

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

Names of session: TF 2.2: How can impact assessment enhance benefit sharing with local communities? Concepts, current approaches and emerging practices in key sectors.

Day: Wednesday **Date:** 7th May 2008 **Time:** 8.30-10.00am

Session Chair
Stephen Linter

Contributors
Navin Rai; Ana Maria Esteves; Peter Leonard

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

Benefit sharing amongst different types of communities
Community involvement techniques
Application of impact assessment and issues faced in minority communities in Canada, Australia and South Africa

(b) One or more emerging trends

How minority communities react to involvement through the use of various impact assessments.
Common techniques used across a variety of project types e.g. extractive, hydropower, etc.

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

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

Techniques used such as contracts for allocating community funds to minimise corruption, and providing in-community facilitators.
Proponents understanding that community involvement and providing benefits needs the use of 'good practice' techniques and these take time.
Collaborations of proponents with institutions such as the World Bank.

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

Attitudes of proponents – however these are adapting with more successful projects becoming more prominent.
Communication with some minority communities about benefits– examples given of Aboriginal tribes in Australia connected to mining projects.

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

Ensuring enough time and resources allocated to community involvement within projects.
Ensuring that benefit sharing is set into a sustainable context, where financial compensation will help to improve the community in the long-run.

(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)

Within community benefit sharing, politics, especially at the lower tribe levels, can play a pivotal role in how benefits are shared amongst the community. Proponents and organisations are becoming more aware of such corruption and are developing techniques to overcome this.
Within the discussion session, there were various opinions on values of the different stakeholders involved in the projects, and how these values can dictate how projects evolve.