

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2005 CONFERENCE
PARTICIPATION REPORTS

BY

2004-2005 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND LINKAGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IN AFRICA, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS FROM EASTERN
AFRICA SUB-REGION

IUCN-EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

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Introduction

The International Association for Impact Assessment held its 25th annual conference on Ethics & Quality in Impact Assessments held on the 26th May -3rd June, 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The main theme of the conference was on "Ethics & Quality in Impact Assessment."

IAIA is the leading global authority on best practise in the use of impact assessment, for informed decision making regarding policies, programmes, plans, and projects.

The conference represented an opportunity to examine and debate issues of ethical conduct and standards of quality in impact assessment, in addition to considering what are the indicators of good assessment and ethical practise.

The 2004/05 CLEAA PD Fellowship Programme in EIA supported four PD Fellows to participate in the 25th annual conference of IAIA, and their brief trip reports are attached in the following pages. Funding was provided by USAID/REDSO/ESA and IRG.

THE 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAIA)

Theme: Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment

Venue: Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Date: May 31 – June 3 2005

By Protase Echessah, CLEAA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Program in EIA

Introduction

The International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) is the leading global authority on best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision making regarding policies, programs, plans and projects. IAIA promotes the application of integrated and participatory approaches to impact assessment, conducted to the highest professional standards. IAIA provides an international forum for advancing innovation and communication of best practice in all forms of impact assessment to further the development of local, regional, and global capacity in impact assessment. The 25th conference of IAIA is one such international forum.

Other activities during the conference involved training covering various themes and the meeting of the Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA) involving its various Nodes.

The objective of my trip was three-fold: first, to attend one of the training sessions namely *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in EIA for Improved Environmental Decision Making*; Second, attend a CLEAA workshop being a member of one of the CLEAA's Nodes – Eastern Africa Association of for Impact Assessment (EAAIA); and third, make a contribution to this great network of environmental professionals by way of a presentation on the work that my colleague and I undertook in Southern Sudan as part of PD Fellowship Program in EIA titled *Road and Dyke Reconstruction in the Jonglei Area of South Sudan: the need for EIA*.

CLEAA and Network Partners Workshop held on May 28, 2005

The main objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Review progress made in the revitalization and promotion of CLEAA and establishment of sub-regional NODES, structures, key activities and challenges;
2. Review progress in implementing the EA&M capacity building strategy for Africa;
3. Share experiences and lessons from various other EA initiatives in Africa, Calabash project, EIA Professional Fellowship programme, An Assessment of Effectiveness of EA reviews and follow through in Africa;
4. Prepare for effective participation in the IAIA'05

The workshop attracted close to 30 participants with representation from all nodes of the CLEAA Network. It was attended by the network partners among them USAID, Cadmus Group, and IAIA members. IUCN-EARO and EAAIA, currently coordinating CLEAA activities, with support from SAIEA facilitated the workshop.

Among the issues deliberated were CLEAA and Nodes Progress reports during which participants took note with satisfaction the progress made in revitalizing CLEAA and strengthening of its coordination mechanism. The issue of the Nodes legality was also discussed and it was agreed that SAIEA will coordinate the signing of the new constitution and that the representatives of the four nodes will form the first CLEAA Board of Trustee.

With regards to Preparation for IAIA'06, it was established that this conference will be held in Norway in May 2006. In support for capacity building in Africa and other developing regions, Norway will provide funding for preparation and participation of participants from the regions.

Training Course: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in EIA for Improved Environmental Decision Making

This course was conducted from May 29th-30th 2005. The relevance of this course stems from the fact that we belong to a region that is developing and the impact of development on biodiversity is a critical aspect to be considered in environmental impact assessment.

