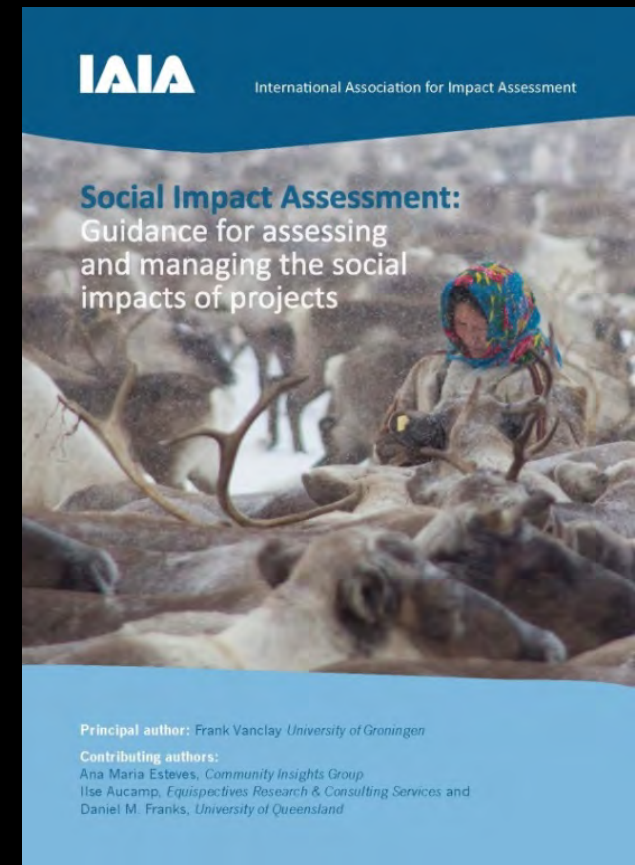




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Using Social Impact Assessment to minimise the harm from projects

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IAIA

International Association for Impact Assessment

Social Impact Assessment:
Guidance for assessing
and managing the social
impacts of projects

Principal author: Frank Vanclay *University of Groningen*

Contributing authors:

Ana Maria Esteves, *Community Insights Group*
Ilse Aucamp, *Equispectives Research & Consulting Services* and
Daniel M. Franks, *University of Queensland*

What are social impacts?



What social impacts are depicted?

- Noise, esp engine braking (or reversing)
- Vibration
- Lights at night
- Smells, fumes from exhaust
- Pollution, health issues
- Delays, inconvenience
- Concern about safety, especially for children
- Increase in accident risk
- Injury and deaths
- Nuisance and annoyance, anger, frustration
- Concern about presence of outsiders
- Changing character of the town, no longer peaceful
- Costs of road repair
- Local income (sales) from spending by drivers
- other consequences from the supply of services to drivers



Social impact

anything that is experienced or felt, in a perceptual (cognitive) or a corporeal (physical) sense at the level of an individual, economic unit (family/household), social group, or by the community or society as a whole.

PAPER Vanclay 2002
“Conceptualising social impacts”



How to conceptualise impacts (Armour 1992)

- People's way of life - how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis;
- their culture - shared beliefs, customs, values, and language or dialect;
- their community - its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities;
- (nice, but not enough)

How to conceptualise impacts (2) (Vanclay 1999)

Also needs to include

- their **environment** – air & water quality; food quality & availability; level of hazard, risk, dust & noise exposure; adequacy of sanitation, physical safety, access to & control over resources;
- their **health & wellbeing** – health is a state of complete mental, physical and social (and spiritual) wellbeing, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity;
- their **fears & aspirations** – perceptions about safety, fears about future of their community, & aspirations for their future & their children's future.
- their **political systems** – extent of participation in decisions affecting their lives, the level of democratisation, and the resources provided;
- their **personal and property rights** – economically affected or personal disadvantage, violation of civil liberties and human rights

