

Dr. Refaat Abdel-Malek, President
Dr. Richard Taylor, Executive Director
International Hydropower Association
IHA Central Office
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London Borough of Sutton
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23 February 2011

Dear Dr Refaat Abdel-Malek, Dear Dr Richard Taylor:

We would like to congratulate you on the recent adoption of the 2010 Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol by the IHA. We have appreciated the opportunity to work with you and the other members of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum to create this valuable tool to measure and improve the sustainability of hydropower projects. As the two organizations that initiated discussions with the IHA to review the earlier Protocol, WWF and TNC very much appreciate your leadership on the journey toward more sustainable hydropower.

While we would have liked to sharpen the definition of some issues, we recognize that no one party could have expected the Protocol, as a consensus document, to completely reflect their perspective. It is time for the tool to prove itself in practical applications. We do recognize that the Protocol does not fully address at least one important aspect of sustainability, namely, the adequacy of regional or basin-scale hydropower planning. Planning at such scale is one of the most crucial prerequisites for sustainable hydropower, and we will continue to look for ways to advance this issue. We hope industry will be ready to contribute to this effort.

The Forum process has done much to bring stakeholder perspectives together and has already generated considerable interest. It is now time to capitalize on this momentum and roll out the Protocol for broad application so we can gauge its effectiveness on the ground. WWF, along with our colleagues in TNC are prepared to continue working with you and other stakeholders to make this happen. In this regard, our main expectations for future collaboration are the following:

- Any public claims of a particular sustainability performance need to be supported by a credible system. Bringing the Protocol system into full compliance with ISEAL guidelines, and creating a functional and balanced governance structure would go a long way toward ensuring this.
- The Protocol should be used by a multitude of organizations in a variety of ways, which needs to be reflected in the terms and conditions of use.

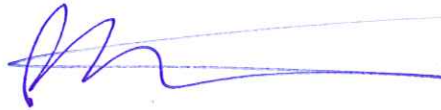
- We would expect WWF, TNC and the other Forum member organizations who have contributed to the documents to have unrestricted access and rights of use; and would prefer the IHA to share intellectual property rights with Forum members, or to transfer them to an independent joint entity. This would assist with the public perception that the Protocol is governed and applied in an impartial way.
- Ultimately, all projects should meet acceptable standards of performance. We would therefore hope for an explicit expression of intent from the IHA to eventually move the Protocol toward a system of assessment against a sustainability standard.

We anticipate continued cooperation in the upcoming discussions, and look forward to mobilizing the WWF network to work with you and your membership, as well as other Forum members and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,



Lifeng Li
Director, Freshwater



PP Lasse Gustavsson
Executive Director, Conservation