Topical issues were discussed including:

- ✓ Key issues and an overview of the global situation as far as mainstreaming biodiversity in impact assessment is concerned;
- ✓ Policy and key legislative instruments for EIA
- ✓ Classics steps in biodiversity assessment including methodologies for predicting biodiversity resources
- ✓ Valuing biodiversity: economic techniques
- ✓ Approaches to mitigation of biodiversity related impacts

Participation in Different Sessions of the Conference

I participated in various sessions of the conference covering different thematic areas. Below is a gloss over a couple that I found particularly interesting:

Use of IUCN Red Listing process as a basis for assessing biodiversity threats and impacts in environmental impact assessment

The impact of development interventions on biodiversity is important and should be factored in environmental impact assessments. The process has been developed by IUCN to assess changes in the degree of threats to species. It assesses the status of the species according to such criteria as population size and rate of change, distribution and its rate of change, and threats to population numbers and/or habitat. It can be used in EIA to determine the extent to which key endangered

species might be affected by a development intervention. This process is relevant to all aspects of development.

Trade: Basic Awareness Building Session on International Trade

The relationship between trade and environment is dynamic and complex; a straight forward approach to understanding this relationship is to look at the basics: the physical and the policy-to-policy linkages.

Economic activities, including trade are often dependent on the environment and natural resources. However, for trade to become a driver of sustainable development, it is necessary to consciously integrate the social and environmental components of sustainability into the economic agenda.

This aspect is important because it provides policy makers and regulators with the tools and required information to anticipate trade-related environmental pressures. For example, if economic forecasts suggest that a country will have a comparative advantage in higher-value added fruits and vegetables, then it is important to anticipate how free trade may create new challenges in the following areas:

- ✓ Increased pesticide use and related environmental health challenges;
- ✓ Increased use of nutrients in fertilizers and associated non-point source nutrient run-off that is emerging as the number one pollutant in the hemisphere;
- ✓ The effects of increased irrigation and impacts of rapid freshwater and ground-water depletion; and,
- ✓ The effects of increased transportation.

THE 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAIA)

Theme: Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment

Venue: Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Date: May 31 – June 3 2005

By Thomas T.B Yatich, CLEAA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Program in EIA

Introduction

This report summarizes the activities I undertook during my participation in the activities of the 25th annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) held between 26th May and 6th June at Hyatt Regency Cambridge Boston, Massachusetts. The report also includes other pre and post-conference activities. It is worth stating, from the beginning that, the report should be read with other reports on the 2004/2005 Professional Development Program which I participated in between 22nd January to 22nd March, 2005. It was a requirement of the PD Fellowship that I attend and present a paper in the 25th Annual Conference of the International Association on Impact Assessment (IAIA). The theme of the conference was on Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessments, and scheduled between 31 May and 3 June 2005. Preparations for the conference began even before I travelled to Zambia. In a meeting with Wes Fisher, Walter Knausenberger and David Kinyua, held at USAID REDSO offices in Nairobi, I decided on the title of my paper (which I fine tuned once I got fully involved in the project) based on the summary of the project which I was going to get involved in. The objectives of my attending and participating in the conference included inter alia: share my experience on the project I got involved in with over 700 EIA professionals and practitioners from all over the world; attend CLEAA workshop on the 28th May 2005; acquire skills and knowledge on various aspects of EIA; network with other professionals from other parts of our continent and across the globe, and participate in one of the technical courses and pre-conference activities. Travelling allowance, fare, accommodation, conference fees and other related expenses incurred during the trip period was provided for by the USAID funded project that is managed by IUCN, 'EIA capacity enhancement for Eastern Africa'.

