



## History

The Protocol is the result of intensive review from 2008 to 2010 by the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum. The Forum's members came from: social and environmental NGOs (Oxfam, The Nature Conservancy, Transparency International, WWF); governments (China, Germany [observer], Iceland, Norway, Zambia); commercial and development banks (Equator Principles Financial Institutions, The World Bank [observer]); and the hydropower sector, represented by IHA. Many of these organisations are now represented in the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council.

The iterative development and trialling process of the Protocol involved 20 field trials in 16 countries and stakeholder engagement with 1,933 individuals in 28 countries. This builds on several previous initiatives to define good practice over the past decade.

The Protocol was launched in May 2011 at the IHA world congress.



## Next steps

### Global application

IHA is working with Sustainability Partners to implement the Protocol globally. Sustainability Partners are organisations that are keen to take a leading role in the continuous improvement of hydropower sustainability performance. Sustainability Partners receive training and capacity building on the Protocol, an official assessment of a chosen project, and promotion as a leader in sustainable hydropower worldwide.

### European Union application

Sustainability Partners in the European Union (EU) are participating in Hydro4LIFE, a three year €1.28 million project to promote the adoption of the Protocol within the EU.



### Terms of use

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## Further Information

For more information and a copy of the Protocol visit:

[www.hydrosustainability.org](http://www.hydrosustainability.org)

This leaflet has been produced by the International Hydropower Association (IHA), which acts as the Management Entity of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council.

For more information on this initiative, please contact IHA Programme Director, Cameron Ironside: ci@hydropower.org or phone: +44(0)20 8652 5220.



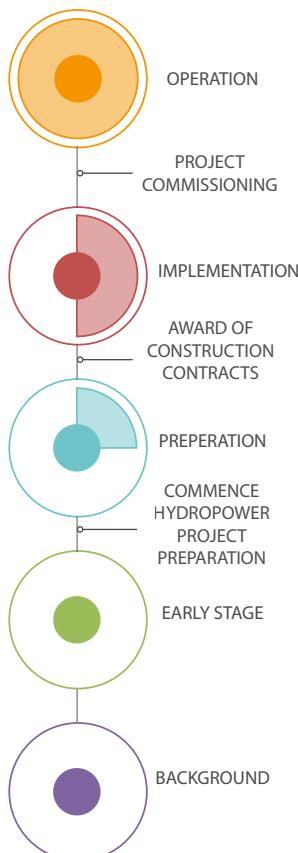
**Hydropower  
Sustainability  
Assessment Protocol  
An Introduction**



## What is the Protocol?

The Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol is a tool that promotes and improves the sustainable use of hydropower. It provides a common language that allows governments, civil society, financial institutions and the hydropower sector to talk about issues of sustainability.

The Protocol offers a way of assessing the performance of hydropower over more than 20 sustainability topics. Assessments are based on objective evidence and the results are presented in a standardised way, making it easy to see how existing facilities are performing and how new projects are being developed.



## Protocol Structure

The Protocol can be used at any stage of hydropower development, from the very earliest planning stages, right through to operation. It has also been designed to work on projects and facilities anywhere in the world.

To assess the sustainability of hydropower projects at all stages of development, the Protocol comprises five documents – a Background document and four assessment tools for the different stages of the project life cycle:

## Sustainability topics

Sustainable development requires people to look for synergies and trade-offs amongst economic, social and environmental values. This balance should be achieved and ensured in a transparent and accountable manner, taking advantage of expanding knowledge, multiple perspectives, and new ideas and technologies. The table below shows the topics addressed during an assessment:

### Cross-cutting

Climate Change	Human Rights	Gender	Livelihoods
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### Environmental

Downstream Flow Regimes	Erosion and Sedimentation	Water Quality	Biodiversity and Invasive Species
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### Social

Resettlement	Indigenous Peoples	Public Health	Cultural Heritage
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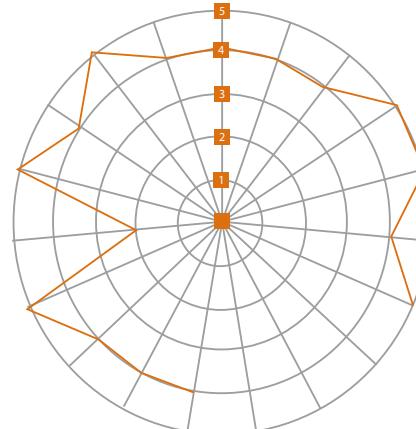
### Technical

Siting and Design	Hydrological Resource	Infrastructure Safety	Asset Reliability and Efficiency
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### Economic / Financial

Financial Viability	Economic Viability	Project Benefits	Procurement
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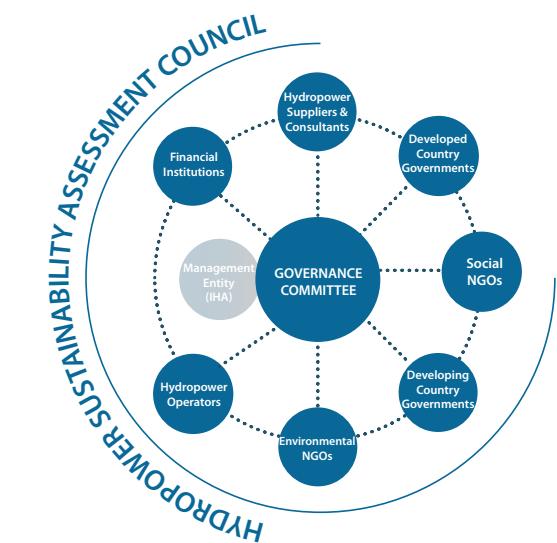
For each sustainability topic, performance is scored from 1 to 5, with 5 being proven best-practice, 3 being basic good practice and presented in an easy-to-read profile:



## Governance

The Protocol is overseen by the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council, a multi-stakeholder body building on the success of the Forum that helped the International Hydropower Association (IHA) develop the Protocol.

The Council includes representatives from social and community organisations, environmental organisations, governments from around the world, banks and investors, and the hydropower sector.



The Council works to ensure that all voices are heard with regard to the use of the Protocol and its future development. It makes decisions by consensus, and follow principles of transparency and goodwill.

The Council is formed of seven Chambers, each reporting back to the elected Governance Committee. The Governance Committee is responsible for upholding the integrity of the Protocol and its use.

IHA acts as a Management Entity within the Council. IHA is responsible for day-to-day operations, as well as other tasks such as overseeing training and accreditation in the use of the Protocol and serving as the secretariat for the Governance Committee.