



FACT SHEET: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER INITIATIVE

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19th and 20th, ministers pledged to establish the **Sustainable Development of Hydropower Initiative** to promote the sustainable use of hydropower in developing countries in regions such as Africa, Asia, and Central America, and to identify potential financial resources from multilateral organizations to advance such projects.

Initial activities will include inventorying a river basin in an African country to identify opportunities for sustainable hydropower. The approach may be based on the new methodology of the Hydro Basins' Inventory Manual, which was developed with funds from the Brazilian government and the World Bank and seeks to find a balance between energy production and social-environmental considerations. Such studies will also account for alternate uses of river basins. The basic criterion is maximizing economic-energy efficiency together with minimizing socio-environmental impacts.

Factors that will be considered in the studies include the potential impacts on the regional economy, local government revenues, local labor markets, road infrastructure, indigenous peoples and traditional communities, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, territorial organization, and opportunities for the rationalization of the multiple uses of the water. In addition, other important considerations may be identified and should be incorporated in the evaluation.

Piloting this approach for an African river basin will highlight the opportunities for developing hydropower potentials in a sustainable way, enhancing the synergies between hydropower development, rationalization of water use, local and regional social and economic development, and environmental aspects, in addition to improving access to clean energy, creating jobs, and contributing to reduced emissions.

Participants as of July 20, 2010

Participating governments include Brazil, France, Mexico, and Norway.