

# Integration and Application Network Report Card 2024

*An annual reflection on our work and impact.*





# IAN PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT COLLABORATION

## Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card released in Pennsylvania

In July 2024, the 2023/2024 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card was released in Harrisburg, PA at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, marking the first-ever release in Pennsylvania. The press conference featured Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, three Maryland department secretaries (Kurtz, McIlwain, and Atticks), and three Pennsylvania department secretaries (Dunn, Shirley, and Redding). The event highlighted progress in improving the Chesapeake Bay score and the collaboration needed to sustain these efforts. Strong interstate cooperation is vital to continue improving conditions in the Chesapeake Bay. See [ChesapeakeBayReportCard.org](https://ChesapeakeBayReportCard.org).



IAN staff celebrating the release of the report card.

## University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science collaborations

In 2024, IAN worked on projects with researchers across UMCES, including the Oyster Substrate project with HPL, Saltcast with HPL, NICEE with AL, and the Baltimore in Context event with the Chesapeake Global Collaboratory. IAN also participated at UMCES open houses including at CBL, HPL, and IMET. The Oyster Substrate project is providing science-based guidance to the state of Maryland supporting oyster restoration and commercial fisheries while improving shoreline stability, supporting biodiversity, and improving water quality. Another project, Saltcast, is taking a user-centered approach to develop a salinity management tool that will help protect water resources and infrastructure.



IAN staff at the CBL Open House.

## Holistic report cards evaluate five rivers in Southeast Michigan

In April 2024, IAN completed the Southeast Michigan Report Cards. This project included report cards for the Clinton, Detroit, Huron, River Raisin, and Rouge River Watersheds, as well as an overall report card that combined the results from all five. Additionally, the report cards were translated into Spanish and Arabic, the two most common languages in the region after English. These report cards included indicators in six categories: water, economy, ecosystem, human health, infrastructure, and recreation, providing a holistic understanding of conditions in Southeast Michigan. Visit [MichiganReportCards.org](https://MichiganReportCards.org) for more information.



In addition to English, the Southeast Michigan Report Card was also translated into Spanish and Arabic.

# INCORPORATING STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The 2024 IAN Report Card has been modified from the previous year to align with the IAN Strategic Plan. This year there are several changes to the list of indicator metrics: Total Reach now includes LinkedIn and tracks the number of Blog Posts, and Teachings and Trainings now tracks conference workshop participation.

## Education & Outreach

Measures the reach of virtual, traditional, and educational science communication efforts



Total Reach measures blog impact, media reach, and how IAN followers interact with our social media (Social Media Index) and our videos (Video Index).

Dissemination Effectiveness measures how IAN's tools and products are distributed from the IAN media library downloads and from printed products.

Teaching and Trainings measures the number of people involved with science communication courses, workshops, and projects.

## Socio-Environmental Impacts

Measures IAN's collective impact in improving socio-environmental systems for communities



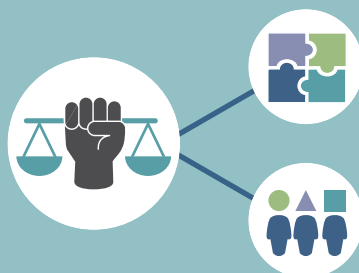
Socio-Environmental Products measures the number of socio-environmental assessments produced by IAN and partners.

Core Categories measures if a report card contains indicators from five key categories (economics, water, environment & ecology, social & cultural, management & governance).

Publications measures the number of academic publications published by IAN authors.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Justice

Measures IAN's inclusion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in its products and services

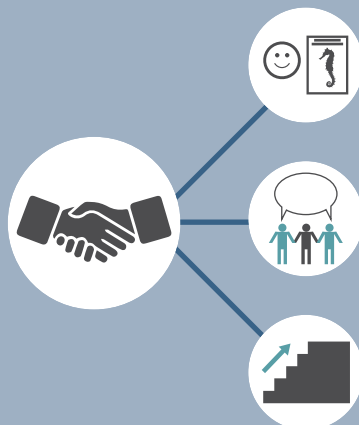


Environmental Justice Indicators measures if IAN's socio-environmental report cards are including indicators that support equity and inclusion.

Community Voices measures IAN's success in including socially diverse stakeholders in projects.

## Partner Engagement

Measures how satisfied partners felt with IAN's work following the completion of a project



Co-Produced Products measures how satisfied IAN partners were with their final product and the development process.

Collaborative Process measures how effective IAN partners felt the collaboration was and if they would recommend working with IAN.

Capacity Building measures if partners thought their project built capacity and encouraged teamwork in their organization.



# THE 2024 REPORT CARD HAS MIXED RESULTS

## Key Takeaways

1. IAN is having high impact, and is engaging well with its partners.
2. IAN should do more to leverage its work to support education and outreach. IAN reached fewer people in 2024 than in 2023.
3. IAN didn't reach its objectives for inclusion of diverse voices in funded projects.