Theme and key speakers

The main theme of the conference was on the "ethics and quality" of environmental impact assessment. This cuts across the EIA process because what happens at one stage influences the overall EIA quality. Plato's assertion, that: "Integrity is your destiny-it is the light that guides your way" carried this theme through the conference period and greatly influenced the presentations made by a range of professionals in this field. The papers presented also were influenced by the key note speakers who included James Gustave Speth, Edith Brown Weiss and Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea. Gustave is currently the Dean and professor in the practice of environmental policy and sustainable development at the school of Forestry and Environmental

Studies, Yale University. He founded and was president of the World Resources Institute and co-founder of the Natural Resources Defence Council. He also served as former adviser on environmental issues for Presidents Carter and Clinton latter as Chief executive officer of the United Nations Development Programme. He gave an historical perspective on what was done since 1970 and what needs to be done in order to promote environmental integrity through impact assessment and therefore enhance the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Edith Brown who is the chair of the World Bank inspection panel, discussed the role of the Bank in impact assessment, while Taimalelagi who is the Anglican Observer at the United Nations, gave a spiritual dimension to the conference and what needs to be done to restore the earth's integrity. The population-environment-development nexus came in handy from the beginning of the conference.

Activities undertaken between 26th May and 6th June, 2005

i) CLEAA Workshop, 28th May, 2005

The 26th and 27th of May, were travel days. I arrived in Boston at about 5pm and checked in at Hyatt Regency Cambridge. On the 28th May, I actively participated in the annual CLEAA workshop which was chaired by Mr. Issa Abdulrahman, the CLEAA Coordinator and Secretary General of the Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment. CLEAA is an umbrella body of the regional nodes (Eastern, Southern Africa, Western, Central and North Africa, and Indian Ocean EA Associations). A report has since been prepared on this. Apart from the presentations done by the representatives of the Nodes, environmental assessment capacity building initiatives in Africa were discussed. These included the Calabash programme in Southern Africa; CLEAA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Programme in Environmental assessment and capacity building for effective EIA review and follow through-developing a policy guidelines. Under the fourth agenda on "addressing environmental assessment agenda for Africa: Needs, opportunities and the best way forward" issues discussed included CLEAA's constitution; CLEAA-IAIA MoU; CLEAA's website; preparation for AMCEN 2006; preparation for IAIA 2006 and finally way forward for CLEAA's proposals.

ii) Technical Training Courses

Among the technical courses offered, I registered for a course on "Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in Developing Countries". This course was undertaken between the 29th and 30th of May. There were five participants from Kenya, Japan, Mauritius, Madagascar and Tanzania. The course was facilitated by Jonathan Allotey (Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana); Evans Darko-Mensah (Director of Refast Consulting, Ghana); Peter Nelson (Principal of Land use Consultants, UK) and Badu Yeaboah who is a SEA facilitator at EPA, Ghana.

According to Therivel et al., (1992) SEA is a formalised, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental effects of a policy, plan or programme and its alternatives, including the preparation of a written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision-making. It is therefore a participatory approach for up streaming environmental and social issues to influence development planning, decision-making and implementation processes at the strategic level.

Developing countries have over the years adopted SEA because established planning frameworks exist in such countries. However, while the same principles of SEA and sustainable development

apply in developing countries, the societal framework and access to technological aids are very different. This then requires a flexible approach with methods being developed to meet the skills base and resources available, this is the basis that the workshop facilitators were chosen. They have developed and fine tuned SEA techniques to specifically meet the needs of national, regional and local decision-makers coming from diverse social, cultural and economic backgrounds, especially in the West African region.

These methods should have applications in other developing countries. The focus of the course/workshop was on sharing experiences from different developing countries, using case study materials developed for previous workshops in Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa. After presentations by the course facilitators on the evolution of SEA, practical experiences on its implementation in Ghana and South Africa were discussed. The Ghana example presented an example where SEA has been embraced by the policy makers. An SEA of Ghana's PRSP policy framework has been completed and will be implemented starting September, 2005. The presentation showed that Ghanaians, especially at the grassroot levels would resist the implementation of any project however good the results are, if an SEA has not been undertaken. We thereafter went through the Ghana's PRSP policy framework while applying SEA. This was the most valuable experience I had.

