

International

Summit on

Environmental

Assessment

Quebec City

June 12-14, 1994

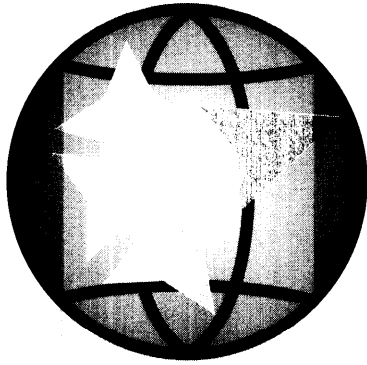
**FINAL
REPORT**

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Canada





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Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

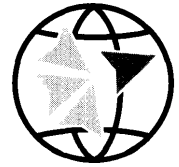
Federal Environmental
Assessment Review Office

Bureau fédéral d'examen
des Évaluations environnementales



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
Canada

Richard Roberts

Past President
International Association for
Impact Assessment



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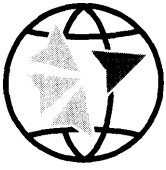
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INTRODUCTION

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.

- **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.

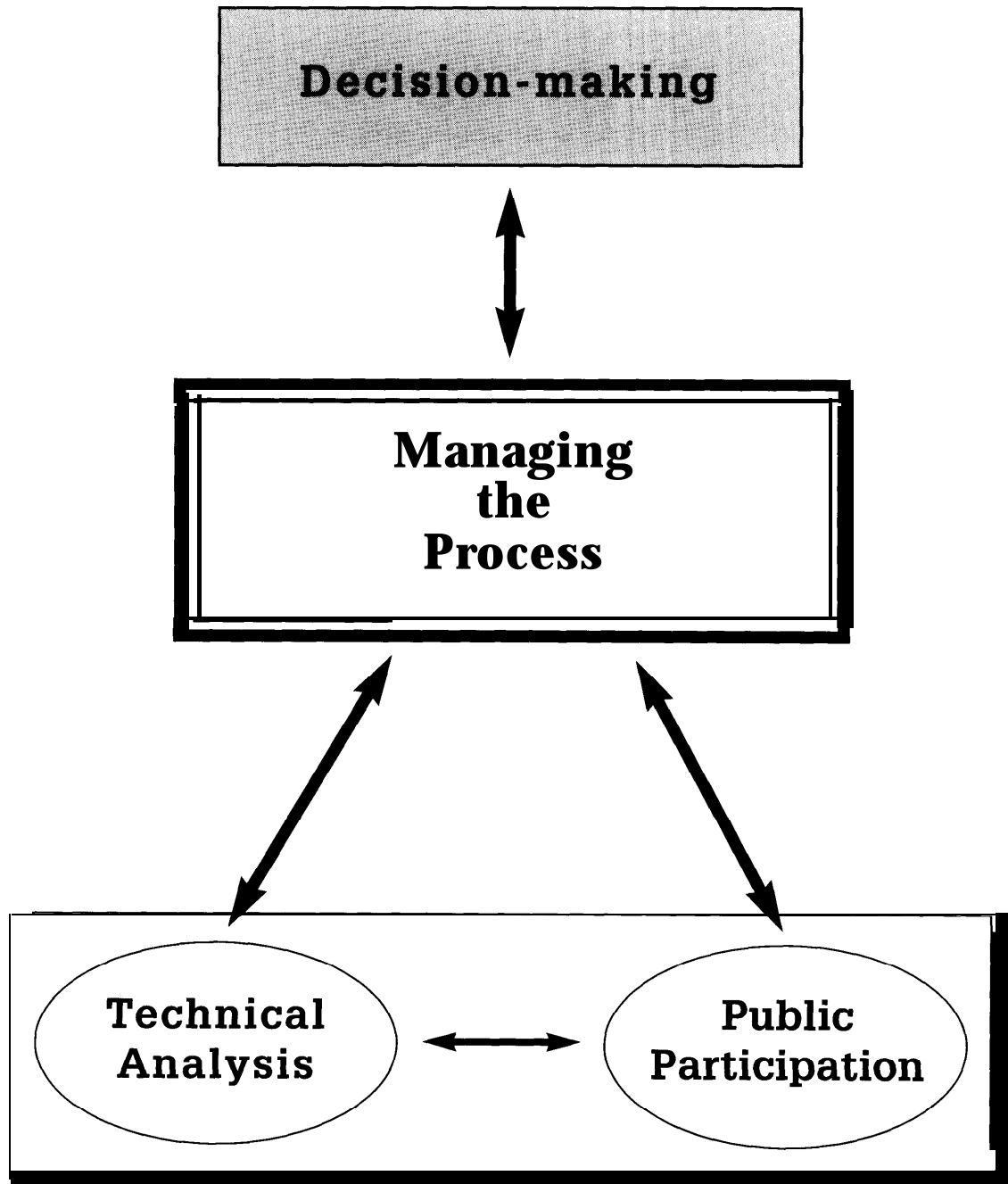
As EA managers focus on this challenge, one of their most important resources may well be the ideas and experiences of their colleagues in other countries and organizations around the world.

