



Ka mua, ka muri:
Looking back for the future
of impact assessment



46th Annual Conference of the
**International Association
for Impact Assessment**

20-23 April 2027

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Why attend IAIA27?

Table of contents

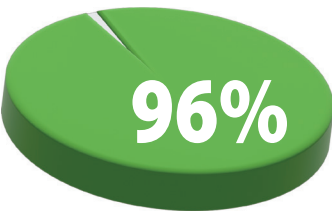
- Invitation to attend3
- Conference theme4
- Abstract submission5
- Technical program6
- Conference overview8
- Networking10
- Training courses11
- Technical visits19
- Financial aid opportunities21
- Sponsors & exhibitors22
- Section activities23
- Conference information24
- General information25
- Committees / About IAIA26
- Registration27

IAIA27 is an **in-person** conference.

Live or recorded virtual participation is not available for this event.

Why should I attend IAIA27 in Ōtautahi Christchurch?

What % of IAIA26 delegates would recommend future IAIA conferences to colleagues?



- Our delegates tell us it is because they can:
- **Learn best practices** from other countries that they can apply in their own situations.
 - **Network** with people who work in similar situations around the world.
 - **Share experiences** with an international audience.

Where else can you gather to hear perspectives on impact assessment from around the world—all in one place? Be prepared for some out-of-the-box thinking, applying solutions developed across the world to your little corner of it.

How will I benefit?

Come to IAIA27 to:

- Connect with people—at the conference AND afterward
- Get new information and techniques to use at work
- Help your colleagues and stakeholders



What IAIA26 delegates told us:

- 90%** met at least one person they planned to contact after the event for work-related purposes
- 82%** acquired significant new information, knowledge, and/or techniques applicable to their work
- 92%** shared information obtained at IAIA26 with colleagues and/or stakeholders

Will it be worth it?

What sets IAIA conferences apart from other conferences? You will find:

- **International diversity** of participants
- **Mix of sectors:** academics, consultants, industry, donors, and government
- **Inter-disciplinary** representation of various fields like health, social, ecology, legal, planning, etc.
- **Access to experts** in the field of impact assessment

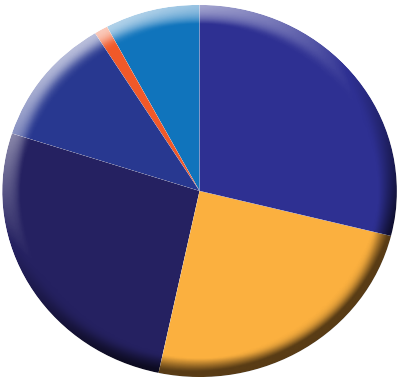
Be part of the only international interdisciplinary conference dedicated to the art and science of impact assessment...*the only one.*

Who will be there?

One of the strengths of IAIA conferences is its diversity of participants.

For more details on who attends IAIA conferences, visit <https://2027.iaia.org/who-attends-iaia-conferences/>.

- CSO/NGO 7%
- Other 1%
- Industry 10%
- Education/Research 24%
- Government 22%
- Consultants 26%



Justify your attendance

Seeking approval to attend IAIA27? Check out the justification toolkit at <https://2027.iaia.org/justify-your-attendance> for help selling your participation to your employer. Resources include a sample attendance justification letter and cost worksheet.

Invitation to attend



Alberto Fonseca
President, IAIA
Federal University of Ouro Preto (UFOP)
Brazil

It is my great pleasure to invite you to IAIA27, the world's premier conference on Impact Assessment.

This year's theme, "Ka mua, ka muri: Looking back for the future of impact assessment," honors a Māori proverb that calls us to reflect on where our discipline has been to better navigate where it must go.

Over five decades of impact assessment theory and practice have built an extraordinary legacy of knowledge and valuable lessons. Yet modern challenges, from climate disruption and biodiversity loss to untamed AI and systemic socioeconomic inequality, demand fresh perspectives and bold thinking.

Christchurch, a city renowned for its resilience, reinvention, and rich heritage, serves as the ideal backdrop for these critical conversations. Whether you are sharing cutting-edge research, engaging in collaborative debate, or reconnecting with global colleagues, your perspective is essential to shaping the roadmap ahead.

Join us as we reflect on our history and build a transformative future together.



Terry Calmeyer
IAIA27 Conference Co-chair
NZAIA Chair
New Zealand

Tēnā koutou katoa. We are delighted to invite you to the IAIA 2027 annual conference, taking place in beautiful Ōtautahi Christchurch in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Known as the "Garden City," Ōtautahi Christchurch blends historic charm with bold contemporary design, urban energy with outdoor adventure. While devastating, the earthquakes 15 years ago have given the city a chance to reinvent itself. Christchurch provides a practical example of how impact assessment can support transformational change by connecting recovery with resilient, nature-based and community-focused futures. With the conference venue centrally located in a highly walkable city, Ōtautahi Christchurch will ensure delegates have an unforgettable experience.

Our conference theme, "Ka mua, ka muri: Looking back for the future of impact assessment," invites us to both reflect and look forward. Together, we will consider the lessons learned, explore forgotten insights, and plan the future for impact assessment in a changing world. Yes, it will provide an opportunity for the doyens of IAIA to reminisce about the past. But it will do far more than that—expect engaging discussions that harness the wisdom of the elders and the unjaded enthusiasm of our young practitioners—a sharing of views across the generations where all can contribute to shaping impact assessment's future.

Whether you are a planner, practitioner, researcher, regulator, early career professional, community representative, industry representative, or from an Indigenous community, you will return from the conference energised and inspired. You will enjoy practical training courses, technical visits, keynote speakers, panels, hands-on workshops and exciting networking events. In looking back for the future of impact assessment, who knows what we might find!

Nau mai, haere mai ki Aotearoa New Zealand!



Lachlan Wilkinson
IAIA27 Conference Co-chair
EIANZ
Australia

Ka mua, ka muri:

Looking back for the future of impact assessment

With more than 50 years of formal, legislative impact assessment behind us, we are at a pivotal moment of global reflection and renewal:

- Are we using the accumulated knowledge and experience about IA to meet emerging challenges?
- Have we followed a steady path of progress, or experienced cycles of innovation and setback?
- What valuable approaches have we left behind that we now urgently need?
- What lessons can we apply to ensure the practice of impact assessment improves in the future?

Inspired by the Māori proverb “Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua”—beautifully described by Dame Patsy Reddy, former Governor-General of Aotearoa New Zealand, as “look to the future while being mindful of the past”—IAIA27 challenges us to move forward with intention, wisdom, and courage.

This conference is your opportunity to help define the future of impact assessment.

We invite planners, practitioners, researchers, regulators, Indigenous leaders, community and industry representatives, and early-career professionals to bring forward bold ideas, critical reflections, and practical solutions. Together, we will explore how impact assessment can evolve to meet today's complex environmental, social, and governance challenges.

Indigenous communities, in particular, have long developed deep and place-based understandings of environmental systems—knowledge refined over centuries and embedded within culturally grounded management practices. Recognizing, respecting, and elevating Indigenous rights and knowledge systems is not only essential for equity, but vital for strengthening the future of impact assessment practice worldwide.

Conference streams include:

- The evolution of impact assessment: how did we get here, and where are we headed?
- Being adaptive: rethinking impact assessment in a rapidly changing world
- Revisiting past practice: lessons we should not have forgotten
- Respecting traditional, cultural, and local knowledge in impact assessments
- Indigenous-led impact assessment and management
- Changing baselines and the critical role of monitoring
- Learning from past cases to better predict future impacts
- General impact assessment and each of IAIA's special-interest Sections

Join us in shaping the future of impact assessment by drawing strength from the past, embracing diverse knowledge systems, and reimagining what is possible. Your voice, your research, and your experience matter.

The future is not predetermined. Let's move it forward together.



A session is a 90-minute block of time during which discussion centers on a particular topic. Sessions may utilize a variety of formats, and the length of time available for presentations or speakers depends on the format that has been selected by the session chair. Session formats may include:

Fishbowl: Four to five chairs are arranged in an inner circle. This is the fishbowl. The remaining chairs are arranged in concentric circles outside the fishbowl. A few participants are selected to fill the fishbowl, while the rest of the group sit on the chairs outside the fishbowl. In an open fishbowl, one chair is left empty. Any member of the audience can, at any time, occupy the empty chair and join the fishbowl. When this happens, an existing member of the fishbowl must voluntarily leave the fishbowl and free a chair. The discussion continues with participants frequently entering and leaving the fishbowl. When the session is over, the moderator summarizes the discussion.

Game-Gaming: Plan and play a strategy game where players have to navigate real-life policies and goals affecting impact assessment professionals. This activity-based session format is highly interactive and encourages communication, networking, and team building.

Panel discussion: Each speaker gives a brief (5 minutes) prepared presentation, usually presenting a different view or experience on the topic, followed by discussion between the speakers and then questions from the audience facilitated by the chair.

Paper session: In a paper session, authors orally present the findings of a prepared paper or project. A paper session typically allows 4-5 presentations of 15-20 minutes each, including time for audience questions. Ideally, the chair allocates time for general questions and open discussion following the presentations.

Pecha Kucha: Pecha Kucha is a presentation methodology in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each (six minutes and 40 seconds in total). This format allows for concise and fast presentations with more than typical discussion time following the presentation.

Solution room: Designed to provide peer-supported advice on individuals' most pressing problems, each speaker presents a challenge they are facing. Participants then divide into small groups of 8-10 individuals. Each speaker presents their problem to a small group and has it brainstormed by the group in 7-minute cycles. At the end of a cycle, the participants move on to the next table and the speaker talks to a different group. Groups share tables with paper that they can write on to gather solutions to the problems.

Workshop: In a workshop, the topic is very specific and usually seeks to resolve a defined problem, often through a combination of 2-3 short paper presentations and active discussion.

World Café: The World Café format is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. The process begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 8-10 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a question. At the end of each 15-20-minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the "table host" for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

2 November 2026

PRESENTING AUTHOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE

13 January 2027

LANGUAGE

English

Submitting paper and poster abstracts

PAPERS

- Read the session descriptions (<https://2027.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/>) and decide which session best fits your paper. Note that you may contribute only to sessions identified as "Open" unless you have been invited by a session chair to an "Invitation Only" session. If you have been invited to an "Invitation Only" session, the chair will contact you with instructions.
- Read the submission guidelines and policies (<https://2027.iaia.org/guidelines-and-policies-for-presenting-authors/>). Check the box at the bottom of the page and then complete the submission form.

POSTERS

- Read the submission guidelines and policies (<https://2027.iaia.org/guidelines-and-policies-for-presenting-authors/>). Check the box at the bottom of the page and proceed to the submission form. At the top of the submission form, click "**Submit a Poster**" and then complete the poster form.

ABOUT POSTERS

Posters are a creative and popular alternative to the oral presentation of a paper. In a poster session, there is no formal oral presentation; instead, each author is assigned a display area on which diagrams, graphics, data, pictures/photos, and a small amount of text are presented. The poster should be self-explanatory, but the author should be available at certain times, such as refreshment breaks and during the dedicated poster session, to interact with viewers and answer questions.

