

CGIAR Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service Conflict of Interest Policy

Annex

CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA): SPIA Chair/Members involvement in SPIA Calls for Proposals

The CGIAR Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service Conflict of Interest Policy aims at ensuring that any potential conflicts of interest are made open and transparent, and that processes are managed to take declared interests into account.

This Annex to the policy addresses the specific case of the SPIA Chair and/or Members' involvement in SPIA calls for proposal.

SPIA manages competitive calls for proposals to fund impact studies. Each call is assigned to the Chair or a Member to manage. Conflicts of interest may arise when the institution(s) of the Chair/Member affiliation is either an applicant or recipient of a SPIA grant. This may include situations when the affiliated institution is a prime or sub-applicant.

The procedure to follow in this situation (at the moment when a potential conflict of interest is identified):

- The SPIA Chair/Member managing the call must flag to the Chair (or in the case of the Chair, to the CAS Secretariat Director and SPIA Program Leader) the moment they become aware of their institution's involvement in an expression of interest or proposal.
- SPIA will discuss the best solution to mitigate the conflict, involving the CAS Secretariat Director when the case involves the SPIA Chair. CAS Secretariat will document the SPIA resolution to the situation.

Possible mitigation measures, which will be case dependent, are (list is not exhaustive):

- The Chair/Member maintains the overall responsibility for managing the call process and subsequently managing the studies. A second Member reviews the affiliated institution's proposal independently and separately (i.e., that involves the institution for which a conflict of interest may arise). If funded, the second member retains oversight of the study;
- The proposal is assigned to another group of SPIA studies, handled by another Member;
- The proposal could be led by another research partner with the Chair/Members' institution being part of the study team, but without receiving a financial contribution;

Sufficient and appropriate firewalls will be established and documented to avoid preferential treatment to any affiliated institution of the Chair/Member, both at the proposal and grant stage, thereby mitigating the risk of any perceived or real conflict of interest.