1. THE PROTOCOL


2. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

The Protocol results from a rigorous multi-stakeholder process including social and environmental NGOs, commercial and development banks, and developing and developed country governments and hydropower industry.

3. SCOPE

Over 20 clearly-defined sustainability topics:

- ENVIRONMENTAL: Downstream Flow Regimes, Erosion & Sedimentation, Water Quality, Biodiversity & Invasive Species
- SOCIAL: Resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, Public Health, Cultural Heritage
- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL: Financial Viability, Economic Viability, Project Benefits, Procurement
- CROSS-CUTTING: Climate Change, Human Rights, Gender, Livelihoods

4. SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

A quick and efficient way to communicate complex results.

5. GOVERNANCE

A Protocol Governance Council has been established to ensure multi-stakeholder input and confidence in the Protocol content and application. It is made up of seven chambers, representing NGOs, governments, banks and industry.

6. DOCUMENTS

There are 5 documents (one providing background guidance and four covering each stage of hydropower project development) to enable Preparation, Implementation and Operation.

7. QUALITY CONTROL

The quality of Protocol assessments is controlled by using independent accredited assessors. This ensures objective, comparable results.

Assessors are required to qualify from a training course and be regularly appraised. The course includes principles from ISO 19011. Assessors hold a license representing agreement to meet terms and conditions and a code of conduct.

8. BUSINESS BENEFITS

ENIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT
- Improve sustainability performance
- Target weak areas
- Target investment

PUBLIC RELATIONS
- Understanding among stakeholders
- Internal capacity

FINANCE
- Access to finance
- Shareholder expectations
- Win concessions

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE
- Platform for dialogue
- Public signal of commitment
- Reputational risk
- Assurance to utilities

9. HYDRO4LIFE

An EC supported €1.2 million, three year project to implement the Protocol in the European Union. The Protocol is co-funded 50%.

Main Elements:
- Application of the Protocol with the EU
- Delivery of training courses on the Protocol
- Presentation at key forums
- Website
- Database
- Communications

WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL?

A series of assessment tools applicable to all stages of hydropower development in all global contexts.

An evidence-based objective assessment of a project’s performance prepared by an accredited assessor

Recognised by NGOs

Developed and governed by a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based structure

Not a standard, or pass/fail mark. Each user decides what score they want to achieve.

Not a mechanism to provide a ‘sustainable hydropower’ or ‘certified’ stamp of approval

Not a replacement for an ESIA

Not a replacement for national or local regulatory requirements

HOW A TOPIC IS SCORED

Does the project meet all criteria?

Assessment of topic against Proven Best Practice criteria

Assessment of topic against Basic Good Practice criteria

Assessment Management Stakeholder engagement Stakeholder support Conformance/Compliance

Does the project meet all criteria?

How many significant gaps are there?

Protocol Training and Assessments


World Commission on Dams Final Report

UNEP Dams and Development Project

IHA Sustainability Guidelines

Initial Sustainability Assessment Protocol

Multi-stakeholder forum refines the Protocol

Official Protocol Launch

Protocol Training and Assessments

Protocol Evolution

How many significant gaps are there?

Two or more gaps
One gap
No gaps

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Two or more gaps
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