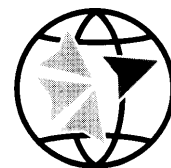
The challenge facing us is one of relevancy – has environmental assessment reached its potential in supporting informed decision-making, and if not, what measures must we propose to make it so?

Michel Dorais
Summit co-chair
Executive Chairman,
FEARO, Canada



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.

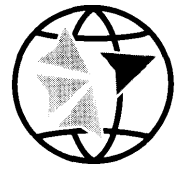
At a time when our economy is becoming global, when scientists are raising serious questions about the state of the environment, we have to ask ourselves about the future of environmental assessment. We owe it to those who have pioneered the practice and to those who will follow us.

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 adequate and trained interdisciplinary staff and adequate resources to design and manage an EA system. Capacity-building also includes the development of

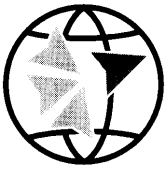
- *informed decision-makers;*
- *a cadre of technical experts able to assess the environmental and social effects of proposals; and*
- *a public that is aware of environmental issues and the use of the EA tool as a means of supporting the goals of environmental sustainability.”*

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.

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.

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



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.

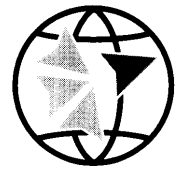
We need to remember that the same problem may be solved in different ways from one country to another... It will be important to share the experiences and perspectives of these different approaches.

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.

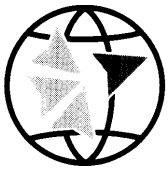
Study organizers sought and received expressions of interest from countries and international organizations in participating in and contributing to the study. There also was support for establishing a small international steering/advisory committee to provide direction and oversee the completion of the 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 variability.

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.