SIA is an umbrella, everything is social

- aesthetic impacts (landscape analysis)
- archaeological and heritage impacts
- community impacts, cultural impacts, linguistic impacts
- demographic impacts
- economic, fiscal, institutional & infrastructure impacts
- gender issues
- health (including psychological) impacts
- Indigenous rights
- political impacts (human rights, democratisation etc)
- resource issues (access and ownership of resources)
- and other impacts on societies



Social impacts vary across time & space

- **Direct** impacts occur at the same time and in the same space as the activity; they are causally linked. (first order impacts)
- **Indirect** impacts occur either later in time, at a different place from the activity, or as a result of a complex pathway/chain or web of impacts. (second and higher order impacts)
- **Cumulative** impacts refer to the incremental and combined impacts of one or more projects. They can result from the simple aggregation of impacts, or from the way impacts interact.

SIA is usually *ex-ante* assessment

- Can't measure social impacts (in advance), so SIA is based on predictions (guesstimations)
- Study similar projects elsewhere
- Consider other projects in the same location
- Draws on expert opinion and local knowledge
- Develop a social understanding of the issues

- Will always be contestable, so there needs to be consideration of the legitimacy of the SIA

Mind map
(impact map)



Impacts depend on the interactions between the:

- Characteristics of the project
- Characteristics of any mitigation
- Characteristics of the community (vitality, viability, resilience, impact history)
- Characteristics of individuals

- Impacts are not stable
- Impacts differentially affect people





Social issues are never black & white

Not just winners and losers

- People are differentially affected
- People can be positively and negatively affected at the same time
- What is positive and what is negative can be ambiguous

**Second and higher order
impacts tend to cause
more harm than
first order impacts**



An aerial photograph of a large-scale open-pit mine. The mine is characterized by numerous terraced levels, or benches, that descend into the earth. A network of wide, reddish-brown dirt roads winds through the site, connecting different levels and areas. Several large pieces of heavy machinery, including haul trucks, are visible on the roads and within the mining pits. The overall scene depicts a massive industrial operation in a rugged, arid landscape.

**Almost all projects
almost always cause
almost all impacts.**

Just as important as predicting impacts is having an ongoing process of monitoring and adaptive management.

PIZZERIA
NAPOLI
BOVEN OPEN ✓

PIZZERIA
NAPOLI
AFHALEN

process is everything



SIA is the discourse/discipline/paradigm that seeks to protect communities and ensure effective development outcomes and thereby assist projects and companies to gain a social licence to operate and grow.

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A discourse/paradigm/ field of practice

More than just monitoring indicators, or
environmental licencing

- Shared knowledge base
- Methods
- Theories
- Archetypical cases
- Values, principles
- A way of thinking about issues

Codifying SIA

International Association for Impact Assessment

www.iaia.org

Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment

Prepared by
The Interorganizational Committee on
Guidelines and Principles for
Social Impact Assessment

May 1994

1993-1994

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

SIA principles

International Principles For Social Impact Assessment

Frank Vanclay

2003

"The 'International Principles for Social Impact Assessment' is a statement of the core values of the SIA community together with a set of principles to guide SIA practice and the consideration of 'the social' in environmental impact assessment generally. It is a discussion document for the impact assessment community to be used as the basis for developing sector and national guidelines. In the process of being developed explicitly for an international context, increasing pressure was placed on the conventional understanding of SIA and a new definition, with official imprimatur of an international professional body, has been formulated. 'Social Impact Assessment' includes the processes of analyzing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions. Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment."

Keywords: social impact assessment; human rights; core values; principles; guidelines; international cooperation; development; environmental impact assessment

This document was prepared over a five-year period for the IAA by Frank Vanclay in close feedback dialog with world-wide SIA practitioners. Several hundred people were consulted and over 50 media submissions, 2000 English letters and the project, and James Haines and Kathleen Morgan supported it along the way. The International Principles for a Living Planet that will continue to be modified. Revised versions will be available on the IAA website (www.iaia.org).

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Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal March 2008

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Why have Principles for SIA?

