

A guide to social impact assessment

in the oil and gas industry

Social responsibility 2004

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Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared, on behalf of the IPIECA Social Responsibility Working Group, by Julia Adamson, of Rudall Blanchard Associates and a dedicated Social Impact Assessment Task Force. The task force carried out gap analysis of current industry practices, identifying the need for this report, which aims to provide simple, high-level and practical guidance to Social Impact Assessments.

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IPIECA, the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association was established in 1974. It is a voluntary non-profit organization whose membership includes both petroleum companies and associations at the national, regional and international levels.

Separate working groups within IPIECA address global environmental and social issues related to the petroleum industry: oil spill preparedness and response, global climate change, biodiversity, social responsibility, fuel quality and vehicle emissions, and human health. IPIECA also helps members identify new global issues and assesses their potential impact on the oil industry.

IPIECA holds formal United Nations status, which allows it access as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to all UN negotiations. The Association represents the views of its members in public fora and provides an interface between the petroleum industry and the United Nations Agencies.

IPIECA's goals are to promote good practices and industry consensus through:

- Arranging international workshops
- · Publishing authoritative reports
- · Providing a channel of communication with the UN
- Providing a forum for open dialogue
- · Facilitating stakeholder engagement
- Promoting partnerships



An IPIECA Guide to

Social Impact Assessment

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A. Purpose of this guide

This guide outlines the use of Social Impact Assessments by the oil and gas industry. It provides managers of existing oil and gas operations or new projects with an understanding of how to make the best use of SIAs. This guide is not intended to be an in depth instruction on how to do SIAs. Nor is it a detailed resource for HSE experts. Information on more detailed resources is contained at the end of this guide.

B. Key factors to promote success

Conducting SIAs is not always straightforward. However, if properly carried out, an SIA can assist in managing project budget and schedule, in supporting relationships with relevant stakeholders, and in building competitive advantage for a company.

For an SIA to succeed, managers should:

Ensure that the scope of the assessment is realistic and achievable.

Use a tailored approach that recognises the conditions and constraints specific to the project.

Initiate the SIA process as early as possible (at project conception) and ensure output from the SIA process can input in a timely manner to the project execution plan.

Recognise national and international sensitivities to the topics addressed. This includes recognising the analysis may appear as criticism or disrespect in certain cultures.

Management commitment to the process is critical. Commitment is needed at all levels of and across the disciplines of Project Management. It may be appropriate for some projects to form a senior management steering group to the SIA representing interested disciplines within the company.

Anticipate the need for early and continuing discussion regarding SIA objectives within the company to ensure effective coordination of the number of disciplines that may be involved.

Ensure that internal or contracted expertise has 'local' knowledge of social, political and cultural issues.

Maximise, as far as feasible, the use of participatory approaches in the assessment.

Involve operations personnel in external consultation processes.

Provide clear vision and goals for social performance of the project and communicate this to all project staff.

Provide clear definition of social performance, requirements to the project's major contractors.

C. What is social impact assessment?

SIAs are appraisals of the likely impact that oil and gas operations might have on the societies of host countries, regions and communities. These impacts can be direct and indirect, intended and unintended, positive and negative. Ideally, every SIA is a participative study with local, national and international stakeholders, as appropriate. An SIA can be used at any stage of the industry life cycle: a new country entry, an exploration phase, a new development activity, change to an existing activity or the decommissioning or closure of an existing operation. An SIA identifies ways to mitigate any adverse social impacts and enhance positive ones. An effective SIA optimises the design of oil and gas operations to account for potential social impacts. It also ensures that stakeholder views are incorporated and addressed throughout the project lifecycle.

Typically SIAs address issues such as:

• Demographics: Changes in size and make-up of population due to migration of people in search of work, emigration from an area as the result of safety or security issues or any other reasons.