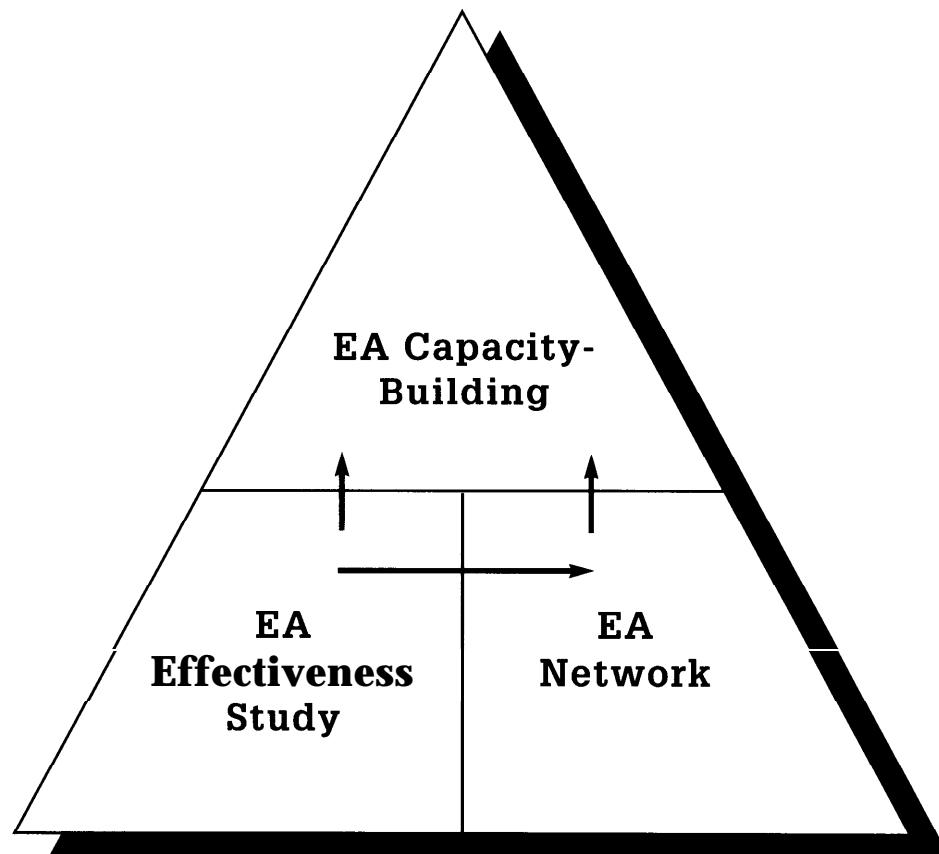


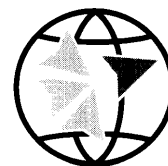
Membership in the network would be through focal points established by national agencies and international organizations involved in managing EA systems. These, in turn, would be responsible for linking the international network with appropriate domestic or regional networks.

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.



APPENDIX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CO-CHAIRS

Mr. Michel Dorais

President
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office (FEARO)
14th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Hull, Que bec
K1A 0H3
Tel: 819 953 9556
Fax: 819 953 1207

Mr. Richard Roberts

Past Chairman
International Association for Impact
Assessment (IAIA)
c/o Praxis
2215 -19th Street W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2T 4X1
Tel: 403 245 6404
Fax: 403 229 3037

COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AUSTRALIA**Mr. Barry Carbon**

Executive Director
Commonwealth Environmental
Protection Agency (CEPA)
P.O. Box E305
Queen Victoria Terrace
ACT 2601, Australia
Tel: 61 6 274 1949
Fax: 61 6 274 1600

Mr. John Ashe

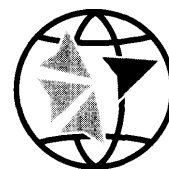
Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch, CEPA
P.O. Box E305
Queen Victoria Terrace
ACT 2600, Australia
Tel: 61 6 274 1444
Fax: 61 6 274 1620

CAMBODIA**Mr. Mok Mareth**

Secretary of State
Secretariat of State for Environment
48 Bd. Samdech Pr. Sihanouk
Phnom-Penh, Cambodia
Tel: 855 232 7894
Fax: 855 232 7844

CHINA**Mr. Zhigi Qiao**

Director General
National Environmental Protection
Agency (NEPA)
Dept. of Supervision and Management
No. 115, Xizhimennci Nanxiaojie
Beijing 100035
The People's Republic of China
Tel: 86 1 832 9911
Fax: 86 1 832 8013



CHINA

Mr. Xinmin Li

Chief Project Officer
National Environmental Protection
Agency (NEPA)
Dept. of Supervision and Management
No. 115, Xizhimennci Nanxiaojie
Beijing 100035
The People's Republic of China

Tel: 86 1832 9911
Fax: 86 1 832 8013

Ms. Bing Li

Associate Professor
Department of International Cooperation
National Environmental Protection
Agency (NEPA)
No. 115, Xizhimennci Nanxiaojie
Beijing 100035
The People's Republic of China

Tel: 86 1 832 9911
Fax: 86 1 832 8013

DENMARK

Mr. Henrik Wulff

Head of Section
Ministry of the Environment
Hsjbro Plads 4
DK- 1200 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Tel: 45 33 92 76 00
Fax: 45 33 32 22 27

DENMARK

Dr. Bo Elling

Associate Professor
Roskilde University Centre
P.O. Box 260
DK-4000 Roskilde
Denmark

Tel: 45 46 75 77 11
Fax: 45 46 75 44 03

FINLAND

Dr. Markku Nurmi

Director General
Environmental Policy Department
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 399
00 12 1 Helsinki, Finland

Tel: 358 0 1991 350
Fax: 358 0 1991 503

FRANCE

Mr. Jean Lafont

Sous-directeur de l'aménagement et
des paysages
Ministère de l'environnement
20, avenue de Ségur
75007 Paris, France