There has been considerable interest in producing "International Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment". An international document produced under the auspices of a major organization such as the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) could:

- Assist in the development of legislation and policy at the national level;
- Provide standards for SIA practice in international contexts (transboundary projects, development cooperation, foreign investments, international banking);
- Increase the appeal of SIA to a wider range of audiences, through increasing its legitimacy/standing;
- Establish minimum standards for SIA practice;
- Provide an articulation of best practice in SIA as a model to aspire to;
- Remove confusion over terminology by establishing a definitive glossary;
- Establish the appropriate scope of the social component of impact assessments;
- Promote the integration of SIA in all impact assessments (especially environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment).

The process of developing international guidelines and principle however has been difficult. In a truly international context, there are many issues to consider and little can be taken for granted. The regulatory context varies, the cultural/religious context varies, and social and economic priorities for development vary. As the process of developing international guidelines and principles progressed, increasing pressure was placed on the conventional

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2015

http://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/SIA_Guidance_Document_IAIA.pdf

Current definition

“SIA includes the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the **intended and unintended social** consequences, **both positive and negative**, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions.”

Source: Vanclay 2003 International Principles for SIA

Social impact assessment is the process of managing the social issues associated with projects.

SIA is impact assessment that focuses specifically on the social considerations, rather than on biophysical (environmental) issues.



Social impacts are different from
environmental impacts
in lots of ways

Point of difference 1

- Social impacts are different in character to environmental impacts



Environmental (biophysical) impacts only happen when the first sod of soil is turned;
Social impacts start the moment there is speculation – even a rumour that something might happen.



Information travels fast
Misinformation travels faster

FACTS ARE SO RARELY CITED...



mimiandeuice.com

...BUT THE SAME LIES GET QUOTED OVER AND OVER AGAIN!



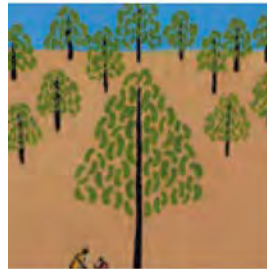
The honeypot effect
and inflation

or

stigmatization and
reduction in
property prices?

Speculation and
opportunism

Influx management



A Handbook
for Addressing
Project-Induced
In-Migration

- Environmental impacts tend to be only negative;
Social impacts can be positive as well as negative.
- Environmental impacts may be temporal as well as long term, and are fairly stable;
Social impacts change with the perceptions and feelings of people.



**A major social impact is the
fear and anxiety
associated with the project.**



Perception is reality



Point of difference 2

- People react



Over 200 forms of protest

- Die-in
- Digital sit-in
- Flash mob
- Picketing
- Protest art
- Protest camp
- Sit-in
- Street march
- Street theatre
- Ad-busting, vandalism
- Activist shareholding
- Barricade, lockdown
- Blockade
- Boycott
- Ecotage
- Hacktivism
- Lawfare
- Sabotage

Hanna et al. 2016 “Conceptualizing social protest and the significance of protest action to large projects”, *Extractive Industries and Society* 3(1), 217-239.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2015.10.006>

How projects can be affected

- Physical damage
- Lost production
- Loss of legal licence
- Court actions (cost to defend)
- Fines by regulators
- Court awarded compensation demands
- Loss of reputation
- Stockmarket reaction
- Lost access to new sites
- Extra conditions imposed
- Increased cost of insurance & finance
- Staff time and Board time
- Diverted attention

Point of difference 3

- The regulators are now more diverse and diffuse



Not just government

- International standards
- Companies
- Financial institutions
- NGOs
- Environmental consulting firms
- Local people
- Social licence to operate

