

Guidelines for Lead IA Professionals

Preamble

On 27 May 2006, the IAIA Board of Directors accepted in principle the concept of providing guidelines for a Lead IA Practitioner and a Lead IA Administrator. These guidelines establish a standard which IAIA members and others can utilize as a minimum standard and which can be presented to national accreditation bodies for their consideration in establishing standards for the profession. IAIA itself does not accredit professionals, given the international composition of its members and the principle of country ownership of impact assessment. However, in recognition of the needs and desires of IAIA members and national accreditation bodies to establish standards, these guidelines were adopted by the IAIA Board of Directors as a standard to which Lead Practitioners and Lead Administrators of impact assessment should aspire.

The guidelines address *managerial* competence for integrated IA, and not necessarily technical competence in any particular IA discipline. They provide broad guidance as to the characteristics IAIA expects of an accomplished Lead IA Practitioner and Lead Administrator. Since many of the criteria are qualitative, it is the sum of an individual's qualifications, rather than his or her suitability against any one criterion, that will determine whether he or she meets the overall requirements of these guidelines.

These guidelines were adopted by the IAIA Board of Directors on 17 October 2006.

Lead IA Practitioner

- Subscribes to the IAIA "Code of Conduct" as adopted by the IAIA Board of Directors.
- Has been awarded a relevant¹ degree from an accredited university OR is a member in good standing of a relevant professionally accredited organization.
- Has at least 10 years of progressively senior experience in designing, undertaking and reporting on integrated IA studies, including public participation (such as public scoping of IA documents, public dialogue and comments on IA documents and consultations with stakeholders).
- Has a thorough understanding of IA methods, including cumulative and strategic IA.
- Has demonstrated a capacity to effectively lead and integrate multi-disciplinary IA studies at all scales, and to look beyond compliance to develop and promote best practice.
- Has demonstrated an ability to think holistically about the structure, functioning and performance of ecological, socio-economic and political systems in order to facilitate sound decision-making in support of sustainable development through IA.
- Has a broad knowledge of IA administrative systems and guidelines and a demonstrated ability to effectively interpret and fulfill their requirements.
- Has demonstrated an active commitment to best practice and continuing professional development through readings, publications/presentations, training, and/or mentoring.
- Has demonstrated an active commitment to mentoring less experienced practitioners for their professional development.

Lead IA Administrator

- Subscribes to the IAIA "Code of Conduct" as adopted by the IAIA Board of Directors.
- Has been awarded a relevant¹ degree from an accredited university OR is a member in good standing of a relevant professionally accredited organization.
- Has at least 10 years of progressively senior IA experience with an emphasis on the administration of public-sector IA processes, including some experience conducting integrated IA studies and related public participation (such as public scoping of IA documents, public dialogue and comments on IA documents and consultations with stakeholders).
- Has a detailed working knowledge of the environmental and related institutions, legislation, policies, and administrative procedures within which s/he works.
- Has demonstrated an ability to establish integrated IA requirements for a range of project types and scales, to evaluate the adequacy of IA documents, to craft practical project approval conditions, and to follow up the implementation of those conditions.
- Has demonstrated an ability to think holistically about the structure, functioning and performance of ecological, socio-economic and political systems in order to facilitate sound decision-making in support of sustainable development.
- Has demonstrated an active commitment to best practice and continuing professional development through readings, publications/presentations, training, and/or mentoring.
- Has demonstrated an active commitment to mentoring less experienced administrators for their professional development.

IAIA International Association
for Impact Assessment

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¹ For example: environmental studies, geography, ecology, biology, sociology, social anthropology, planning, engineering, landscape architecture.