

28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IAIA08 Session Chair's Report

Session number and name: CS2.10 Planning for Sustainability

Day: Wednesday **Date:** 7 May **Time:** 14:00 **# Persons attending session:** around 80

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Andrea Jardine-Orr

Contributors

Jean Huges; Andrea Jardine-Orr; Martin Ward; Kristof Vlaeminck

(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes discussed in this session

The session focused on the implementation of sustainability within the planning system at national, regional and local levels.

Issues included: the complexity of implementing sustainability; the need for a common understanding of sustainability;

(b) One or more emerging trends

Attempts to implement sustainability assessments at different levels within the planning system - and the difficulty therein

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

(i) dimensions of IA effectiveness (i.e. what are the characteristics of effective IA?)

Not discussed

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

Not discussed but the need to come to a common understanding of sustainability assessment is evident. It seems to mean different things to different people in different settings.

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

A greater profile for sustainability assessment with a better understanding of its nature and scope (and what can and cannot be measured).

(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)

Not discussed