Management in Impact Assessment – The Weaker Link Sheesh Mahal II Chair: Dr. Parvaiz Naim</p>	<p><i>Reserved for break-away sessions &amp; meetings Sheesh Mahal III</i></p>

## Details for Technical Sessions

### Technical Session I: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 11:00-12:30

#### Concurrent Session I A

Impact Assessment in South Asia

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Paper session

Chair: Dr. Ram Bahadur Khadka

*The session aims to deliver the papers on Impact Assessment in South Asia particularly covering the aspects of process, procedures and practices of EIA implementation. The presentation of papers in this session will focus on the current weakness and short coming in the process and recommendation for the improvement for effective implementation.*

#### Concurrent Session I B

SEA- Is South Asia Ready for it?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Paper session

Chair: Dr. Bobbi Schijf

*Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been gaining ground in this part of the world. This session aims to take stock of the SEA experiences in the region, and to jointly discuss progress and challenges. Finally we consider in this session what the prospects for SEA are in South Asia in the coming years.*

#### Concurrent Session I C

Can SEA Help in Addressing Transboundary Water Issues?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal III

Paper session

Chair: Dr. Ganesh Pangare

*This session will provide a regional perspective on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a tool for transboundary water management. The competing transboundary impacts of development plans on a river basin can be handled in a participatory and regional manner by the decision making tools provided by SEA.*

## Technical Session II: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 13:30-15:00

### Concurrent Session II A

Is Impact Assessment an Effective Tool for Addressing Climate Change?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Paper session

Chair: Irfan Tariq

Details to Follow

### Concurrent Session II B

National Impact Assessment Programme – An Experience worth Sharing

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Panel Discussion

Chair: Asif Shuja Khan

*A high-level panel will critically reflect on the National Impact Assessment Program (NIAP) and explain how the vision and objectives set for the program have contributed to sustainable development in Pakistan. Discussion will focus on key lessons that were learnt from the NIAP experience.*

### Concurrent session II C

Sectoral Guidance: A Must for Effective EIA Implementation?

Sheesh Mahal III

Panel Discussion

Chair: Peter-John Meynell

*This session aims to open up the questions of who ESIA sectoral guidelines are really for, why they may not be used and how they can be improved. Drawing on the experience of panel members drawn from different agencies, sectors and countries, the session will debate the question: Is sectoral ESIA Guidance essential for effective ESIA implementation?*

## Technical Session III: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 15:30-17:00

### Concurrent Session III A

How "Inclusive" is Biodiversity in EIA in South Asia?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Paper session

Chair: Sri P.R. Sinha & Dr. Asha Rajvanshi

The session aims to take stock of enabling factors and regulatory support for mainstreaming biodiversity in national impact assessment framework of countries in the region, explore prospects and constraints in conducting biodiversity inclusive impact assessment and share success examples. Reflections and learning from this session would help achieve greater regional cooperation for making biodiversity more inclusive in impact assessment for promoting green growth and sustainable development in the region.

### Concurrent Session III B

Legal Framework for Impact Assessment

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Panel Discussion

Chair: Patti Moore

*Panelists from five countries will discuss two issues: the content of national EIA laws and regulations and how their countries are implementing them in practice; and the challenges of recognizing SEA in national law and how to convert SEA from a discretionary practice to a legally-mandated requirement.*

### Concurrent session III C

Public Participation: are we Doing it Right?

Sheesh Mahal III

Panel Discussion

Chair: Hemantha Withanage

The session aims to understand the different models of public participation in the EIA process in the South Asian Countries and learn the best practices. The panelist will bring their experience in the past 2 decades and its evolutions based on the local realities.



## Technical Session IV: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 09:00-10:30

### Concurrent Session IV A

Role of the World Bank in Promoting EIA and SEA in South Asia

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Panel Discussion

Chair: Herbert Acquay

*The aim of the session would be to showcase the role World Bank has played in promoting effective EIA and SEA practices in South Asia, both in the policy context and across historical progression. Specific case studies will be presented to highlight key developments in practice that enhanced impact assessment effectiveness in the region and were spurred by World Bank initiatives.*

### Concurrent Session IV B

NIAP- How to take the Experience forward post 2014

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr David Annandale

*NIAP has significantly improved the understanding and practice of impact assessment in Pakistan. The session will briefly recap the achievements of Phase 1 of NIAP since 2009. Participants will offer feedback on where gaps still lay, and the feedback will be incorporated in developing a proposal for NIAP Phase 2.*

### Concurrent session IV C

Role of Media in Driving Impact Assessment

Sheesh Mahal III

Panel Discussion

Chair: Talat Hussain

*This session will assess the role of media in impact assessment and outline ways to expand this role through interesting technologies and strategic game changers such as institutionalizing media's role at project design level. Personal examples, observations and experiences will be shared to give the discussion a more realistic touch*

