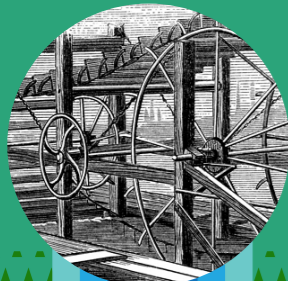


Early to mid-1900s

Our journey begins in the early 1900s. Hydropower, closely linked with development, is considered one of the most cost-effective and reliable ways to meet a growing energy demand. Hydropower projects are viewed as emblems of progress. No major questions are being asked about their sustainability performance



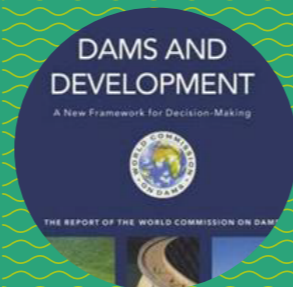
1980s

Come the late 1980s, a wave of environmental, social and governance activism sees many projects around the world halted due to concerns about their potential negative impacts. This leads key global actors to reassess the role of hydropower in development and push for increased understanding of the environmental, social and governance impacts of the industry.



2000s

This period culminates with the publication of the World Commission on Dams Report in 2000. The landmark report highlights the numerous impacts of dams, including hydropower, and provides a roadmap to sustainability and set of strategic priorities from which our Theory of Change was inspired.



2004-2006

In 2004, a set of sustainability guidelines is published by the International Hydropower Association to help achieve the strategic priorities of the World Commission on Dams report. Two years later, an assessment protocol is developed to evaluate performance against the guidelines.



2010-2018

The Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol was published in 2010 and, since its launch, has been used officially in over 25 countries to help hydropower developers across the globe to implement better practices and increase the sustainability performance of their projects.

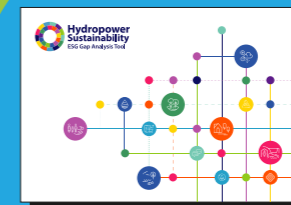
In 2018, two supporting resources were developed based on the good practice requirements defined in the assessment protocol: an ESG gap analysis tool and a set of good practice guidelines. The topics of the ESG tool are aligned with the environmental and social standards of the World Bank Group.



2008-2010

In 2008, a multi-stakeholder initiative – the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum – is launched to build on the existing protocol to create a sustainability assessment framework that represents the views of the entire hydropower community, not just industry groups.

The Forum operated for two and a half years, from 2008 to 2010 and followed a similar process implemented by the World Commission on Dams using reference groups and open consultation periods to obtain a wide array of views.



2020-2021

In November 2020, a 90-day global consultation was launched to develop the Hydropower Sustainability Tools into a global standard for sustainable hydropower. Following a consultation, the Standard was launched by the Hydropower Sustainability Council in September 2021 with the vision of making sustainable hydropower the norm.

