



LATIN AMERICAN FORUM

InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC)

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) will host its 34th Annual Conference in Viña del Mar, Chile, from 6-11 April 2014 (hereinafter referred to as IAIA14), to bring together decision-makers, industry and community leaders, and professional practitioners to network and exchange professional and practical experiences on the theme "Impact Assessment for Social and Economic Development."

IAIA14 aims at reviewing the role of the various instruments of impact assessment on the promotion of social and economic development. The discussion will evolve around the impact assessment (IA) process as well as its results, bringing together different experiences on how IA may include efficient and innovative ways to promote development that benefits the quality of life in the short- and long-term.

As development institutions with responsibilities regarding the economic and social development of Latin America, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are proposing the organization of a Latin American Technical Forum to discuss the state of the art of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the Latin American region and its role as tool for advancing the economic and social development.

The IADB, IBRD, and the IFC believe that the organization of the IAIA14 in Latin America is a unique opportunity for IA practitioners in Latin American countries to benefit from important technical training and to be exposed to the latest trends in a variety of topics in relation to IA that are relevant to advancing the protection of the environment, such as ecosystem services, Health Impact Assessment (HIA), social impact assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), biodiversity offsets, among others.

In addition, it is an important opportunity to promote a fruitful technical debate on national EIA systems, given that IAIA14 will be held in Latin America at a time when several countries in the region are reviewing and reforming their legal and institutional framework for environmental management, such as Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Peru, among others. In addition, innovations in environmental management, biodiversity conservation, social accountability and environmental challenges in the Latin American region will also be presented through case studies and panel discussions.

In a way to attract the participation of a larger number of Latin American IA practitioners to this conference, the IDB and the IFC are proposing this technical forum be conducted in Spanish language, with simultaneous translation available to English.¹

This joint proposal for a Latin American Technical Forum has been developed to integrate several key themes that are relevant to Latin American IA practitioners and to the main theme of the IAIA14. Chairs and key speakers will be provided by the IADB, IBRD, and IFC. It is anticipated that the IDB will sponsor the participation of 2 to 4 high level government officials from countries in Latin America proposed as case studies. Key private sector and non-governmental organizations will also be invited.

The Latin American Technical Forum will consist of two days when presentations will be mainly submitted in Spanish and simultaneous translation to English of the theme forums will be provided. The first day will evolve around four main environmental themes whereas the following day will evolve around two social themes and biodiversity and water.

The Technical Forum will be an integral part of the IAIA program. Although aimed at Latin American participants, it might also attract other IAIA delegates interested in the common issues that will be addressed in the Forum. Simultaneous translation from Spanish to English will be provided for the theme forums.

Below is a draft summary of the proposed sessions and their respective chairs.

¹ Other sessions in the Conference will be translated from English into Spanish.

DAY 1: THEME FORUMS AND THREE SESSIONS

Theme Forum 1: Reforms and trends in the EIA Systems in Latin America

Chairs: Ernesto Monter and Juan David Quintero

After many decades, many countries in the Latin American region are implementing reforms of their environmental licensing systems aiming at a greater efficiency, effectiveness and participation of civil society groups, thus diminishing uncertainty in private and public developers. There are many expectations about the success of these reforms throughout the region. This session will provide a forum to discuss the new institutional frameworks, procedures and challenges in the implementation of these environmental licensing systems.

Invited panelists will include heads of environmental licensing agencies in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Expected 100 - 120 participants

Session 1: Managing environmental and social impacts of Hydropower Plants in Latin America

Chair: Emmanuel Boulet (IDB)

With a total hydropower capacity of about 140,000 MW and bold plans across the region to respond to the pressures of economic growth, the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region is at the forefront of innovation and the global drive for hydropower development. This session will explore both the challenges and positive lessons from the LAC region in environmental management of hydropower projects. It will address the following questions: How to integrate environmental and social considerations into hydropower planning and development at various? How to manage potentially significant residual impacts on biodiversity? What are the tools available to help developing and implementing sustainable hydropower projects? This session will present several case studies across the region such as Alto Maipo Hydropower Project (Chile), Odebrecht / Chaglia, operationalizing the intact river concept and aquatic offset (IDB/IFC or ICE), and applying the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) in the region.

