International Summit on Environmental Assessment

Quebec City

June 12-14, 1994

FINAL REPORT

December 1994

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Canada

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Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
Bureau fédéral d'examen des Evaluations environnementales

IAIA International Association for Impact Assessment

PREFACE

Environmental assessment (EA) has, after 25 years, "come of age." Good practices have been widely adopted. Laws, procedures and methods have evolved and have been strengthened. But what now? Has EA realized its potential as a tool for supporting decision-makers? What of the call of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 for EA to support the goal of sustainable development?

In considering the future of EA, we knew that managers of EA systems worldwide shared our commitment to making EA an effective tool for decision makers. What was missing was an opportunity to share our experiences, learn from one another, and find common ground for action.

The result was a decision to organize the First International Summit on Environmental Assessment, in Quebec City, Canada, bringing together senior officials responsible for managing EA systems in various countries and international organizations.

We were not disappointed. Indeed, thanks to the Summit and the connections and momentum it has created, we are even more optimistic than ever about the role EA can play in supporting environmental decision-making and in responding to the challenges of sustainable development.

On behalf of all Summit participants, we are pleased to present this report on the Summit's discussions and recommendations. We trust that EA managers, practitioners, researchers and decision-makers will find it a useful record of what we believe will stand as a path breaking meeting on the future of EA.

Summit Co-chairpersons,

Michel Dorais
President
Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
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Richard Roberts
Past President
International Association for Impact Assessment

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past 25 years, environmental assessment (EA) has evolved significantly as a process for promoting the consideration of environmental factors in planning and decision-making, Advances have been made in legislation, policies, procedures and methodologies. In countries around the world, EA managers and practitioners have gained extensive experience and knowledge.

Environmental assessment is an extraordinary tool to make better informed decisions that will affect the environment we hand on to our children and beyond them to all future generations.

Hon. Sheila Copps
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of the Environment, Canada

Now, in an era of rapid political and economic changes and global environmental changes, EA is under pressure to be more effective and responsive. The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, for example, called for environment and sustainable development considerations to be better integrated into planning and decision-making at all levels.

Efforts are underway worldwide to find ways of strengthening EA so that it can respond successfully to these new challenges.

The key to sustainable development is a new way of thinking, a new way of making decisions, and a new way of acting on those decisions. This is what environmental assessment is all about.

Hon. John Fraser
Canadian Ambassador
for the Environment

A major two-year International EA Effectiveness Study, launched by the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office of Canada (FEARO) in collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), is reviewing the status of EA practices in countries around the world. In June 1994, the first International Summit on EA, held in Quebec City, Canada, brought together senior officials from 25 national EA agencies and six international organizations responsible for managing EA systems. The objectives of the Summit were to

- review progress on the Effectiveness Study;
- exchange information and views on current issues and emerging trends in EA; and
- consider practical approaches for strengthening EA practice, including improved cooperation among the participating countries and international organizations.

This report presents a summary of the discussions and recommendations of the Summit.

THE CHALLENGE FOR EA MANAGERS

Typical EA systems consist of three levels: decision-makers, managers and practitioners and the public (Figure 1). But these systems do not operate in a vacuum. Each is grounded in the unique context of the social, cultural and political values of that country.

In looking at the future of EA as a decision-making tool, EA managers must recognize the pivotal role they play in the overall EA system. In effect, they are the bridge between the decision-making level and the technical and public participation level. Managers must recognize that each level has different, and often conflicting, expectations and perspectives.

