

IAIA10 Training Course #2

Practical Guide to Effective IA Follow-up

Level

Intermediate

Prerequisites

Participants are expected to have an understanding of IA processes and terminology. Hence it would be beneficial if they previously have attended the IAIA training course "Understanding Impact Assessment" or similar, or otherwise have at least a year of work experience as a proponent or regulator within an IA system.

Language of Delivery

English

Duration

1 day course

Names and Contact Details of Trainer

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Summary of the Purpose, Content and Learning Outcomes

IA follow-up is essential if the outcomes of decisions are to be understood. The challenge of transitioning to a green economy is the challenge of sustainable development. Follow-up provides valuable learning from experience and is key to determining the contribution of IA to sustainability. This course presents the theory and practice of IA follow-up based on best practice examples from around the world. It addresses follow-up for all forms of impact assessment: project based EIA, strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainability assessment. Participants will learn how to establish effective IA follow-up procedures and programs and how to evaluate them.

The course content includes the following topics:

- what is IA follow-up?
- why is follow-up important?
- who is involved in IA follow-up?
- what is involved, including screening and scoping for follow-up;
- regulatory needs and wording of IA approvals for follow-up;
- adaptive environmental management;
- options and approaches that can be used in the implementation of IA follow-up;
- international best practice principles for IA follow-up;
- effectiveness, SEA follow-up and follow-up for sustainability assurance.

Learning outcomes – by the end of this course participants will understand:

- the international framework and best practice principles for IA follow-up;
- the roles of proponents, regulators and public in follow-up processes;
- outstanding world-wide examples of IA follow-up – regulatory approaches, techniques and practices;
- how to word IA approvals to ensure effective follow-up outcomes; and
- emerging directions and future challenges.

This 'intermediate level' course is designed for planners, government agency personnel, proponents and consultants, and students in IA related fields. This course is interactive with an emphasis on participant discussions, case studies and activities as well as lecture presentations. A resource manual with state-of-the-art IA follow-up information is provided.

Detailed Description of the Course

Introduction: Follow-up in impact assessment is essential if the outcomes of decisions are to be understood. The concept of the green economy is analogous with that of sustainable development. Follow-up provides valuable learning from experience on IA procedures and techniques and to determining the contribution of IA to sustainability. There is growing international interest in this field with new procedures and expertise evolving rapidly.

This course presents a complete account of the theory and practice of IA follow-up based on best practice examples from around the world. It addresses follow-up for all forms of impact assessment: project based EIA, strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainability assessment.

Target audience: This 'intermediate level' course is designed for planners, government agency personnel, proponents and consultants, and students in IA related fields. The course is aimed at people who have basic to good knowledge of IA, but little or no knowledge of IA follow-up. Hence it would be beneficial if participants previously have attended the IAIA training course "Understanding Impact Assessment" or similar, or otherwise have at least a year of work experience as a proponent or regulator within an IA system. No prior experience with IA follow-up is assumed but a solid understanding of IA processes will be beneficial to the participant - hence it is pitched as an intermediate level course. The course will have a general applicability to all fields of IA (i.e., environmental, health, socio-economic, SEA and sustainability assessment).

Learning outcomes: By the end of this course participants will:

- understand the international framework for IA follow-up;
- understand the roles of proponents, regulators and the public in follow-up processes;
- be familiar with a number of outstanding examples of IA follow-up from around the world including regulatory approaches, techniques and practices;
- understand the importance of the wording of IA approvals in order to maximise effective follow-up outcomes;
- be familiar with the international best practice principles of IA follow-up; and
- be introduced to emerging directions and future challenges.

Content: The course content includes the following topics:

- what is IA follow-up?
- why is follow-up important?
- who is involved in IA follow-up?

- what is involved, including screening and scoping for follow-up;
- challenges in wording IA approvals for follow-up;
- adaptive environmental management;
- options and approaches that can be used in the implementation of IA follow-up;
- international best practice principles for IA follow-up;
- effectiveness, SEA follow-up and follow-up for sustainability assurance.

Format: This course will feature a number of lectures interspersed with small group discussions and activities. Participants will be provided with a resource manual containing all of the lecture note material as well as other state of the art information on IA follow-up.

Outline of Course Program: The IA Follow-up course will be conducted on an interactive basis. For each topic the trainers will present a short lecture followed by open discussion. A series of practical examples from around the world will be presented and used to explain the theoretical aspects of IA follow-up. For some topics, small group discussions and activities based around case study examples will also be utilised. A summary table of the topics, their content and mode of delivery follows.

| Title | Topic Content | Activities |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Welcome and introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce presenters – organisation affiliation and background • Introduce and meet participants • Outline aims of course and program of events | introductions, lecture, participant reflections on personal IA follow-up experiences |
| 2. What is IA follow-up and why is it important? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of terms: monitoring, audit and evaluation, management, communication • Purpose of follow-up • Different applications (scales) of follow-up | lecture, participant reflections on their own approaches to IA follow-up |
| 3. International examples of best practice IA follow-up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extensive body of international examples of IA follow-up has been derived through workshops at IAIA conferences over the past 9 years – a diverse range of successful programs will be shared. The lessons learnt will provide the focus for the remainder of the training course. | lecture, discussion |
| 4. Who is involved in IA follow-up? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponent driven (1st party) follow-up – self regulation, EMS • Regulator driven (2nd party) follow-up – legislative requirements, approval conditions, compliance audits • Community based (3rd party) follow-up – public participation, independent monitoring agencies | lecture, discussion |
| <i>BREAK</i> | <i>MORNING COFFEE</i> | |
| 5. International IA follow-up framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening: determining the need for follow-up • Scoping: determining the content of a follow-up program • Reporting and feedback • Timing – linking the follow-up program to other stages in the IA process | lecture, discussion, small group activity (apply screening and scoping criteria to a case study) |
| 6. Regulatory needs and wording of IA approvals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of legal and enforcement related aspects of IA approvals with respect to follow-up. • Share examples of recent changes to IA approval condition setting in Western Australia to illustrate the issues and their importance. | discussion followed by short lecture showcasing recent examples from practice |
| 7. Approaches and techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase examples of different approaches and techniques for carrying out IA follow-up ranging | lecture, discussion, participants reflect/share |

