

## MINUTES

### HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING #28 (video conference call)

31 March 2020 (09:00-13:00)

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

Agenda Item	Minutes
HSGC 28.1   Welcome and apologies	The chair welcomed those attending and opened the meeting. The chair introduced a new member of Management Entity (ME), and announced departure of a previous member of ME thanking for the member's contribution. The chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
HSGC 28.2   Agenda	The agenda was accepted.
28.3   Status of actions from last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting and the status of outstanding actions were approved.



<p>28.4   Sustainability Tested - Hydropower Sustainability Tools as Standard for Sustainable Hydropower</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of the recommendation to develop Hydropower Sustainability Tools into the Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower and set up a working group.</p> <p>Discussion took place on how to define the standard, whether it would be part of an established standard body such as ISEAL, what resources were needed to establish and maintain such a standard, its use and boundaries, its scope (site specific or company level), quality control and claim management. Concerns were raised on the proposed timeline as being too ambitious. A committee member remarked that the definition of standard may vary regionally and among developed and developing countries.</p> <p>Another committee member suggested the working group concentrate on bringing the existing tools to the level of a standard, and not introduce an opportunity for updates/ change the tools, otherwise the process would be too lengthy. A committee member emphasised that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the working group should reflect the multi-stakeholder approach.</p> <p>A discussion was also held on the cost and support for people to participate in the working group where needed.</p> <p><b>Decision 1: The HSGC agreed on the recommendation to develop the Hydropower Sustainability Tools into <i>the</i> Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower. The Sustainable Hydropower Standard would be certifiable and with a powerful, distinct and positive brand.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 2: The HSGC agreed to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to agree a recommendation for the design of the Standard. The Standard should be based on the Hydropower Sustainability Tools rather than develop new tools and assessments.</b></p> <p><b>Action 1: ME to draft a ToR for the working group for approval by the HSGC. This should include advice on cost for development, maintenance, quality control and maybe an award to go beyond best practice.</b></p>
<p>28.5   Hydropower and Geothermal Sustainability Assessment Protocols</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of the request from the International Geothermal Association (IGA) that the Geothermal Sustainability Assessment Protocol (GSAP) be governed and managed by an expanded Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council (HSAC).</p> <p>Concerns were raised on whether the HSGC was the appropriate body to govern over the GSAP. Committee members questioned the proposed timeline and resources to establish governance arrangements, to what extent GSAP was being used in the geothermal community of operators and the current governance structure of GSAP.</p> <p>A committee member highlighted the growing interest in the Hydropower Sustainability Tools (HST) among international bodies such as IRENA, OECD and CBI. The member discussed the application of the GSAP in Iceland and the importance of widening the community of interest of the HST. Another committee member added that it was a good idea for the principles of the HSAP to be applied to different renewable energy sources (such as geothermal). The chair added that the IHA Board supported the initiative.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the term “merger” and whether an announcement at this stage was necessary. A committee member added that the paper did not provide an in-depth analysis of the risks and opportunities associated with this initiative. The chair suggested that the ME develop a scoping report addressing the long-term implications of this initiative and manage the communications with IGA.</p>

	<p><b>Decision 3: The HSGC welcomed the interest of and agreed to engage with the International Geothermal Association (IGA) on the idea of the Geothermal Sustainability Assessment Protocol (GSAP) to be governed and managed by an expanded HSAC.</b></p> <p><b>Action 2: ME to develop a scoping report due mid-2020 and communicate with IGA.</b></p> <p><b>Note: No official announcement will be made at this stage.</b></p>
<p>28.6   Updates to the HESG and HSAP</p>	<p>ME presented the summary of updates to the Hydropower Sustainability ESG Gap Analysis Tool (HESG).</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the title and content of Section 4 “Project affected Communities and Infrastructure Safety”. Discussion took place on where to include the Infrastructure Safety issue, and how to rename the section.</p> <p>Two committee members highlighted that the section arrangement of the updated HESG – with emphasis on Section 4 – were aligned with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and IFC Performance Standards.</p> <p>Committee members discussed several options for section 4 title and content, and reached an agreement on “Section 4 - Community Impacts and Infrastructure Safety”, and approved the content proposed by the ME.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over HESG becoming a standalone document and losing its link to the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP).</p> <p>ME proposed a background document for all tools to help assessors and other users apply the HSAP and HESG independently. ME clarified that this would not compromise the alignment of the tools but instead would explain how the HSAP, HESG and HGIIP were founded on the same agreed definitions.</p> <p><b>Decision 4: The HSGC approved the updates to the Hydropower Sustainability ESG Gap Analysis Tool (HESG) document with an adjustment to the section 4 title.</b></p> <p>ME presented the summary of updates to the HSAP. Discussions took place on the definition of the principle of proportionality in the Indigenous Peoples topic on page 81. A committee member suggested replacing the term “consultation” with “agreement”. Another member indicated the proposed change would require consent for consent, which was a significant change from the previous definition. The member proposed to add the term “good-faith” ahead of consultation and another member recommended the removal of the term “for illustration”. Both suggestions were approved by Committee members.</p> <p><b>Decision 5: The HSGC approved the updates to the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) document with adjustments to the guidance wording of the principle of proportionality.</b></p> <p><b>Action 3: ME to launch the updated HESG and HSAP and publish a press release.</b></p>
<p>28.7   Charter, Assessor Licence Agreement, Terms and Definitions</p>	<p><b>Decision 6: The HSGC postponed the approval of the updated Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Charter (Annex D), the Accredited Assessor Licence Agreements (Annexes E1-4), and the new Terms and Definitions document (Annex G).</b></p> <p><b>Action 4: ME to manage this agenda item by circular and share with the HSGC for approval.</b></p>
<p>28.8   Chair selection</p>	<p><b>Decision 7: The HSGC agreed on the recommendation that the Chair selection process be put on pause whilst the key strategic issues around the development of a HS Standard is considered. A new Chair should come in at a time when there is clarity over the future of the Standard and is brought into a role to promote it. Note: The current Chair agreed to continue as Chair in the meantime.</b></p>