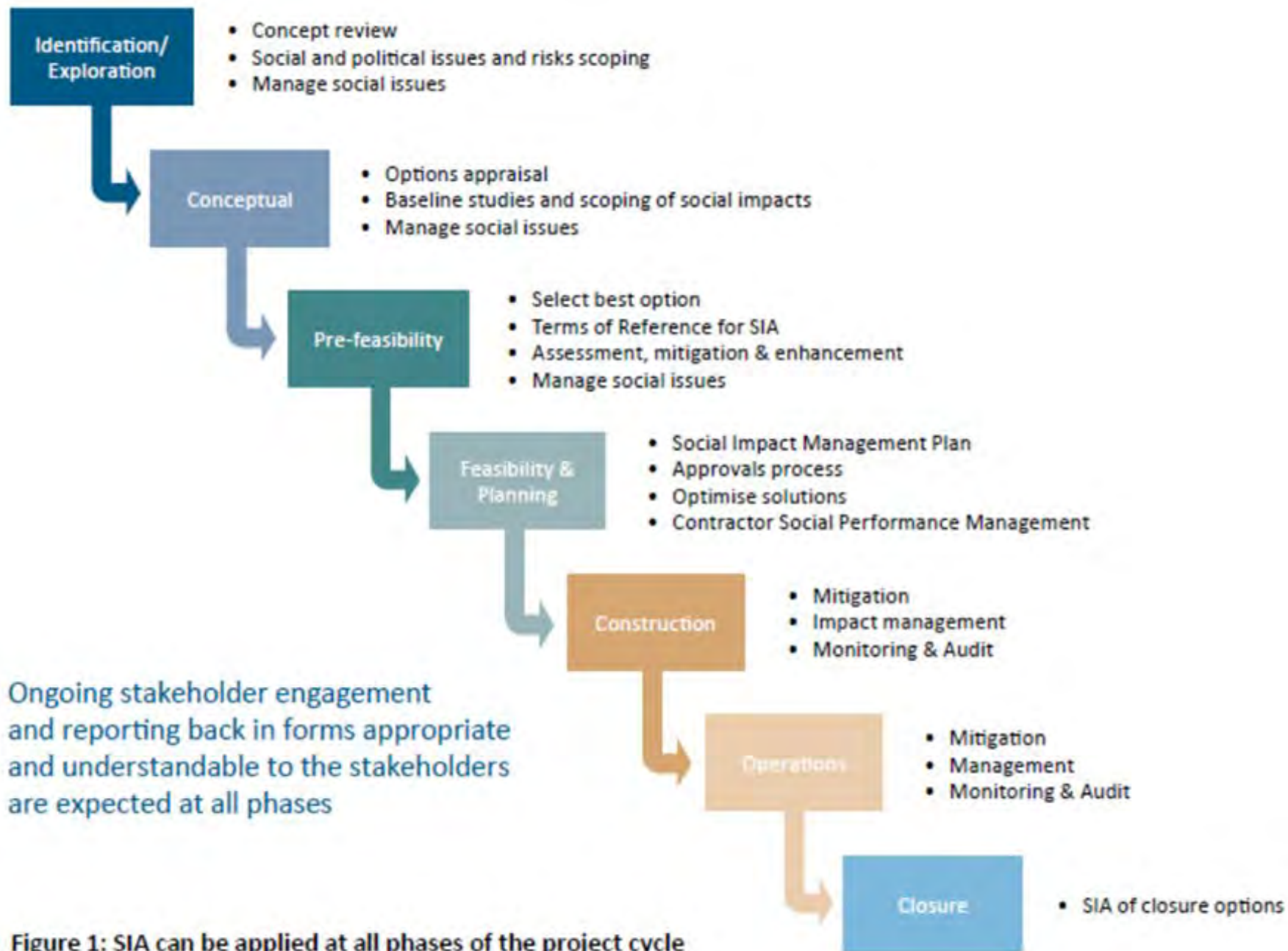
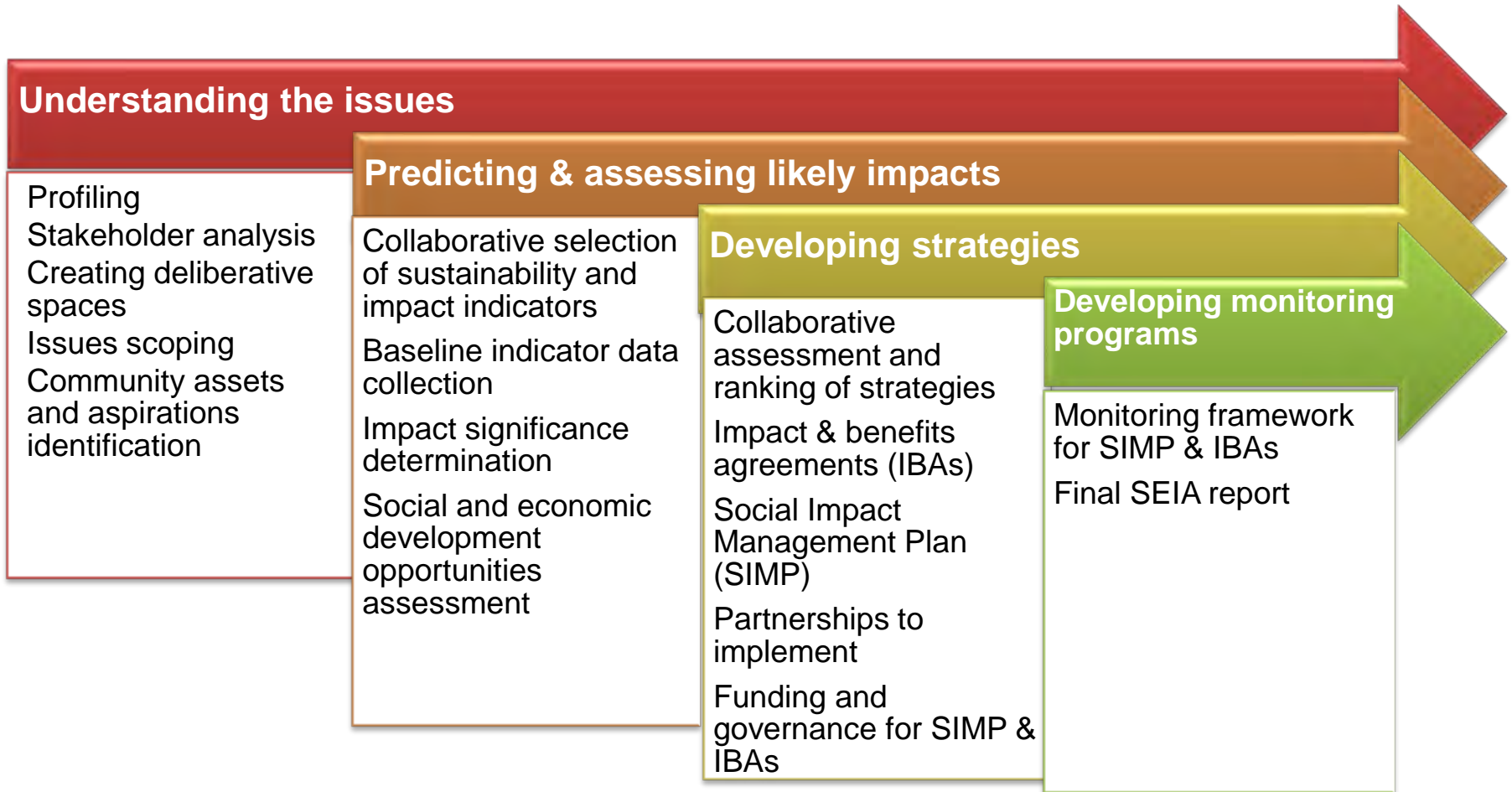


Figure 1: SIA can be applied at all phases of the project cycle

SIA is conceived as having 26 tasks



Participatory process and reporting-back throughout all stages

Some take home thoughts:

- SIA is the process of managing the issues, it can not be a decision algorithm that will decide on best options
- Process is important
- Ongoing community engagement and adaptive management is needed
- It is not acceptable for the public good to bring harm to subgroups of people
- Need to find ways to enable everyone to become a beneficiary

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Follow-up readings

- Vanclay, Esteves, Aucamp & Franks 2015 *Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects*. Fargo ND: International Association for Impact Assessment, <http://bit.ly/SIAguidance>
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