

- In June 2009 the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum aims to have a Draft Revised Protocol.
- In order for this sustainability measurement tool to be broadly endorsed, it is necessary to trial the measuring tool on a range of projects and operating facilities of different scales, different contexts, different stages of the project life cycle, and in different geographic and political regions.
- The purpose of the trials will be to document ease of understanding of the Protocol, ease of application, appropriateness of content, and areas for improvement. These should not be considered audits of hydropower projects and facilities, but rather tests of applicability of the Draft Revised Protocol.
- The period for trialling the revised Protocol is envisaged to be July-September 2009.
- It would assist the process to have a cross-sectoral team undertake each trial assessment, including in each team a community member and an NGO.

Recommended Actions:

1. Develop criteria for selection of candidates for trialling the Draft Revised Protocol.
2. Develop a target list of hydropower projects and operating facilities that meet the criteria, and an associated list of organizations/individuals who could form the trial team for each project / facility.
3. Develop standard invitations to the project or facility owner/operator/developer to participate in the trial, and to individuals to participate on the trial team.
4. Develop guidelines for the trial teams on how to undertake the assessment.
5. Develop a standard information documentation methodology for the trial program linked to a strategy to consolidate the information obtained from the trials.