Basic information

Course title: Weaving ecosystem services into impact assessment: towards addressing the social implications of environmental impacts

Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites for participants: Basic knowledge on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

Language of delivery: English (clarifications and support to exercises can be provided in Spanish and French if requested).

Duration: 2 days

Minimum and maximum number of participants: 15-36 participants

Equipment required: Participants will need to bring their own laptops so as to run the Excel based toolkits independently.

Course description

Summary

Going beyond mitigating negative impacts to enhance positive impacts, as advocated by IAIA 2014 "Impact for social and economic development", requires ESIA to reflect the interdependence between people and their environment. One way to do so is to identify, assess, and mitigate impacts on ecosystem services, i.e. the contributions of ecosystems to people's well-being.

Since 2012, International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 requires client projects to "maintain the benefits arising from ecosystem services". However, the lack of guidance on how to address ecosystem services in environmental and social assessments was identified as a major barrier in a survey conducted by WRI in 2010, and this issue was raised again at the 2012 IAIA Conference.

Using a combination of hands-on exercises, discussions and presentations, this training will teach the Ecosystem Services Review for Impact Assessment (ESR for IA), a method to assess project impacts on ecosystem services in ESIA that has been implemented by industries in different parts of the world, including Latin America.

This training will not only increase participants' methodological capacity, it will help them understand how addressing ecosystem services in ESIA complements environmental and social assessments routinely conducted as part of ESIA.

This course will provide participants with:
-    A context and rationale for addressing ecosystem services in ESIA.

- A framework for assessing project impacts on ecosystem services.
- A scoping toolkit for prioritizing ecosystem services.
- Instructions for assessing project impacts on ecosystem services.
- Principles for mitigating negative impacts and enhancing positive impacts on ecosystem services.

At the end of this two-day training, the participants will be able to better address the social implications of negative environmental impacts and enhance the positive impacts as part of their ESIAs. This intermediate level training targets environmental and social practitioners with basic knowledge on ESIA.

Detailed description of the course structure and content

The training will be conducted in a very interactive way, promoting exchange of experiences and points of view through facilitated participatory discussions and the use of a case study.

The structure of the course will be:

Day 1	Activities	Session type
Introduction of participants 9h00-9h45 (45 minutes)	• Introduction of participants, their experience with ecosystem services • Expectations regarding the training	Discussion
Introduction to ecosystem services and ESR for IA 9h45-10h30 (45 minutes)	• Basic Concepts (20 minutes) • Overview of step-by-step methodology to address ecosystem services within the ESIA process (20 minutes) • Introduction to case study (20 minutes)	Presentations
Coffee break (30 minutes)		
Steps 1 and 2 11h00-11h20 (20 minutes)	Introduction to steps 1 and 2	Presentation
Steps 1 and 2 11h20-12h30 (70 minutes)	Implementation of steps 1 and 2	Case study ESIA
Lunch (60 minutes)		
Step 3 1h30-2h15 (45 minutes)	Introduction to step 3	Presentation
Step 3 2h15-3h00 (45 minutes)	Implementation of step 3	Case study ESIA
Coffee break (30 minutes)		

Step 3 3h30-4h00 (30 minutes)	Implementation of step 3 - *ctd*	Case study ESIA
Closing 4h00-5h00 (60 minutes)	• Debriefing on steps 1, 2 and 3 • What did we learn today? Anything for tomorrow?	Discussion

Day 2	Activities	Session type
Opening 9h00-9h15 (15 minutes)	• Follow-up on yesterday closing session • Presentation of objectives of the day	Discussion
Steps 4 and 5 9h15-10h00 (45 minutes)	Introduction to steps 4 and 5	Presentation
Steps 4 and 5 10h00-10h30 (30 minutes)	Implementation of steps 4 and 5	Case study ESIA
Coffee break (30 minutes)		
Steps 4 and 5 11h00-12h00 (60 minutes)	Implementation of steps 4 and 5 *-ctd*	Case study ESIA
Step 6 12h00-12h30 (30 minutes)	Introduction to Step 6	Presentation
Lunch (60 minutes)		
Step 6 1h30-2h15 (45 minutes)	Implementation of step 6	Case study ESIA
Steps 4, 5 and 6 2h15-3h00 (45 minutes)	Debriefing	Discussion
Coffee break (30 minutes)		
Open discussion 3h30-4h45 (75 minutes)	• Questions and feedback on method (15 minutes) • Diamond ranking on ES costs, benefits, and challenges (60 minutes)	Discussion
Closing 4h45-5h00 (15 minutes)	Wrap up: reflecting on the main points	Discussion

