



The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Request *Resilient Recovery (RR) Project*

Introduction

As the world addresses global unemployment and COVID-19 recovery, the climate change emergency remains, with profound implications for health, biodiversity, and stewardship of environmental systems. At the same time, we face near-term re-employment responses calling for massive expansion in infrastructure and public works.

One of the most valuable lessons from the experience with the global pandemic is that planning against future emergencies (whether from pandemics, deteriorating environmental systems, or other natural or manmade disasters) requires science, discipline, and informed leadership.

The application of impact assessment (IA) processes can guide wise decision-making at local, national, and global levels. Impact assessment helps to ensure alternatives are chosen that avoid costly social and environment misjudgments while also addressing the many destabilizing trends and accelerating ecological disruption that affect our common future. IA processes are the foundation of essential environmental and social safeguards, without which we ignore scientific fact with potentially disastrous consequences for humanity and the environment.

Proposal

Out of a sense of professional responsibility and heightened scientific and social concern, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is initiating the ***Resilient Recovery (RR) Project***. Phase I of the *RR Project* is to implement *IAIA's Impact Assessment and Climate Change Action Plan*.

RR Project Phase I:

Actions requiring funding under Phase I include:

1. Establish a collaborative platform to support actions under the Paris Agreement and work with the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to champion the precautionary use of IA processes as essential climate change adaptation/mitigation tools.
2. Implement a select number of actions to help ensure that both the public and private sectors are using the best IA processes and model approaches to identify, avoid, or mitigate adverse impacts of climate change in support of the Paris Agreement's 2050 targets. The focus is on institutional investors, the insurance industry, and risk analysts. Other public and private

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sector collaborative partnerships will include institutions representing decision-making authorities, urban planners, environmental attorneys, and journalists.

Officials in countries around the globe soon will be faced with making decisions regarding infrastructure development project as part of large-scale recovery programs to bolster national economies. Building these substantive relationships, with the entities described above, will be critically important to increase involvement of IA expertise in these infrastructure plans. Heavy emphasis must be placed on sound infrastructure planning and design in these infrastructure development decisions, in order to properly respond and address climate change.

Investment in maintaining existing infrastructure (e.g., roads and bridges), is important, but *the far greater challenge is to ensure that decision-makers have the technical guidance and oversight for the global infrastructure transition needed to achieve the net zero carbon target over the next 30 years.*

Scientific consensus is that rapid transition away from fossil fuels is critical to addressing the climate emergency and achieving this critical target. This is projected to require a massive expansion, every year out to 2050, in onshore wind, offshore wind, utility-scale solar, and associated transmission on a scale that may well require a massive global mobilization. Also, the greatest single contributor to carbon emissions is the transport sector, and the private automobile in particular. To many atmospheric scientists, the transport sector is thought of as Climate Enemy #1. To transition away from fossil fuel-driven transportation will also require massive public and private investment.

3. Provide expertise on arctic environments and social systems through Observer status on the Arctic Council. IAIA believes the Arctic is one of the most critical ecosystems in the world, with major climate change challenges. IAIA seeks to support the Arctic Council's efforts to address major stresses to environmental and social systems, including cultural heritage and indigenous people, by applying our Association's wide expertise. IAIA will be submitting an application for Observer status on the Arctic Council in the fall of 2020. We are seeking additional outside support to increase the level of engagement we can provide in order to enhance the effectiveness of decisions being made in the region by the signatory nations.

Why Were These Specific Actions Selected?

The actions chosen were the result of a prioritization process stretching over a decade, beginning with an IAIA Climate Change Symposium sponsored by the World Bank in 2010. IAIA has close connections with many bilateral donor organizations and multinational development banks. The Association also collaborates closely with IUCN and other non-governmental environmental



organizations. These relationships are historically strong and will continue. Important elements of this plan, however, are to reach beyond our connections with existing partners, to increase collaboration with other groups we believe would benefit greatly from working with IA practitioners and from whom our membership might also learn.

For this reason, the IA and Climate Change Action Plan includes collaborations with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), environmental law organizations, financial institutions, the reinsurance industry, risk analysts, journalists, government decision-makers and urban planners, and the Arctic Council.

IAIA believes the path is open in this period of dramatic change for the best earth scientists, engineering minds, resource economists, and environmental and social assessment specialists to work together to anticipate future disturbances to society and the environment, and in recovery, to marshal creative solutions to maintain the natural systems needed for our well-being. This project will help bring expertise and discipline to help address the conservation of biodiversity and natural systems and the sustainable stewardship and efficient use of the Earth's remaining natural resources. IAIA's engagement can also ensure greater attention to social and economic equity, indigenous peoples, and cultural heritage.

In an emergency of this magnitude, we need to use both wisdom and discipline as our best scientists, IA specialists, engineers, economists, entrepreneurs, and ethicists give us guidance on the hard choices we will have to make to ensure the ability of nations to reorient and rejuvenate their economies and to weather future unexpected global and national events, whether these be acts of nature or man-made.

It should be noted that additional phases of the IAIA Resilient Recovery Project are in development with priority actions and budgets, focusing on impacts in areas such as *health, biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, resettlement, emerging technologies, and persistent novel change*.

International Association for Impact Assessment

IAIA is the world's leading professional organization with the expertise to provide unbiased assessment and oversight of infrastructure projects. This includes those that incorporate less intensive fossil fuel development and energy use. With 1,087 members from 108 nations, IAIA represents many disciplines and professions. Our annual conferences regularly welcome over 700 participants, and our regional symposia and other events focus attention on specific topics. See www.iaia.org for more information.

Our Association's professional expertise applies to both design and management of projects, programs, policies, and emergent technologies. We are specialists in considering "preferred

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alternatives" as part of the IA process. IAIA's mission and the cross-disciplinary composition of our members makes our Association uniquely qualified to provide both the public and private sectors and wider society with the best IA practices to identify, assess, and limit the cumulative impacts of projects and programs.

IAIA is one of the few organizations equipped to reach out rapidly with tailored IA expertise to financial institutions, risk analyst groups, legal organizations, journalists, urban planners, etc. Our global reach places us in a unique position to share model approaches, successes, pitfalls, and best practices.

Request

Your financial support is urgently requested to help ensure that IAIA's special professional expertise is more fully available to assist decision makers in responding with wisdom and foresight to the challenges of creating a more economically and ecologically resilient world.

The ***Resilient Recovery (RR) Project Phase I Request*** has a fundraising target of **\$360,650**. IAIA is seeking \$10,000 from 36 companies to make this project a reality and to build a better world for future generations. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this request and explore your funding interests and requirements. The fundraising target for Phase I will allow IAIA to help the world recover in a way that respects the environmental and social needs of current and future generations.