> *The challenge facing us is one of relevancy – has environmental assessment reached its potential in supporting informed decision-making, and if not, what measures must we propose to make it so?*
>
> **Michel Dorais**
> Summit co-chair
> Executive Chairman,
> FEARO, Canada

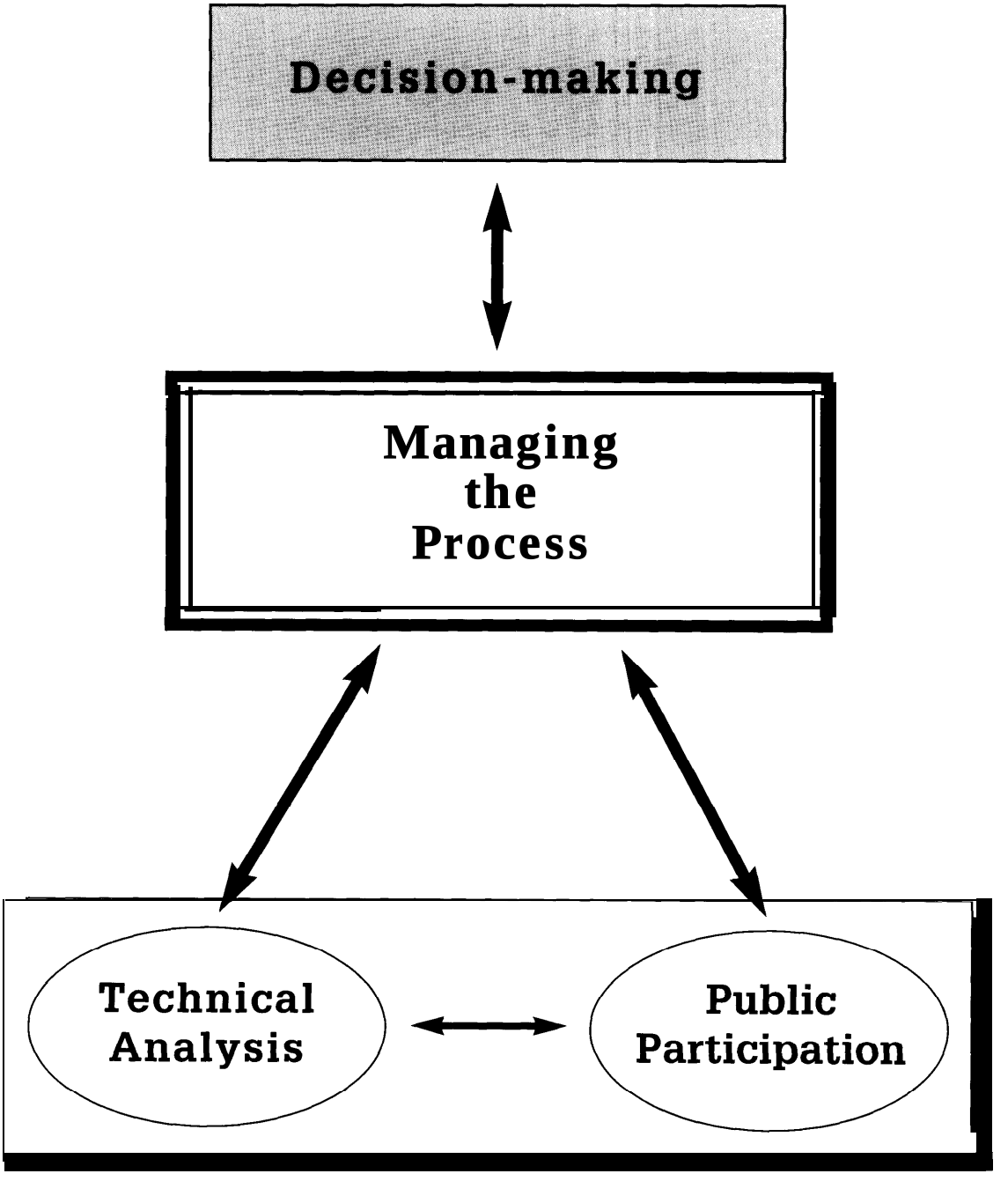
- **Decision-makers see** a process that sometimes takes too long, that seems to cost too much, that appears unnecessarily complicated, and that in the end, does not always give them the kind of information they need to make a sound decision.
- **Managers and Practitioners see** a process where the results of their work are not always taken into account in the final decisions, and where they do not always have the time and resources to do an adequate job.
- **Members of the public see** a process that may exclude them from participating in decisions that affect their lives and communities, or that may provide massive volumes of complex scientific data but few straightforward explanations.