Socio-economic:

- taxes and royalties; expected payments to different levels of government national, regional, local; time profile of payments.
- supply chain impacts; local sourcing opportunities; potential inflationary impacts on local markets for goods and services; impact on non oil and gas sector (Dutch Disease).
- employment; labour practices; changes in existing industries as workers shift from traditional industries to oil and gas activities; movement of other necessary workers (e.g. teachers and police) into the oil and gas industry as translators or security personnel; return of construction workers to lower end jobs.
- time profile of projects; construction boom; operation phase; decommissioning; potential oil and gas dependency.
- Health: Spread of new diseases to indigenous communities, impacts on health of operations personnel, impact of local diseases on workers and the spread of pandemics such as HIV and STDs.
- Social infrastructure: Adequacy of health care and education facilities, transport and roads, power supply, fresh water supply to support project activities and personnel as well as the community.
- Resources: Land-take for facilities and resettlement, new or increased access to rural or remote areas, use
 of natural resources.
- Psychological and community aspects: Changes from traditional lifestyles, community cohesion, attitudes and behaviour, perception of risk.
- Cultural property: Sites and structures with archaeological, historical, religious, cultural or aesthetic values that may be change or have their access limited.
- Social equity: Identifying who gains and who loses as a result of the project or operation.

D. The benefits of SIA •

SIA is a beneficial tool for both business and communities.

Benefits for Business:

An SIA identifies and assesses social issues that can represent a significant risk and/or opportunity to a project. An SIA is an effective risk management tool informing and encouraging timely decisions on projects. SIA can influence project design and improve the quality of decision making. In particular an SIA can help with:

- Managing the short and long-term impacts.
- Providing important input into the design of effective stakeholder engagement, building consensus and collaboration between parties and managing expectations. This can assist in securing trust with:
 - The workforce, helping to prevent disputes.
 - The local communities, to avoid protests, blockades and land access disputes.
 - The regulatory authorities, reducing problems such as licensing delays.
- Better estimating and optimisation of socio-economic costs (like resettlement), resources required for mitigation measures, management plans, etc.
- Defining socio-economic considerations for inclusion into tender documents.
- Meeting the requirements of financial and aid institutions which may be important to the company or one of its partners. Many financial institutions such as the IFC have requirements for the management of social issues to safeguard investments which include SIA.

Benefits for Communities:

Stakeholders engaged in or identified by the SIA process also benefit through:

- Access to the company to express their views/ concerns and suggestions and involvement in the decision- making processes as a result of effective consultation.
- Identification of opportunities for economic development through the supply of goods and services by local stakeholders.
- Contribution to local capacity building in infrastructure, services and environmental protection.
- Increase in human capacity building through the transfer of best practices.
- · Social investment to meet both local and project needs.
- Support for traditional industries alongside the development of the project.
- · Protection of cultural resources for the communities.
- Inclusion for local communities through better understanding of both the positive and negative effects of the project or operation.

E. When to carry out an SIA —

Ideally, the decision to do an SIA should be taken at a project's conception. Existing operations that did not involve SIA at the project stage can be screened at any stage. Such screening should identify any legal or contractual requirements to carry out an SIA and the scope and complexity of potential social issues that need to be considered by more detailed study. Some form of SIA should be carried out on all major projects whether legislated or not.

F. Integrating an SIA with other impact assessments

SIAs are one of a number of impact assessment studies commonly encountered in the oil and gas industry. These are compared in the table below.

Table 1: Comparison between the different impact assessment techniques1

Social Impact Assessment (SIA)	Health Impact Assessment (HIA)	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	Strategic Impact Assessment ²
Usually carried out voluntarily by a company, but can be required by legislation or by funding institutions. Impact on communities (including impacts on socio-economics, governance and institutions, culture, religion, human rights, community, beliefs, housing, values and organisation). Consultation required all through the process, and as a tool to collect baseline information.	Recommended by the Word Health Organization, the EU, the WB, UNEP, the ILO and the FAO. Impact on health status, with the definition of health encompassing the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. Health is determined by a multiplicity of factors including socio-economic and environmental factors. Community participation and consultation critical, forming an integral part of the process. In some instances HIA is carried out as part of SIA.	Often required by legislation. Impact on the environment (soil, air, water, wastes, fauna, flora and human activities). Consultation phase often legislated.	Often required by legislation. Impact on both, the environment and communities (but often restricted to socioeconomic impacts). Presently, health impacts are rarely detailed and often restricted to negative impacts. Consultation phase often legislated.	Usually carried out voluntarily by a company. National and regional policy and impacts considered. Integrates health, social, environmental and policy issues. Starts well in advance of plan or project execution.
 Usually project and location specific. Starts during project conception, its results feed decisions in the design phase, implementation and throughout the project lifecycle 				

- The IAIA website www.iaia.org contains a number of publications addressing the different types of impact assessments in more details.
- 2 In many countries, Strategic Impact Assessment is a function carried out by government decision-making (e.g. to decide on which blocks to make available for oil and gas leasing). However, as used in this guidance document, Strategic Impact Assessment is something done by a company to support its decision-making.

A number of different impact assessments can be needed for the same activity. Therefore, it makes sense to integrate the studies. In many cases there is some synergy among different assessments in methodology and scope. In all instances, the results of such impact assessments need to be integrated to optimise project / operations planning. The decision to integrate the SIA process with other impact assessments is not straightforward and consideration needs to be given to such factors as:

- The scope and complexity of social issues identified at the initial activity screening. A greater scope and complexity may lend itself to a separate SIA.
- Any legal, licensing, contractual or financing requirements. Where more than one set of requirements
 exist these may not be consistent. In such circumstances, it may be necessary to negotiate a consistent
 requirement with all relevant stakeholders.
- The availability of resources to provide integrated or separate impact assessment teams and the resources to manage integrated or separate teams.
- The ability to integrate these activities with other project activities such as socio-economic baseline and resettlement baseline surveys with initial project land acquisition surveys.
- The needs of the project or activity schedule. In particular, time scales for stakeholder engagement
 with respect to social issues may be significant compared to the time scales required for other impact
 assessments.

Differing opinions exist as to whether it is best to integrate an SIA with other forms of impact assessment. However, within the oil and gas industry, there is a trend towards integrating SIAs, EIAs and HIAs. Ultimately, the decision to integrate an SIA with other impact assessments will be specific to the company and the project.

G. Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement underpins the SIA process. It is critical that stakeholder engagement takes place early and often. This allows stakeholder input to be considered in the project design, planning and implementation. Stakeholders may be numerous and various. Some will identify themselves immediately; others will not engage with the company until an issue arises. Identifying stakeholders for offshore projects can be especially difficult. An early stakeholder identification process makes that task much easier.

Relevant stakeholders are people likely to be affected by the project or who can impact the project, representatives of local communities, interest groups, NGOs, government agencies, funding institutions, employees, and contractors. Identified stakeholders should be assessed for their ability to influence the project or operation or their vulnerability to negative impact from it. This evaluation can help prioritise and develop appropriate and feasible engagement strategies with each stakeholder. However, time scales for effective engagement can be lengthy particularly in areas new to oil and gas activities.

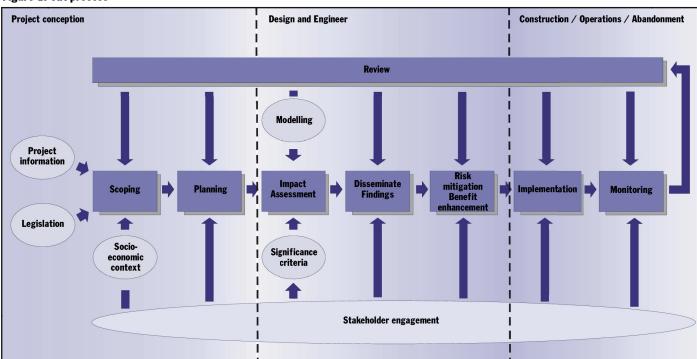
Consultation is one of the most commonly used elements of stakeholder engagement. Consultation makes local communities aware that information is sought to mitigate future impacts and identify opportunities for improvements in social and economic conditions. Legislation can often dictate consultation requirements in project planning processes and EIA and ESIA studies. However, consultation requirements dictated for EIAs and ESIAs by legislation may not always be consistent with SIA needs.

Initial public consultation is often used to assist in stakeholder analysis to ensure that no relevant groups are excluded and to develop culturally appropriate and effective engagement with relevant groups.

H. The SIA process

Steps to successful SIAs are described on the following pages. Ideally, an SIA is initiated at project conception. However, an SIA can be applied at any stage of the project life-cycle. Frequent revalidation of original SIAs will be required through the project lifecycle as significant changes occur. The timing of these steps in the SIA process is related to a typical oil and gas project lifecycle in figure 1.

Figure 1: SIA process



1. Scoping

Scoping defines the limits of the study to avoid unjustified effort. This step consists of gathering sufficient preliminary information to determine the area of influence of the project and, identifying the scope of issues to be covered by the SIA and the level of stakeholder engagement that will be needed. Careful consideration at the scoping phase will greatly enhance the success of the assessment.

Key parameters that will influence the scope of an SIA are:

- Project characteristics including the size, complexity and stage in the oil and gas lifecycle and the timing and duration of the project activities.
- Project uncertainties and the time scale for their likely resolution.
- The historical background of the area, any special geographic features or local cultural norms. In particular any history of success or failure with similar projects and a record of any community protests.
- Initial screening of potential social issues. The IPIECA / OGP document, "Key questions in managing social issues in oil and gas projects", provides useful lists of questions that can facilitate such screening.
- Legislative requirements.
- Internal company health, safety, environmental and social / community objectives.
- Results of initial stakeholder identification and analysis and any early engagement.
- Identification of any vulnerable groups (e.g. low income, minorities, indigenous peoples or those not normally involved in political decision making including gender distinctions).

Where impact assessment teams are separated, co-ordination between SIA, HIA and EIA teams will be needed to optimise the scoping of all studies, since some issues will be in common.

It is important that the scoping of the SIA be realistic. Carrying out an SIA involving participation of stakeholders may not always be straightforward if access, security or other norms limit such participation. When that happens, the scope may have to recognise these limitations. In addition, the scope of the SIA, particularly in defining its objectives and anticipated deliverables, should reflect what can be achieved to ensure that stakeholders have realistic expectations of the outcomes of the report.

2. Planning

Establishing baseline information

After scoping an SIA, the next priority is to gather data on baseline conditions. This data will form the basis for modelling potential impacts of the project.

A variety of tools can be used to collect such baseline data:

Secondary data sources including official material such as maps, censuses, government records; research reports, social needs assessments, historical texts. Such data may need to be updated or augmented by field survey data collected by the SIA study team.

Qualitative interview techniques providing insight into how people perceive themselves and how their community organisation and leadership work together. Interviews take into account preferences and expectations regarding overall project benefits, specific mitigation measures, compensation and community development needs. Qualitative techniques can also be used to fill gaps in baseline data surveys which might have been missed or understated. They can also enhance and verify quantitative data.

Quantified data is often collected on such parameters as household assets, income streams, expenditures, vulnerable individuals or groups, health, education, skills of the labour force etc.. Quantitative data allow for effective assessment of potential project impacts over time. Reliable quantitative data also provide a sound basis to challenge unfounded claims and future disputes concerning project impacts. However, quantified data collection should focus on what really counts rather than what is easy to count.

Participatory rural appraisal and the participatory approaches suggested by the World Bank can be used to share learning between local people and companies. Experience suggests that the quality of baseline data collection can be enhanced by the use of appropriate participatory approaches, particularly in greenfield sites where the company has a limited understanding of the stakeholders.

Supply-chain analysis is helpful at an early stage of a project. Assessing the inventory of goods and services that a project will require allows for the development of opportunities for local people or local businesses.

Not all desired data will be available or acquirable in a timely or cost effective manner. Gaps in data should therefore be identified with the gaps managed within the study. As the project evolves, it may be necessary to review and update baseline data.

Impact assessment

After collecting baseline data the next step is to analyse it in order to provide predictions of the likely positive and negative impacts of the proposed oil and gas project. Impacts should not be limited to the area and lifetime of the projects or operations. Secondary impacts, often outside the company's control, should also be considered. For example, new transportation infrastructure to support the project or pipeline rights of way have primary impacts on land use. Secondary impacts may include providing access for new settlers in previously inaccessible and sensitive environments. Similarly, any cumulative effects of the oil and gas project with other developments should be considered. A number of project scenarios can be treated by comparing potential impacts for different project options.

The significance of all potential impacts should be evaluated. It is particularly important to recognise any disproportionate adverse impact on vulnerable groups.

Disseminating findings

Disseminating findings is critical to developing effective plans for mitigating adverse impacts and optimising benefits. Dissemination should be a continuous process incorporating the on going learning about the communities and changes in the conceptual design of the project. Where possible, this process should be integrated with the findings of other impact assessments.

Findings should be shared with project staff - particularly designers and planners. Access to such information early in the design phase can help to identify options for avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts that might pose risks to project costs and schedule.

The discussion of findings with project staff and major contractors is also critical for developing successful mitigation measures and then implementing them.

Further dissemination of findings with stakeholders may be subject to a variety of constraints. These include:

- Legal requirements
- Requirements from finance agencies
- Confidentiality restrictions with partners and state agencies
- Constraints on open dialogue and consultation due to adverse security and political environments

Any dissemination strategy should accommodate these constraints while maximising the benefits of a participatory SIA process.

Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising project benefits through an action plan

Ways to mitigate adverse impacts and enhance positive ones will be identified through discussion of the findings of the SIA with project planners and designers as well as through stakeholder engagement. Where impact assessments have not been integrated, mitigation measures suggested by one assessment may impact those of other assessments either positively or negatively. Trade-offs and negotiation may be needed to optimise alternatives. Priority should be given:

- · firstly to measures that avoid adverse impact,
- · secondly to impact reduction or minimisation measures
- and lastly to compensation.

When developing mitigation measures, their sustainability should be considered to avoid perpetual social commitments by the company.

To do this, the company can develop an action plan ranking and prioritising recommended actions, detailing the budget proposed and an implementation timetable. In addition, these plans should clearly indicate the roles and responsibilities of the project and project personnel and those of third parties such as local and regional administrations. The role of contractors in implementing of mitigation measures should be clearly assessed – preferably before contractors are selected. The action plan should coordinate with the timetable for the entire project or activity. In many cases it will be advantageous to integrate the action plan into existing action planning management tools.

3. Implementation and monitoring

Management support of the measures developed by the SIA process through the action plan is critical. Management support will ensure the appropriate allocation of funds and resources. Implementation of the action plan rarely involves the activities of a single company department. Interdepartmental collaboration – as well as collaboration with external parties such as civil society groups, affected communities, government agencies and contractors – is critical. Communicating a clear vision for social performance for the project activity among company and contractor personnel is also essential. Additionally, clear requirements for social performance should be accounted for in contracting strategy and contractual requirements.

Monitoring mechanisms should be established as soon as activities commence at project sites. Monitoring should identify any deviations from the impacts predicted by the SIA. Monitoring should also assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Monitoring may be specifically required by regulations. When not required, it can be used as a basis for compliance/ performance reporting.

4. Review

At regular intervals throughout the project lifecycle, performance against the action plan and the results of monitoring should be reviewed. In some situations, the mitigating measures in the plan may not be entirely effective later in the project or activity lifecycle. If that happens, the SIA process may need to be revalidated. For example, this may be needed:

- At the end of the construction phase when employment levels fall significantly.
- On closure of an operation leading to the end of employment opportunities, community development support and maintenance infrastructure.
- When activities external to the project due to other company activities, government programmes etc. may cause social impacts around the company's activities.

