



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Twelfth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council

Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, 31 March-3 April 2004

CMS/ScC12/Inf.18

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAIA)

The attached note has been prepared by the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) at the request of the CMS Secretariat with the aim of providing the Twelfth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council with general information about IAIA, its Ecology and biodiversity Section and its Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment Project.

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*For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting.
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT IAIA

www.iaia.org

IAIA is a non-profit organization of professionals with expertise in impact assessment. Members specialise in a variety of impact assessment disciplines including social impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and ecological impact assessment.

For a number of years IAIA has assisted biodiversity-related conventions in developing impact assessment as a tool for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This work has largely been progressed by the IAIA Biodiversity and Ecology Section.

IAIA Biodiversity & Ecology section

Current section chair: Helen Byron

Section's general responsibilities:

- Organises IAIA annual conference Biodiversity & Ecology (B&E) workshop stream
- "Runs" B&E list server (currently has over 100 members)
- Progresses the Action Programme for Biodiversity & Impact Assessment adopted in July 2001
- Collaborates with biodiversity Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS))
- Initiated & provides input to IAIA project on Capacity Building for Biodiversity in Impact Assessment

Action plan for 2003/4

- Organise B&E stream at IAIA2004 annual conference
- Organise joint workshop on biodiversity & trade impact assessment at IAIA2004 working with the Trade section to produce good practice principles
- Create a Biodiversity section on the IAIA website
- Publish a special edition of the Journal IAPA (Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal) on biodiversity
- Input into the planning and delivery of the IAIA project on capacity building for biodiversity in impact assessment.
- Explore Memorandum of Understanding with the CMS
- Work with Ramsar & CBD pursuant to existing Memoranda of Collaboration
- Compile list of key biodiversity/ecological impact assessment terms for IAIA glossary of key terms
- Produce key citations list for biodiversity/ecological impact assessment

IAIA CAPACITY BUILDING FOR BIODIVERSITY IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CBBIA) PROJECT

The IAIA/ Dutch Government Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) project is a targeted capacity building program intended to promote good practice in biodiversity and impact assessment. It includes various enabling activities, which will take place in participating regions and countries and at IAIA conferences, workshops and events.

The project evolved following many years of effort by the Biodiversity and Ecology Section of IAIA to promote the integration of biodiversity with impact assessment and to enhance the value of impact assessment for implementing the global biodiversity-related conventions.

The project is administered by the International Association for Impact Assessment (see Appendix A). It is hoped that it will provide support, expertise and guidance in more than 10 countries over its three-year lifetime.

A steering committee oversees objectives and technical aspects and advises the IAIA Board of progress. The steering committee has representatives from the Dutch government, the IAIA Board, the IAIA Biodiversity and Ecology Section, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biodiversity.

The project will include work at regional and country-levels as well as supporting work undertaken by individual participants. This approach is intended to ensure a focus on regions sharing similar interests, challenges and situations whilst also delivering guidance and capacity building to meet the specific needs of selected individual countries. By providing opportunities for participation by a number of individuals the project will also help to reinforce worldwide networks of people with relevant knowledge and experience who can help raise standards of biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment.

The CBBIA-IAIA programme will work with practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders to share information and experiences, build expertise and promote good practice. Capacity building in this programme will include training/knowledge transfer, institution building, and networking.

Specifically the programme will deliver:

1. A network of trained professionals in two or three eco-system regions (with 4-5 countries in each region)
2. Capacity-building activities to help achieve biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment in a minimum of 5 countries
3. Developed and tested training materials for integrating biodiversity into the impact assessment process.

20 country-representatives will be attending IAIA '04 in Vancouver in April to discuss needs and opportunities for the project in their countries and regions. For further information contact the Technical Program Manager, Jo Treweek

jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk