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## SANTO ANTÔNIO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

The assessment was conducted on the 3 568 MW Santo Antônio hydroelectric plant, presently under construction on the Madeira river, the largest tributary of the Amazon, in the western Brazilian state of Rondônia. The project developer is Santo Antônio Energia (SAE), a special-purpose company listed on the São Paulo stock exchange.

### Assessment results

The project demonstrated very high standards in its sustainability management. It has been well designed, based on the considerable experience of the owners and the members of the EPC consortium.

The Protocol assessment demonstrated that for most topics the project was performing at the ‘proven best practice’ level, thanks to the dedicated delivery of management programmes by SAE’s sustainability team and contractors.

However, the assessment did reveal areas for improvement including two significant gaps at the ‘basic good practice’ level, under the resettlement and the indigenous people topics.

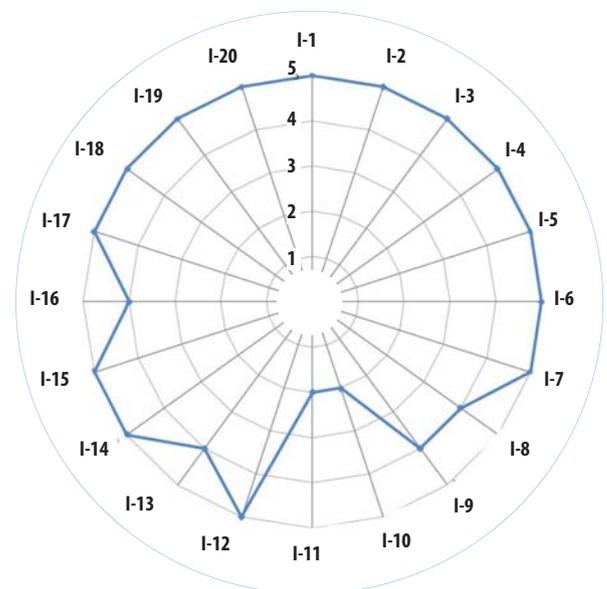
### Resources

Preparation for the assessment began three months before the on-site visit, with SAE gathering documents, scoping potential interviewees and planning the site visit.

The assessment itself took place over 10 days in April 2014, in Porto Velho, São Paulo and Brasília. The assessors spent one month compiling the first draft of the report, which was then finalised two months after the assessment.

The external assessment cost approximately £98,000 (excluding internal staff time and logistics).

### Summary of Results



- I-1 Communications & Consultation
- I-2 Governance
- I-3 Environmental & Social Issues Management
- I-4 Integrated Project Management
- I-5 Infrastructure Safety
- I-6 Financial Viability
- I-7 Project Benefits
- I-8 Procurement
- I-9 Project-Affected Communities & Livelihoods

- I-10 Resettlement
- I-11 Indigenous Peoples
- I-12 Labour & Working Conditions
- I-13 Cultural Heritage
- I-14 Public Health
- I-15 Biodiversity & Invasive Species
- I-16 Erosion & Sedimentation
- I-17 Water Quality
- I-18 Waste, Noise & Air Quality
- I-19 Reservoir Preparation & Filling
- I-20 Downstream Flow Regimes



**“Going through the process of assessing the Santo Antonio hydroelectric plant yielded large benefits for our management of sustainability issues, our engagement with project stakeholders, and for engaging and motivating our staff.”**

Carolina Fiorillo Mariani, Sustainability Executive at Santo Antônio Energia reflecting on the benefits of assessing the project using the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol.

### **Did the assessment motivate SAE employees?**

“The assessment required staff to interact with each other, because the Protocol topics often needed input from more than one division of the company. This helped build a broader and more integrated perception of what we do amongst our staff.

The assessment unified employees in pursuing a single objective: to demonstrate the sustainability actions taken by the company and get a good evaluation in the assessment.

The exercise of searching our programs for the sustainability requirements set out by the Protocol caused the employees to rethink their day-to-day work and encouraged them to find even better and more sustainable practices.

In general I feel like the process has raised the self-esteem of the employees, they feel proud of what we have achieved with this project that is demonstrating best practices“

### **How did the assessment help you manage sustainability issues?**

“One of the most obvious outcomes was understanding how our project compares with international best practice. Understanding this has allowed us to raise SAE’s standards to another level.

The assessment also identified specific opportunities for improvement within the company, such as monitoring relocated people who received compensation and a need for a more careful look at the impacts of climate change.

The results have encouraged top management to implement more sustainability practices within the company.”

### **How did it help you communicate with your Stakeholders?**

“The process helped us to strengthen our relationships with our stakeholders, both during and after the assessment. It helped us to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability to them. It also provided an opportunity for different stakeholders to interact with SAE staff during group interviews, raising awareness externally of SAE policies and practices.”

To download the full report and for more information on the Protocol visit:

[www.hydrosustainability.org](http://www.hydrosustainability.org)

