



45th Annual Conference of the
International Association for Impact Assessment

19-22 May 2026

Misinformation, Disinformation, Communication, & Impact Assessment

How can we rebuild public trust in an era of misinformation and disinformation?

What role do emotions and ideologies play in shaping public perception of scientific facts?

How can practitioners effectively communicate complex scientific data to diverse audiences?

What innovative practices can enhance public participation and trust in environmental assessments?

In recent times, public trust in governments, the media, and information has significantly eroded, leading to increased societal polarization. When emotions, ideologies, and a lack of transparency overshadow scientific facts, environmental assessment faces serious challenges.

Environmental assessment practitioners and decision makers use rigorous, fact-based scientific methods and rely on the participation of citizens to minimize project impacts while engaging with communities. Addressing their concerns and perceptions is crucial.

We recognize that environmental assessment is complex and that we need to enhance communication with the public, policymakers, and the media in order to combat misinformation and disinformation. This conference will explore key thematic streams:

Join us to share insights, advance best practices, and drive meaningful change in environmental assessment communication!

- **Communication and reporting to improve transparency:** What strategies can we use to communicate complex data in a way to help communities and stakeholders better understand and build trust?
- **Inclusive public engagement:** What are the best practices for co-constructing projects with stakeholders, including Indigenous communities, and for managing emotionally charged issues?
- **Enhancing environmental science and regulatory literacy:** Impact assessments contain a lot of complex information – how do we help stakeholders better understand environmental science and regulations?
- **Digital and interactive impact studies:** What digital tools can we use to continuously monitor impact assessments and communicate progress?
- **Professional recognition and certification systems:** How can these credibility tools be used to instill confidence in stakeholders and establish trust?
- **Stopping the spread of false information:** When misinformation and disinformation emerge and ideologies take over, how do we address it and mitigate the damage it causes?

In addition, there will be streams for each of IAIA's special-interest Sections.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Procedure

Conference submissions take place in three phases.

1. Session proposals. Session proposals are invited from late May to 28 July 2025. Accepted sessions are listed on the web site.

2. Paper and poster abstract submissions. From 8 September to 30 October 2025, papers and posters are invited to the accepted sessions listed online. Accepted papers and posters with the primary author registered and paid by 28 January 2026 (**no exceptions**) are listed in the final program.

3. Papers for online proceedings. Paper and poster presenters are invited to prepare 5-page papers to be included in online proceedings. Instructions for paper preparation and submission are provided to authors upon both submission and acceptance of a paper or poster abstract.

How to send a session proposal or a paper/poster abstract

Follow the instructions at <https://2026.iaia.org>.

Submissions as a session chair, session co-chair, or presenter/speaker are limited to one per person.

Language

Submissions should be in English. English is the primary language used at IAIA conferences.

Acceptance and registration

Session chairs and paper or poster authors will receive an immediate confirmation of successful online submission. If you do not receive a confirmation of submission, do not assume it has been submitted; please try again or contact IAIA HQ (jen@iaia.org) for assistance.

The Program Committee will notify session chairs of acceptance status for sessions by 1 September 2025.

Session chairs will notify authors of papers or posters of acceptance status by 3 December 2025.

All session chairs and presenting authors or speakers listed in the final program are required to submit a registration form, with full conference fees paid, by 28 January 2026 (no exceptions). *Please submit a session proposal or abstract only if you will have funding to cover your travel and registration and can register and pay by this date.* Individuals not able to comply with this registration requirement will not be included in the program and proceedings.

REMEMBER: Early registration will also save you money! IAIA does not have funds available to pay registration and travel expenses for program participants.

Sponsored meetings

Sponsored meetings in conjunction with the conference must be listed in the preliminary program and on the registration form. Please contact IAIA HQ (caitlyn@iaia.org) for a proposal form. Proposal forms are due by 2 August 2025.

www.iaia.org

IMPORTANT DATES *Mark your calendar!*

Training course proposals	10 June 2025 Deadline for training course proposals (<i>no exceptions</i>)
Session proposals	28 July 2025 Deadline for session proposals (<i>no exceptions</i>)
Paper & poster abstracts	1 September 2025 Session chairs notified of acceptance status
	8 September 2025 Paper and poster abstract submission opens
	Preliminary program information will be posted as it becomes available. Information will be complete by 1 October.
	30 October 2025 Deadline for submission of paper or poster abstract (<i>no exceptions</i>)
	3 December 2025 Authors notified of paper or poster acceptance status
Sponsored meetings	2 August 2025 Proposal forms due
Registration deadline	28 January 2026 Registration and payment deadline for presenters and all individuals to be listed in the final program (<i>no exceptions</i>)
Proceedings	30 June 2026 Deadline for papers

Technical visits, training courses, and more

IAIA26 will offer conference sessions, training courses, sponsored meetings, technical visits, and networking events that will promote learning, networking, and making unforgettable memories.

- **One and two-day training courses** are offered in the two days prior to the start of the conference. Taught by experienced instructors, these courses cover a wide range of topics.
- **IAIA conferences offer 120+ technical sessions.** No matter your sector—academia, government, industry, donor, consultant, or other—there is something for you.
- **Technical visits** will be available before and after the conference. Hosted by IA professionals, participants will learn about projects in the region as well as experience some regional culture.
- **Networking events** such as the welcome reception, newcomer network, and banquet offer entertainment and opportunities to expand your network beyond your usual circle.

About Québec City, Canada

Québec City, the capital of the province of Québec, is a charming and historic city known for its well-preserved Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Perched on the cliffs overlooking the St. Lawrence River, it boasts cobblestone streets, 17th-century architecture, and the iconic Château Frontenac. The city offers a rich French heritage and stunning scenery, making it a top destination for history buffs and travelers seeking European charm in North America.