<p>28.9   Sustainable Hydropower Training Institute</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of the proposal paper to explore the feasibility of the establishment of a Sustainable Hydropower Training Institute. In mapping the demand for such a facility, Joao emphasised the need to explore complementarities, synergies and cooperation with other capacity building efforts.</p> <p>Committee members welcomed the idea. A committee member suggested including a regional training programme and collaborating with financial institutions, universities and government agencies. The member shared experience of conducting training workshops on the application of HSAP in China. Another member suggested that the ME could coordinate efforts with ICH from Norway. The member added that the training institute could have annual programmes with online and on-site training opportunities. Other suggestions included to involve young professionals and universities to develop curriculum on different topics of HSAP. A member reminded the Committee about the joint roll-out- and capacity building activities (ca 2009 - 2014: various national and regional fora, local and regional workshops) to spread knowledge about, and capacity on, the HSAP. The member added on providing support for university and other educational activities.</p> <p>With regards to document 9.2. Online HS Training and Publications, a member noted that SECO's mention under funding is misleading. Under its Phase II support, SECO is providing funding for an extended capacity development program around the HST in four of its priority countries/regions with some provisions for online training modules (involving EPFL) and additional How-to Guides. Discussions about further extending the online character of training under the SECO funded programme have yet to take place.</p> <p><b>Decision 8: HSGC noted that the ME was exploring the feasibility of the establishment of a Sustainable Hydropower Training Centre and would recommend that the ME consider wider approaches to how training can be delivered.</b></p>
<p>28.10   Any other business</p>	<p>A committee member informed the Committee about a video shared by HPNET on small hydropower. ME responded that the ME would review the video and discuss whether there was a need to take any action.</p>
<p>28.11   Summary of decisions and actions</p>	<p><b>Decision 1: The HSGC agreed on the recommendation to develop the sustainability tools into <i>the</i> Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower. The Sustainable Hydropower Standard would be certifiable and with a powerful, distinct and positive brand.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 2: The HSGC agreed to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to agree a recommendation for the design of the Standard. The Standard should be based on the Hydropower Sustainability Tools rather than develop new tools and assessments.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 3: The HSGC welcomed the interest of and agreed to engage with the International Geothermal Association (IGA) on the idea of the Geothermal Sustainability Assessment Protocol (GSAP) to be governed and managed by an expanded HSAC.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 4: The HSGC approved the updates to the HESG document with an adjustment to the section 4 title.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 5: The HSGC approved the updates to the HSAP document with adjustments to the guidance wording of the principle of proportionality.</b></p> <p><b>Decision 6: The HSGC postponed the approval of the updated Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Charter (Annex D), the Accredited Assessor Licence Agreements (Annexes E1-4), and the new Terms and Definitions document (Annex G).</b></p>



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**Action 1:** ME to draft a ToR for the working group for approval by the HSGC.

**Action 2:** ME to develop a scoping report due mid-2020 and communicate with IGA.

**Action 3:** ME to launch the updated HESG and HSAP and publish a press release

**Action 4:** ME to manage agenda item 7 (Charter, Assessor Licence Agreement, Terms and Definitions) by circular input and share with the HSGC for approval.