The challenge of Rio and Agenda 21, as it relates to the integration of environmental factors in decision-making, is aimed primarily at the EA manager. The manager must make the system work, must make it relevant, and must bridge the worlds of decision-makers, practitioners and the public. Central to this challenge, however, is that EA managers must develop and administer processes and practices that incorporate the basic principles of effective EA systems while acting within the constraints and context of the social, cultural and political values of their country.

As EA managers focus on this challenge, one of their most important resources may well be the ideas and experiences of their colleagues in other countries and organizations around the world.

FIGURE 1

FRAMEWORK FOR EA SYSTEMS



STRENGTHENING EXISTING EA SYSTEMS

Summit participants agreed that special efforts were needed to ensure that EA remains a vital tool for decision-makers. In particular, EA administrators and managers have opportunities to strengthen the credibility of EA processes by developing highly effective approaches that inform and empower the public while bringing a greater measure of certainty to proponents.

Administrative Capacity

One of the most important challenges to EA managers is to bring a greater sense of clarity and simplicity to the process. EA has developed a reputation as being "heavy-handed" and needs to be made more accessible and understandable. Effective EA processes begin with a broader policy vision of principles and values, and provide clear guidelines and time frames.

This need for simplicity also extends to making EA reports and other documents useful in terms of language, format and the highlighting of information.

In addressing administrative capacity, many countries are unlikely to resort to more regulations. Rather, simple and effective approaches might include building greater public awareness, facilitating participant funding and promoting the use of mediation.

A basic question remains as to whether EA processes are more effective as stand-alone systems, or integrated with broader decision-making systems. Stand-alone processes may have been necessary early on in many countries in order to establish their presence. In the post Earth Summit era, however, EA is challenged to consider complex economic, social, and ecological issues, and stand-alone systems may be too easily marginalized. In their place, EA administrators must develop effective ways to link EA into other planning and decision-making processes. Responses to this challenge will reflect the prevailing political cultures and regulatory regimes in different countries.

In the end, EA should be seen as only one of the tools available to support sustainable development. EA may need to be used more consistently with other environmental management tools and policies, such as economic instruments and environmental and natural resource accounting.

Procedures

There are differences in opinion between those countries that favour flexible systems with various approaches to incorporating environmental factors in decision-making, and those countries that favour a more uniform international EA system. As a result, sharing and translating the experiences and perspectives of the different EA approaches in solving common problems and challenges is extremely important.

At a time when our economy is becoming global, when scientists are raising serious questions about the state of the environment, we have to ask ourselves about the future of environmental assessment. We owe it to those who have pioneered the practice and to those who will follow us.

Richard Roberts
Summit co-chair
Past President, IAIA

In terms of strengthening specific EA procedures, a disciplined approach to scoping may be a critical step in making EA a more effective tool for decision-making. Resources required to ensure efficient scoping should be considered an investment in ensuring a more efficient and cost effective process appropriate to the scale of the project.

Public participation is critical to an effective scoping effort. However, in attempting to streamline the scoping process, EA managers could also leave themselves open to criticism of "holding back" data and information.

NEW DIMENSIONS

Summit participants recognized that there is an inherent trade-off between strengthening existing systems and responding to the challenges of the new dimensions of EA. There may be dangers, for example, in moving into new areas while neglecting the weaknesses in existing approaches.

Strategic EA

Strategic EA is a relatively new concept. It involves the application of EA principles to decisions at program and policy levels, rather than to decisions on specific projects. The term "strategic EA" has been applied to a range of assessments – sectoral, regional, and policy. Such a blanket definition may hide real differences and difficulties. On the one hand, the application of EA to sectoral and regional levels has proven effective in reducing the costs and amount of work required in project-level EAs, and in some cases even eliminating the need for an EA for such projects. However, there is no consensus that EA should or can be applied as easily to policy or program proposals. By their very nature, policy decisions are based on intangible, political factors, and may not be easily accommodated into the relatively rigorous analytical process of EA. As well, there may be a danger in "pulling EA in too many directions". Some developing countries, for example, may need to strengthen their processes for handling project EAs before taking on regional or policy EAs.

