

Regional conference

Water Stewardship for Sustainable Hydropower



SAVE THE DATE: 5 - 8 June 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya

Main objectives:

- Promoting water stewardship principles and approaches to the hydropower industry; showcasing responsible hydropower development in the region.
- Creating interest, influencing policies and portfolio development of renewable energy programmes; stimulating the involvement of hydropower developers and operators in water stewardship partnerships.

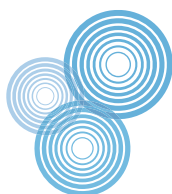
With two-thirds of Africa's feasible hydropower potential waiting to be tapped, the growing demand for power must be weighed against water scarcity — and the need for water resources to be managed sustainably is paramount.

Against this backdrop, the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWasP) regional conference on *Water Stewardship for Sustainable Hydropower* shall bring together key hydropower players from concerned government agencies, private sector developers and operators, civil society and development partners. The event will provide the platform to explore how

stewardship approaches can address the pressing challenges and add value to existing models of hydropower development and operation.

This dialogue will be conducted around six interrelated themes:

- 1. Stakeholder engagement:** Projects that follow a pro-active and structured approach in stakeholder engagement typically move much faster through conceptualisation, design and construction. Although attitudes and capacities of developers can vary greatly, experienced developers in the region follow international good practices.
- 2. Benefit sharing:** Increasing requirements for social and environmental mitigation and investors' expectations for corporate social responsibility influence a shift in the social dimensions of projects. For hydropower developers, benefit sharing with local communities is now seen as a means of earning legitimacy and hence the 'social licence to operate'. As a result, benefit sharing is increasingly being viewed as a vital component of sustainable hydropower development and operation, as well as a practical method for promoting cooperation among differently positioned stakeholders.





3. **Strategic planning:** Government and development partner-driven renewable energy promotion programmes are in place or launching, creating dynamic opportunities for independent power producers (IPPs) in Africa. There is a need to ensure that these programmes strategically address environmental and social risks associated with scaling up renewable energies. Two principles emerge: to ‘build the right projects at the right spots’, and to ensure ‘inclusiveness’ in all processes.
4. **Water allocation:** The hydrology of catchments, water availability and yield are often poorly understood. Customary (non-licensed) abstractions are rarely taken fully into account. Conflicting objectives and competing demands in the mid- and longer term, particularly between the water supply, agriculture and hydropower sectors, are seldom fully reconciled. Basin or catchment management plans are not always available or of adequate level of detail, and are seldom implemented and enforced. While community-based water user associations frequently exist, their mandate and interaction with government agencies is often unclear. In many places, this has led to inefficient water use and over-

allocation, particularly at times of low flow and frequently at the expense of the environment. A realistic, inclusive and inter-sectoral planning process helps in resolving such issues.

5. **Water and climate risks:** Whereas the industry acknowledges risks posed by climate variability and change, climate risk screenings are seldom conducted and concepts for adaptation are seldom incorporated into design and operation. And while approaches and methodologies exist, they are not tailored to the region and not easily accessible at the practitioner level, particularly for smaller projects.
6. **Catchment conservation:** Hydropower operators are aware and concerned about catchment degradation issues, particularly soil erosion. Increasingly intense land-use patterns may aggravate issues in the not-too-distant future. Setting up catchment management mechanisms, to which the hydropower operators contribute following a ‘payment for ecosystem services’ approach, can stabilise the hydrological regime, conserve soils and thus secure long-term sustainability of operations.

The event will include a one-day conference as well as a series of pre- and post-conference workshops providing further insights and inviting in-depth dialogue on specific themes. There will also be a field visit to a small hydropower scheme in the region.

Please contact christoph.mor@giz.de for detailed information.

Supporting partners:

Policy Entrepreneurs Inc., PEI, Nepal • International Hydropower Association, IHA • International Water Management Institute, IWMI
• University of Nairobi, Kenya • University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa • Kenya Tea Development Agency • Aurecon, South Africa



The **International Water Stewardship Programme** is funded by the Governments of Germany and the UK. The programme forges partnerships between the private sector, community groups and concerned government agencies to overcome water risks. The private sector industries we cooperate with include agriculture, food and beverage, textile and manufacturing. The partnerships are often centred on water quality issues in urban and peri-urban settings, as well as catchment management initiatives in rural settings. Our work with hydropower developers and operators typically focuses on stakeholder engagement, water allocation issues, catchment management, and social and environmental safeguard issues.