

MINUTES
HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING #30 (video conference call)
19 October 2020 (11:30-13:00)

Attendees	Apologies
<p>Roger Gill (Chair, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Pedro Sirgado (alternate, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Richard Taylor (Chair, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jürgen Schuol (alternate, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jian-hua Meng (Chair, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>Daniel Menebhi (Chair, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Geir Hermansen (alternate, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Sunil Poudel (alternate, emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Lesha Witmer (Chair, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Jiwari Abdullah (alternate, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Elisa Jianliang Xiao (alternate, financial institutions)</p> <p>Eddie Rich (ME)</p> <p>Joao Costa (ME)</p> <p>Alain Kilajian (ME)</p> <p>Amina Kadyrzhanova (ME)</p>	<p>James Dalton (alternate, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>Shi Guoqing (Chair, emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Ruth Tiffer-Sotomayor (Chair, financial institutions)</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
HSGC 30.1 Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed those attending and opened the meeting. The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.
30.2 Agenda	The agenda was accepted.
30.3 Status of actions from last meeting	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the status of outstanding actions were discussed.</p> <p>A committee member said that there was a lack of representation from academia and Accredited Assessors, and suggested to create two new chamber groups, possibly with</p>



	<p>no voting rights for assessors. Another committee member noted that members of academia are represented on the environmental and social chambers.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to prepare a paper on the structure of the chamber groups for discussion at the next HSGC meeting.</p> <p>The Chair invited ME to provide an update on the status of HSGC Chair nominations. The Committee members were informed that candidates were selected and interviews would be held in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The Chair invited Committee members to discuss the updates to the remote assessment paper.</p> <p>A committee member expressed concern about the ability of stakeholders to participate in assessments in areas with limited internet connection. ME clarified that Accredited Assessors would only conduct assessments if all stakeholders could be interviewed remotely. ME added that, in a situation where this were not possible, the Accredited Assessors would call off an assessment. ME also mentioned that, before publication of the official report, Accredited Assessors would conduct a verification visit and send the final report to the ME for validation of the methodology and results.</p> <p>A committee member suggested to introduce the remote assessment methodology as a Covid-19 measure and to review its usage after a year.</p> <p>Another committee member suggested a hybrid approach to require only the Lead Accredited Assessor to conduct the verification visit to capture remaining assessment activities. The member added that the approach would lead to significant cost savings for clients.</p> <p>A committee member noted that Sarawak Energy had staff who were provisionally Accredited Assessors that could provide assessment support, including site visit to their projects.</p> <p>Decision 1: The HSGC approved the updated methodology for conducting HSAP and HESG assessments remotely and mandated a review after 12 months of implementation.</p>
<p>30.4 Consultation paper on Hydropower Sustainability Standard</p>	<p>The Chair invited Committee members to discuss the consultation paper.</p> <p>A committee member commented that the paper was complete and balanced, and expressed support for Options 3 and 5. The member added that the HESG was cost-efficient and consistent with the HSAP, but that the Standard needed to include best practice requirements. The member added that the consultation should be open to stakeholders outside of the HSAC and expressed concern over chamber chairs' responsibility to compile comments from their chambers. ME clarified that consultation would be open to the public and feedback would be collected through an online form. ME added that chamber chairs should direct their members to fill out the online feedback form.</p> <p>A committee member expressed concern over Option 3 as at present the tool did not exist and this would potentially deter the public from accepting the option. ME and a member of the Global Standard working group noted that the HESG did not include best practice statements, but those could be easily added from the HSAP. A committee member suggested to consider a two-stage approach to the Standard with a first stage at basic good practice then a second stage beyond good practice to incentivise higher performance.</p> <p>A committee member suggested to discuss the standard with ISEAL, ISO and Fast-Infra to seek external validation and explore synergies and overlaps. The member suggested the consultation paper include a section on alignment with other standards. The member</p>



	<p>requested to open the consultation form to allow the public to comment on missing information.</p> <p>A committee member expressed support for the Standard.</p> <p>Another committee member commented that the HESG, if approved to become the basis for Standard, would include an action plan to improve performance to comply with the Standard. The member added that a process for existing projects needed to be considered and a procedure for monitoring action plans.</p> <p>A committee member recommended that the Standard should incentivise and acknowledge projects that meet best practice on specific topics, as it would be impossible for projects to reach best practice on all topics. The member added that IFIs were developing their own ESG frameworks and the HESG was aligned with almost all IFI requirements. The member also noted that the CBI technical working group had agreed on the use of the HESG methodology.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Working Group and the ME for preparing the consultation paper and requested the ME to update the paper based on the HSGC suggestions ahead of the publication in the week of 9 November.</p> <p>Decision 2: The HSGC approved the draft consultation paper on Hydropower Sustainability Standard and consultation timeline. It mandated the ME to amend the paper based on HSGC suggestions ahead of publication.</p>
<p>30.5 Update to SECO and Norad projects</p>	<p>A committee member requested that the timeline for the SECO work programme in the Committee papers be modified. The member clarified that cooperation agreements with partner stakeholders in Indonesia, Albania, Tajikistan and Colombia were expected to be signed by the end of 2020 and work on the online courses with EPFL would likely take place in 2021. The member added that the second tranche of HESG Assessment Fund was planned for 2021 and would expand to include SDC priority countries, including Myanmar and Nepal which may result in synergies with the Norad programme.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME will update the Committee Papers with regard to SECO update.</p>
<p>30.6 Update to online training/ Hydropower Sustainability Training Academy</p>	<p>ME announced the establishment of Hydropower Sustainability Training Academy and invited Committee members to promote and join the Certified User training starting on 10 November.</p> <p>HSGC noted the update to the online training / Hydropower Sustainability Training Academy.</p>
<p>30.7 IHA Charter for Sustainable Hydropower (previously referred to as Principles)</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of the IHA Charter. ME highlighted that it was for IHA members only and clarified that it embedded the Hydropower Sustainability Tools and the Standard as the encouraged method to demonstrate commitment to hydropower sustainability.</p> <p>HSGC noted the update to the IHA Charter for Sustainable Hydropower.</p>
<p>30.8 IHA working group on World Heritage Sites and Protected Areas</p>	<p>HSGC noted the update to the IHA working group on World Heritage Sites and Protected Areas.</p>
<p>30.9 Any other business</p>	<p>ME provided an update on the CBI work noting a pending item on adaption and resilience under discussion. ME added that two members of the CBI technical working</p>



	<p>group were asked to prepare a paper on relationship between HESG and water infrastructure.</p> <p>A committee member requested to clarify the schedule for election of chamber chairs and alternates and added that an earlier opening of the call for candidates would be required for industry chamber groups as the process would involve IHA Board. The Chair requested the ME to provide clarity on this matter.</p> <p>Action 3: The ME to provide clarity on the upcoming selection process of chamber chair and alternate (with special regard to the two industry chambers), and on the 2021 Council meeting.</p>
30.10 Summary of decisions and actions	<p>Decision 1: The HSGC approved the updated methodology for conducting HSAP and HESG assessments remotely and mandated a review after 12 months of implementation.</p> <p>Decision 2: The HSGC approved the draft consultation paper on Hydropower Sustainability Standard and consultation timeline. It mandated the ME to amend the paper based on HSGC suggestions ahead of publication.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to prepare a paper on the structure of the chamber groups for discussion at the next HSGC meeting.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME will update the Committee Papers with regard to SECO update.</p> <p>Action 3: The ME to provide clarity on the upcoming selection process of chamber chair and alternate (with special regard to the two industry chambers), and on the 2021 Council meeting.</p>