Training materials

Training materials available to the participants include:
- Methodological guideline: *Weaving Ecosystem Services into Impact Assessment: a step-by-step method* (available for free download in the website before the course)
- PDF copies of the presentations
- Excel based Toolkits for step-by step implementation
- Case Study (to be selected in coordination with the participants)
- After course reading: examples, publications and cases studies for inspiration and further development

Pre-conference and post-conference communication with participants

Pre-conference: The trainers will contact the participants in advance of the training in order to:
- Identify examples of ESIAs or cases that they would like to see considered as case study in the training. In case, participants don't propose a workable case study, the trainers will choose one, if possible in Latin America.
- Direct the participants to the *Ecosystem Services Review for Impact Assessment* website where they will be able to download the publication.
- Identify special challenges of interest related to ES that they would like to be addressed in the course.
- Provide material on the selected case study before the conference. It is not expected but desirable that the participants have read the case study and the publication Ecosystem Services Review for Impact Assessment before the course.

During the conference:
- The trainers will be attending the whole IAIA conference and will be available for further questions, discussions and feedback on individual projects and challenges related to ecosystem services.
- If there is demand for it, there could be a follow-up informal meeting during the conference.
- The trainers will propose at least 2 sessions on ecosystem services for practitioners to share their experiences on addressing ecosystem services in ESIAs. It is indeed expected that the number of ESIAs addressing ecosystem services will have gone up as a result of the 2012 IFC Performance Standards and that the community of practices is growing.

Post-conference:
The participants will be invited to participate to the discussions and be part of the community of experts of the ESR for IA through its website or professional network such as IAIA LinkedIn Groups.

Qualifications of the trainer(s)

Abridged curriculum vitae

Florence Landsberg, NatureBenefits LLC

Florence is an Agronomy Engineer with a Master in Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing whose interests led her to work at the interface of environment and development. Her work focuses on improving both environment and development outcomes by better accounting for their interrelations into decision-making.

Florence is a part-time an Associate at the World Resources Institute, an environmental think-tank based in Washington, DC. Over the last 8 years, Florence has acquired an in-depth expertise of ecosystem services concepts and tools. She has led the production of *Ecosystem Services Review for Impact Assessment: Introduction and Guide to Scoping* and *Weaving Ecosystem Services into Impact Assessment: a step-by-step method*. She also contributed to the mapping of ecosystems services and human well-being in East Africa. She is also a part-time independent ecosystem service expert. She has conducted ecosystem service assessment in Colombia and Europe.

Florence has experience in delivering technical training to international attendance. In March 2011, she provided training in scoping for ecosystem services in environmental impact assessments to Ugandan environmental and social impact assessment practitioners. She also conceived and led training on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in Central Africa for which she produced all presentation materials and exercises, and authored a GIS training manual.

She was co-trainer in the Ecosystem Services for IA Review course in IAIA 2013 and is actively involved in developing a new IAIA initiative on "Integration ecosystem services in SEA in Africa". She also contributed to the first IAIA webinar "Ecosystem services: what it is all about" in August 2013.

Susan Joyce, President, On Common Ground Consultants Inc.

Susan is a sociologist consulting on the management and enhancement of social performance in the extractive industries, with a specialization in the identification and management of impacts to human rights and social components. She has 25 years of experience in applied project assessment and review, including integrated impact assessment and addressing the multiple interrelationships between environmental and social components of a project and the resulting impacts for communities and regions. She combines work as a practitioner with training and capacity building and the provision of advice on sustainable development and management at strategic and corporate levels in the extractive industries. Susan took the Ecosystems Services Course at IAIA 2013 and is developing capacity in this field as ES, combined with human rights, has emerged as the most promising tool she has worked with in 25 years for the integration of social and environmental.

Susan has designed and led both formal workshops as well as custom-designed in-house training programs for client teams, over the last 15 years. Her experience falls primarily in three areas; training and providing ongoing support to companies and especially community relations staff to understand how to be compliant with international standards and industry

good practice, in particular the IFC Performance Standards; providing capacity building around specific tools or standards such as resettlement, indigenous peoples engagement and development, or the application of human rights to business; and the design and facilitation of general interest workshops on emerging and issue-specific topics.

Susan has developed and facilitated many training programs through mineral industry associations as a partner in OCG, including for PDAC, AMEBC, Canadian Institute of Mining in a wide range of social performance theme; she has also carried out workshops for other organizations, including ICMM for whom she has done trainings on the application of their Community Development Toolkit. She is a guest lecturer at technical and University courses, most recently as guest lecturer on Human Rights at Queens University (Kingston, Canada); she trains and runs workshops in English and Spanish.