



Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol

An EU-wide Framework to
Promote Best Practice

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27 October 2011



International Hydropower Association

- Mission: to advance sustainable hydropower
- Non-profit organisation founded in 1995 under the auspices of UNESCO
- Central office: London, UK
- National office: China
- Regional office: Brazil



The Protocol

- A framework for assessing the sustainability of hydropower projects
- Distils hydropower sustainability into over 20 clearly-defined topics
- Consistent, globally-applicable methodology
- Governed by a multistakeholder Council and terms and conditions

Recognised by leading organisations (including WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Transparency International) as a “valuable tool to measure and improve the sustainability of hydropower projects”





- A €1.2 million, three year project to implement the Protocol in the European Union
- IHA is co-funding 50%
- Main elements:
 - Application of the Protocol within the EU
 - Delivery of Protocol training
 - Protocol assessments across the EU
 - Database of EU Protocol assessment results
 - Website, Communications and Presentations across EU to promote Hydropower sustainability

Protocol documents

Background document:



Four methodology documents for four stages of development:

Early stage

Preparation

Implementation

Operation



Example: Preparation Stage topics

P-1 Communications & Consultation	P-9 Financial Viability	P-17 Cultural Heritage
P-2 Governance	P-10 Project Benefits	P-18 Public Health
P-3 Demonstrated Need & Strategic Fit	P-11 Economic Viability	P-19 Biodiversity & Invasive Species
P-4 Siting & Design	P-12 Procurement	P-20 Erosion & Sedimentation
P-5 Environmental & Social Impact Assessment & Mgmt	P-13 Project Affected Communities & Livelihoods	P-21 Water Quality
P-6 Integrated Project Management	P-14 Resettlement	P-22 Reservoir Planning
P-7 Hydrological Resource	P-15 Indigenous Peoples	P-23 Downstream Flow Regimes
P-8 Infrastructure Safety	P-16 Labour & Working Conditions	

An Official Protocol Assessment delivers:

- Evidence-based objective assessment of a project's performance, prepared by an accredited assessor
- A score of 1 to 5 for each topic area, related to basic good practice and proven best practice
- An assessment report according to a standard format, automatically saved in IHA's assessment database
- Synthesis of information on complex facilities into a concise and presentable report
- Option to make results public
- Easily communicable spider diagram of results



Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol

Benefits of using the Protocol

Identification of practical recommendations to improve sustainability performance

Targeting of recommendations on areas of weaker performance

Strengthened understanding of sustainability amongst developers and operators

Assurance to government and non-government on performance

A neutral platform for dialogue between industry and affected parties on specific issues

Informs international lenders and provides key information and recommendations

Assurance to purchasing utilities

A signal to the public of commitment to sustainability

Allows presentation of results for portfolios of facilities as part of corporate reporting



What the Protocol is and isn't

- The Protocol *is*:

- A series of assessment tools applicable to all stages of hydropower development in all global contexts
- Developed, and continued to be governed by, a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based structure

- The Protocol *isn't*:

- A standard, or a pass/fail mark – it is for each applicant to make their own decisions about what scores they are looking to achieve
- About giving a 'sustainable hydropower' stamp of approval
 - Official templates are only used when an independent, accredited assessor is used
 - Official templates are a way of showing that the assessment was carried out to the highest possible standards, not that the project is considered 'sustainable'

Evolution

Results from a rigorous and informed multi-stakeholder process, including WWF, Transparency International, Banks and Governments.

- 2000 World Commission on Dams Final Report
- 2003 IHA Sustainability Guidelines
- 2006 Initial Sustainability Assessment Protocol
- 2008-10 Multi-stakeholder Forum refines the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol
- 2011 Official launch at the IHA World Congress, and establishment of the Council

Policies taken into account included: World Commission on Dams' Criteria and Guidelines; World Bank Safeguard Policies; IFC Performance Standards; and Equator Principles.



Multistakeholder governance

- Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council, governed by a Charter
- Multistakeholder Hydropower Sustainability Governance Committee
- Terms and conditions for use of the Protocol defining official and unofficial use
- Approved by interim Governance Committee and officially adopted June 2011

Where to from here?

- Call to participate in the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council
- Development of training programmes for the accreditation of assessors
- Hydro4LIFE
 - A European Commission-funded, €1.2 million project to implement the Protocol within the European Union
- Sustainability Partnerships
 - IHA has partnered with 10 leading hydropower organisations (with more on the way!) to implement the Protocol and engage stakeholders in training

Sustainability Partners

- Partners engage with IHA to apply the Protocol
- Sustainability Partners receive experience in the Protocol, and able to disclose sustainability performance at the earliest
- Each partnership includes: training; two Protocol assessments, one by an accredited assessor; raised profile
- July 2011: 10 partners





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WORLD- LEADING SUSTAINABILITY TOOL



Home

The Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol is an enhanced sustainability assessment tool which is being used to measure and guide performance in the hydropower sector.

The Protocol assesses the four main stages of hydropower development: Early Stage, Preparation,

Download the Protocol



Thank you

Visit

www.hydrosustainability.org

to find out more



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