Private and public hydroelectricity developers will be invited to present and discuss their experiences.

Expected: 40 participants

Session 2. Integration and challenges from the required infrastructure in Latin America

Chair: Ernesto Monter (IDB)

The Latin American region is undergoing an unprecedented expansion of road and highway, airport, waterways in order to support plans for regional infrastructure integration and to support agriculture, timber, oil, gas, and mineral extraction. This session will focus on the challenges to preventing and mitigating systemic impacts of regional infrastructure development. The technical, environmental and social of this integration will be discussed through a series of case studies including the former South America IIRSA initiative, the Expansion of the Panama Canal, the interoceanic railroad in Bolivia and/or electric interconnections in the LA region.

Private developers, NGOs will present and discuss case studies.

Expected: 40 participants

Session 3. The role of social safeguards in economic development in Latin America

Chair: Carlos Perez-Brito (IDB)

As economic development expands in Latin American countries, why should social safeguards play a more prominent role in environmental impact assessments? Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) have become a standard procedure in any major development project. Yet social safeguards are given little attention in EIAs. When they are included, they are often of poor quality, being little more than a compilation of secondary information that is of little relevance to the potential impacts. Because growth in Latin America is largely dependent on the development of infrastructure, the quality of social assessments has to improve in order to reduce risk and mitigate negative impacts and the social unrest they often engender. This will continue to be a challenge given the limited political will and willingness to pay on the part of the host government and investors. Moreover, the promotion of democratic principles, such as free prior and informed consent and inclusionary measures targeted at indigenous peoples and women, may increase risk if it is not properly planned and implemented. This session aims to address these challenges by exploring the relationship between economic development and social safeguards, and considering the extent to which it is possible to think about joint development models, where governments, developers and communities share risk as well as profits.

Public/private developers, NGOS will present and discuss experiences.

Expected: 40 participants

DAY 2: ONE THEME FORUM AND TWO SESSIONS

Theme Forum 2: Impact assessment in Latin America: Is it done better than 25 years ago?

Chairs: Luis Montanez and Mauricio Athie (IFC)

“Impact assessment is the tool. Environmental quality and social equity are the results.” This is not only IAIA’s mantra but it also condenses the thinking of many impact assessment (IA) practitioners, academicians and researchers. In IAIA02, the Program Committee established an “agenda for action” in order to improve the impact of IA, and concluded, among other things, that: IA is tremendously effective because it improves the structure of planning process and is accepted around the world, but it is not effective enough; stakeholders expect IA experts to help them in facing dilemmas, not to receive a set of rules they have to follow; stakeholders are unhappy when IA is approached as a scientific process with social input, while it should be as a social process with scientific input; consultants must improve their communication with decision makers and other stakeholders; they also have to make IA fit for purpose for final decision making which will include environmental, social, health and economic issues; poverty reduction is always a main issue; streamlining IA into project or policy development processes requires tailor made IA’s to allow continuous feedback into the process; IA experts must avoid DAD (decide, announce, defend) and apply DDD (discuss, deliver, decide); reports shouldn’t be the final product, since the final product is the use of IA by decision makers and other stakeholders. In this forum we will analyze what has happened in Latin America in contrast with these recommendations. What is the quality of IA statements? Are social issues always considered? Are IAs undertaken before final decisions have been made? What about public participation? Are indigenous peoples taken into account? These and other difficult questions will be addressed by experts from the region, including consultants and competent authorities. The forum will be delivered in Spanish with translation into English.