The application of SEA to policies at the strategic level reduces conflicts and promotes cross-sectoral policy planning. Consider Kenya's scenario, for instance, the conflicts which have arisen from the water, forestry, land and transportation policies can be ameliorated through by adopting an SEA process. The demolition of road site structures, forest evictions and illegally acquired land acquisition by government can easily be implemented without much hue and cry if an SEA process is adopted. Research institutions interested in Natural Resources, should apply SEA to analyze policies relevant to such resources for policy support and reform. The forestry Bill can therefore be subjected to an SEA process by organizations whose activities will largely be influenced by such a policy framework. This is because SEA is a process directed at providing the authority responsible for policy development (the proponent) (during policy formulation) and decision-maker (at the point of policy approval) with a holistic understanding of the environmental and social implications of the policy proposal, expanding the focus well beyond the issues that were the original driving force for new policy (Brown and Therivel, 2000, p184).

At the end of the workshop, the participants concluded that SEA is an important tool which:

- promotes sustainability in decision-making;
- facilitate the design of environmentally sustainable policies and plans in developing countries and therefore need for it adoption;
- increase the influence of certain ministries and increase coordination across sectors
- Strengthen and streamline project assessment by:
 - the incorporation of environmental goals and principles into policies, plans and programmes that shape individual projects
 - clearance of strategic issues and information requirements
- provide a mechanism for public engagement in discussions relevant to sustainability at a strategic level;
- leads to better policies and plans-because, if better alternatives exist, SEA helps in finding them.

Finally, the participants raised the need to merge this course with course number three on "Strategic Environmental Assessment: Strategic Approaches to Assist Decision-making"

iii) Participation in the theme Forums

The theme forums brought together special speakers to open IAIA'05 Conference discussions on various aspects of ethics and quality in impact assessment. Theme forums were integrative in nature and dealt with cross-cutting issues relevant to the many specialities of impact assessment. The theme forums which I attended included inter alia: Transparency in decision-making in impact assessment; ethics and quality in trade impact assessment, quality enhancement through peer review and IA Professional Accreditation: Implications for Ethics, Quality and IAIA. I also attended several Conference concurrent sessions which took place after the theme forums. I mainly attended all sessions on public participation and assisted in the review of the draft on IAIA Participation best practice principles (the Authors for this were Pierre Andre, Bert Enserink, Des Connor and Peter Croal); policy and planning; policy analysis and impact assessment; EMS: Practical approaches; SEA: Adapting SEA to different contexts and systems; indigenous people's forum etc. During two of the concurrent sessions I presented two papers entitled: *The Integration of EIA with Project Cycle: The Case of Lilayi Urban Housing Project* and *Multi-stakeholder participation in environmental impact assessment and its influence on Decision-making: The case of Lilayi Urban Housing Development project, Lusaka Zambia*. These papers were co-authored with Danny Holmes and Martin Lorenz of DH Engineering Consultants and project managers of Lusaka, Zambia.

iv) Networks

During the conference, I met many colleagues and discussed issues related to EIA and shared experiences with one another. I may not be able to mention everybody except those I think CLEAA can collaborate either for capacity building purposes or seek funding opportunities. First, are people who work for international funding agencies who I thought can easily influence the adoption of SEA at the national level by governments. Why SEA? Because the adoption of a policy framework with many policy distortions is most likely to lead to unsustainable development at different scales. My assumption is if these agencies use the carrot approach, SEA would easily be adopted. Under this discussion, I will only mention their names because CLEAA and the officials of the EAAIA can get their contacts from the conference participants list. These individuals include John Boyle (Senior Environmental Specialist, African Environmental and social Development, World Bank); Evans Darko-Mensah; Peter Nelson; Jessica Troell (Environmental Law Institute and Co-Director, Africa Program); Peter Leonard; Vincent Onyango (Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus Germany); Hussein Abaza (Chief Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP) and Colin Kirkpatrick of the Impact Assessment Research Centre, Institute for Development Policy and Management, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester. I also had discussions with James Gustave Speth on the academic programs at Yale University. CLEAA can explore ways of asking his assistance, especially as we expand the PD Fellowship Programme.