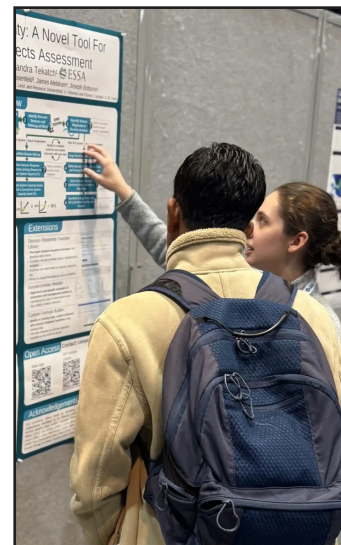
Guidelines for poster presenters

Each poster presenter is assigned one space on a flat, upright panel. Presenters are required to use the panels provided by IAIA and to provide the materials to put their posters in place.

Advertising is not permitted.

Posters will be on display from 20-23 April.

Additional poster preparation information is available on the IAIA27 web site (<https://2027.iaia.org/say-it-with-a-poster/>).



Sessions

About the technical program. The technical program is structured into two streams: (1) thematic sessions focusing on “Ka mua, ka muri: Looking back for the future of impact assessment” and (2) general impact assessment sessions, including topics that address issues of interest to IAIA’s special-interest Sections. Select sessions (“theme forums”) will follow the opening plenary to kick off discussions. Theme forums focus on cross-cutting issues relevant to the many specialties of impact assessment, with topics that engage the conference theme.

The sessions listed below are open for abstract submissions through 2 November. See page 5 for instructions.

- Access to Remedy? Grievance Mechanisms and Projected-Affected Communities (Paper session)
- Artificial Intelligence and Impact Assessment of Climate Action (Paper session)
- Asian S3EA with AI: Strategic, Spatial and Sustainable EA (Paper session)
- Assessing Effects in a World Where the Baseline Keeps Moving (Pecha Kucha)
- Back to the future: IA Public Participation in the Latest Era of Efficiency (Paper session)
- Back to the Future: Which Impact Assessment Challenges Remain Unsolved? (Panel discussion)
- Better Process. Better Outcomes. Modernizing Impact Assessment Law (Panel discussion)
- Beyond Compensation: Lessons from Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration (Paper session)
- Bridging Past Data and Future Urban Decisions via PSS (Paper session)
- Building Organizational Buy-in for Social Impact Assessment and Management (Workshop)
- Challenges and Lessons from Extractive Projects in Protected Areas (Paper session)
- Circular Evolution of Social Impact Disciplines (Panel discussion)
- Conflict as Information: Leadership Lessons for the Future of IA (Paper session)
- Economics for Everyone in IA: Closing the Circle for Better Decisions (Paper session)
- Emerging Cumulative Impact Assessment Practice: What Can We Learn? (Paper session)
- Evolution in the Treatment of Cultural Heritage in International IA (Panel discussion)
- Exploring How SIA Supports Inter-disciplinary, Community-led Initiatives (Paper session)
- Fast-Tracking Project Approvals and the Future of Impact Assessment (Panel discussion)
- From Consultation to Co-Governance: Advancing Indigenous Self-Determination (Panel discussion)
- From Foundations to Frontiers: Reimagining Impact Assessment Education (Paper session)
- From No Net Loss to Nature Positive: Is PS6 Still Fit for Purpose? (Paper session)
- From Prediction to Performance: Learning from Outcomes to Improve Future IA (Panel discussion)
- From Silos to Systems: Decolonial Planetary Health Frameworks for IA (Paper session)
- Great Barrier Reef Adaptive Governance: Learning from Scenario Planning (Solution room)
- Has the Past Stopped Predicting: Rethinking Case-Based Learning in IA (Paper session)
- Health Impact Assessments for Accelerating Climate Mitigation Action (Solution room)
- IA for Climate Change Mitigation and Regeneration Planning (Paper session)
- IA for Urban Sustainability Transitions: Policies, Plans and Projects (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment for Community Resilience, DRR and Climate Action (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment for Hydros: Real Improvements or More of the Same? (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment of Climate Mitigation–Adaptation Interactions (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment on Cultural and Natural Heritage: Synergies and Conflicts (Paper session)
- Impact Assessment Under a Changing International Cooperation Landscape (Workshop)
- Impact Assessment: Ocean Governance in the Blue Pacific (Paper session)
- Incorporating Strategic and Systems Thinking in IA (Paper session)
- Indigenous Values in Impact Assessments and Negotiated Outcomes (Paper session)
- Integrating First Nations and Technical Knowledge in Impact Assessment (Paper session)
- Is a Just Energy Transition Achievable? Learning from Past Mistakes (Paper session)
- Ka Mua, Ka Muri: Looking Back for the Future of EIA follow-up (Paper session)
- Ka Mua, Ka Muri: Traditional Knowledge and Mining EAs: Global Lessons (Paper session)
- Kill This Project Twice: A Live Game of Consent, Engineering, and Sequence (Game/Gaming)
- Learning from Great Impact Assessment Disasters: Group Therapy Session (Other - Therapy session)
- Let the Goals Guide Practice: Using Sustainable Policy Objectives in IA (Paper session)
- Linking Health Impact Assessment’s Past Best Practice with an AI Future (Panel discussion)
- Looking Back to Move Forward: Safeguards and Future of IA (Paper session)
- Making ESIA More Practical and Less Costly (Paper session)
- Making Impact Assessment Circular: Synergies with the Circular Economy (Paper session)
- Nature-based Solutions Applied to Impact Management (Paper session)
- Offshore Energy Infrastructure: Lessons for Future Environmental Assessment (Paper session)
- Old Wisdom, New Tools: Modernizing IA in the AI Era (Paper session)
- One Size Doesn’t Fit All: Safeguards in the Pacific (Panel discussion)
- Open-Source in Impact Assessment: Democratizing Data, Tools and Practice (Paper session)
- Permitting and Bankable Biodiversity IA: Streamlining EIA Processes (Paper session)
- Proving the Talk: Methods for Demonstrating Indigenous Community Outcomes (Paper session)
- Reclaiming our Knowledges and Futures: Global Indigenous Leadership in IA (Workshop)
- Regional Environmental Assessment and Zoning Management: Progress and Trends (Panel discussion)
- Social Impact Assessment for Space: One Giant Leap for SIA? (Pecha Kucha)
- Sustainable Livelihood Restoration under Large-scale Infrastructure Project (Pecha Kucha)
- Talanoa: Disability Inclusive Climate Action Systems and Impact Assessments (Pecha Kucha)

See <https://2027.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/> for session descriptions.

- The Blind Spot: Institutional Systems and the Value of IA (Paper session)
- The Different: Disasters, Crises and Impact Assessment (Paper session)
- The Evolution of Biodiversity Impact Assessment: Beyond Species Inventories (Paper session)
- The Good, the Bad, and the Unexpected: Lessons from Training and Certification (Paper session)
- The Interface Between Impact Assessment and Emerging Nature Markets (Paper session)
- The Past, Present and Possible Futures of IA in Aotearoa New Zealand (Paper session)
- The Productive Value of Historical Legacy Risks in Social Impact Assessment (Paper session)
- The Simplification Agenda and the Future of Impact Assessment (Paper session)
- The Social and Cultural Impacts of Climate Change on Low-lying Countries (Other - Papers and other participative formats such as storytelling)
- Thinking Deep: Novel and Non-standard Approaches to Deep-Sea Mining EIA (Paper session)
- Transport Infrastructure and Impact Assessment: Past and Future Avenues? (Paper session)
- Turning Points at Landscape Scale: Reshaping Mining's No Net Loss Path (Panel discussion)
- Unfinished Business: Grievances and Impacts That Outlive the Project (Paper session)
- Weaving Worldviews: Challenges in "Braiding" Indigenous Knowledge into IA (Solution room)
- What Should We Carry Forward? Reimagining Impact Assessment for 2037 (World Cafe)

INVITATION ONLY

These sessions have speakers pre-identified and specifically invited by the session chairs. They do not accept unsolicited abstracts.

- A Project Without Borders: Are We Still Evaluating the Impacts? Let's Work (Game/Gaming)
- Back to the Future: Impact Assessment Lessons in Accountability (Solution room)
- Baselines Have Memory: A Foresight Game for Impact Assessment (Game/Gaming)
- Beyond Chance Finds: Lessons from Cultural Heritage IA in the Pacific (Panel discussion)
- Beyond Complaint Handling: Tools for Adaptive Social Performance Management (Workshop)

- Bridging Cultures: Māori-led IA Tools Ten Years on from Aashukan (Paper session)
- Ecological Assessment Tools in NZ: Practice, Challenges, and Future Directions (Paper session)
- Engaging Indigenous Peoples Early: International Lessons for Success (Paper session)
- Environmental Governance Platform Design Workshop (World Cafe)
- Exploring the Evolving Narratives of IA and What It Means for the Future (Panel discussion)
- FASTIPS Workshop: IA Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Meaningful Participation (Workshop)
- Hawaii Geothermal Psycho-Social Impact Assessment---Shaping IA's Next 50! (Panel discussion)
- How Can IA Practitioners and IAIA Support Global Commons Alliance Initiatives? (Paper session)
- Human Rights Impact Assessment Past and Future: Why, Which, Who, How? (Debate)
- Impact Assessment at the Landscape Scale: What's Happening "Down Under?" (Panel discussion)
- Impact Assessment: Back to the Future or Forward to the Past? (Debate)
- Indigenous-led Impact Assessment: Shared Responsibility (Panel discussion)
- Lessons from New Zealand: 35 Years in Practice (Panel discussion)
- Nature as an I&AP with Legal Persona: Incorporating Rights of Nature in IA (Workshop)
- Probing the Precautionary Principle: Adapting It for Today and the Future (Panel discussion)
- SEA Implementation in Cambodia and the Mekong Countries (Panel discussion)
- Seeing Through Each Other's Eyes: Improving Understanding for Better Results (Panel discussion)
- Social License Decision Lab: Learning Through Complex Territories (Game/Gaming)
- Sound Judgment: Calibrating What We Know About Acoustic Impact Assessment (Panel discussion)
- The Graveyard Audit: What the World's Stranded Projects Are Worth (Panel discussion)
- The Need to be More Human in a Digital World (Panel discussion)
- The Role of Impact Assessment in Delivering an IUCN Urban Nature Agenda (Workshop)

CLOSED

These sessions do not accept abstracts.