Experts from the region address difficult questions about the way IA is done today and if there has been improvement in the last 25 years

Expected: 100 – 120 participants

Session 4: Managing environmental and social risks by the private sector

Chairs: Mauricio Athie (IFC)

Session Abstract: Assessment and management of impacts and risks is the focus of IFC’s Performance Standard 1, the “umbrella” PS. Since the inception of the Performance Standards in 2006, the significance of PS1 in private sector finance has grown exponentially. This session will explain the use PS1 and its impact on private sector finance using examples in the Latin America, the region with the largest IFC portfolio and site of the IAIA 14 conference, with participation of specialists from development institutions and local companies, including Odebrecht and case studies on Environmental and Social Health and Safety Systems (ESHS) for construction (Montes de Plata Pulp Mill in Uruguay) and ESHS Management System for operations (Peru LNG Project in Peru).

Panel Session: panelists from private sector will discuss the application of performance standards in Latin America.

Expected: 40 participants

Session 5: Water Resources Management in a Changing Climate

Chair: Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm (IDB)

Water resources management has emerged as a pivotal global challenge of the 21st Century. Growing demands on existing supplies and competing uses for water are rendering decision-making increasingly complex, particularly in areas where resources are limited and in the face of climate change. Effective water resources management is critical to all aspects of social and economic development, from access to safe drinking water to biodiversity, food security, energy, and ecosystems. Best practices in water resources management depend upon our ability to assimilate and manage large amounts of data, develop well-defined demand management strategies and practice good governance. This session will discuss how an integrated approach to water resources management can address these challenges through the use of innovative tools such as Hydro-BID, a hydrographic model developed for Latin America and the Caribbean. Case studies from the Bermejo Transboundary Basin and the Chira-Piura Basins where its application is being used to address conflicts over access to water and climate change respectively will be presented.

Panel Session: case studies will be presented by project implementation units.

Expected: 40 participants

Session 6: Systems and tools for managing environmental and social impacts and risks in financial and real sectors.

Chair: Robert Montgomery, IBRD

The financial sector plays an important role in supporting investment projects and economic activity that affect the environment and surrounding communities. Through work with MDBs, interface with regulators, adoption of the Equator Principles and growing need to respond to green market opportunities and demands, financial intermediaries are playing a growing role in environmental management and needing to rely more and more on Impact Assessment methodologies and management systems. The financial sector needs to rely on tools that respond to environmental and social standards as well as to the market characteristics of the sector and its real sector clients. This session will explore the role of management systems in this context and the challenges and opportunities of developing assessment and management tools that responds to the growing needs of the financial sector. The session will present Environmental and Social Management Systems for used by Financial Intermediaries (FIs), management systems with a focus on SMEs, the role of independent consultants, the role and opportunities for linkage with the regulatory system (BACEN, Peru, Paraguay and Colombia Green Protocols), the need for information aggregation and clearing houses—model towards a E&S credit rating and performance scorecards.

Panel Session: panelists from IFIs, private sector, and regulatory agencies will discuss their experiences.

Expected: 40 participants

LATIN AMERICAN FORUM
IAIA 14
Tentative Schedule

Time	Day 1	Day 2
9:00 – 10:30	Theme Forum 1. Reforms and trends in the EIA Systems in Latin America Chair: Ernesto Monter (IADB) and Juan D. Quintero	Theme Forum 2: Impact assessment in Latin America: Is it done better than 25 years ago? Chairs: Luis Montanez and Mauricio Athie, IFC
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Session 1. Managing environmental and social impacts of Hydropower Plants in Latin America Chair: Emmanuel Boulet, IADB	Session 4: Managing environmental and social risks by the private sector Chair: Mauricio Athie, IFC
12:30 – 02:00	Lunch Break	
02:00 – 03:30	Session 2. Integration and challenges from the required infrastructure in Latin America Chair: Ernesto Monter, IADB	Session 5. Water Resources Management in a Changing Climate Chair: Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, IADB
03:30 – 04:00	Coffee Break	
04:00 – 05:30	Session 3. The role of social safeguards in economic development in Latin America Chair: Carlos Pérez Brito, IADB	Session 6 – Systems and tools for managing environmental and social impacts and risks in financial and real sectors Chair: Robert Montgomery, IBRD