The tools and techniques of policy EA are not well developed. The goal is not to do an EA of policy, but rather to ensure that the environmental considerations of policies are taken into account in an integrated way. In this light, a new term – such as "environmental appraisal" or "environmental test" – might help clarify the conceptual differences.

There is also the question of who should pay for strategic EAs. While the costs of project EAs can be more readily recovered from proponents, there is no clearly identifiable proponent for a strategic EA.

Finally, it is clear that public participation must play an important role in strategic EA. By engaging a wide range of interests, strategic EAs can build greater awareness of and enthusiasm for the principles for environmental sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability

The question, 'Is this the environmentally-preferred option?' may be replaced by: 'Does this proposal meet the objectives of sustainable development?'

Barry Carbon
Executive Director
Environment Protection Agency
Commonwealth of Australia

EA may be one of the most effective tools available to decision-makers in support of environmental sustainability. Projects could be assessed on the basis of their support for or compatibility with long term policy goals and with reference to sustainability principles and indicators.

By considering sustainability questions, EA managers are going beyond the traditional definitions of the environment. This, in turn, brings them into contact with new sectors of society. Conventional EA concepts and approaches may not be well understood or appropriate for these groups.

Capacity-building

Training and education in capacity and institutional building should be enhanced... It is therefore very important to establish a network of authorities on EA to share information which could be used to overcome negative environmental impacts in development.

Paul L. Coutrier
Deputy of Development
Environmental Impact
Management Agency, Indonesia

A major challenge to EA is to strengthen the capacities of individuals, institutions, and countries to conduct and participate in EAs. Capacity-building should be seen as a broader or more holistic approach than training. It must seek to strengthen the relationships among various elements of environmental decision-making. That is, capacity-building must address institutional development, information needs, monitoring and follow-up procedures, policy development, laws and regulations, economic tools and education.

The following definition of EA capacity-building, developed by Summit participants, captures this holistic approach:

> *"the development of an appropriate organizational structure, with adequnte and trained interdisciplinary stuff and adequnte resources to design and manage an EA system. Capacity-building also includes the development of*
>
> - *informed decision-makers;*
> - *a cadre of technical experts able to assess the environmental and social effects of proposals; and*
> - *a public that is aware of environmental issues and the use of the EA tool as a means of supporting the goals of environmental sustainability."*

This means that capacity-building efforts need to move beyond the traditional focus of training EA practitioners. Greater attention should be given to helping organizations outside the environmental sphere, such as those involved in making decisions on trade, health and national security policies, to integrate environmental considerations into their decision-making processes. As well, capacity-building efforts must not be restricted to developing countries, but must address the needs of countries in transition and highly industrialized countries.

> ***Too many governments, multilaterals and bilaterals, have put on excellent EA courses all over the world. But the materials have remained with the short-term professors who put the course together, so the wheel is expensively reinvented weekly.***
>
> **Robert Goodland**
> World Bank
> President, IAIA 1994-95

The lack of institutions capable of meeting these wide-ranging EA capacity-building needs is a significant concern. There are well regarded EA centres of excellence, but they tend to be relatively isolated, and there appear to be few opportunities to build on their collective expertise and information. As well, no one centre of excellence can offer the full spectrum of expertise needed to effectively build a country's EA capacity.

FUTURE COOPERATION

Participants were unanimous in endorsing greater coordination and collaboration among EA managers to build on the momentum of the Summit.

EA managers worldwide need a better means of knowing what is happening or about to happen in the management of other EA systems. This would facilitate the coordination of activities and the ability to learn from other experiences.

Options for following up on the Summit range from continuing the current ad hoc communications among managers to establishing more formal links, possibly in conjunction with the cooperative work of the EA Effectiveness Study.