- A Christchurch Carol: Lessons from the Ghosts of IA Past, Present, and Future. (World Cafe)
- Advancing Readiness for Indigenous-led Cumulative Effects Management (Workshop)
- Back to Alternatives: Ahead to Systems Thinking and Planetary Recovery (Workshop)
- CEA: From Individual Challenges to Collective Solutions (Solution room)
- Exit Stage Left: Community Safeguards through Predictable Project Changes (Solution room)
- From Project Activities to Health Outcomes: Mapping Health Impact Pathways (Workshop)
- Impact Assessment for Emerging AI Infrastructure Challenges (Solution room)
- Indigenous Knowledge in Action: A Live Impact Assessment Test (Game/Gaming)
- Institutionalization of HIA: How Ready Are You? (Workshop)
- Ka Mua, Ka Muri: Decoding Storywork for Future Impact Assessment (Workshop)
- Leading with Relationships: Indigenous Perspectives on Impact Assessment (Workshop)
- Legitimizing Psycho-Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) (Fishbowl)
- Materiality Matters: The Ultimate IA Pub Quiz (Game/Gaming)
- Meet the Editor (Workshop)
- Plug in to IAIA: Opportunities to Engage, Learn, and Participate (Workshop)
- SIA Guidance Update: Have Your Say! (Workshop)
- Subjectivity in Impact Assessment: An Interactive Simulation (Game/Gaming)
- The Just Transition Challenge (Game/Gaming)
- Use Artificial Intelligence More Effectively with Tools of Careful Argument (Workshop)
- Voluntary Carbon Market: Human Rights and Social Impact Assessment (Workshop)
- We Assess Environment, Social, Cultural, Health, and Other Effects All at Once (Workshop)
- Women in Impact Assessment: Progress, Barriers, and Uncomfortable Truths (World Cafe)

Conference overview

- The conference will formally begin at 13:00 on Tuesday, 20 April.
- Training courses will be offered 18-19 April.
- Technical visits will be offered 18, 19, and 24 April.

Tentative Program Overview

Check the final program for confirmed dates, times, and events.

	Pre-conference Saturday 17 April	Pre-Conference Sunday 18 April	Pre-Conference Monday 19 April	Conference Day 1 Tuesday 20 April
07:00				
07:30				
08:00		Registration for training courses and technical visits	Registration	Registration
08:30		Technical visits	Technical visits	Newcomer Network meet and greet
09:00		Training courses	Training courses	Exhibits & posters setup
09:30				
10:00				
10:30				
11:00				
11:30				
12:00				Note: Lunch is <u>not</u> provided.*
12:30				
13:00		Registration for training courses and technical visits		Opening plenary
13:30				Exhibits & posters
14:00				Break
14:30				Theme forums
15:00	Registration for training courses and technical visits			
15:30				
16:00				
16:30				
17:00				Poster session and welcome reception
17:30				
18:00				
18:30				
19:00				
19:30 onward				

*Many cafes and restaurants are available near Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre.

Conference overview

- Visit <https://2027.iaia.org/proposed-sessions/> for a full list of proposed sessions.
- The welcome reception will take place on Tuesday, 20 April, and the banquet on Friday, 23 April.

[illegible]

Networking activities and social events

Welcome/Poster Reception

Begin your IAIA27 experience at the Welcome and Poster Reception! Reconnect with colleagues, meet new collaborators, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere as we celebrate the start of an inspiring week in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Take time to explore the conference poster exhibition, where researchers, practitioners, and emerging professionals will be on hand to discuss their work, exchange ideas, and spark new conversations. Whether you're renewing old friendships or making your first IAIA connections, this is the perfect way to launch your conference experience.

Tuesday, 20 April | 17:00-18:30

IAIA Section Meetings: Network and Engage!

Connect with colleagues who share your passions by attending one—or more—of IAIA's Section meetings during IAIA27 (see the full list on page 23). These informal gatherings bring together professionals from around the world to exchange ideas, discuss emerging issues, and explore opportunities for collaboration within their areas of interest. Section meetings are an excellent way to expand your network, contribute your expertise, and help shape the future direction of both IAIA and the practice of impact assessment.

Wednesday 21 April | 17:45-18:45
Thursday 22 April | 17:45 - 18:45

attendees (and other first-timers). One or two veterans at each table will be joined by a group of first-timers in an informal setting to help "break the ice." In addition to getting to know each other, first-timers can ask questions about making the most of their conference experience as well as questions about IAIA in general. After 15 minutes, first-timers move to a different table to start again with a different group. It is also a simple and informal way for veteran attendees to open a door or two for their own social and professional interactions.

Join this meet and greet to connect with a new friend or two. IAIA staff members will also be available to answer questions.

Tuesday 20 April | 10:00-11:30

Awards

2027 award recipients will be recognized during the conference. Join us as we celebrate the outstanding individuals and organizations whose leadership, innovation, and dedication have advanced the practice of impact assessment and strengthened the global IA community. More details to come... stay tuned and help us honor their inspiring accomplishments!

Tag Us!

Post about IAIA27 before, during, and after the conference using **#IAIA27**.

Banquet

Celebrate the conclusion of IAIA27 at the closing banquet—an evening of great food, music, conversation, and camaraderie as we reflect on an inspiring week together in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Reconnect with colleagues, celebrate new friendships and collaborations, and join us in recognizing the experiences that made this year's conference memorable. It's the perfect way to close IAIA27 and look ahead to the future of impact assessment.

Friday 23 April | 19:00 onward
Price: \$75
Pre-registration and extra fee required.

Movie Night

Spend an evening with fellow IAIA27 delegates at a special screening of **How to Live on Earth**, a documentary featuring Benedict Cumberbatch. Through inspiring stories and striking cinematography from around the world, the 96-minute film explores how humans are learning to work with nature to tackle some of our biggest challenges. (<https://howtoliveonearth.net/>)

Lumière Cinemas is an independent two-screen boutique cinema with vintage styling and luxurious seating.

Wednesday 21 April | 19:00-21:30
Price: \$25

Location: Lumière Cinemas (10-13 minute walk from Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre)

Pre-registration and extra fee required. Space is limited to 100 attendees. Price includes film ticket and 1 drink (wine/beer/soft drink). Snacks will be available for purchase.

Newcomer Network

Are you a first-timer or an IAIA conference veteran? Either way, you can benefit from participating in the Newcomer Network! The Newcomer Network offers a warm welcome to those attending our conference for the first time by introducing them to experienced



IAIA training courses will be held 18-19 April 2027 at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre. Separate registration fees apply, and pre-registration is required.

Please register early! Courses will be canceled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 1 March 2027.

Important dates:

- 1 March: Courses without the minimum number of registrants are canceled
- 31 March: Last date to register for or change courses

In consideration of the trainers and their need to prepare appropriate quantities of course materials, registrants may not change courses after 31 March 2027.

About training courses

Who can register? Training courses are open to anyone who registers and pays by 31 March 2027. If you are not also registered for the conference, you will be charged an additional US\$105 fee.

Who teaches the courses? Primarily IAIA members. All course proposals are vetted by IAIA's Training and Professional Development Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, so you can be assured these are experienced, qualified professionals.

What is the class size? Minimum/maximum class sizes are noted in each course description. If the course you choose does not reach the minimum number by 1 March, IAIA HQ will notify you and provide refund information or offer to transfer you to another course.

Where are they held? In person at the conference venue.

How much do they cost and what is included? IAIA's one-day courses are \$330; two-day courses are US\$560. The cost includes course materials, light lunches, coffee breaks, and 15% GST.

Can I add a training course later? If you have already registered for the conference but want to add a training course, you can do so by logging in to your Member Compass. If you have difficulties, contact info@iaia.org with your request. Any additions must be made by 31 March.

What if I need to cancel? If you must cancel, your course registration fee will be refunded minus a US\$125 administrative fee, provided you send written notification to IAIA HQ by 31 March. No refunds will be given after 31 March.

Some details for when you arrive onsite: Check-in for the training courses will be available at the IAIA registration desk in the conference venue. Name tags will be distributed at check-in and are required for admission to courses. Check-in the day before your course begins is encouraged.

Student training course fee waivers

A limited number of free training course registrations are available to student participants of IAIA27 when courses reach their minimum paid enrollments. For application instructions, see page 21.

Training courses

1 A Community-Based Tool for Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in Impact Assessment

This one-day intermediate course provides a rigorous and practical introduction to implementing, monitoring, and evaluating Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in impact assessment contexts. Grounded in international human rights law and community-based practice, the course centers on Equitable Origin's FPIC-360° Tool — the first rights-based, multi-party engagement framework of its kind. Participants will examine the normative foundations of FPIC, analyze implementation challenges across sectors and regions, and use the FPIC-360° Tool to work through real-world case studies covering project-level due diligence, national regulatory procedures, and community capacity building.

The course explicitly addresses how the tool can support impact assessment and independent assurance processes. Specific applications include ESG due diligence, demonstration of FPIC in energy and mining projects, voluntary sustainability standards (e.g., FSC and EO100), carbon offsets, development projects, and as a benchmark for the assurance process itself. This training will combine presentations, facilitated discussions, hands-on tool exercises, small-group work, and peer review, building participants' capacity to design, evaluate, and improve FPIC evaluation processes in their own professional contexts. If you work with—or are responsible for—FPIC implementation, impact assessment, or social assurance, this course offers unique, evidence-based tools and frameworks you can apply immediately.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Experience with social impact assessment and/or community engagement and general knowledge of human rights. Prior knowledge of FPIC is recommended.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (18 April)
Min/Max:	15-50
Price:	\$330
Instructors:	Robert Mugo , Founder & Principal Consultant, RKM Sustainability Services Ltd (Canada) and Kaki Comer , Manager of Standards and Systems, Equitable Origin (USA)

Training courses

2 Grievance Management in Practice: Tools for Effective Implementation

Effective grievance mechanisms are an essential component of environmental and social risk management, helping projects identify concerns early, strengthen stakeholder trust, prevent escalation, and support better development outcomes. Grievance mechanisms also provide an important source of information for adaptive management, helping practitioners identify emerging impacts, monitor mitigation effectiveness, and strengthen project performance over time. However, many grievance mechanisms struggle in practice due to weak design, limited accessibility, unclear procedures, or insufficient institutional capacity.

This practice-oriented course introduces participants to the key principles and practical tools required to design, establish, operate, and monitor effective grievance mechanisms in project settings. Drawing on the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) Managing Grievances Good Practice Note and real project experience, the course combines targeted technical content with case studies, role plays, group exercises, and practical implementation tools.

Participants will work through the core stages of grievance management, including system design, complaint handling, communication, monitoring, and adaptive learning. The course also explores practical considerations for working with existing institutional, government, and community-level grievance systems, and how project-level mechanisms can build on or interface with these structures effectively. Common implementation challenges, including accessibility, confidentiality, retaliation risk, and stakeholder trust will be explored throughout. Designed for impact assessment practitioners, consultants, government counterparts, MDB staff, project implementers, and early-career professionals, the course focuses on practical, transferable approaches applicable across sectors and project types.

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Prerequisites: None

Language: English

Duration: 1 day (18 April)

Min/Max: 15-30

Price: \$330

Instructors: **Reisha Hartley Jones**, Social Safeguards Specialist and Training Consultant (Singapore) and **Zaruhi Hayrapetyan**, Principal Safeguards Specialist, ADB (Philippines)

3 The Person Behind the Practice Building Resilience and Agency for Impact Assessment Professionals

Impact assessment (IA) professionals carry a distinctive burden, working in high-stakes, emotionally demanding environments shaped by contested community contexts, complex multi-stakeholder processes, and roles that are often misunderstood or undervalued. Yet practitioners' inner experiences rarely feature in IA training or professional development. This course addresses that gap.