## Report card details

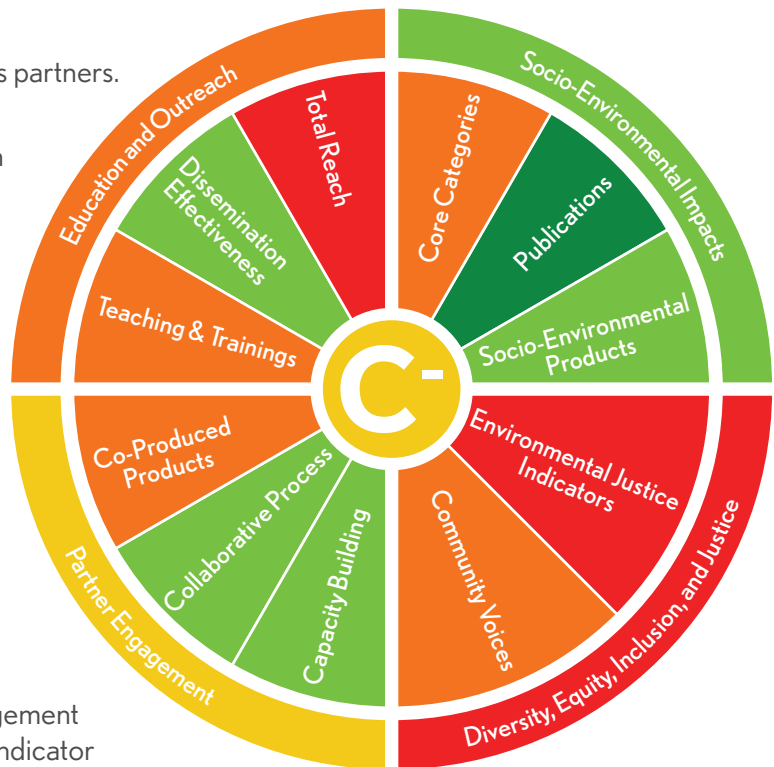
The overall IAN Report Card score for 2024 was a 70% (C-). The highest-scoring category was Socio-Environmental Impacts with an 84% (B), a good score. The Partnership Engagement category received a moderate score (79%, C+). The Education and Outreach category scored a 65% (D), a poor score. The lowest-scoring category was Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, with a very poor score (52%, F).

In the Education and Outreach category, the Total Reach indicator scored a 51% (F) due to low social media engagement and blog output and reach. The Teachings and Trainings indicator received a poor score (65%, D), which was due to fewer short courses in 2024.

In the Socio-Environmental Impacts category, Socio-Environmental Products scored an 83% (B), which is a good score. However, the Core Categories indicator received a poor score (68%, D+), which means IAN needs to continue encouraging the inclusion of social and economic indicators in partners' products. IAN continues to make valuable contributions to academic research. IAN scientists participated in 11 peer-reviewed publications in 2024, scoring an A+.

The Partnership Engagement category received a C+ grade, a decrease from last year. Partners valued our Collaborative Process (87%, B+) and felt that working with us improved their organization's Capacity Building (88%, B+). Partner satisfaction with Co-Produced Products received a poor score (63%, D). It is not possible to please everyone, but IAN strives to ensure that all partners are happy with its products.

Within the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice category, Environmental Justice Indicators was the lowest-scoring indicator, with a 40% score (F). Community Voices received a poor score (63%, D), illustrating that there is still more work to be done in this area.



## IAN scoring

<b>A</b>	Very good (90–100%)	<b>D</b>	Poor (60–70%)
<b>B</b>	Good (80–90%)	<b>F</b>	Very poor (<60%)
<b>C</b>	Moderate (70–80%)		



# IAN COLLABORATES FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

IAN's work relies on collaboration with partners from around the world. Effective stakeholder engagement is not possible without meaningful connections. These connections facilitate open conversations about locally relevant issues, which enable scientists, practitioners, and citizens to identify solutions. IAN's engagement with local partners provides the necessary expertise for accurate socio-environmental assessment. In 2024, IAN traveled overseas to Zambia and India to meet with global partners and facilitate workshops for stakeholder engagement. A virtual workshop presented to participants in Pakistan offered further opportunity for international collaboration. In years past, IAN staff have traveled to Fiji, Brazil, and Mongolia to co-develop report cards with local scientists and communities. This global and cooperative approach to ecosystem assessment aligns with IAN's mission to accomplish positive environmental change through scientific synthesis, engagement, and communication. IAN's vision is a world where communities create sustainable futures through decision-making informed by science, which requires community input on environmental priorities.





# IAN CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

## New IAN Strategic Plan released in 2024

The latest IAN Strategic Plan details IAN's objectives for the next five years and highlights the mission, vision, and values. In addition to spotlighting the important work that IAN has done so far, this document provides specific metrics for achieving success in each objective and will allow IAN to effectively gauge progress. The five main objectives detailed were:

- Celebrate and improve IAN's workplace culture by prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Increase impact by training, capacity building, and publishing to advance research and applied science;
- Collaborate more with UMCES units, including creating opportunities for students in transdisciplinary science;
- Revise IAN's funding model to advance its strengths in data visualization and graphic design training; and
- Support the Chesapeake Global Collaboratory by providing science communication, stakeholder engagement, and training.

IAN is excited to work toward achieving strategic goals. Additionally, IAN will be renamed to better reflect the organization. New name to come in 2026!



## UMCES celebrates Centennial year

In 2025, UMCES is celebrating a century spent fulfilling its mission of research, education, and public service. IAN advances UMCES's mission with stakeholder-driven research, science communication courses, and relationships with communities across the globe. IAN's work advances science by focusing on people, their needs, and science-based solutions. IAN is proud to contribute that work to UMCES's legacy and build a more sustainable and equitable world for people and the environment.

## We would love to work with you!

Since 2002, IAN has worked to improve science communication around the globe. Over the years, staff members have partnered with organizations to help scientists, managers, and non-profits on a variety of projects. Whether you're looking to train scientists to improve their science communication skills, help engage local communities, complete a socio-environmental health report card, or improve the readability of your publications, IAN can help. If you're ready to create an impactful document, analyze your data in new ways, or have a greater influence on management decisions in your region, contact IAN to discuss how we can work together to accomplish your goals.

**UMCES**  
Integration and Application Network



100 YEARS OF SCIENCE

**Contact us today to get started.**  
**Email [ian@umces.edu](mailto:ian@umces.edu) or visit [ian.umces.edu](http://ian.umces.edu)**

Cover photo by Ann Foo.

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