The Proprietors and representatives of firms who I also met and discussed several issues of mutual interest include Wanda Webster Standbury of Management Interventions international Inc.; Prof. Felix Dayo of Triple E Consultants; Refast Consultants of Ghana; Amanda Tyrrell of SRI International; Kathy Thrun, Vice President, ICF Consulting and Mark Stoughton of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Washington. These firms can be approached in future by CLEAA to host our Professional Development fellows.

v) **Post-conference activities**

I participated in Environmental Justice Site Tour. This was held on Saturday, 4th June, 2005. The technical visit gave me a glimpse into the reality and severity of the problems facing two Boston-area low income and minority communities. Via a bus tour of Chelsea and East Boston, I learnt hands-on about environmental justice issues of concern to the local community, and learnt how the authorities have tried to resolve such issues and the progress made. Most of the community's environmental problems which demonstrate cumulative risk included lack of open and green space; limited waterfront access; numerous state-designated hazardous waste sites, heavy concentration of industries in a designated port area, and traffic and air pollution. The technical visit was coordinated by the Chelsea Creek Action Group. In conclusion, environmental problems are everywhere but the magnitude and the people's perception greatly vary from one country to another.

I then departed for Amsterdam from Boston on Sunday 5th June at 2pm and arrived at 8am Amsterdam time. After two hours of stop over, I left for Nairobi at 10.45am and arrived on the 6th of June at 7pm at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Acknowledgements

I wish to take this opportunity to thank USAID REDSO for funding the PD Fellowship which enabled me to stay in Zambia for three months and carry out two EIA studies (Chilanga Urban Housing project and an EIA study for the expansion of the Chilanga cement Inc.). I wish to thank individually, Dr. Walter Knausenberger of USAID/REDSO who has remained a friend and a source of inspiration for me; David Kinyua who has continuously told me that one thing he has learnt and that which I must embrace is, "Life goes on"; Issa Abdulrahman who has continuously seen me as a 'ndugu' and Maureen A. Babu who meticulously coordinated the PD Fellowship and became a critique deserves a lot of thank you. She taught me a great deal of management issues. I also wish to thank Danny Holmes, Martin Lorenz who co-authored the two papers I presented in the Conference. Danny also guided my work when I worked in his firm in Zambia and I wish to say thank you Danny. Other people who I wish to thank for their support during my stay in Zambia and who made my participation in the conference possible include *inter alia*: Robin Miller, Ian Miller, Ronald Sitali; Musonda K., Lukas Tembo; Felix Chibala, Ronald Black; Dan Griffiths; Mlotha Damaseke; Technical officer of Chilanga Cement Inc. and all members of the East African Association for Impact Assessment. Finally, I wish to thank the IAIA Conference Committee for giving me the opportunity to present my two papers and participate in the conference. My sincere appreciation goes to Wes Fisher, Charlotte Bingham, Bridget, Cummins Crystal, and many others who made everything possible. Peter Leonard also deserves a special mention. Walter Knausenberger also assisted in acquisition of travel documents and I wish to thank him for that. I wish therefore to end by saying that;

"I hope this is the beginning and therefore lets us work together to achieve the overall goals of the EAAIA. It is only when this information and others provided by my fellow delegates are adopted and implemented that we can make a difference. Bravo EAAIA, Bravo CLEAA! Thank you all for the knowledge and skills I acquired and for giving me your friendship freely. I learnt a great deal of life long skills during the time when I was a PD Fellow and it is now the beginning of pay back time".

I look forward to contributing towards capacity building in the EAAIA.