Developed from applied psychological work with environmental and social teams at leading development finance institutions, it brings evidence-based organizational and social psychology frameworks directly to IA practitioners. It is designed for the broader IA community across sectors and career stages, including practitioners, community and stakeholder professionals, decision makers and regulators, and accountability and dispute resolution professionals. The course explores three interconnected themes:

- **Role clarity and identity** — how ambiguity, conflicting expectations, and gaps between self- and peer-perceptions affect team performance and relationships.
- **Job demands and resources** — balancing sustained work demands with resources that support goal achievement, while developing strategies to prevent burnout and sustain engagement.
- **Emotional processing** — building individual and collective capacity to recognize, understand, and respond adaptively to emotionally triggering experiences inherent to IA work.

Through concise presentations, real-world IA vignettes, individual and group exercises, and peer learning, participants will gain greater insight into their professional experience, practical tools for wellbeing and effectiveness, and a shared language for supporting colleagues and teams.

Level: Beginner

Prerequisites: None

Language: English

Duration: 1 day (18 April)

Min/Max: 8-40

Price: \$330

Instructors: Dr. **Sérgio Moreira**, Learning and SPGrow Manager, Community Insights Group (Portugal) and **Francesco Mazzei**, Consultant and Business Development Coordinator, Community Insights Group (Canada)



Please register early!

Courses will be cancelled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 1 March.

4 Cumulative Effects Assessment

This course summarizes the state of professional practice regarding CEA within IA processes, demonstrates fundamental requirements for CEA for a case study project in New Zealand, illustrates determination of significance of cumulative effects, discusses adaptive management (and monitoring) as follow-up activities for large-scale proposals, and summarizes policy choices and collaboration approaches for the development of cumulative effects mitigation and management initiatives. The presentation made at IAIA26 on Indigenous approaches to the assessment and management of cumulative effects will be extended to IAIA27. We will seek out a Māori speaker or alternative speaker who can discuss Indigenous perspectives on CEA.

The basic premise of the course is that CEA should be an integral part of, and not separate from, both in-country and international IA processes. The fundamental requirements are focused on stepwise procedures with incorporation of international best practice principles. These procedures and principles identify key valued components (VCs), focusing on those for which CEA is appropriate; delineating spatial and temporal boundaries for each of the VCs; describing historical baseline and future conditions and trends; establishing cause-effect linkages between past, present, and future actions and VCs; determining the significance of cumulative effects; and developing of adaptive management and project mitigation (and enhancement for positive effects) and regional management programs, as appropriate to deal with cumulative effects. Practical processes for preparing, reviewing, and managing CEA-related documents will be emphasized, along with presentations on international case studies and workshops involving interactive group work. Practical discussions will be incorporated by the participants and presented to the entire class.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	Foundation training on IA or CEA (professional-level short course or university-level specific course or program); and/or minimum of 2 years in professional experience in planning and conducting IA or CEA for environmental impact studies. (Note: these prerequisites do not apply to student participants.)
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	10-50
Price:	\$560
Instructors:	Dr. Bill Ross , Emeritus Professor of Environmental Design, University of Calgary (Canada), Miles Scott-Brown , Consultant, (Canada), and Michael D. Smith , Director, Environmental Process and Policy, WSP (USA)

5 Human Rights in Impact Assessment

This two-day intermediate level course is designed to provide professionals and decision makers who work in sectors with high risk for human rights, including digital technologies, with information and tools to understand and address human rights impacts, challenges, and opportunities related to the projects.

Through cases and exercises, the participants will discuss human rights impacts in the life cycle and value chain of projects and learn practical ways to operationalize the corporate responsibility to respect human rights as established in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The course includes reflections on the right to a clean and healthy environment and an overview of the regulatory landscape related to business and human rights, as well as reflections on gender dimensions and impacts on Indigenous peoples' rights. The participants will learn and apply principles and methodologies for the identification and assessment of human rights risks and impacts and how to apply a human rights-based approach for a meaningful engagement with workers and communities during impact assessment. Finally, they will learn key considerations on the process and criteria for human rights impact assessment of digital activities, along with practical tools to use in practice.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Some knowledge or experience in developing, commissioning, or reviewing impact assessment or due diligence of physical projects and supply chain. Basic knowledge of human rights or business and human rights standards would be an advantage but is not required. Professionals and students with knowledge of human rights but no previous experience in impact assessment can also participate.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	10-28
Price:	\$560
Instructors:	Gabriela Factor , Chief Adviser, Human Rights, Tech and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark) and Ioana Tuta , Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Technology, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)

Training courses

6 Practical Approaches to Biodiversity Protection in Infrastructure Projects

Infrastructure development has direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts with impacts extending beyond the immediate surroundings where construction and use occur. Many impacts on biodiversity are long term eventually leading to a reduction in available natural habitat, restriction in the movement of fauna, and decline in population sizes of species. The impacts tend to be complex, affecting not only wildlife population dynamics but also ecosystems on which both humans and wildlife depend. With development continuing at a rapid pace, a different approach, i.e., multilevel approach, is required as traditional mitigation approaches based on Environmental Impact Assessments do not capture the impacts of infrastructure on a landscape level.

The focus of the course is to strengthen the application of the mitigation hierarchy at all levels of the project cycle and strengthen linkages between biodiversity protection and good engineering in design, construction and operation across different sectors: roads, hydroelectric projects, wind power, and solar. The course will discuss the multilevel approach to infrastructure development, upstream tools; ecological assessment tools; international standards, good engineering practices at the project level; construction management in sensitive areas; and good practices in offsets planning.

This 2-day course relying on good practice case studies and exercises will demonstrate practical solutions to protect biodiversity. It will also highlight the opportunities for enhancing biodiversity values in infrastructure projects and the use of indigenous and local knowledge for the identification of mitigation measures.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	General knowledge of the EIA process and an interest in protecting biodiversity in the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure development.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	7-25
Price:	\$560
Instructors:	Juan D. Quintero , Director, Environmental Engineering Consultants (USA) and Aradhna Mathur , Sr. Environmental Specialist, The World Bank (USA)

7 Strategic and Systems Thinking for Sustainability (ST4S): Enable Collective Intelligence and Good Communication in Impact Assessment

This training course aims to engage participants in creative ways to perform IA applying strategic thinking in combination with systems thinking to enable transformative changes in processes towards sustainability. It will address the need to be very selective in searching and using relevant information that will enable setting pathways to meet intended future goals and vision. Particularly, communication skills are explored for sharing information and the outputs of the assessment processes, but also and especially for engaging stakeholders in facilitating analysis and assessment using collective thinking. While this course may be relevant to all professionals in IA perhaps it is more adequate for experts wanting to use Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Assessment (SA) with broader, long-term approaches, recognizing the complexity of systems in assessing non-site-specific development intentions, intertwining consideration of social, economic, and environmental issues.

Expected learning outcomes include in-depth knowledge of the added value of applying strategic thinking and systems thinking in future driven development processes, and the differences between a strategic-based approach and an effects-based approach. Learning techniques include dialogues, sharing of experience, short presentations, and case studies as well as participatory systems modeling.

Level:	Advanced
Prerequisites:	Basic knowledge on policymaking, planning and some level of experience with Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	7-30
Price:	\$560
Instructor:	Maria R Partidario , Full Professor, Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST), Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)



8 Complexities of Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration

All resettlement projects are complex. This training course has been developed to focus on the areas of greatest complexity, whether that be due to factors intrinsic to the planned resettlement activities or the context in which the resettlement is being conducted. In many cases, complexities stemming from both directions are experienced at the same time. Resettlement principles and guidance provide an excellent foundation for what to do, but they can't and don't anticipate the sometimes contested and often complex decisions which need to be taken to balance different objectives and oftentimes different priorities. For example, should a project seek to minimize physical displacement for which a robust management approach exists at the expense of greater economic displacement for which management measures are less effective? If resettlement is to be conducted from a human rights lens, what should change? If a project experiences delays during resettlement implementation, what sort of impacts might this generate for communities and how can they be mitigated? How can livelihoods be restored when the opportunity to continue with the same livelihood is no longer a possibility?

The course draws heavily upon the more than 40 years combined global experience of the two trainers and provides opportunities for participants to share the challenges they are experiencing in a collaborative environment to draw lessons from the experience held within the room. While the trainers have much to share, they also see their role as facilitators of a conversation and nurturers of a network of resettlement specialists which will endure beyond the course.

Level:	Advanced
Prerequisites:	At least 2 years of direct experience designing, implementing or auditing resettlement and/or livelihood restoration activities, university degree, and familiarity with the IFC Performance Standards or similar.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	15-40
Price:	\$560
Instructors:	Liz Wall , Shared Resources Pty Ltd (Australia) and Amy Sexton , Sexton Consulting (Australia)

9 Meaningful Public Participation and Impact Assessment: Lessons from 30+ Years of Practice, Current State of the Art, Beyond 2027

Public participation in Impact Assessment is not a new thing. But doing it well remains a challenge for many, particularly in an environment of declining democratic governance. This course draws on the historic roots of engagement in IA, how to plan for and implement meaningful engagement and communications, moving from early models (e.g., Arnstein's 1969 ladder) to state of the art practice, drawing on:

- *Handbook of Public Participation in Impact Assessment* (Burdett and Sinclair, editors, June 2024)
- IAIA Best Practice Principles (BPP) for Public Participation
- International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) pillars/foundations
- Authentic communications insights from IAP2 "pioneers" Bojinka Bishop, Doug Sarno, John Godec, and Dr. Peter Sandman

By course end, participants will be able to:

1. Define meaningful public participation, authentic communications and relationship to IA.
2. Describe public participation evolution in IA, current "state of the art," and ways forward.
3. Develop strategies for meaningful public participation and authentic communication.
4. Identify values, professional ethics, power, and influence in PP in IA.
5. Understand distinctions between different frameworks including IAIA, IAP2, and foundational, essential elements and contextual elements (embedded in *Handbook* and IAIA BPP).
6. Reflect on and apply the principles of inclusion, equity, and intercultural engagement.

Additionally, in a cross-over planned with Course 7 (Maria Rosario Partidario) and Course 14 (Johanna S. Gordon), participants will gain additional insights into embedding next generation engagement principles into their IA approaches, particularly how to engage early and before a policy, plan, program, or project is conceived of, and in a way that views engagement as part of a systems approach to impact assessment.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	Whether working in developed or developing countries, prerequisites include an understanding and awareness of public participation, some understanding of strategic level engagement—beyond project level IA (we use a case study that is very strategic/regionally oriented), and a willingness to adapt your approach and techniques to take them to the next level.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	7-24
Price:	\$560
Instructor:	Tanya Burdett , Director, Essential Planning Ltd (UK/Australia)

Training courses

10 Social Impact Assessment: Contemporary Approaches and Emerging Practice

This interactive course equips participants with contemporary knowledge, practical tools and emerging approaches to strengthen Social Impact Assessment (SIA) practice. Led by experienced SIA practitioners involved in establishing the world's first SIA Practitioner Certification, the course provides a valuable opportunity to learn from leading practice in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, and internationally.

Participants will explore innovative approaches to social baselining, including the use of GIS and AI, impact significance assessment, community engagement and participation, mitigation and benefit-sharing, co-creation and co-benefit agreements, and participatory monitoring and governance. The course also examines how national and international standards, including IAIA guidance, the Equator Principles, international finance standards and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, inform contemporary SIA practice.