> *We need to remember that the same problem may be solved in different ways from one country to another... It will be important to share the experiences and perspectives of these different approaches.*
>
> **Jan Jaap de Boer**
> Head, EIA
> Department, Ministry of Housing,
> Spatial Planning and the Environment, Netherlands

Future cooperative efforts must take into account the priorities and capacities of participating countries and organizations, and be developed within existing institutions to the fullest extent possible. For example, an international centre could serve as a clearing house for the exchange of management practices and as a source of information on international expertise for many countries. However, more flexible and decentralized approaches to sharing information may be more effective in encouraging smaller organizations and countries to participate in cooperative efforts among EA managers.

Finally, information and communication technologies can play an increasingly powerful role in developing better communication and closer coordination among EA managers in countries and organizations.

AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

Participants agreed to action in three interrelated areas (Figure 2):

- endorsing and expanding support for the International EA Effectiveness Study;
- designing and establishing an international network for EA managers; and
- clarifying the concept of EA capacity-building and actively supporting and coordinating capacity- building initiatives.

FEAR0 (Canada) agreed to coordinate immediate follow-up activity on the action items.

International EA Effectiveness Study

The Summit strongly endorsed completion of the Study. There was an agreement that the Study should still aim to complete its work by the end of 1995. Initial results should be reported at the 15th Annual IAIA conference in June 1995 in South Africa.

Study organizers sought and received expressions of interest from countries and international organizations in participating in and contributing to the study. There also was support for establishing a small international steering/advisory committee to provide direction and oversee the completion of the study. A detailed workplan outlining the activities required to complete the study will be developed.

Participants emphasized that care will need to be taken in applying the recommendations of the study in a variety of settings and under a variety of laws, regulations and decision-making processes. They noted that common problems may be solved in different ways from one country to another, and suggested that the presentation of the results of the study should reflect this variabilitv.

International EA Managers' Network

Summit participants took steps to formalize the establishment of an international network for EA managers to provide greater opportunities for networking and exchanges. The network could

- provide a mechanism for sharing ideas and exchanging information among EA managers worldwide;
- focus on the use of information and communication technologies as a means of communicating between people and accessing information; and
- serve as the principal repository of the results of the Effectiveness Study.

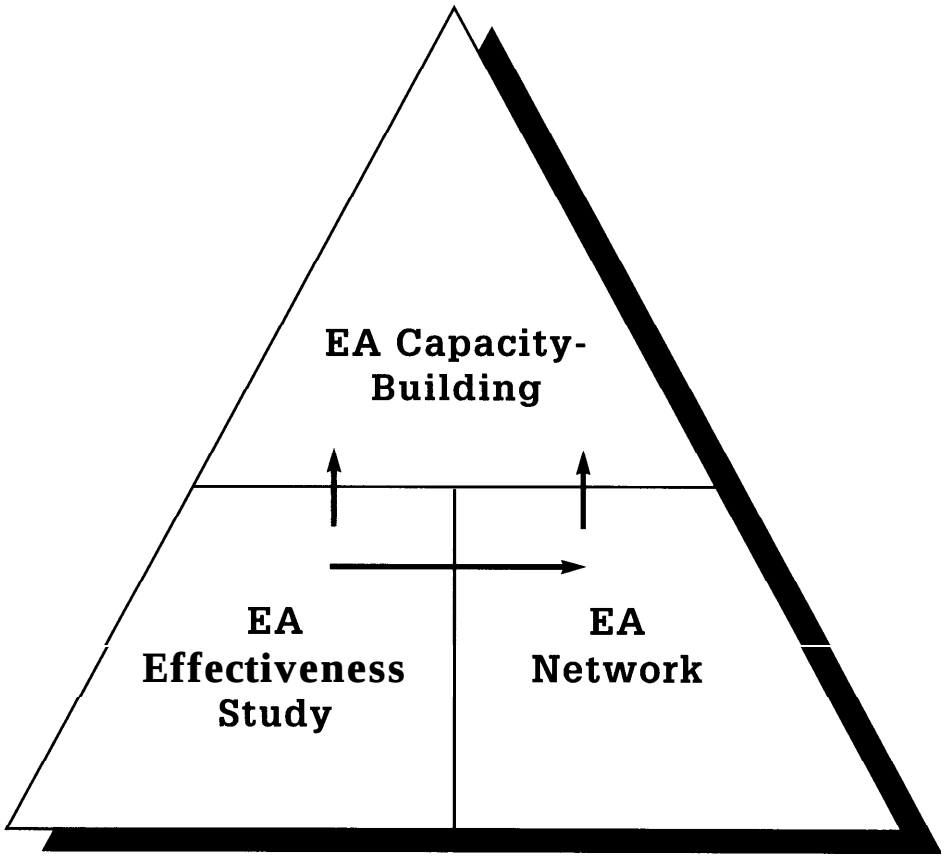
Membership in the network would be through focal points established by national agencies and international organizations involved in managing EA systems. These, in turn, would be responsible for linking the international network with appropriate domestic or regional networks.

