

- This paper is to make Forum members aware of Funding within and outside the Forum program to promote engagement of the Forum in particular with NGOs and members of communities directly affected by hydropower developments and operations. This paper is provided for the purpose of encouraging proposals toward these objectives.
- The overall Forum budget is GBP 640k to cover estimated expenses of meetings, coordination staff, external participants, reference groups, reports. The breakdown of this is: Forum meetings (300k), IHA coordination staff (180k), external consultation (100k), NGO reference group (20k), Final report (20k) and contingency (20k).
- Within this broader budget there are opportunities to fund engagement with NGOs and members of the directly affected community. The external consultation budget of 100k and the NGO reference group budget of GBP 20k are intended to address these areas. Additionally, the budget for Forum meetings includes GBP 32k for side visits, local transport and regional consultation. It should be noted that GBP 96k of the Forum meeting budget is dedicated for support of meeting participants from NGOs and developing countries.
- At present the Forum has funding commitments GBP 500k, comprising Norway 250k, Iceland 100k, Germany 100k, TNC 25k, IHA 25k. IHA is actively seeking additional funding to meet the shortfall 140k; however this shortfall should not be seen to diminish the ability of the Forum to engage adequately with directly affected stakeholders and the NGO community.
- Additional to their Forum funding contribution, the German government has indicated that up to GBP 20k could be made available, that it will directly administer, to support engagement of the Forum with directly affected stakeholders and NGOs.
- Proposals are sought from Forum members as to how the Forum can most effectively engage with the NGO sector and directly affected stakeholders throughout the Forum process. One initial idea could be to commission a network identification exercise. A further idea could be to commission a consultant to undertake regional survey exercises at strategic stages of the Forum work plan. An example could be to test a broad range of views on the proposed key aspects for Sections A, B and C and the intent of these aspects. The Forum Coordinator is happy to work with any Forum members on developing and bringing forward any such ideas.