THE 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAIA)

Theme: Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment

Venue: Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Date: May 31 – June 3 2005

By Luke I. Opoto, CLEAA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Program in EIA

1.0 Introduction

The IAIA annual conference which coincided with its 25th anniversary since its establishment was certainly one of the largest and most interesting conferences I have ever attended. For this, I would like to thank USAID and IUCN for making it possible for me to attend the conference. The organization of the conference and the choice of the venue were excellent. The people were friendly and a lot of contacts were made with professionals in the field of EA. The selection of the theme "ETHICS and QUALITY", the Keynote Speakers and the program Committee Co-Chairs was befitting. The program arrangement beginning with the CLEAA meeting followed by the training session and ending with the presentations, helped a lot in time management and integrating some of us into the overall arrangement of the conference.

2.0 Activities

2.1 Meeting of African Delegates and Partners: CLEAA meeting

This workshop was timely and informative especially for some of us who are joining IAIA for the first time. I was able to meet fellow African delegates and professionals in the field of EA. The existence of Regional EA nodes (groupings) was a good thing to note. Although the organizations and structures vary considerably, it is important to note that the Southern African node is more established than the other nodes, however Eastern and Western Africa nodes have made remarkable progress. The North Africa and Indian Ocean nodes are probably the least established and this was evident from the number of delegates from that region. I believe more will be done by CLEAA in strengthening the emerging nodes.

2.2 Training Courses

Perhaps this was the most profitable of all the conference activities. All the courses were of equal importance and application but since all were conducted between 9:00a.m -5:00 pm, one had to select only one out nine. I chose the training course on "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in EA for Improved Environmental Decision Making" which was conducted by Jo Treweek, Asha Rajvanshi and V.B.Mathur. The course was very important as it enabled me gain an understanding on why

some decision makers make wrong and costly decisions, while others make correct and informed decisions about environmental matters. The training sessions on the valuation of natural resources and the use of IUCN Red Data list of species in EA were the most fascinating.

2.3 Concurrent Sessions

There were so many good concurrent sessions that one could attend. I chose the concurrent session on Fisheries and Forestry as I was presenting a paper on "Road and Dyke Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Jonglei Area of South Sudan: The need for an EIA." In addition, my decision to attend this session was based on the fact that information shared would be useful and applicable to Sector or Program Environmental Assessment. I believe that this is likely to be the most important type of EA in Southern Sudan, at least in the early years of development and Rehabilitation.

2.4 Theme Forums

Of the fourteen theme forums, only two were of interest to me; Transparency in decision making in EIA and Values Assessment, and New Approaches to Valuation Methods. For the reasons that may have been stated else where in the report; costly mistakes are made when decisions are not made in a transparent manner. New methods and approaches are required to make decisions based on accurate assessment and information.

2.5 Technical Visits

There were five technical visits; Environmental Justice, Central Artery/Big Dig, Charles River, Boston Harbor and South Shore. Initially I had wanted to visit Central Artery or Boston Harbor, however it was not possible due to late fee payment. I therefore joined the Environmental Justice technical visit which was less appealing as I have little knowledge in that field.

2.6 The Evening meetings and Lobbying

Evening meetings and Lobbying were quiet useful. A lot of ideas and information as well as contacts were made. These form future lines of communication and bases of networking among professionals and associations. They are equally important for the development of EA in the Future

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Theme: Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment

Venue: Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Date: May 31 – June 3 2005

By Serah W. Kiragu, CLEAA Professional Development (PD) Fellowship Program in EIA

Introduction

My participation at IAIA conference was facilitated through the EIA Professional Development fellowship programme, component of the Capacity Enhancement for EIA Project that is funded by USAID, and managed by IUCN EARO.

The conference was divided into three parts:

- i) **The CLEAA Meeting (Capacity development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa) – 28th May.** CLEAA is an African regional network which provides a coordination mechanism for Africa Environmental assessment and management networks. Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment is the Eastern Africa node of CLEAA.

The CLEAA meeting was organized by the CLEAA secretary General, Mr. Abdulrahman Issa. It was attended by various representatives from the African nodal Associations – Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Indian Ocean Island states, North Africa and Central Africa. The nodes participation was funded by World Bank through IUCN EARO.

