

# Hydropower Sustainability Standard

Information note



**IHA is leading the development of a global hydropower standard to incentivise, recognise and certify good practice in hydropower projects.**

The development of a Standard would expand on and complement the Hydropower Sustainability Tools by setting minimum performance expectations for the sector and publicly rewarding projects for meeting these expectations.

If adopted, the Hydropower Sustainability Standard would apply a rating, or label, to projects at any size or stage of development.

## 1. Achieve



## 2. Assess



## 3. Certify



# A Global Standard

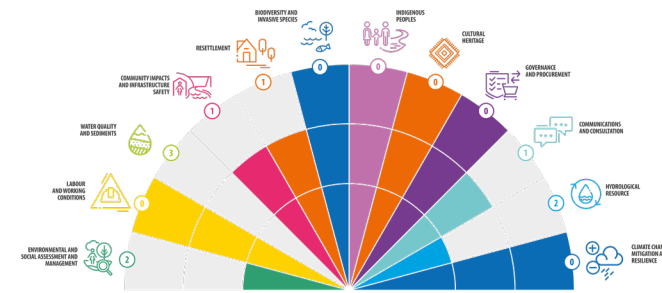
## Certification



## Continuous improvement



## Quality and credibility



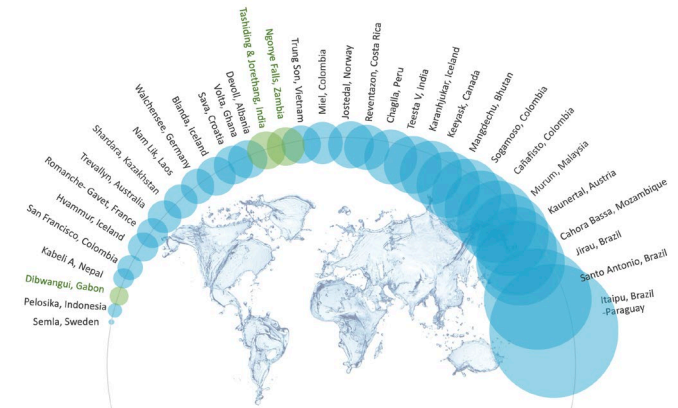
## Easy-to understand labelling structure



## Transparent assessments



## Global uptake



## Proposed scope

- Systematically recognise and certify good practice in hydropower development and operation

## Intended application

- New and existing projects, including under construction
- Any hydropower type, size, location and age

## The need for a standard

- Greater assurance about sustainability performance
- International benchmark
- Social licence to operate

## Outcomes

- Increased recognition of ESG impacts
- Continuous improvement



# Multi-stakeholder governance

The Standard would be governed by a multi-stakeholder body, the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council. The governing body includes representatives of social, community and environmental organisations, governments, commercial and development banks and the hydropower sector. This inclusive approach to governance ensures that all stakeholder voices are heard in the shaping of the use of the Tools.

The International Hydropower Association (IHA) would act as the management entity to the Council and would be responsible for coordinating assessment and certification governance activities.



Reputation, quality and credibility

# Working Group on Global Standard

A working group has been established by the Hydropower Sustainability Governance Committee (HSGC) to agree on a recommendation for the design of the Standard.

The working group includes representatives from governments, environmental and social organisations, financial institutions, hydropower operators, and HST Accredited Assessors.



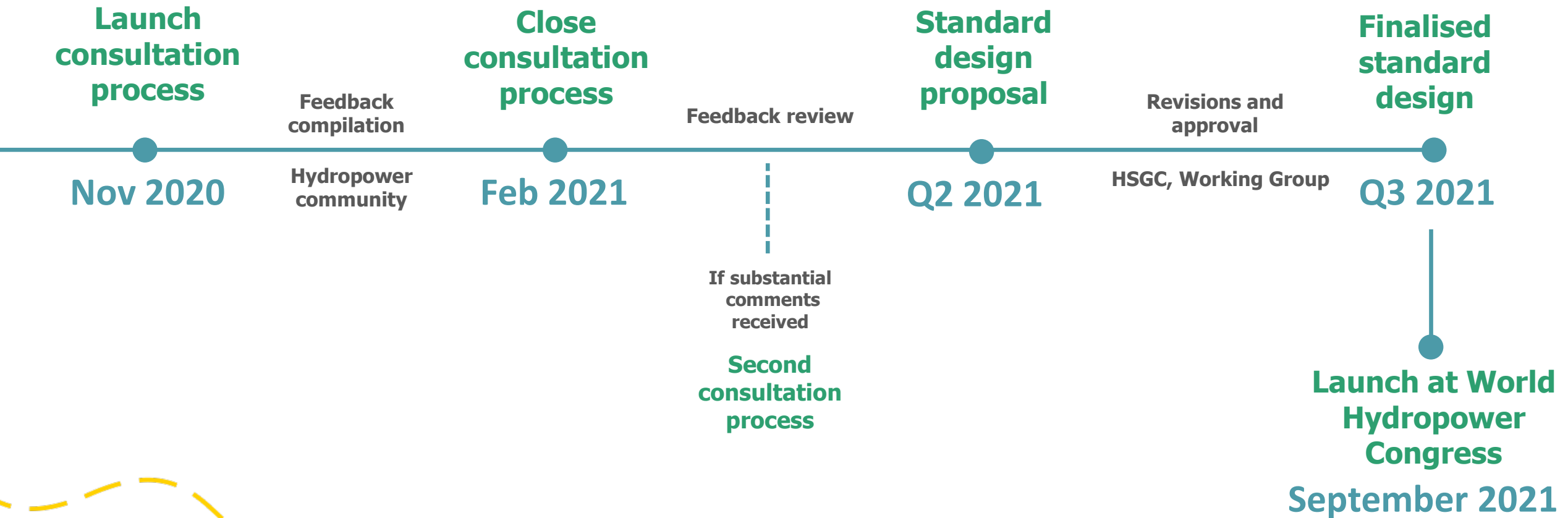
## Scope of consultation

1. Object of the Standard & Rating System
2. Certification Process
3. Sustainability in progress recognition
4. Duration of the Sustainability Rating
5. Rating Renewal & Update Process
6. Changes to the Standard
7. Appeals Process
8. Governance
9. Communications & Transparency Processes



**Provide your comments at**  
[hydrosustainability.org/standard](https://hydrosustainability.org/standard)

# Key steps and timeline





Learn more at [hydrosustainability.org](https://hydrosustainability.org)

Talk to us: [sustainability@hydropower.org](mailto:sustainability@hydropower.org)

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