Tel: 33 142 19 19 19
Fax: 33 142 19 19 77

Ms. Monique Turlin

Chef du bureau de l'évaluation
environnementale
Ministère de l'environnement
20, avenue de Ségur
75007 Paris, France

Tel: 33 142 19 19 67
Fax: 33 142 19 19 77



GERMANY

Dr. Heinrich Freiherr von Lersner

President
Federal Environmental Agency
Umweltbundesamt
Postfach 33 00 22
14191 Berlin, Germany

Tel: 49 30 89032201
Fax: 49 30 89032285

HONG KONG

Mr. Robert J.S. Law

Deputy Director
Hong Kong Environmental
Protection Department
28/F Southorn Centre
130 Hennesy Road
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel: 852 835 1002
Fax: 852 891 2512

INDIA

Dr. Gopal K. Pandey

Additional Director
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Panyavarau Bhawau, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Dehli – 110003, India

Tel: 91 11436 0467 (W), 671 730 (R)
Fax: 91 11436 0678 or 436 0009

INDIA

Mr. R.H. Khwaja

Member-Secretary
Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Paryawaran, Bhawan, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Dehli – 110003, India

Tel: 91 11 436 0467 (W)
Fax: 91 11 436 0678 or 436 0009

INDONESIA

Mr. Paul L. Coutrier

Deputy for Development
Environmental Impact Management
Agency (BAPEDAL)
Government of the Republic of Indonesia
Wisma Arthaloka Lt. II
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman 2
Jakarta, 10220 – Indonesia

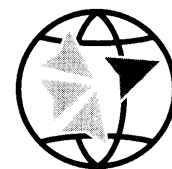
Tel: 62 21 251 1481
Fax: 6221251 1547 or 251 2459

ISRAEL

Ms. Valerie Brachya

Head of the Division of Planning
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 6234
Jerusalem 9 106 1, Israel

Tel: 972 2 251 964
Fax: 972 2 251 830



ISRAEL

Ms. Bina Bar-On

Legal Advisor, Legal Department
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 6234
Jerusalem 9 106 1, Israel

Tel: 972 2 701 582

Fax: 972 2 513 945

ITALY

Mr. Giancarlo Boeri

Commissioner
Ministero Delli Ambiente
Commissione VIA
Via della Ferratella in Laterano, 33
00184 Roma, Italy

Tel: 39 6 77257007 or 50072863

Fax: 39 6 77257008

JAPAN

Mr. Teruo Saito

Director
Environmental Impact Assessment
Division
Planning and Coordination Bureau
Environment Agency, Government
of Japan
122 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100, JAPAN

Tel: 81 3 3581 3344

Fax: 81 3 3581 2697

JAPAN

Mr. Hideyuki Mori

Deputy Director
Environment Management Division
Planning and Coordination Bureau
Environment Agency, Government of Japan
122 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100, JAPAN

Tel: 81 3 3580 1704

Fax: 81 3 3581 5951

MOROCCO

Mr. Jaâfar Boulejiouch

Responsable, de la cellule d'étude d'impact
Sous-secretariat d'État, charge de la protection
de l'environnement
Royaume du Maroc
15, rue Afghanistan, Appt. #3
Rabat, Maroc

Tel: 212 7 76 20 07

Fax: 212 7 76 95 78

THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. Jan Jaap de Boer

Head of E.I.A. Department
Ministry of Housing, Spatial
Planning and Environment
P.O. Box 30945, 2500 GX
The Hague, Netherlands

Tel: 31 70 339 4096

Fax: 31 70 339 1302



THE NETHERLANDS

Ms. Yvonne de Vries

Deputy Head of Social & Policy
Integration Division
Ministry of Housing, Spatial
Planning and Environment
P.O. Box 30945, 2500 GX
The Hague, Netherlands

Tel: 31 70 339 4556
Fax: 31 70 339 1302

Mr. Jules J. Scholten

Secretary-General
Commission for Environmental
Impact Assessment
P.O. Box 2345, 3500 GH
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Tel: 31 30 347 600
Fax: 31 30 331 295

NORWAY

Mr. Stig Roar Husby

Senior Advisor
Royal Ministry of Environment
P.O. Box 8013, Dep. N-0030
Oslo, Norway