FEAR0 (Canada) agreed to follow up on developing the network concept by preparing and distributing to Summit participants a discussion paper outlining proposals for the objectives, organizational structure and activities of the network.

Several other participants offered to carry on the work of the network, possibly by helping to support a secretariat.

FIGURE 2

AGENDA FOR ACTION



Capacity-building

Summit participants agreed to actively coordinate their capacity-building efforts. They recognized the potential for the EA Effectiveness Study and the International Network of EA Managers to support the on-going work on capacity-building by such organizations as the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

UNEP offered to establish a working group on EA training, in cooperation with other UN agencies. Several Summit participants expressed support for the initiative and agreed to participate in the working group.

Participants also agreed to actively explore the potential for emerging information and communication technologies to support capacity-building efforts.

Looking ahead

Summit participants emphasized that the three action items are strongly interrelated and reinforcing.

The **Effectiveness Study** will provide a process for continuous learning, as well as a series of valuable information products for the EA Managers' Network and for various capacity-building initiatives. Moreover, the process by which the Study has been developed and will proceed can help build the working relationships and contacts among EA managers that can be of benefit to both the network and capacity-building efforts.

The **EA Managers' Network,** in turn, should help broaden distribution of the results of the Effectiveness Study and strengthen follow-up on its conclusions and recommendations. It will also serve as a fundamental resource for future capacity-building initiatives.

Capacity-building efforts will not only use the network for information sharing and skills development, but provide a wide range of opportunities to enrich participation in and support for the network.

Finally, participants endorsed the concept of regular Summit meetings of EA managers, either on an annual or biennial basis.

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APPENDIX B

"EVALUATING PRACTICE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE"

DISCUSSION NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

Canada's Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO) in cooperation with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is hosting an International Summit on Environmental Assessment, June 12-14, 1994 in Quebec City, Canada.

This note is to facilitate discussion at the Summit. It is organised into four parts:

1) rationale, objectives and background of the Summit;
2) key themes and questions on which participants are asked to focus;
3) the process for sequencing and structuring discussion; and
4) options for follow-up on the results of discussion.

To further support and focus the discussion, countries and international organisation participating on the Summit are encouraged to prepare a short (3-5 pages) paper on the issues. This should prove useful in Summit reporting.

2. RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND

The rationale for holding the Summit rests on two pillars:

i) the opportunity to mark 25 years of experience in applying environmental assessment (EA); and

ii) the need for senior officials to meet and discuss the strategic challenges involved in the management of EA systems and processes.

The objectives established for the Summit are twofold:

i) to exchange information and views on current issues, emerging trends and future directions in EA as well as major initiatives that are underway; and

ii) to consider practical options for improving and strengthening EA systems and processes.

During the last quarter-century, EA has been widely adopted and undergone considerable evolution in laws, procedures and methods. This process is now applied, formally and informally, in more than 50 countries around the world, and by many international agencies. New expectations and added demands are being placed on EA, notably by the agreement reached at the Earth Summit (e.g. Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Convention on Biological Diversity). While significant advances have been made over the last twenty-five years, there is still much more to do in order that the full potential of EA in contributing to informed decision making is realized.

