

History of the Sustainability Assessment Protocol

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IHA Sustainability Guidelines

The International Hydropower Association (IHA) published *Sustainability Guidelines* to promote greater consideration of environment, social, and economic sustainability.



Need for Assessment Tool

An assessment tool was developed as an aid to IHA members in implementing and complying with the IHA *Sustainability Guidelines*.



First Draft of SAP

First draft of the Sustainability Assessment Protocol (SAP) was entitled “**Compliance Protocol**” and issued in September, 2003. This document had three sections:

- A. Sustainability Evaluation of Alternative Energy Supply Options
- B. Sustainability Evaluation of Alternative Hydropower Options
- C. Sustainability Evaluation of Operating Hydropower Facilities



International Hydropower Association

**Sustainability Evaluation of Alternative Energy Supply
Options**

**Sustainability Evaluation of Alternative Hydropower
Options**

**Guidance Notes on Compliance with IHA Sustainability
Guidelines**

Draft September 2003



International
Hydropower Association

Compliance Protocol (Sustainability Guidelines)



Draft February 2004



Aspects and Scoring

Each section had 20 aspects that were to be evaluated. Sustainability scoring was based on a score of:

5 for each aspect where the option met all the relevant sustainability criteria.

3 where most of the sustainability criteria were met.

1 where only some of the sustainability criteria were met.

0 where none of the sustainability criteria were met.



Division of Aspects

The twenty aspects were divided as follows:

Section	Number of Economic Aspects	Number of Social Aspects	Number of Environmental Aspects
A	9	5	6
B	3	6	11
C	5	8	7



Aspects

- The aspects were primarily performance-based, although there were some integrated process measures included.
- The intention was that the scores in each section were totalled, averaged, and the range of scores stated.



Reviews, Field Testing, and Revision

- All versions were subjected to reviews and field testing.
- Results and comments led to modifications to some of the aspects through the various draft versions.



SAP Trials by Continent

Continent	Number of Schemes Trialled
ASIA	10
AFRICA	5
LATIN AMERICA	2
NORTH AMERICA	5
OCEANIA	2
EUROPE	9
TOTAL	33



SAP Trials by Version

Version	Number of Schemes Trialled
Preliminary	1
Version 1	3
Version 2	2
Version 2 and 3	4
Version 3	3
Version 4	7
Version 5 / 6	1
Version 6	12
TOTAL	33



Draft Version March 2005

A significantly modified draft version of the SAP was issued in March, 2005.

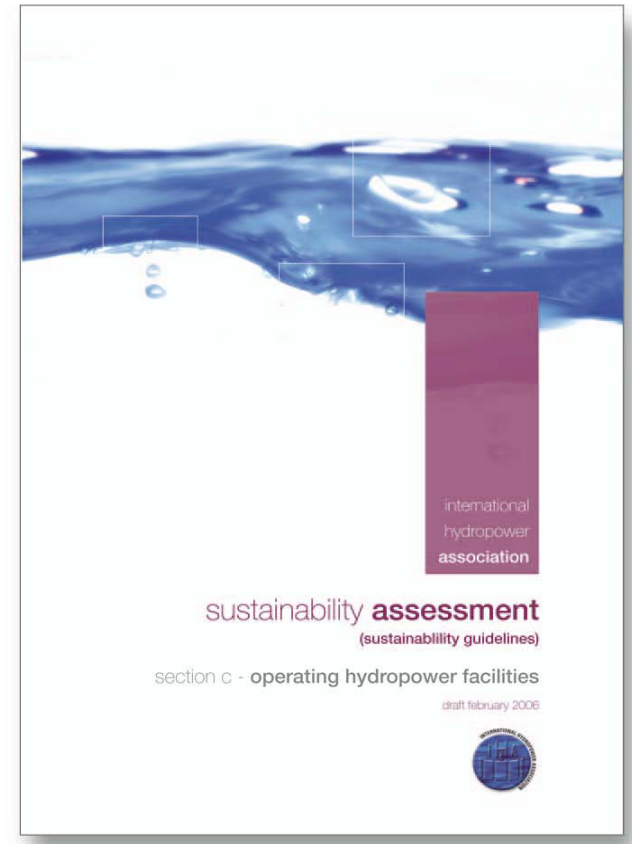
The major changes included:

1. Some aspects were deleted / merged and new ones were added.
2. Scores and descriptions for every value from 5 to 0.
3. An assessment of both performance and process for aspects.
4. A section on auditing and objective evidence.



