

MINUTES
HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING #33 (video conference call)
26 May 2021 (12:00-13:30)

Attendees – 18	Apologies
<p>Ashok Khosla (Chair, HSGC)</p> <p>Jian-hua Meng (Chair, Environmental or conservation organisations)</p> <p>James Dalton (Alternate, Environmental or conservation organisations)</p> <p>Jiwari Abdullah (Chair, Social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Stéphane Brabant (Alternate, Social impacts/project affected communities))</p> <p>Mwape Chikonkolo Mwewa (Chair, Emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Shi Guoqing (Alternate, Emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Daniel Menebhi (Chair, Advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Geir Yngve Hermansen (Alternate, Advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Kimberly Lyon (Chair, Financial institutions)</p> <p>Debbie Gray (Chair, Hydropower owners, operators)</p> <p>Pedro Sirgado (Alternate, Hydropower owners, operators)</p> <p>Knut Sierotzki (Alternate, Hydropower consultants, suppliers)</p> <p>Sunil Poudel (Observer)</p> <p>Eddie Rich (Management Entity (ME))</p> <p>Joao Costa (ME)</p> <p>Alain Kilajian (ME)</p> <p>Amina Kadyrzhanova (ME)</p> <p>Bénédicte Nsalambi (ME)</p>	<p>Jürgen Schuol (Chair, Hydropower consultants, suppliers)</p> <p>Xiao (Jianliang) Elisa (Alternate, Financial institutions)</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
HSGC 33.1 Welcome and apologies	The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the new Committee. Apologies were received from an absent HSGC member.



33.2 Agenda	The agenda was approved.
33.3 Introductions	<p>The Chair invited HSGC members to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The Chair and HSGC members introduced themselves and their background.</p>
33.4 Status of actions from last meeting	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the status of outstanding actions were discussed. The ME mentioned that a Committee member could support it with the UN Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>A member congratulated everybody involved with the CBI Hydropower Criteria. Another Committee member highlighted that the CBI Hydropower Criteria was an important milestone for the hydropower sustainability tools and mentioned the ongoing availability of the HESG assessment fund financed by SECO. The member also expressed satisfaction about IHAS outreach to potential donors to fund the ISEAL certification process of the hydropower sustainability standard and added that SECO might consider using savings from the existing HSAP Phase II support to support such funding, if a gap should persist.</p>
33.5 Induction	<p>The ME conducted an induction presentation on the Hydropower Sustainability Tools, their multi-stakeholder governance (Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council (HSAC), Hydropower Sustainability Governance Committee (HSGC), Management Entity (ME)), statutory documents (Charter, Terms & Conditions), key guides (remote assessment, terms and definitions, process for remedial action) and work programme of IHA Sustainability (IHAS).</p>
33.6 Update on Management Entity work	<p>The ME provided an overview of its work and HST assessments. ME presented the SECO funded capacity building programmes (Ghana, Colombia, Albania and Western Balkans, Tajikistan and Central Asia, Indonesia), the HESG Assessment Fund and the link with accessing climate bonds. ME presented the Norad funded capacity building programmes (Nepal, Mozambique and Myanmar), the How-to Guides, the Training academy platform and work of the Protected Areas working group (development of a good practice guide on protected areas).</p> <p>A Committee member congratulated the ME, in particular on the SECO programmes. The member noted good progress despite the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Another member congratulated the ME on its work. They mentioned that WWF and other civil society organisations had encountered situations in which the HST would have been well-suited for capacity building, but they had a hard time entering these spaces as the HSTs were still seen as industry-driven. They agreed to think about avenues for improvement.</p> <p>Other Committee members also congratulated the ME on its work. One of them asked for clarification on the no-go commitments in Protected Areas. The ME clarified that the working group was working on a recommendation from IHA and its members, including what a no-go would mean. ME welcomed the World Bank to join the discussion.</p> <p>A Committee member asked for clarification on whether the G-res Tool was part of the HST. The member informed the HSGC that EDP had launched an initiative to measure emissions from their reservoirs using the G-res Tool and compare the results. The ME clarified that the Climate Change topic within the HST required the use of the G-res Tool, and that the Tool was governed by IHA and UQAM. ME added that they were the go-to person at IHA to answer these questions.</p>