Through practical activities, case studies and group reflection, participants will apply techniques to their own projects and learn strategies for identifying, mitigating, and addressing negative social impacts while improving social benefits and supporting wellbeing and equitable outcomes.

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Prerequisites: At least five years' in-field experience in related fields/roles, including professionals in SIA, ESG, social performance, or sustainability roles; SIA practitioners or consultants working on project development; specialists in regulatory agencies, project developers, financial institutions that lend to projects, or consultancies; professional or academic experience similar to the above. Intermediate to advanced experience with social impact assessment. This includes practice, research, policy, and governance.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (18-19 April)

Min/Max: 15-35

Price: \$560

Instructors: Professor **Sara Bice**, Co-Founder and Director, Institute for Infrastructure in Society, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University (Australia), Professor **Ana Maria Esteves**, Director, Community Insights Group (Netherlands), Dr. **Richard Parsons**, Principal, RP Social Research (Australia)

11 Using Psycho-Social Impact Assessment in Impact Assessment

Recent IAIA webinars and conference sessions reflect a growing interest among IA practitioners and those who commission projects, to learn how to conduct psycho-social impact assessment (PSIA). This may be alone or incorporated in SIA, HIA, Indigenous IA, or other practice. PSIA identifies and communicates emotional, social, and cultural effects from significant environmental changes among individuals, households, and communities, such as from pollution or resource development.

Day 1 opens with an overview of PSIA, with case examples illustrating rationale for documenting—or forecasting—effects on individuals, families, communities, institutions and societies. Mitigation and monitoring steps and coping strategies for communities will be described next. Then, requirements of statutory processes will be contrasted with the focus of community-led processes and Indigenous perspectives. The afternoon addresses methods for conducting PSIA, mainly qualitative research augmented by Edelstein's Theory of Environmental Turbulence to analyze findings for reporting or arguing a case. Case material will illustrate how to apply PSIA to varied IA settings.

Day 2 will be highly participatory. Small groups are guided in developing concrete approaches to integrate PSIA into participants' own impact assessment projects or ones they commission, supervise, or monitor.

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Prerequisites: Familiarity or experience with Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), or cumulative impact assessment is an advantage, particularly for Day 2.

Language: English

Duration: 2 days (18-19 April)

Min/Max: 7-40

Price: \$560

Instructors: **Michael R. Edelstein**, Professor Emeritus, Environmental Psychology, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Programs, Ramapo College of New Jersey (USA) and **Helen Ross**, Professor Emeritus, Rural Development, School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability, The University of Queensland (Australia)

12 Integrating Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Assessment into Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA): Practical Tools for Sustainable Development

Climate change is reshaping the risk landscape for development projects worldwide, creating new challenges for environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) practitioners. Traditional ESIA approaches often focus on how projects affect environmental and social systems, but increasingly there is a need to assess how climate hazards and disaster risks may affect project performance, sustainability and long-term viability.

This interactive two-day training course provides participants with practical tools and methodologies for integrating climate resilience and disaster risk assessment into ESIA processes. Participants will learn how to identify and assess climate hazards, evaluate exposure and vulnerability, conduct climate risk screening, develop adaptation measures, and incorporate resilience principles into project planning and decision-making.

Drawing on the best international practices, lessons from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and case studies including Christchurch earthquake recovery, Hurricane Dorian and Cyclone Winston, the course combines technical presentations, practical exercises, group discussions and a capstone project.

Participants will leave with practical templates, checklists, risk assessment tools and a structured framework that can be applied immediately within their own professional practice.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Participants should possess a basic understanding of environmental and social impact assessment, environmental management, planning, climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, or related disciplines.
Language:	English
Duration:	2 days (18-19 April)
Min/Max:	7-25
Price:	\$560
Instructor:	Patrina N. Pollard Harris , Founder & Principal Consultant PPH Professional Consultancy & Services (Turks and Caicos Islands)

13 Two Waka, One Direction: Integrating First Nations Knowledge through Dual Value Impact Assessment

First Nations knowledge systems contribute important insights and context to technical impact assessment grounded in long term relationships with place, lived experience, stewardship responsibilities, collective wellbeing, and intergenerational responsibility. The future of impact assessment may not lie in choosing between knowledge systems but in understanding how they can be applied together to support more equitable, enduring, and effective outcomes: Two Waka (canoes), One Direction.

This training explores how First Nations knowledge can be meaningfully integrated with technical impact assessment (IA) and impact management processes, and the benefits and opportunities of a Dual Value Impact Assessment (DVIA) approach. Participants will examine opportunities for First Nations knowledge to enhance technical knowledge through the impact assessment process. Through practical frameworks, tools, and case-based exercises, participants will learn approaches to authentic co-design, knowledge integration, and relationship-building with First Nations stakeholders and partners.

This course is designed for culturally competent IA practitioners, ESG/CSR and engagement professionals who are ready to move beyond consultation-based approaches to authentic co-design, embedding First Nations knowledge and values into impact assessment and supporting culturally informed decision making for sustainable outcomes. It may also be of value to First Nations representatives interested in impact assessment.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	Minimum 2 years working in impact assessment or project-based engagement with/representing First Nations peoples and knowledge of/experience working with United Nations Human Rights and Rights of Indigenous Peoples guidance or similar global standards.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (19 April)
Min/Max:	12-25
Price:	\$285
Instructors:	Julie Boucher , Principal, Social Sustainability and Planning, Just Add Lime (New Zealand) and Gladys Henderson , Economic Strategist, ā-Rautaki (New Zealand)

Training courses

14 Systems Thinking and Modeling for IA: Navigating Complexity through Time and Space

Practitioners of IA are acutely aware of the presence of systems. The challenge, however, lies not in naming systems, but in understanding, anticipating, and accounting for the complex web of tangible and intangible elements affected by a project or plan.

This interactive training course introduces systems thinking and modeling as a vital competency for professionals working in IA, particularly in today's context of escalating complexity, information overload, and stakeholder fragmentation.

Participants will learn how to recognize, analyze, and respond to complexity caused by interconnections, feedback loops, and cross-sectoral dynamics that conventional IA methods often overlook. The course also addresses how systems thinking and participatory systems modeling can help counter misinformation, anticipate unintended consequences, identify cumulative effects, and improve the clarity and credibility of IA communication.

Through practical exercises, a semi-real case study, and structured tools, participants will be equipped to move beyond linear cause-effect logic and toward adaptive, integrated, and communicable approaches to handling complexity in IA. The course blends analytical rigor with participatory practice, equipping IA professionals to navigate complexity, uncertainty, and conflicting stakeholder narratives more effectively. It builds capacity not only for technical analysis but also for strategic sense-making and stakeholder dialogue in complex planning and policy contexts.

Level:	Intermediate/Advanced
Prerequisites:	Participants should have basic knowledge of policymaking, planning, and some level of experience in working with IA, i.e. understanding the multitude of sectors that are included in an IA, whether it is an EIA, SEA, CEA, SIA or other, as the course is about handling and communicating information and complexity. Furthermore, participants should exhibit an openness and readiness to learn about a (new) methodology and tools for the application in their own work context.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (19 April)
Min/Max:	7-30
Price:	\$330
Instructor:	Johanna S. Gordon , Systems Thinking and Analysis (Germany)

15 IFC Performance Standard 6 in Impact Assessment: From Biodiversity Risk to No Net Loss and Net Gain

IFC Performance Standard 6 is one of the most influential global frameworks for biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment, lender due diligence, mitigation hierarchy planning, and demonstrable no-net-loss or net-gain outcomes. This one-day interactive course familiarizes participants with the application of PS6 across development sectors where biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural habitat or critical habitat risk may affect project design, approval, financing, implementation or social license.

Drawing on Nature Positive's previous experience delivering this training work with FMO, the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank, the course translates PS6 requirements into practical tools for impact assessment practitioners, lenders, regulators, developers and environmental and social teams. Participants will work through applied exercises on critical habitat assessment, baseline scoping, PS6-aligned ESIA terms of reference, alternatives analysis, impact significance, mitigation hierarchy design, offsets and compensation, expert involvement, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and adaptive management.

Although selected case examples will be drawn from renewable energy, infrastructure and other development contexts, the course is designed to be sector-agnostic. The emphasis is on transferable decision-making: how to identify material biodiversity risks early, scope assessments that support better project decisions, interpret uncertainty, and design credible pathways toward no net loss or net gain.

Level:	Intermediate
Prerequisites:	As this is an intermediate-level course, participants will be asked to complete a short pre-course primer provided before the course to introduce key concepts and terminology.
Language:	English
Duration:	1 day (19 April)
Min/Max:	9-20
Price:	\$330
Instructors:	Dr. Robin Mitchell , Director, Nature Positive (New Zealand), Dr. Joseph Altobelli , Senior Consultant, Nature Positive (New Zealand), and Dr. Katherine Dixon , Director, Nature Positive (New Zealand)

Please register early!

Technical visits will be canceled if they do not reach the minimum number of paid participants by 1 March 2027.

Important dates:

1 March: Visits without the minimum registrants after this date are canceled

31 March: Last date to register

About technical visits

Who can register? IAIA27 delegates and their guests can register for technical visits at the same rate.

How do I secure my spot? You must be pre-registered and pre-paid by 31 March. If you have difficulties, contact info@iaia.org with your request. Any additions must be made by 31 March.

Can I add a technical visit later? If you have already registered for the conference but want to add a technical visit for you or a guest, you can do so by logging in to your Member Compass. If you have difficulties, contact info@iaia.org with your request. Any additions must be made by 31 March.

How many people are on each visit?

Minimum/maximum numbers are noted in each description. If the visit you choose does not reach the minimum number by 1 March, IAIA HQ will notify you and provide refund information or offer to transfer you to another visit.

Where do we meet? Technical visits depart from the conference venue. Plan to check in for the visit a minimum of 15 minutes prior to noted departure time. Buses will leave on time. Late arrivals will not be admitted.

What if I need to cancel? If you must cancel, the fee will be refunded, less an administrative fee of 25% of the technical visit cost, provided we receive written cancellation notice by 31 March. No refunds will be given after that date.

Liability statement: IAIA, the organizing committee, and the venue will not be responsible for medical expenses, accidents, losses or other unexpected damage to property belonging to conference participants, either during or as a result of the conference and during all tours and events. Participants are strongly advised to arrange their own insurance for health and accident, lost luggage and trip cancellation.

Participants will be required to sign a liability release waiver upon check-in for the visits.

Technical visits

A | WAIPARA: CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION

This visit considers impacts and adaptations to climate change. The first stop is Amberley Beach, an hour north of Ōtautahi Christchurch, to consider the planned retreat of the village to safer ground due to sea level rise and associated hazards from storm events and coastal erosion. The tour will discuss coastal planning and long-term impacts of climate change on land-use in the Waipara area. Lunch will be at a local winery, where we will discuss land-use change with irrigation from an on-farm water storage scheme, development of the wine area, the cycle trail and visitor sector.

Sunday 18 April

Depart 08:30 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 20-50

Price \$117 Price includes transportation, morning tea, wine tastings, lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Must be 18 years or older. Wear walking shoes, rain jacket, sunscreen; bring water bottle.