The Summit is organised as a policy forum, bringing together for the first time, heads and senior officials from national agencies and international organisations with a major role and responsibility for administering EA systems and processes. Summit participants will be uniquely qualified to address the strategic challenges involved in organizing and overseeing EA systems, managing the process to facilitate informed decision making, and advising on institutional reforms that respond to new demands such as the sustainability agenda.

The agenda for the Summit is based on preliminary results from the International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment, and incorporates wide consultation with many of the countries and international organisations that will take part in the Summit. Under existing bilateral agreements, workshops and meetings were held with Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and the United States. Other international seminars directly contributing to the effectiveness study were held by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), World Resources Institute (WRI), and Centre for Environmental Management and Planning (CEMP), Aberdeen. A brief overview of the results of the study will be presented at the Summit.

3. THEMES AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

At the Summit, it is proposed to organise the discussion around three themes:

1. strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of existing EA systems and processes;
2. responding to new requirements and directions, such as the application of EA at the policy level; and
3. promoting mechanisms for cooperation in such areas as exchange of the information, system and process development, and capacity building.

3.1. STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING EXISTING EA SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

The areas selected for attention under this theme are the following:

1. improving the contribution of EA to decision making; and
2. capitalizing on immediate opportunities for making cost-effective improvements to existing EA systems and processes.

3.1.1. The role of EA in decision-making varies among institutional systems. Some EA systems serve as decision-making processes (e.g. for project approvals). Many, however, provide information and recommendations on which decisions are taken by politicians and others. In both instances, criticisms are made about the timeliness of EA in relation to business and political windows for decisions as well as the utility of environmental impact statements (EISs) and EA reports fcr clarifying the consequences and alternatives associated with development proposals, and the trade offs involved in striking a balance between environmental, social and economic considerations. These issues become especially important in the context of sustainable development.

What lessons -successes and constraints – can be drawn from experience with integrating EA and decision making in different systems and institutions? How might the problems identified be resolved in the short versus the long term? Which approaches show particular promise for communicating the results and benefits of EA to decision makers and other constituencies? How can beads and senior officials of EA agencies make a difference here?

3.1.2. Several immediate opportunities for making cost-effective changes to EA systems and processes have been identified as part of the EA Effectiveness Study. Such changes could include the following:

i) improved coordination of efforts to assist countries and agencies to build capacity to develop, administer and manage EA systems and processes;

ii) enhanced means of exchanging information and experiences among officials responsible for EA systems and processes.

iii) clear principles, guidelines and codes of good practice for more effective screening, scoping, review of the quality of EISs and reports and follow-up and monitoring; and

iv) improved harmonization of EA requirements among/between countries and international organizations.

In addition, public participation consistently emerges as the single, most important systemic issue of process strengthening, and so needs to be reflected in and balanced with technical analysis.

What lessons – successes and constraints – can be drawn from dealing with these issues under different institutions, systems and processes? How might the problems identified be resolved best in the short versus the long term? Which other aspects of EA systems and processes also show promise of immediate returns on the time and effort invested? How can beads and senior officials of EA agencies make a difference here?

3.2. NEW REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

Two areas have been selected for attention:

1. whether and how EA should address cumulative effects and large scale issues of sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, acid rain, desertification, etc; and
2. whether and how EA should be applied at higher levels of decision making – to policies, programmes and plans.

These issues are interrelated, and response to one may well be contingent on what is done on the other.

3.2.1. In many systems, EA is applied largely at the project level. This means, among other things, that there are difficulties in addressing and dealing with cumulative effects – which are now expressed at ecosystem, bio-regional and global levels. Following the Earth Summit, further demands are being made for EA processes to incorporate sustainability principles and criteria, and to include issues such as protection of biodiversity within their scope of review. Some agencies are investigating the framework, analytical tools and information base that are available or may be needed to support consideration of biodiversity or global change in EA, and the levels of analysis and decision-making at which such an approach may be applied.

The expansion in scope of coverage, however, begs a number of questions about the capability and effectiveness of existing EA systems and processes to adequately address these issues, and carries potential implications for the credibility of EA.

