



Paper Abstract #243 Acceptance

Thank you for submitting your abstract for presentation at IAIA13, "Impact Assessment: The Next Generation," to be held 13-16 May 2013 in Calgary, Canada.

I have reviewed your paper abstract and found that it meets preliminary acceptance requirements set forth by the Program Committee.

Congratulations - you may begin making your conference plans!

Confirmation of your presentation on the final schedule is contingent upon receipt in IAIA Headquarters (HQ) of the presenting author's registration and full payment of fees before 15 February 2013. Please note that IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and/or travel expenses for program participants.

Substitutions for presenting authors may be made in writing to jen@iaia.org until 15 January. The substitute must be registered for the conference at the time of the substitution. The substitute will be listed as the presenting author in conference materials.

The preliminary program, including registration materials, is posted online in PDF and mailed to IAIA members. Online registration is also available (http://www.iaia.org/conferences/iaia13/documents/Prelimpro_13%20web.pdf and http://www.iaia.org/conferences/iaia13/documents/Prelimpro_13%20web.pdf). The registrar at HQ will provide confirmation when your registration and fees have been received and processed.

You will receive final confirmation of your place on the program as well as specific details and information about your session by 29 March (contingent upon your registration and payment of fees by 15 February).

You are encouraged to prepare a paper for review. A designated review coordinator (Loreley Fortuny, IAIA HQ) will arrange for two independent and anonymous reviews. Papers deemed acceptable by this process will be included in the conference proceedings on the IAIA website. If you submit a paper for peer review, you and/or your co-authors will be asked to conduct a review as well.

Papers must be no longer than five pages in length or 2,000 words, of which a minimum of 1,200 words must be written in English and the remaining 800 words may be done in the language of your choice. References are additional, which may bring the total page limit to 6 pages; this limit is strictly applied. Papers should be no more than 1 MB in size (to minimize e-mailing problems), prepared in Word with the file name in this format: Abstract submission ID number_Primary author's family name_First Four Words of Title, and sent to

impact@iaia.org by 15 March 2013. Reviews will be completed and comments sent back to you by 15 April. Revisions, if applicable, will be due 15 July. Please note that you must be registered, with fees paid, by 15 February, and present your paper at the conference in order to have your paper published in the online proceedings.

Current plans are to post draft papers online before the conference and for them to inform preparations for on-site discussions. Please do not hesitate to request guidance regarding the paper submission and review process from Loreley (<mailto:impact@iaia.org>).

You will also have the opportunity, assuming your submission is accepted, to post your PowerPoint presentation (for papers/speakers) or your poster (for poster authors) online as part of proceedings. When you have received acceptance notification, you can use the "Edit My Abstract" option to modify your record. This is where you can upload both your PowerPoint slides or Poster, as well as your paper.

Feel free to contact me, or IAIA HQ (jen@iaia.org), if you have any questions about your abstract submission or the session. Please reference your submission number when contacting us. This will help us to respond to you most quickly and accurately.

Thank you for your interest, and I look forward to working with you on a successful IAIA13.

Regards,
Jeff Torreson
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Streamlined IA of Ethanol Projects in Brazil

Brazil is the world's leading producer of sugarcane-based ethanol, an energy source that, although having a relatively low CO2 footprint, can impact the environment in many negative ways. Since the 1980s, Brazilian legislation requires ethanol projects to undergo a comprehensive impact assessment (IA) process, which includes a set of demanding and often costly social-environmental analyses. Pressures, however, are mounting for faster and simpler IAs. The Minas Gerais State Environmental Agency created a streamlined IA process that waives "comprehensive" studies, in favor of simplified analyses (known as RCAs), for ethanol projects located in specific ecological zones. Dozens of ethanol projects are now exempt from a wide range of socio-environmental evaluations. The objective of this study was to analyze the criteria for, and potential consequences of, streamlined IAs of ethanol projects in the Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba areas of Minas Gerais state, one of Brazil's most critical ethanol expansion areas. This study was based on face-to-face interviews with state officials and extensive grey literature reviews in connection with forty-one (41) ethanol projects. Results showed that the comprehensive study waiver of at least ten (10) ethanol projects were neither based on scientific/technical criteria nor on legal grounds. The analysis also revealed numerous technical deficiencies in the simplified IA studies, such as lack of alternative technological/locational considerations and disregard for cumulative effects. The article concludes by highlighting ways to avoid the pitfalls of streamlined IAs, particularly in the screening and scoping phases of the process.

Summary

The article analyzes the criteria for, and potential consequences of, streamlined IAs of ethanol projects in Brazil, highlighting ways to enhance the screening and scoping phases of the process.

Accept IAIA Publication: No

Permit Recording: Yes

Willing To Chair: Yes

Author/Co-author(s)

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Biography:

Alberto Fonseca, PhD, is Professor of Environmental Management at the Federal University of Ouro Preto. His ongoing research focuses on the challenges to streamlining impact assessments. Alberto has a diverse professional experience in the environmental field working for private and public organizations. He's co-authored many professional reports and academic articles.

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