B | ŌTAUTAHİ CHRISTCHURCH CITY REGENERATION

In February 2011, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake caused severe damage in Ōtautahi Christchurch and Ōhinehou Lyttelton. Many buildings were damaged and there was also substantial damage to infrastructure with two thirds of the buildings in the central business district subsequently demolished. The tour will start at Quake City, followed by a walking tour through the city center to explore the initial impacts of the earthquake, the immediate response, the process of reimagining the city center, community decision making, and the subsequent redevelopment. The objectives included improved walkability, attractions for all ages, a focus on the river, and highlighting of Indigenous and amenity values.

Sunday 18 April

Depart 08:45 | **Return** 12:45

Level of physical activity: Low; walking around city

Minimum-Maximum 10-15

Price \$131 Price includes admission fee, guided tour, morning tea, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear walking shoes, jacket, hat. Bring sunscreen, umbrella/rain gear, water bottle.

C | LYTTTELTON PORT TOUR AND HARBOR CRUISE

Lyttelton Port (LPC) is the largest port on Te Waipounamu the South Island, located in the beautiful Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour. The visit will begin at a lookout with a panoramic view of the harbor before boarding a ferry for a waterside tour of the port. Participants will learn about LPC's Environment & Sustainability Strategy and approach to assessing major development projects, including engagement with Māori and local communities. This will be followed by a tour of the harbor and a late lunch at a Lyttelton restaurant, showcasing local kai (food) and seasonal New Zealand produce.

Sunday 18 April

Depart 09:00 | **Return** 16:30

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 25-33

Price \$154 Price includes transportation, ferry tour, morning tea, lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear wind-proof jacket and warm clothes for on-water ferry; bring sunscreen and water bottle.

D | ŌTAUTAHİ CHRISTCHURCH RED ZONE: RESILIENT, NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY FUTURES (HALF DAY BIKE TRIP)

A gentle bike ride (approximately 8km return trip) along the City to Sea pathway, the tour follows the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor from Te Pae through the "Red Zone," where around 7000 residential properties were compulsorily acquired by the government following the Canterbury earthquakes due to extensive land damage and increased natural hazard risk. Participants will explore a significant post-disaster recovery and regeneration programme, examining how lessons from the earthquakes continue to influence planning, community decision-making, ecological restoration and climate resilience. The tour follows landscapes permanently affected by liquefaction, flooding and ground deformation and now being reimagined for future generations.

Sunday 18 April

Depart 12:00 | **Return** 16:30

Level of physical activity: Moderate; option of bike or ebike

Minimum-Maximum 15-28

Price \$55 Price includes bike hire, afternoon tea, 15% GST.

Special notes Must be competent on a bike. Wear comfortable shoes, layered clothing, and rain jacket. Bring sunscreen, water bottle and snacks if required, and/or cash or card for snacks.



Technical visits

E | ANTARCTICA: SCIENCE, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Join Antarctica New Zealand, the Antarctic Heritage Trust and the International Antarctic Centre for a unique exploration of Antarctica as a globally-significant natural laboratory for environmental change. Presentations at Antarctica New Zealand will introduce New Zealand's Antarctic program and explore Antarctic science, long-term environmental monitoring, climate change, environmental stewardship, and the role of evidence in management and policy. The Antarctic Heritage Trust will share its work conserving Antarctica's historic sites and stories. Participants will then take a guided tour of the International Antarctic Centre and its interactive exhibits*. The visit connects impact assessment practice with environmental change in Antarctica.

Monday 19 April

Depart 08:00 | **Return** 15:30

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 20-37

Price \$127 Price includes transportation, admission fee, lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Bring water bottle. *The Hågglund ride is not permitted for pregnant women or individuals with heart, neck, or back conditions.

H | ŌTAUTAHU CHRISTCHURCH RED ZONE: RESILIENT, NATURE-BASED COMMUNITY FUTURES (FULL DAY BUS TRIP)

Travel by bus to coastal New Brighton exploring the "Red Zone," where the Government compulsorily acquired around 7000 residential properties following the 2011 Canterbury earthquakes due to extensive land damage and increased natural hazard risks. We will examine a significant post-disaster recovery and regeneration program, exploring how lessons from the earthquakes continue to influence planning, decision-making and climate resilience. Participants will visit key locations and learn how recovery has evolved into a long-term regeneration program centered on the river. Speakers will discuss integrating flood management, ecological restoration, active transport, recreation, climate adaptation and community aspirations to transform former residential neighborhoods.

Monday 19 April

Depart 08:45 | **Return** 15:00

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 20-35

Price \$83 Price includes transportation, morning tea, lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear comfortable layered clothing, rain jacket, sunscreen, and walking shoes; bring water bottle.

F | CENTRAL PLAINS IRRIGATION

Cross the Canterbury Plains to the Rakaia River intake of Central Plains Water Irrigation stopping for a presentation on the project. Consider planning for the scheme enabling intensified farming over 45,000 ha, shifting water sources from depleted aquifers to run-of-river supplies. At the scenic intake, view the intake weir and fish screens. See villages and small towns affected, a managed aquifer recharge point and learn about impacts of intensified dairy farming. These include water allocation, system design, social-economic impacts and impacts on ground and surface water, water quality, ecology, recreational fisheries and traditional food gathering.

Monday 19 April

Depart 08:15 | **Return** 17:00

Level of physical activity: Low; walking

Minimum-Maximum 20-47

Price \$90 Price includes transportation, morning tea, box lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear walking shoes, warm clothing, rain jacket; bring sunscreen and water bottle and cash or card for afternoon refreshments at a local café.

I | TĀWHAKI: ANCESTRAL LANDS AND AEROSPACE FUTURES

Join this day trip to Kaitorete to learn about a unique partnership between Māori and the New Zealand Government. At the heart of Tāwhaki is a kaupapa (purpose) to advance Aotearoa's aerospace industry and rejuvenate the whenua (land) to create a model for sustainable innovation and intergenerational opportunity. You will visit Te Waiotemapua, and hear about work to restore this important kāinga nohoanga (settlement site) and mahinga kai (food-gathering place). You will then visit the Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre and hear from Indigenous knowledge holders about how aerospace is providing opportunities to exercise decision-making authority and long-term stewardship of ancestral lands.

Monday 19 April

Depart 09:00 | **Return** 17:00

Level of physical activity: Moderate to high

Minimum-Maximum 25-37

Price \$101 Price includes transportation, box lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear good walking shoes, warm layered clothing, wind- and rain-proof jacket, hat, sunscreen; bring water bottle and snacks if required.

G | RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN AKAROA

Visit Akaroa, a small, harborside French settlement, for a guided tour of a municipal wastewater treatment system with land-based treatment and sub-surface wetlands co-designed by the local council and iwi (local indigenous Māori) to improve harbor water quality. This will be followed by an afternoon cruise on the harbor, home to one of the world's smallest and rarest dolphins—Hector's Dolphin. Learn about the establishment and operation of the Akaroa Marine Reserve, and efforts to protect the area's diverse sealife including penguins, seals and sea birds.

Monday 19 April

Depart 08:30 | **Return** 17:30

Level of physical activity: Low; walking, some hills

Minimum-Maximum 20-37

Price \$155 Price includes transportation, cruise, box lunch, 15% GST.

Special notes Sun protection and rain gear advised. If you are prone to motion sickness, take appropriate preventative measures. Offensive odors could be encountered, but these will be temporary and not harmful to health as you will be in a well-ventilated open air environment. Bring hand sanitizer and water bottle.

J | ŌTĀKARO AVON RIVER WALK: HISTORY AND FUTURE OF URBAN WATER

This walking tour follows the Ōtākaro Avon River through central Ōtautahi Christchurch, examining how cultural values, urban water management and post-earthquake regeneration have shaped the city's evolving relationship with its waterways. Participants will visit a series of locations along the river corridor and hear from practitioners involved in design, ecology, cultural initiatives and infrastructure delivery before finishing at the historic Antigua Boatsheds. The tour explores the history of the river, its cultural significance, the legacy of urbanization and drainage, and contemporary approaches to river restoration, flood resilience, active transport, water-sensitive urban design, and public realm regeneration.

Monday 19 April

Depart 13:00 | **Return** 16:00

Level of physical activity: Low; walking tour

Minimum-Maximum 15-30

Price \$17 Price includes guided tour, 15% GST.

Special notes Wear comfortable layered clothing, rain jacket, sunscreen, and walking shoes; bring water bottle. Following the tour, you may wish to bring cash or card for drinks or dinner at Riverside Market from the wide range of vendors.

Technical visits and financial aid opportunities

K | WAIMAKIRIRI GORGE CANYON SAFARI JETBOAT TOUR

Travel to the Waimakariri River gorge, where the river emerges from the mountains and becomes a braided river to the sea. Take a thrilling ride through the Gorge. Learn about multiple values and uses of the river and the history of the area. At Jet Boat World learn about the jet boat as an iconic local invention, have a lunch of gourmet burgers and hear about high country farming in the area. See merino (fine wool) lambs and explore a gentle native forest walk, visiting some remaining, magnificent podocarp trees that used to cover the foothills. Purchase local products such as manuka honey and lanoline oils.

Saturday 24 April

Depart 09:00 | **Return** 17:00

Level of physical activity: Low

Minimum-Maximum 25-37

Price \$205 Price includes lunch, transportation, tour of Jet Boat centre, 15% GST.

Special notes Pregnant women are advised not to partake in jetboating. People with medical concerns should mention them at time of booking. Bring water bottle, jacket, hat, gloves, and sunglasses, and wear warm layered clothing.



With over 900 delegates from 80+ nations around the world, IAIA27 is your opportunity to network with professionals and learn about current best practice principles, recent tools, and techniques for impact assessment.

A discounted student registration fee is available, as are other financial aid opportunities for students, young practitioners, and others.

Read more about these opportunities and apply online at:

<https://2027.iaia.org/financial-aid-opportunities/>

Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship

The Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship honors the legacy that IAIA's former CEO has left on the organization and the field of impact assessment. This scholarship allows young practitioners in the region of the host country to attend the IAIA annual conference. Potential candidates are those who:

- Have never attended an IAIA annual conference in the past.
- Have submitted an abstract to present a paper at IAIA27 by the 2 November abstract deadline.

The application deadline is **8 January 2027**.

Student Training Course Fee Waivers

A limited number of free training course registrations are available to student participants of IAIA27 once courses reach their minimum paid enrollments. If you are interested, please send the following to kiesha@iaia.org:

1. Your name
2. A 300-word statement of interest explaining how the chosen training course could contribute to your research or student career
3. Proof of full-time student status (proof can be provided in the following forms: a copy of a recent transcript or a letter from an administrative professional indicating your full-time student status)
4. First and second course choices (see courses listed on pages 11-18).

Applications for free course registrations will be accepted from **1-19 March 2027**. Allocations of the free training course slots will be made by 23 March 2027 based on the order in which the requests were received and subject to instructor approval.

Sponsors and exhibitors

Sponsorship opportunities

Reach **over 900 key participants** in the global impact assessment community, representing over 80 nations.

Sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to sustainability to delegates from around the world while you contribute to the improvement of impact assessment locally and globally.

WHO WILL YOU REACH?