Tel: 47 22 34 5952
Fax: 47 22 34 9562

Dr. Arne Tesli

Research Manager
Norwegian EIA-Centre
POB 44 Blindern
0301 Oslo, Norway

Tel: 47 22 95 88 00
Fax: 47 22 60 77 74

POLAND

Mr. Bernard Blaszczyk

Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Environmental Protection,
Natural Resources and Forestry
52/54 Wawelska Street
00-922 Warsaw, Poland

Tel: 48 22 25 46 43
Fax: 48 22 25 46 43

Mrs. Jolanta Rawska-Olejniczak

Representative
Dept. of International Cooperation
Ministry of Environmental Protection,
Natural Resources and Forestry
52/54 Wawelska Street
00-922 Warsaw, Poland

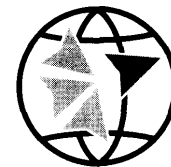
Tel: 48 22 25 11 33
Fax: 48 22 25 39 72

RUSSIA

Mr. Vladimir N. Lopatin

Director
Environmental Assessment and Review
Ministry of Environment and Nature
Resources of the Russian Federation
123812 GSP, B. Grusinskaya Str., 4/6
Moscow, Russia

Tel: 7 95 254 67 38
Fax: 7 95 254 82 83



RUSSIA

Dr. Anatoli A. Iskra

Chief of Branch
Methodological Laboratory
of Environment Protection
Ministry of Russian Federation
on Atomic Energy
3 3, Kashirskoe shosse
Moscow, 115230, Russia

Tel: 7 95 324 42 38
Fax: 7 95 324 54 41

SPAIN

Mr. Emilio Herranz Garcia

Jefe de Area de Impacto Ambiental
Dirección General de Política Ambiental
Ministerio de Obras Públicas,
Transportes y Medio Ambiente
Pº. de la Castellana, 67.28071
Madrid, Spain

Tel: 34 1 597 74 61
Fax: 34 1 597 85 12

SWEDEN

Mr. Tord Céwe

Head of Division
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
S 171 85 Solna, Sweden

Tel: 46 8 799 1339
Fax: 46 8 799 1222

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. John Zetter

Assistant Secretary
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB, U.K.

Tel: 44 71276 4600
Fax: 44 71 276 3936

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Ray Clark

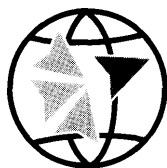
A/Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503
USA

Tel: 202 395 5754
Fax: 202 395 3744

Mr. William Dickerson

Senior Policy Analyst
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503
USA

Tel: 202 395 5750
Fax: 202 395 3744



VIETNAM

Dr. Pham Khoi Nguyen

Deputy Director
Ministry of Science and Technology
National Environment Agency
39, Tran Hung Dao St.
Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: 84 4 243322

Fax: 84 4 251518

Mrs. Chu Thi Sang

Senior Engineer
Ministry of Science and Technology
National Environment Agency
39, Tran Hung Dao St.
Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: 84 4 243322

Fax: 84 4 251518

ZIMBABWE

Mr. Irvin Kunene

Acting Chief Ecologist
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 8070 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263 4 794455

Fax: 263 4 793123

Mr. Shem Chaibva

Principal Ecologist
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 8070 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263 4 794455

Fax: 263 4 793123

ZIMBABWE

Dr. John A. Boyle

EA Advisor
Department of Natural Resources
7th Floor, Southampton House
Union/First
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263 4 730931

Fax: 263 4 703218

EARTH COUNCIL

Ms. Mary MacDonald

Senior Researcher
Earth Council
APDO 2323-1002
San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel: 5 06 223 3418

Fax: 5 06 255 2197

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Barry Dalal-Clayton

Director
Environmental Planning Group
International Institute for Environment
and Development (IIED)
3 Endsleigh Street
London, England
W1CH 0DD UK

Tel: 44 71 388 2117

Fax: 44 71 388 2826



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Mr. Mike Cockerell

Assistant Director General, Management
International Union for the
Conservation of Nature
The World Conservation Union
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1 196 Gland
Switzerland

Tel: 41 22 999 0291
Fax: 41 22 999 0025

Mr. Paddy Gresham

Coordinator, EA Service
International Union for the
Conservation of Nature
The World Conservation Union
Rue Mauverney 28
CH- 1196 Gland
Switzerland

Tel: 41 22 999 0291
Fax: 4122 999 0025

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Susan Becker

Environmental Specialist
United Nations Development
Program (UNDP)
One U.N. Plaza, DC1-2158
New York, New York 100 17
USA