What experiences and perspectives are available to date regarding the use of EA to address cumulative effects and large scale issues of sustainability, climate change, biodiversity and so on ? How does past progress in considering cumulative effects help in this regard? What changes are being made or contemplated to incorporate cumulative effects and large scale issues of sustainability, climate change, biodiversity and so on into EA? Which other policy and planning systems might be used singly or in combination with EA to cover off large scale issues.

3.2.2. One option for dealing with the above-mentioned issues is to apply EA to policies, plans and programmes, as well as projects. This approach allows EA to get at the source rather than just the symptoms (impacts) of problems. It also affords the opportunity for developing tiered EA systems in which policy or programme review could help focus and streamline project impact analysis. The application of EA as these strategic levels of decision-making is being undertaken already in a number of countries and others are studying its introduction. To date, there is still considerable discussion about the political and institutional constraints on applying EA at the policy and programme levels, and the value and practicality of employing the frameworks and processes developed for project EA at a strategic level.

What experiences and perspectives are available, to-date, regarding the application of EA to policies, plans, and programmes? How are different countries and agencies introducing a strategic approach? Which legal and institutional arrangement appear to show promise (e.g. formal versus informal) ? To what extent are aspects of the existing system (e.g. guidelines, procedures and methods) applicable to EA of policies, plans and programmes?

3.3. MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION

Under this theme, there are two matters for discussion:

i) what, in general, may be done by participating countries and international organizations about the challenges identified at the Summit; and

ii) whether, in particular, the participants see any value in continuing their dialogue in the future in a similar forum or in other ways.

In this context, it should be noted that many formal and informal mechanisms are in place already for countries, organizations and individuals to cooperate on EA, on information exchange, on system and process development, and on institution and capacity building.

For example, these include national centres of excellence (e.g. established in the European Community), bilateral and multilateral meetings (e.g. Canada and Netherlands, the Nordic Countries EA Working Group), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context and the world wide membership of IAIA. The question is whether and how these arrangements need to be supplemented to support the effective application of EA, including dealing with the issues raised at the Summit. Specific direction is also invited on the continuation and focus of the International Study of EA Effectiveness. Obviously, the answers may vary significantly for industrial and developing countries.

Further support and practical assistance is considered necessary to establish appropriate institutional arrangements and technical capacities. This applies to many developing countries, and corresponds with the World Bank's view that the success of EA as a means to ensure that development projects are environmentally sound and sustainable depends in large measure on local capability in the institutions of borrowing countries.

What lessons (successes and constraints) may be drawn from recent experiences and initiatives with international cooperation on EA issues? Which approaches appear to show promise for information exchange, systevn and process development, training and capacity building; etc? How does the international study on EA effectiveness@ into this picture? Should an EA Summit or similar forum be held again?

4. FORMAT OF DISCUSSION

The discussion will be organized in a "round table" format. To the extent possible, an informal exchange will be encouraged, with participants speaking on issues briefly and bluntly. There will be no detailed record of proceedings. However, the organisers hope to be able to state in a brief report where consensus on issues exists and where it does not.

The Summit will begin on the evening of June 12, 1994 with an orientation session. This session will include a brief overview of the results of the International Study of the Effectiveness of EA and a review of the challenge and objectives of the Summit. It will provide an opportunity to review and fine tune the agenda.

Discussion over the following two days will consist of three sessions dealing with one of the three themes outlined above. The discussion will be led by the Summit co-chairs. Subsequently, each session will begin with a short introduction to and perspective on the issues from a participating country or international organization.

5. PRODUCTS AND OUTPUTS

At this stage, the organizers foresee three possible products from the Summit:

i) a short report on the results of discussion, including an agenda for action that sets out what should be done to address the issues reviewed at the Summit;

ii) a follow-up program that would be designed to move forward on the "Agenda for Action". This would be dependent on the interest and willingness of participants at the Summit to move forward with such an initiative. The afternoon of June 12 is set aside and available for participants to review this option; and

iii) a presentation by Michel Dorais, the Summit co-chair, to the plenary session of the IAIA '94 Conference outlining the results of the Summit and a challenge statement to conference participants.

APPENDIX C

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