- Government
- Consultants
- Private Sector
- Development Banks
- Education & Research
- NGOs
- Law Firms
- Affected Peoples

DID YOU KNOW? 63% of IAIA members are executive/senior level.

WHY SPONSOR IAIA27?

IAIA is the only interdisciplinary international association dedicated to impact assessment. Our annual conferences bring together a unique mix of experts and professionals and a unique opportunity for you to promote your organization. Recent conferences have included between 800 and 1,400 delegates from 80+ countries.

- Increase your visibility before an international audience of environmental and social professionals.
- Be recognized as a global thought leader.
- Demonstrate your commitment to sustainability and corporate social responsibility.
- Be associated with other industry leaders.
- Ensure that your company or institution information is forefront during the conference.
- Enhance your presence internationally.
- Give your staff the opportunity to network with leading practitioners and experts.
- Ensure that your company will be remembered by the delegates long after the event is over.

What benefits do sponsors receive?

Exclusive opportunities and customized sponsorship packages are available for any budget. Benefits for sponsors may include:

- Complimentary registrations
- Online recognition on the IAIA27 sponsors page
- Pre-event recognition in social media posts and IAIA enews
- Onsite recognition via signage and nametag ribbons
- Training discounts and customized professional development
- Direct access to global thought leaders
- And more!

INTERESTED? CONTACT US!

Contact us to create a package just right for you.

Caitlyn Grimm, IAIA HQ
caitlyn@iaia.org | +1 701 297 7908

If you are in Australia or New Zealand, contact:

Lachlan Wilkinson, Conference Co-chair
LWilkinson@jbsg.com.au | +61 421603721

To ensure that you receive all promised benefits, please confirm your sponsorship by **5 March 2027**. After that date, benefits cannot be guaranteed.

Check out the benefits available to your company by downloading the full IAIA27 sponsorship prospectus and asset guide at <https://2027.iaia.org/sponsors-exhibitors/>



EXHIBITORS

Advertise your company or demonstrate your project: prominent display space is available! Contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org) before **5 March 2027** for information and rates on exhibit booths.

Meet the IAIA Sections!

IAIA has special-interest Sections that cover different types and aspects of impact assessment.

IAIA Sections provide opportunities for IAIA members with these mutual interests to share experiences and discuss ideas in an informal setting. Sections provide a forum for active topical debate and for development and promotion of good practice. Some Sections have a rolling program of work throughout the year and all have opportunities to meet virtually during the year.

The members of the Sections and their activities are the lifeblood of IAIA: through the Sections, IAIA members can feed into the organization of each annual conference, publish different materials, and develop new lines of thought.

Why get involved in Sections?

- Sections are a networking forum for IAIA members, where you can meet your colleagues with similar professional interests.
- Sections promote your personal professional development.
- Sections develop interesting activities that you may want to join.
- See www.iaia.org/sections for more information.

Where can I find the Sections at the annual conference?

- Each Section will hold a Section meeting during the conference, which everyone is welcome to attend (see page 10). The meeting schedule will be posted in the final program.
- All sessions that have been organized by the Sections are clearly identified in the final program.
- Section chairs will be identified by ribbons on their name tags so that you can find them during the conference.

Any questions?

IAIA members, reach out to the Section Chairs on the IAIA Hub. Non-members, contact info@iaia.org, or visit www.iaia.org/sections for more information.



Academia

Thomas Fischer

Reece Alberts

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Ijeoma F. Vincent-Akpu

Juan Carlos Tejada Gonzalez

AI & Emerging Technology

Valentina Cavanna

Anna Chadarevian

Giuseppe Magro

Biodiversity & Ecology

Denny Grossman

Jo Treweek

Climate Change

Katie Fineran

Andreea Nita

Cultural Heritage

Chris Polglase

Patrick Patiwaël

Cumulative Effects

Angeles Mendoza Sammet

Barry Wilson

Disasters & Conflict

Charles Kelly

Tracy Hart

Governance and Implementation Systems

Cheryl Wasserman

Giuseppe Magro

Health

Ryngan Pyper

Valentina Cavanna

Liz Berghuis-Mutubuki

Indigenous Peoples

Diana Lewis

Dyanna Jolly

Dee Roy

Camilia Zoe-Chocolate

Public Participation

John Sinclair

Timothy J. Peirson-Smith

Tanya Burdett

Social Impact Assessment

Irge Satiroglu

Katherine Witt

Ilse Aucamp

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Dennis van Peppen

Arend Kolhoff

Students and Young Professionals

Alejandra Parra

Aarin Shapiro

Conference information

LOCATION AND DATES

IAIA27 will take place from 20-23 April 2027 at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre with adjunct events planned before, during, and after the conference. Activities will take place at the convention center unless otherwise noted.

The address is 188 Oxford Terrace, Christchurch, New Zealand | <https://www.tepae.co.nz/>

LANGUAGE USED (CONFERENCE)

English is the primary language used at IAIA conferences. Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will be held in English.

FINAL PROGRAM AND MOBILE APP

This preliminary program contains the tentative schedule and plans; be sure to check the final program to confirm details of activities in which you would like to participate. Please note registration deadlines for special events.

To conserve paper, IAIA plans to have a minimal final program. It will be posted in PDF on the website approximately three weeks prior to the conference, and it will be available in hard copy at conference check-in at the convention center.

The final program will also be available in the IAIA27 mobile app, which delegates can use to search for sessions and speakers, select favorite sessions to create a personal agenda, take notes, and more. The mobile app will be available approximately two weeks prior to the conference.

PUBLICATIONS

IAIA plans to publish optional conference papers and PowerPoint slides online following the conference. A Program Committee representative will contact you with details after your paper or poster abstract is accepted.

Participants are also encouraged to submit their papers for possible publication in IAIA's journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*. See www.tandfonline.com/r/iapa for submission information.

CONFERENCE ATTIRE

IAIA conferences are generally business casual.

PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT

PowerPoint projectors and laptop computers will be provided in each session room. Presenters are responsible for arranging and paying in advance for any other equipment needed for their presentations. Contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org) for price information and to order equipment by 13 January 2027. For on-site inquiries, payment will be required at time of request, and IAIA cannot guarantee that equipment will be available.

BUSINESS SERVICES

To avoid equipment rental costs which would necessarily be passed on to delegates in the form of higher registration fees, IAIA does not provide copying, printing, phone chargers, computers or other business services or equipment on-site. Please plan to arrive prepared, or contact your hotel in advance to ensure that it offers any facilities you may need.

MEALS

IAIA will provide lunches 21-23 April and coffee breaks 20-23 April at the convention center.

Lunch will not be provided on 20 April.

Special dietary requirements: Please indicate any food allergies or special dietary requirements during registration by selecting from the options provided by the venue. The venue will use this information to assist with catering arrangements; however, accommodation of individual requirements cannot be guaranteed. Attendees who indicate a food allergy will be contacted directly by the venue.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a disability and/or have special accessibility needs and require assistance, please contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org | +1.701.297.7908) by 31 March 2027 to discuss your specific needs.

VIDEO/AUDIO POLICY

Individuals officially identified by IAIA may photograph, videotape, and/or audiotape conference events. By attending the conference, you agree to allow your image to be used by IAIA. Individuals are not permitted to record with personal audio or video equipment or other devices such as cell phones, cameras, AI notetakers, or recorders without prior permission from IAIA and the speaker/presenter.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

IAIA, the organizing committee, and the venue will not be responsible for medical expenses, accidents, losses, or other unexpected damage to property belonging to conference participants, either during or as a result of the conference and during all tours and events. Participants are strongly advised to arrange their own insurance for health and accident, lost luggage, and trip cancellation.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

All conference participants, including delegates, session chairs, invited speakers, organizers, exhibitors, and paper and poster presenters, are required to register for the conference at the in-person or exhibitor rate.

IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and/or travel expenses for program participants.

In-person delegates will receive a name badge upon check-in. The badge is an official pass and must be worn to obtain entry to conference functions. If tickets are required for any events, they will be distributed by HQ. All delegates will receive access instructions for the mobile app in advance of the conference.

PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICIES

Registration fees should accompany the registration form. **To qualify for the Early Bird rate, both the registration form and payment must be received by 13 January 2027.** Fees are accepted by MasterCard, Visa, or American Express and are charged in US Dollars (US\$). Checks made payable to IAIA in USD drawn on a US bank are also accepted.

Registration closes 31 March 2027. Pre-registration and pre-payment by 31 March are required. Cash payments on-site will not be accepted.

IAIA will refund registration fees upon written request received before 31 March 2027. A processing fee of 25%, not to exceed US\$125, will be retained. **After 31 March, no refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows.** Substitutions for paid registrants may be made in writing without financial penalty. Refunds will be issued after the conference. The refunded amount may differ depending on exchange rates.

HOST CITY

Nestled on the east coast of Aotearoa New Zealand's Te Waipounamu South Island, Ōtautahi Christchurch is a vibrant city where innovation meets natural beauty. Known as the "Garden City," it blends historic charm with bold contemporary design, shaped by a remarkable spirit of recovery, resilience, and renewal. With the Ōtākaro Avon River winding through its revitalized center, easy access to beaches and the Port Hills, and the Southern Alps just beyond, Ōtautahi Christchurch offers a unique balance of urban energy and outdoor adventure.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

IAIA has arranged room blocks at select hotels. See more information at <https://2027.iaia.org/Plan-Your-Stay/>.

CLIMATE

April is one of the most pleasant times to visit Ōtautahi Christchurch, as autumn brings mild temperatures, crisp mornings, and colorful seasonal foliage. Daytime temperatures typically range from 16–19°C (61–66°F), while evenings cool to around 7–10°C (45–50°F). Rainfall is generally moderate, and visitors can expect a mix of sunny days and occasional showers.

LANGUAGE USED

English is the primary language spoken in Ōtautahi Christchurch and throughout New Zealand. New Zealand also recognizes Māori and New Zealand Sign Language as official languages, and visitors will often see Māori place names and greetings alongside English.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All attendees traveling from outside New Zealand are responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate documentation to enter the country. Depending on your nationality and length of stay, you may need either a **New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority** (NZeTA) or a **Visitor Visa**. Attendees are strongly encouraged to check New Zealand's entry requirements as early as possible and, if a visa is required, to apply well in advance of travel. For the latest visa requirements, application information, and processing times, visit the **Immigration New Zealand** website. Attendees must also complete a **New Zealand Traveller Declaration** (NZTD) before arriving in New Zealand. Find links to these and other helpful sites at <https://2027.iaia.org/Plan-Your-Stay/>.

Also be sure to check transit visa and electronic authority requirements of transit countries, especially Australia.

Need an invitation letter? You must register for IAIA27 first! A link to request your letter is included in the registration confirmation email.

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch International Airport is located 10km from the central city - about 20 minutes by car.

Taxi: From airport to city is around NZD\$40 - \$60. Taxis are available directly outside the international arrivals area.

Uber: From airport to city is around NZD\$30 - \$40. Uber pick up area is directly outside the international arrivals area.

Super Shuttle: This is a popular shared, door-to-door multi-passenger van service operating 24/7. You can find the Super Shuttle rank outside international arrivals. Booking in advance is recommended. Prices start around NZD\$25.