Tel: 212 906 6021
Fax: 212 906 6947

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A/Prof. Lex Brown

UNDP Consultant and Head
Australian School of Environmental Studies
Griffith University
Nathan 4111
Brisbane, Australia

Tel: 61 7 875 7645
Fax: 61 7 875 5282

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Hussein Abaza

Chief
Environment and Economics Unit
United Nations Environment
Program (UNEP)
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

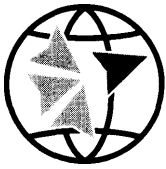
Tel: 254 2 624 268
Fax: 254 2 226 890

THE WORLD BANK

Mr. Robert Goodland

Senior Environmental Advisor
The World Bank
5th Floor, Room S-5043
1750 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20433
USA

Tel: 202 473 3203
Fax: 202 477 0565



HOST COUNTRY – CANADA

Mr. Patrice LeBlanc

Director General
Policy and Process Development
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
14th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Tel: 819 997 2253

Fax: 819 953 8592

Mr. André Harvey

Sous-ministreadjoint au développement
durable et à la conservation
Ministère de l'Environnement
et de la Faune
3900, rue de Marly, 6^e étage
Sainte-Foy, Quebec
G1X 4E4

Tel: 418 643 7860

Fax: 418 643 7812

Mr. Jean Pronovost

Sous-ministre
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune
3900, rue de Marly
6^e étage
Sainte-Foy, Quebec
G1X 4E4

Tel: 418 643 7860

Fax: 418 643 7812

Mr. Bertrand Tétreault

President
Bureau d'audiences publiques sur
l'environnement
625, rue Saint-Amable
2^e étage
Quebec, Quebec
G1R 2G5

Tel: 418 643 7447

Fax: 418 643 9474

Mr. Barry Sadler

Director
EA Effectiveness Study
1635 Barksdale Drive
Victoria, British Columbia
V8N 5A8

Tel: 604 477 8752

Fax: 604 477 8752

MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT

Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
14th Floor, Fontaine Building
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3

Fax: 819 953 2891

Ms. Ginette Doré

Tel: 819 953 2535

Mr. Gordon Harris

Tel: 819 953 1856

Ms. Chantal Sirois

Tel: 819 953 0036

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:

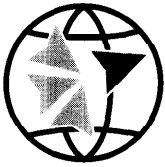
- 1) rationale, objectives and background of the Summit;
- 2) key themes and questions on which participants are asked to focus;
- 3) the process for sequencing and structuring discussion; and
- 4) options for follow-up on the results of discussion.

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.



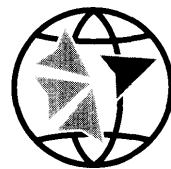
The objectives established for the Summit are twofold:

- 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 for 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 heads 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.

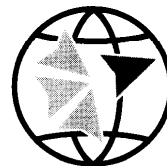
What lessons – successes and constraints – can be drawn from dealing with these issues under different institutions, systems and processes? How might the problems identified be resolved best in the short versus the long term? Which other aspects of EA systems and processes also show promise of immediate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



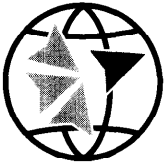
3.2.1. In many systems, EA is applied largely at the project level. This means, among other things, that there are difficulties in addressing and dealing with cumulative effects – which are now expressed at ecosystem, bio-regional and global levels. Following the Earth Summit, further demands are being 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 at 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 arrangements 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:

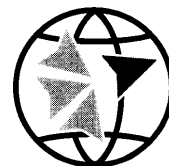
- i) what, in general, may be done by participating countries and international organizations about the challenges identified at the Summit; and
- ii) whether, in particular, the participants see any value in continuing their dialogue in the future in a similar forum or in other ways.

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, system 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:

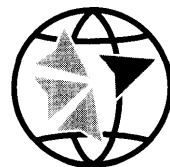
- i) a short report on the results of discussion, including an agenda for action that sets out what should be done to address the issues reviewed at the Summit;
- ii) a follow-up program that would be designed to move forward on the “Agenda for Action”. This would be dependent on the interest and willingness 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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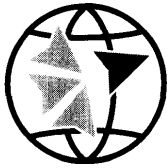
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