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Dear Patrick

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2009 and for recently sharing with us IR's comparative study of the IHA Guidelines and Protocol in relation to the work of the World Commission on Dams and the IFC Performance Standards. The latter has been shared with the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum and posted on the IHA website.

With regard to the concerns raised in your letter of 12 January, your comments are timely and appreciated, and we would welcome your input on how to make the upcoming HSAF consultation phases as effective and inclusive as possible.

From the outset, and after discussion with people closely involved in previous initiatives in several sectors, all involved maintain a strong awareness of the need for consultation with all stakeholder groups, and especially project-affected people, including project-affected indigenous peoples.

The first phase of the consultation is aimed at establishing relationships with stakeholders and raising awareness of the HSAF's work and intended refinement of the current version of the IHA Sustainability Assessment Protocol. With this in mind, we would appreciate if you could send us the email and postal address details of the parties endorsing your letter so that the coordinators can include them in this process.

We are also developing our plans for the second phase consultation later this year, and this will be on the agenda of the next Forum Meeting (Turkey, 10-13 March 2009). These plans will include regional consultation meetings. We note the principles that you have outlined as important to this process.

Once again, thank you for your comments and we look forward to further dialogue as we move forward. The Forum Coordinator, Helen Locher, and the HSAF Consultation Consultant, Sarah Roberts, will be in touch with you to discuss these issues in further detail. Your support in this matter is much appreciated.

Kind regards

Réfaat Abdel-Malek
President

Richard M. Taylor
Executive Director

CC HSAF Chair and Members