Bus: Metro bus from airport to city is regular, and costs just NZD\$3. Contactless payments such as debit or credit card and smart devices are accepted (no cash).

Car rental: All the main rental car companies have bases at the airport and in the central city.

Getting around: Ōtautahi Christchurch central city is flat, compact and walkable. Delegates should be able to easily walk between the conference venue, accommodation, and all key city highlights.

BUSINESS HOURS

In Ōtautahi Christchurch, most businesses operate Monday to Friday, typically opening around 09:00 and closing between 17:00 and 17:30. Retail stores and shopping centers generally open from around 09:00 to 18:00, with some offering later trading hours on selected days. On weekends, many shops are open from around 10:00 to 17:00, although hours vary. Restaurants, cafés, and businesses in central and tourist areas often have extended hours, while banks and government offices generally follow standard weekday business hours.

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar. As of September 2026, the conversion rate is approximately NZD\$1.00 to USD\$0.59. Foreign currency exchange is available at the airport, and ATMs are readily available throughout the city. Contactless payment, Visa, and Mastercard are widely accepted, while American Express is accepted at some establishments.

TIPPING

Tipping is not customary in New Zealand, as service staff are generally paid fair wages and excellent service is considered part of the experience. While tips are always appreciated for exceptional service, they are entirely optional, and visitors should never feel obligated to leave one in restaurants, taxis, hotels, or cafés.

ELECTRICITY

New Zealand uses a 230/240-volt electrical system with a frequency of 50 Hz. Power outlets accept Type I plugs, which have two or three flat angled pins.

TAXES

New Zealand includes a 15% Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the advertised price of most goods and services, so the price you see is generally the price you pay. There are no additional state or local sales taxes.

Most international visitors entering New Zealand are also required to pay the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) when applying for a visa or New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA), helping to support tourism infrastructure and conservation efforts.

ANZAC WEEKEND

Sunday 25 April is ANZAC Day in Australia and New Zealand. Shops and hospitality businesses will be closed until 13:00 and visitors are welcome to attend public events. This is a "long" weekend, with a public holiday on Monday 26 April. Flights and accommodations will be busy in main holiday locations. In New Zealand, on 25-26 April businesses can charge a public holiday surcharge (must clearly display if they are charging it).

VISITOR INFORMATION/ HELPFUL SITES

ChristchurchNZ - Visit Ōtautahi Christchurch & Canterbury: <https://www.christchurchnz.com/visit>

100% Pure New Zealand: <https://www.newzealand.com/>

Christchurch Airport: <https://www.christchurchairport.nz/travellers/flights/when-you-arrive/>

Immigration New Zealand - Visitor Information: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/visit/what-you-need-to-visit-new-zealand/>



About IAIA

IAIA is the **International Association for Impact Assessment**, the leading global network on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans, and projects.

IAIA was organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. Our 1300+ individual and corporate members represent over 100 nations and many disciplines and professions. Our annual conferences regularly welcome over 1000 participants, and our regional symposia and other events focus attention on specific topics. Available resources include a professional journal, downloadable publications, training options, and much more.

IAIA's Vision: A just and sustainable world for people and the environment.

IAIA's Mission: IAIA provides the international forum to advance best practice and innovation in impact assessment and advocates for its expanded use for the betterment of society and the environment.

IAIA's Values: IAIA promotes the application of integrated and participatory approaches to impact assessment, conducted to the highest professional standards. IAIA believes the assessment of the environmental, social, economic, cultural, and health implications for proposals to be a critical contribution to sound decision-making processes, and to equitable and sustainable development. IAIA is committed to the promotion of sustainability, the freedom of access to information, and the right of citizens to have a voice in decisions that affect them. When we assess the impact of policies, plans, programs, or projects, we promote the free flow of complete, unbiased and accurate information to decision makers and affected parties. We believe that impact assessments should be inclusive and comprehensive, addressing the broader social and health impacts as well as any impacts on the biophysical environment. Respect for human rights and human dignity should underpin all assessments. We acknowledge that we have a duty of care to both present and future generations.

Reducing the Carbon Footprint

IAIA continues to strongly support the need to reduce the carbon footprint of our conferences.

To this end, US\$7 from every conference registration will be donated to a local organization for further environmental causes.

IAIA encourages conference delegates to travel green! See Green Your Travel (<https://2027.iaia.org/green-your-travel/>) for some suggestions to help you get started.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Terry Calmeyer
Lachlan Wilkinson

TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ahmed Sanda (Chair)
Ana Maria Esteves
Dy Jolly
Charles Kelly
Jack Krohn
Jenny Pope
Annie Prince
Yunae Yi

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Richard Morgan (Chair)
Gary Baker
Alberto Fonseca
Dy Jolly
Jenny Pope
Ibrahim Salau
Kimberley Swords
Nick Taylor

LOGISTICS AND LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Nick Taylor (Chair)
Julie Boucher
Steph Brown
Pene Ferguson
Gerard Fitzgerald
Jess Grinter
Sarah Hendrikx
Tracey Hooper
Dy Jolly
Katherine Russell

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Lachlan Wilkinson (Chair)
Andrés Amaya
Gary Baker
Ben Casillas-Smith
Chris Fay
Nikki O'Donnell
Tracey Hooper
Geraldine Squires
Andrew Thompson
Willy Vukan

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rebecca Foy (Chair)
Tegan Baker
Tanya Burdett
Hamish Rennie
Kristy Harrison
Jack Krohn
Maclaren North

1 | DELEGATE INFORMATION

Please fill out form completely. Type or print neatly in BLOCK letters. Be sure to include your name and organization exactly as you would like that information to appear on your delegate badge and/or online profile. Pre-registration and pre-payment by 31 March 2027 is required. Registrations will not be accepted on-site. **All IAIA27 prices include 15% NZ GST.**

Today's date _____ (month)/_____ (day)/20_____ (year)

First name _____

Title _____

Address _____

State/Province _____

Country _____

Last (family) name _____

Organization _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____ @ _____

2 | REGISTRATION FEES (all fees in US\$)

	Early Bird (by 13 January)	Regular
IAIA Member (or Affiliate Member)	☐ \$800	☐ \$940
Non-member	☐ \$1000	☐ \$1140
Student (proof of current enrollment required)	☐ \$335	

3 | MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (optional)

Tier 1 (Low Income Economies)	☐ \$60
Tier 2 (Lower Middle/Upper Middle Income Economies)	☐ \$95
Tier 3 (High Income Economies)	☐ \$165

4 | PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSES

Pre-registration and pre-payment by 1 March is encouraged. Courses may not be switched after 31 March.

1. Community-based tool for FPIC	18 April	☐ \$330
2. Grievance management in practice	18 April	☐ \$330
3. The person behind the practice	18 April	☐ \$330
4. Cumulative effects assessment	18-19 April	☐ \$560
5. Human rights in impact assessment	18-19 April	☐ \$560
6. Practical approaches to biodiversity protection	18-19 April	☐ \$560
7. Strategic and systems thinking for sustainability (ST4S)	18-19 April	☐ \$560
8. Complexities of resettlement and livelihood restoration	18-19 April	☐ \$560
9. Meaningful public participation and IA	18-19 April	☐ \$560
10. Social impact assessment: Contemporary approaches	18-19 April	☐ \$560
11. Using psycho-social impact assessment in IA	18-19 April	☐ \$560
12. Integrating climate resilience and DRA into ESIA	18-19 April	☐ \$560
13. Two Waka, one direction: Integrating First Nations	19 April	☐ \$330
14. Systems thinking and modeling for IA	19 April	☐ \$330
15. IFC Performance Standard 6 in IA	19 April	☐ \$330

Non-IAIA27 delegates

☐ add \$105

5 | SPECIAL EVENTS / MEAL PREFERENCE

Movie night

Banquet

Meal preference (choose one) ☐ Standard
☐ Vegan
☐ Vegetarian
☐ Allergy: _____
☐ Intolerance/Religious: _____

6 | TECHNICAL VISITS

Pre-registration and pre-payment by 1 March is encouraged. After 1 March, registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 31 March or the maximum number of paid participants is reached.

A. Waipara: Climate change	18 April	# Persons _____ @ \$117 = \$ _____
B. Christchurch city regeneration	18 April	# Persons _____ @ \$131 = \$ _____
C. Lyttelton Port tour	18 April	# Persons _____ @ \$154 = \$ _____
D. Christchurch red zone (bike)	18 April	# Persons _____ @ \$55 = \$ _____
E. Antarctica: Science, heritage	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$127 = \$ _____
F. Central Plains Irrigation	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$90 = \$ _____
G. Resilient infrastructure: Akaroa	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$155 = \$ _____
H. Christchurch red zone (bus)	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$83 = \$ _____
I. Tāwhaki: Ancestral lands	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$101 = \$ _____
J. Ōtākaro Avon River walk	19 April	# Persons _____ @ \$17 = \$ _____
K. Waimakariri Gorge Canyon	24 April	# Persons _____ @ \$205 = \$ _____

7 | PAYMENT INFORMATION

All IAIA27 prices include
15% New Zealand GST.

Registration fee US\$ _____

Membership renewal US\$ _____

Total of activities fees US\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE US\$ _____

Pre-payment by 31 March 2027 is required. Cash payments on-site will not be accepted.

Charge to ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Expiration date (mo/yr) ____ / ____ CCV/CVV security code ____

Print name on card _____

Authorized signature _____

☐ **Wire transfer** in US\$. (Contact info@iaia.org for wire transfer instructions. Registrations will not be processed until full payment has been received. A US\$10 invoice convenience fee will be added.)

8 | SEND REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTER ONLINE 2027.iaia.org

BY E-MAIL info@iaia.org

QUESTIONS? info@iaia.org

DON'T MISS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY, EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT!

What sets IAIA conferences apart from other conferences? IAIA26 delegates said...

Compared to many other conferences, IAIA feels more grounded and more relevant to day-to-day professional practice.

“

Extremely well organized, meaningful session designs, something for everyone.

“

Great gathering of experts, thought-provoking sessions, great place to meet stakeholders, colleagues, and potential clients.

“

What makes IAIA stand out is the quality and openness of engagement. It is one of the few conferences where global standards, local realities, and actionable solutions genuinely come together.

“

Important dates and deadlines

Please note dates are firm.

2 November 2026

- Paper and poster abstract submission deadline

8 January 2027

- Rita R. Hamm IA Excellence Scholarship application deadline

13 January 2027

- Early Bird registration rate ends
- Last date presenters and session chairs may register and pay in full to be included in the final program

1 March 2027

- Technical visits and training courses below minimum will be canceled, so registration by this date is encouraged

1-19 March 2027

- Applications for student training course fee waivers accepted

5 March 2027

- Confirmation of sponsorship required to be guaranteed full benefits
- Deadline for exhibitors

31 March 2027

- Registration closes

18-19 April 2027

- Pre-conference training courses and technical visits

20-23 April 2027

- IAIA27

24 April 2027

- Post-conference technical visit



IAIA27 IS SUPPORTED BY



**100% PURE
NEW ZEALAND**



International Headquarters
3212 14th Ave S, Suite 1
Fargo, ND 58103 USA
Phone +1.701.297.7908
info@iaia.org • www.iaia.org