As part of company change management processes, SIAs should be updated along with action plans. In this way SIAs and action plans will be maintained as living documents.

5. Verification / independent monitoring

Increasingly, SIAs undergo some process of independent monitoring or verification. In most instances the cost will be borne by the oil and gas company. The scope of such monitoring or verification will vary according to need. It can entail regular visits and review of the SIA process by a number of stakeholder representatives, or it may call for active involvement of independent parties in all stages of the SIA process. A decision on independent monitoring / verification will depend on legal requirements, stakeholder expectations, perceived reputation benefits and the independent resources needed.

I. Resourcing -

The process for SIAs is not as well established as that for EIAs. Consequently, few oil and gas companies or their contractors have resources to undertake an SIA. It is usually a task for consultants with a range of experience. When appointing an SIA team, a company should consider:

- Practitioners with a variety of backgrounds to suit the project needs. Typically, they may be social
 scientists, communications specialists, development specialists and former in-house industry experts
 who have extensive experience in managing the social components of projects.
- An independent advisory board of recognised experts to provide advice to the project on the SIA process.
- The need for industry knowledge within the team to understand potential impacts from the activities of the oil and gas industry.
- Familiarity with local language and culture. This is critical for exposing issues that are not evident through review of media and publications. Local knowledge is equally important for ensuring credibility of the SIA results and their subsequent dissemination. The provision of training may be considered to increase the number of local resources available to the SIA team.

J. Cost and time management -

The main costs associated with an SIA are determined by the need for hiring social impact experts with relevant and local knowledge, travel to the project area/country concerned, numerous discussions between the consultants and the project team, agreeing objectives and methodologies for data collection and stakeholder engagement, and other costs such as translation etc. A clear scope of work and project timeframes is a key tool to managing consultant costs. For large SIA projects, it is advisable to split the project into stages, allowing for clear definition of project scope at each stage.

As for cost management, the timeframe for an SIA is highly variable. Timing the stages of the SIA process will need to consider opportunities to influence project decisions, contracting strategies and input to contractual requirements with contractors and suppliers.

Project managers should be aware that any SIA invariably takes time, involves a number of iterations and requires extensive resources.

Reference	Area Covered
CAPP: Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Guide for Effective Public Involvement, 2003 http://www.capp.ca/raw.asp?x=1&dt=NTV&e=PDF&dn=73244	The purpose of this Guide is to introduce the fundamentals of public involvement, to help design an effective public involvement program and to serve as an on-going reference for public involvement activities. This guide will help to: understand the fundamentals of public involvement; express the business case for public involvement; develop and implement public involvement programs that suit the unique requirements of different activities and stakeholders; and, evaluate public involvement results.
IFC: International Finance Corporation Good Practice Note: Addressing the Social Dimensions of Private Sector Projects, 2003 http://ifcln1.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/p_socialGPN/\$FILE/SocialGPN.pdf	This note covers issues from scoping and baseline data collection to impact analysis, mitigation and monitoring of social impacts Social assessment is presented as both an integral part of IFC's environmental assessment process and as a tool for identifying value adding opportunities that go beyond traditional mitigation measures to promote sustainable development on a broader scale. The document is punctuated by case studies illustrating the main text. In addition, a table provides a sound base to carry out the SIA itself by listing a wide range or questions to consider by type of issue.
IPIECA: International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association OGP: International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Key questions in managing social issues in oil and gas projects, 2002 http://www.ipieca.org/downloads/social/impact_assessment.pdf	This joint OGP / IPIECA report contains a list of key questions that may need to be asked and answered in considering the social dimensior of oil and gas projects. However these should not be seen as check lists to follow rigorously, but rather as guidance. The type of issues and associated questions are related to the different stages of the lifecycle. The document also lists the different stakeholders with whom dialogue should be engaged – from partners to government, through to indigenous and native people. It also details the reasons for their involvement. Appendix A provides a detailed guidance on existing tools and techniques in the social assessment and consultation process. Appendix B deals with the appointment of expert consultants. The document does not address in detail corporate social responsibility issues such as human rights and conflict resolution, revenue management and transparency nor the role of governments.
IFC: International Finance Corporation Doing better Business Through Effective Public Consultation and Disclosure, 1998 http://ifcln1.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/p_pubconsult/\$FILE/PublicConsultation.pdf	The document presents IFC's requirements regarding public consultation and disclosure. These depend on the type of project. IFC recommends disclosure as early as possible and the assurance that information is accessible. It then provides key actions for managing consultation and project disclosure as well guidance on a range of issues such as the identification of stakeholders, scoping of the assessment, the redaction of a management plan and community development plans.
OGP: International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Principles for impact assessment: the environmental and social dimension, 1997 http://www.ogp.org.uk/pubs/265.pdf	This report sets out principles for the environmental and social dimension of impact assessment for E&P projects, emphasising the integration of social assessment. It was intended for oil and gas companies and their contractors, and it highlights to them the importance of social and environmental assessment in all aspects of project planning and implementation. The document was subsequently endorsed by IPIECA. The document provides guidance on consultation as part of the SIA process and summarises its main steps.