**Technical Session V: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 11:00-12:30****Concurrent Session V A**

Has Academia played its role in EIA and SEA Evolution in South Asia

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr Thomas Fischer

*The aim of this session is to discuss whether academics in South Asia have / are playing their role well in supporting effective SEA/EIA. The discussion will bring out the strengths and weaknesses and suggest recommendations on how existing practices may improve.*

**Concurrent Session V B**

How can impact assessment associations improve EIA and SEA implementation?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr Miguel Coutinho

*In countries around the globe, national impact assessment associations are becoming pivotal elements of the local landscape. Most such organisations are IAIA affiliates with the primary aim of improving EIA/SEA implementation. The objective of this session is to gauge the interest of replicating these experiences in South Asia.*

**Technical Session VI: 5th December 2013 13:30-15:00****Concurrent Session VI A**

Accreditation mechanism for EIA consultants – Is this an effective approach to address quality of EIA reports?

Venue: Sheesh Mahal I

Panel Discussion

Chair: Vaqar Zakria

*The panel will discuss the issues in quality of EIAs produced in Pakistan to highlight major gaps in the local impact assessment landscape. Discussion will highlight the role of regulatory agencies in quality control and share best practice from accrediting environmental consultants from elsewhere in the world.*

**Concurrent Session VI B**

Knowledge management in impact assessment – the weaker link

Venue: Sheesh Mahal II

Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr Parvaiz Naim

*Discussion in this session will focus on understanding challenges faced by EIA professionals in utilizing available knowledge for developing a credible assessment. Topics would range from data acquisition and analysis to interpretation, with the aim of linking information to decisions. The expected outcome is to share an understanding of how to stay on top in spite of any weaker links.*

## Pre- Conference Courses

### Course I: One Word- Different Meanings: SEA Theory and Practice Throughout the World

**2nd December -3rd December 2013**

Dr. Thomas Fischer | Kehkhashan I

*Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) is often perceived as the big brother of project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, ultimately, it is a word which has many more different meanings and applications than EIA. This two-day short course will provide an overview of various interpretations and applications of SEA from throughout the world. The main aim is to help participants choosing the 'right' SEA approach for a specific PPP situation.*

### Course II: Biodiversity Inclusive Impact Assessment

**2nd December -3rd December 2013**

Dr. Asha Rajvanshi & Dr Malvika Onial| Kehkhashan III

*Countries in the South Asian region currently on a rapid development trajectory have the responsibility to navigate development that reflects greater convergence of economic security, human well-being and ecological sustainability objectives. This course aims to promote impact assessment practice in delivering successful outcomes for biodiversity by revisiting the EIA and SEA framework to identify key 'insertion points' for integrating biodiversity in impact assessment. The course also aims to review next generation impact assessment approaches for maximising biodiversity benefits from economic development initiatives and explore the hierarchy mitigation tools and compensation approaches for encouraging green growth and development.*

### Course III: Developing ESIA Guidelines for Large Hydropower Projects – with Examples from Pakistan

**2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013 (Day 1)**

Mr. Peter-John Meynell | Shishmahal I

*Large hydropower projects have very specific significant environmental and social impacts, and yet often the ESIA's that are prepared do not adequately address these impacts. Whilst some guidance is generic, it is more helpful when they have a specific national focus. This training course will use examples from Pakistan to illustrate what may be included in such guidelines (based on the experience of developing sectoral guidelines in Pakistan). The training will cover topics such as; a) the need for ESIA guidance, b) the key impacts associated with hydropower, c) fitting guidelines to the national situation, d) format, content and style of guidance. The course is open to participants from all countries, especially from Pakistan and countries with experience of large hydropower development.*

## Course IV: Making Good Decisions: Using Multi-Criteria Analysis for Impact Assessment and Conflict Resolution

**2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013**

Dr. David Annandale | Shishmahal III

*Multi-criteria analysis (MCA) is a valuable and increasingly widely-used tool to aid decision-making where there is a choice to be made between competing options. It is particularly useful as a tool for sustainability assessment where a complex and inter-connected range of environmental, social and economic issues must be taken into consideration and where objectives are often competing, making trade-offs unavoidable. It provides a robust and transparent decision-making structure, making explicit the key considerations and the values attributed to them, and providing opportunities for stakeholder and community participation. MCA can be applied at all levels of decision-making, from the consideration of project alternatives to broad-reaching policy decisions guiding a transition towards sustainability and the green economy.*

## Course V: Quality Review of EIA – Are we Doing it Right?

**3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013**

Dr. Bobbi Schijf | Shishmahal III

*The participants in this workshop will have an opportunity to share and sharpen their EIA reviewing skills. The workshop starts with an overview of different quality review approaches around the world. Next the participants will simulate an EIA quality review process, using real EIA case material. The group work results will be compared to the review outcomes of the Dutch experts' commission that is responsible for reviewing EIA reports in the Netherlands.*

For more information on the conference:

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