Modified Draft Versions March 2005 and February 2006

The March 2005 and the February 2006 versions were published as three separate documents (one each for Sections A, B, and C of the SAP).



Changes in Aspects

Deleted / merged

- Energy payback ratio
- Long term resource depletion
- Upgrading existing facilities
- Area flooded
- Passage of fish species
- Environmental compliance



Changes in Aspects

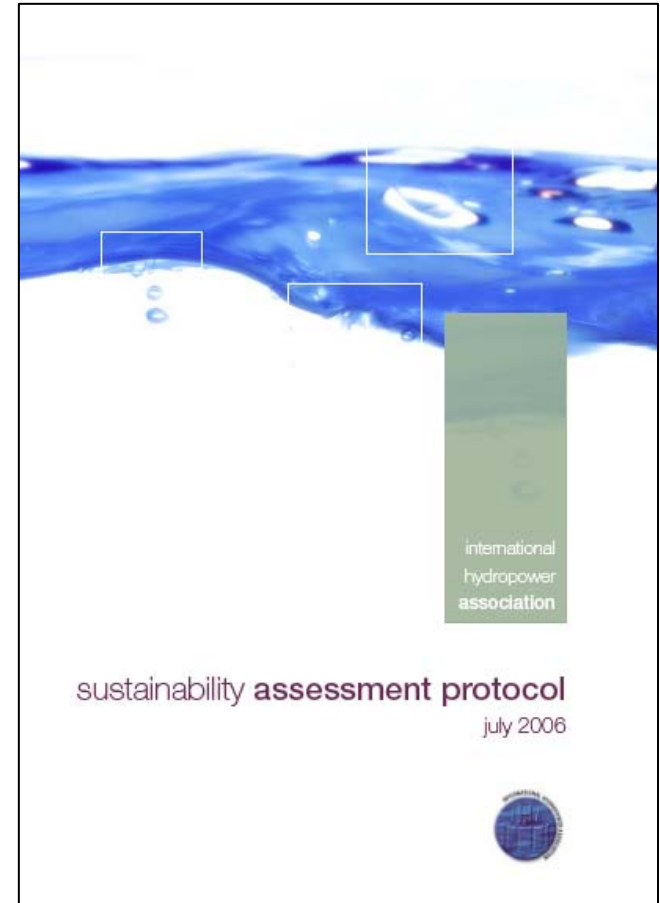
New / Modified

- Political risk and regulatory approval
- Government and proponent policies
- Governance
- Site selection and design optimisation
- Social impact assessment
- Social commitment
- Aquatic biodiversity
- Markets, innovation and research
- Suppliers and partners



Current Version July 2006

**The current
version of the SAP
was published in
July, 2006.**



Current Version July 2006

The changes from 2005 included:

1. The three documents were consolidated into one document.
2. Addition of advice on a systematic management approach to sustainability (plan, do, check, act).



Current Version July 2006

3. Section A – New Energy Projects was changed to give general guidance on sustainability issues that should be considered when assessing new energy projects. There is no scoring for Section A.
4. A section on risk assessment was added.
5. The scoring for each aspect of Sections B and C remain, but there is no longer totalling or averaging of scores for each section.



SAP Development Concepts 1

The following concepts were a feature of the development of the SAP:

- The most important global sustainability aspects of hydropower are explicitly stated in the SAP.
- The SAP needs to be universally applicable so that a concept may be addressed in the context of an actual / local situation.
- While performance is a measure of sustainability, the sustainability of the performance itself is an issue that must be evidenced by comprehensive (suitable, adequate, effective) processes.



SAP Development Concepts 2

- Each aspect is of similar importance (no weightings or complexity in scoring).
- It was intended to supplement the SAP with further guidance documentation for some aspects, and for some supporting processes (e.g., auditing).
- One medium for communication of this guidance is the current sustainability website.