IAIA: International Association for Impact Assessment Social Impact Assessment, International Principles, 2003 http://www.iaia.org/Members/Publications/Guidelines_Principles/SP2.pdf	Highlighting the need for principles regarding SIA, this document focuses on respect for human rights, equity, transparency, and focus on positive outcomes. Additional guiding principles comprise the precautionary principle, intergenerational equity, multi-sectorial integration and the principle of subsidiarity.
NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, Interorganizational Committee; 1994 http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/social_impact_guide.htm	Written by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), these guidelines provide an overview of the legal mandates (in the US) and the administrative procedures that call for SIA as part of environmental impact statements. It also provides a basic model for an SIA (e.g. variables, projects development stages). Finally it outlines the major steps in doing an SIA; and provides principles to use as a benchmark in the process.
World Bank Participation and Social Assessment: Tools and Techniques, 1998 http://www.worldbank.org/participation/pme/webfiles/Toolkit.pdf	This resource toolkit aims to share information and experiences on participatory methods in order to support the adoption of participatory approaches in World Bank-supported projects and studies. The kit consists of modules on: • Social assessment: a methodology for incorporating an analysis of social issues and developing a framework for stakeholder participation in the design of a project; • Stakeholder analysis: a methodology for identifying and analysing the key stakeholders in a project, and planning for their participation; • Participatory methodologies: methodologies for consulting and collaborating with local-level stakeholders. Modules include an overview, techniques, case studies, and suggestions for seminars. In addition to the modules, the resource kit provides a videotape (NTSC format) of a compilation of three participation-related videos.
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act Call-In Fact Sheet "Social Impact Assessment", 1998 http://www.gsa.ene.com/factsheet/1098b/1098bfact.htm	This fact sheet specifies the legislative context of SIAs. These have been primarily required by the US government through the enactment of the NEPA, as part of an environmental impact assessment. The document sets out in particular the fundamental principles sustaining an SIA such as public involvement, and the typical steps. Finally it addresses the contracting issue.
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act Call-In Fact Sheet "Public Participation in NEPA Review", 1998 http://www.gsa.ene.com/factsheet/0298/0298fact.htm	This brief fact sheet deals with the importance of public participation all along the SIA process. It recalls that public engagement is a legal requirement (in the US) and enumerates its benefits.
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act Call-In Fact Sheet "Environmental Justice", 1998 http://www.gsa.ene.com/factsheet/0298b/02_98_6.htm	This fact sheet emphasises the social inequities of population to industry impacts and the need to consider and integrate these when carrying out an SIA.



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