The objective of the workshop was to review progress in the revitalization and promotion of CLEAA, and establishment of sub-regional Nodes; review of progress implementing the EA&M capacity building strategy for Africa; share experiences and participate effectively in IAIA '05. I made a presentation on the progress of EAAIA during the session titled, "progress of CLEAA nodes."

- ii) **Pre-Conference Training Course – 29th – 30th May 2005**

There were 6 pre-conference training sessions: Strategic Environmental Assessment – Strategic Approaches; SEA and Sustainability Appraisal; Mainstreaming Biodiversity in EIA; Addressing Health in SEA and EIA; Concepts, Processes and Methods of SIA; and Theory, Practice and Principles Follow p.

I took part in the "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in EIA" training course. The course was organized by the Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment – an IAIA/Dutch Government Project. It was administered by Dr. Asha Rajvanshi (head of the EIA department of the Wildlife Institute of India), V.B. Mathur (head of training division of the Wildlife Institute of India), and Jo Treweek (an ecologist with special interest in ecological impact assessment, ecological risk assessment and habitat

restoration). Two IUCN Staff from the Asia Regional Office were resource persons for the training (Dr. Channa Bambaradeniya and Ms. Lucy Emerton)

The learning Objectives for the course were: to professionalize integration of biodiversity issues in EIA through guidance on methods, tools and process; Build capacity of participants to initiate best practices in conducting, supervising and reviewing EIAs to ensure integration of biodiversity considerations in EIA; and facilitate sharing and peer based learning among EIA professionals based on their experience and practices.

An important reference was made to the use of the IUCN's Red list in scaling the magnitude of impacts on specific species, through a presentation by Peter John Meynell.

iii) **Main Conference 31 May – 3rd June**

The main conference was opened by Richard Fuggle, the President of IAIA and Charlotte Bingham and Wes Fisher, the IAIA 05 Programme Co-chairs. The theme of the conference was "Ethics and Quality". Key speakers included Taimalelagi Fagamalam Tuatagaloa Matalavea, Anglican Observer at the United Nations, James Gustave Speth, Dean and Professor at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; and Edith Brown Weiss, the Chair of the World Bank Inspection Panel.

The conference was subdivided into two ,with the morning hours devoted to plenary theme sessions while the afternoon sessions were dedicated to concurrent sessions

I took part in the "**Trade: Consultation and methodological challenges**" session, where I presented a paper of "**Challenges of Environmental related trade measures to East African Countries**". The area of Trade and Environment is under development within the EAAIA programme of work. My presentation was well received by the Chair of the Session, Bernice Goldsmith (University of Concordia). Ms. Bernice referred me to Hussein Abaza of UNEP Geneva, who is handling Trade and Environment issues. After the session, George Sikoyo (member of the EAAIA, and core group member of trade and environment within EAAIA) and I were introduced to Mr. Abaza. He advised us to visit UNEP's Website on trade and environment and thereafter make a follow up with him.

Needless to say, the previous week's training workshop on Public Speaking at IUCN EARO could not have been timelier, the skills and knowledge from this training helped with my presentations at IAIA '05.

iv) **Technical Visits: Charles River Watershed – Friday 3rd – 4.30 – 9.30pm**

I joined a team of other participants for a 3 hour boat tour along the Charles River which flows between Boston and Cambridge. The Charles River Watershed Association, which manages the water shed, is one of the first American watershed associations. Key issues about the watershed management were water quality, water flow, storm water management, combined sewer overflows, and social impact analysis. A park ranger provided historical commentary about the river during the trip.

- v) **Extra-curriculum activity – Fun Run – 6.00am 1st June.** I also (Issa and Maureen too) participated in this IAIA annual fun run (IAIA Boston Marathon!). I won the race, in the women category (in keeping with Kenya's Boston Marathon records).

I left Boston on Sunday 5th June 2005, arriving in Nairobi on the evening of the 6th.