	<p>A member mentioned that sustainability is an important issue for countries with hydropower. The member mentioned that they cooperated with NRCR and ASCI on an ESIA and management training programmes with participants from around the world. They were the team leader in China (NRCR) and a colleague was a team leader in India (ASCI) on a training programme on Resettlement and Social Issues Management which was established in 2017 (covering P-2,P-8,P-12,P13,P-14,P-15, P-16, P-17 topics of HSAP). The member added that they would like to collaborate with IHA, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to develop more training programmes using the HSAP.</p>
<p>33.7 Update on the Hydropower Sustainability Standard</p>	<p>The ME provided an overview of the development of the Standard (establishment of the Working Group, public consultation comments and working group responses). ME presented the Hydropower Sustainability Certification scheme and noted that the working group would be likely to recommend retitling the HS governance structures.</p> <p>A Committee member mentioned that a communications campaign needed to be undertaken, as well as branding for the Standard. The ME mentioned that the member's points would be addressed within the next item.</p>
<p>33.8 Hydropower Sustainability Governance Committee Outlook 2021/22</p>	<p>The ME clarified that the Standard would be embedded within the expectations for IHA members (new Charter and values-based model), in finance mechanisms (CBI, green bonds, EU taxonomy, alignment with WB and IFC sustainability framework) and in government regulations and policies (to be promoted in the launch of the Standard, 2021 Congress, San Jose Principles and Declaration). The spectrum of stakeholders of the Standard needed to be much wider than industry, including governments (e.g. 49 minister level stakeholders to meet in the Congress).</p> <p>A governance review in 2022 would look at the governance of the Standard including the independence of the ME and the need for wider financial underwriting beyond IHAS.</p> <p>A Committee member mentioned that the governance review was more urgent and should happen before the launch of the Standard. The member also asked if a working group would be established for the governance review. The ME said it agreed in principle but it did not have the resources to conduct a review ahead of the Standard launch.</p> <p>An HSGC member thanked the ME for the outlook and emphasised that the process was not to be rushed through. The member added that it would take much longer to obtain ISEAL certification after the launch of the Standard. Changes in governance would take more time and could not happen before the launch of the Standard.</p> <p>The Chair added that ISEAL certification was not a prerequisite to get the Standard applied, but he emphasised the need to speed things up as the pressure from the sector was heavy.</p>
<p>33.9 HSGC Vice Chair election</p>	<p>The Chair announced that interest for the Vice Chair role had been received. The Chair invited the candidates to present their interest in the role and how they would contribute.</p> <p>The first candidate presented their interest in the role and mentioned their investment in the success of the tools, knowledge of the governance processes and involvement in the development of products within the World Bank with a close look on the tools.</p> <p>The second candidate said that they would like to be voted for the HSGC Vice Chair, but communication issues got in the way of them presenting.</p> <p>A Committee member suggested not to take the vote at the meeting as they could not assess each candidate equally. The member suggested that the voting to be conducted through emails. HSGC members seconded the suggestion.</p>



	<p>The Chair requested both candidates to send their CVs and statements to the ME.</p> <p>Action 1: Candidates for the Vice Chair role to send ME their CVs and statements. ME to arrange the voting process by email.</p> <p>Action 2: ME to distribute a doodle poll for the next HSGC meeting in late June or early July.</p>
33.9 Any other business	No issues were raised.
33.10 Summary of decisions and actions	<p>Action 1: Candidates for the Vice Chair role to send ME their CVs and statements. ME to arrange the voting process by email.</p> <p>Action 2: ME to distribute a doodle poll for the next HSGC meeting in late June or early July.</p>