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| | from simple, pragmatic methods through to scientifically rigorous techniques | examples from their own experience |
| <i>BREAK</i> | <i>LUNCH</i> | |
| 8. Adaptive environmental management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining what is meant by adaptive environmental management The importance of ongoing management Linking follow-up outcomes to environmental performance | lecture, small group activity (design ideas for an adaptive management follow-up program) |
| 9. Environmental setting and project type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dealing with cumulative impacts Socio-economic effects follow-up Large vs. small projects Resources and capacity for follow-up | lecture, discussion |
| <i>BREAK</i> | <i>AFTERNOON TEA</i> | |
| 10. IA follow-up principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to international best practice principles for IA follow-up | lecture, discussion |
| 11 Effectiveness, new directions and future challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of IA follow-up Moving beyond project based follow-up SEA follow-up Follow-up for sustainability assurance | lecture, participant reflections on how to improve follow-up practice in their own work |
| 12. Conclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview and conclusions Useful resources for IA follow-up | lecture, discussion |

Training Materials Received by Participants

Participants will be provided with an IA Follow-up Resource Manual which will contain copies of the PowerPoint slides used in lecture presentations, the case studies to be worked on in the small group activity sessions and a list of useful publications, websites and other information sources on IA follow-up.

Pre-conference and post-conference Communication with Participants

The presenter will be in attendance for all of IAIA10 and thereafter readily contactable by email. Specifically the presenter will be available to provide follow-up support through e-mail exchange, access to relevant websites and (immediately post-course through) participation in IA follow-up workshops at IAIA10.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENTER

Curriculum Vitae

Angus Morrison-Saunders

Qualifications: BSc Environmental Science (First Class Honours)
PhD in Environmental Impact Assessment

Current Position Senior Lecturer in Environmental Assessment (Murdoch University, Australia)

I have been teaching environmental science units, including a course on IA (*ENV520 Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment* which includes a major component addressing sustainability assessment) for more than 15 years at the university level. My PhD was on the effectiveness of EIA in terms of outcomes and this has been the focus of my research. I have published numerous journal articles on EIA (several in *IAPA* in recent years) including several specifically on sustainability assessment issues. I have also published numerous journal articles on IA follow-up (several in *IAPA*

in recent years) and have co-edited a book on this topic in 2004 – *Assessing Impact: Handbook of EIA and SEA Follow-up* (Earthscan, London).

In 2002, I conducted a 1 day training course for community and industry participants (entitled *Environmental Protection: New Developments and Current Practice*) in Western Australia. Each year since 2005 I have conducted a two day *Environmental Assessment for Practitioners* training course on behalf of the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority Service Unit and the Environmental Consultants Association (Inc) – the repeated invitation to run this course twice yearly is testament to its successful and effective delivery. This course includes important content relating to sustainability assessment.

I have co-presented with Jenny Pope three 2-day courses entitled *Sustainability assessment of policies, plans and projects* on behalf of Engineers Australia. Jenny and I have successfully delivered training courses in sustainability assessment at IAIA06, IAIA07 and IAIA09.

I have been a member of IAIA since 1996 and am an active participant in the organisation (e.g. Co-Editor of *IAPA* (since May 2009), Book Review Editor for *IAPA* (2005 - 2009), member of the *IAPA* Board 2004-present, co-chair of IA Follow-up workshops at several IAIA conferences and a Theme Forum presenter on IA Follow-up at IAIA'05, Guest Editor of a special issue of *IAPA* devoted to IA Follow-up published in September 2005, lead author of IA Follow-up Best Practice Principles published on the IAIA website in 2006, and Chair of the Steering Committee for IAIA08).

In short, I am an experienced IA trainer with appropriate qualifications and experience in IA Follow-up to ensure that the proposed training course is a success.

Previous Presentations of This Course

This course was first presented by Angus Morrison-Saunders and Jill Baker at IAIA05 (with the title: *Theory, Practice and Principles of Impact Assessment Follow-up*). At IAIA06, Angus and Jill again presented basically the same course (parts of it were amended and updated in response to feedback received from the IAIA05 offering) but under the title: *Practical Guide to Effective IA Follow-up*. For IAIA07 the 'front end' of the course was changed substantially to include more international examples of IA follow-up and to use these to derive the key 'lessons learnt' from experience and to illustrate the theoretical elements of the course. This proved to be a more effective structure. The IAIA07 offering was presented by Angus alone. The IAIA09 offering was co-presented with Jenny Pope and the same basic structure as for this proposal and the IAIA07 offering was utilised. Each time the course is presented, content is updated (i.e. minor alterations to the structure/flow of the training materials and inclusion of up to date case study examples from the recently published literature).

Outside of the IAIA offerings of this course, Angus has been involved in various other training courses, seminars, workshops and university level teaching concerning impact assessment which includes much content relevant to IA follow-up. I have continued to evolve my thinking and knowledge on the subject and consequently the content of training material that will be used in the IAIA10 course. I am experienced at coordinating workshops and chairing discussions with a diverse international audience.

As indicated previously, I have adapted the content and sequence of training material (although the overall 'flavour' and basic structure or format remains the same) in light of the feedback I have received from previous participants and in response to evolving trends and experience with IA follow-up practice internationally.