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# **Advancing implementation in renewable energy projects with a focus on Social Risk Assessment – Nepal**

Sustainable Finance Mechanisms and Compliance  
ESG Module II ICH

**Kathmandu- Nepal**

28-30 October 2024



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



# Introduction

Managing risks and socio-environmental impacts through the life cycle of renewable energy projects represents a challenge for institutions, companies and society in general. It must be approached from a preventive perspective and requires the participation of a range of stakeholders and institutional actors. Representation is required from all the areas of influence of the projects and incorporates, as best practice, differentiated and systematic environmental and social monitoring.

Taking on this challenge requires companies to balance a range of risks and opportunities at corporate level, across financial, aspects of safety, and engineering with environmental and social risks and governance. It also requires understanding the communities within project footprints, and beyond, and their dynamics, culture, capacities, and potential so that management can adapt to the local contexts.

This course will address techniques, methodologies, and experiences that will allow professionals, work teams, community leaders, business managers, contractors, among other actors involved in the determination of feasibility of projects, to develop knowledge related to governance and identification and management of impacts, conflicts, and risks from a preventive, participatory, and inclusive perspective.

It is also an opportunity to review aspects of management that companies, communities, and institutions must strengthen in order to ensure the viability and sustainability of projects and the associated environment.

This training is designed to build on Module I or for those with a basic understanding of sustainable finance and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

This training has been designed to support industry professionals working in Nepal's renewable energy sector. It aims to provide practical experiences through a technical tour, blending theoretical knowledge to deepen participants' understanding of ESG and social risk assessment in the context of renewable energy projects. The itinerary will be designed to suit the tour objectives and participant backgrounds.

Just transition to renewable energy isn't possible without good environmental, social and governance practices and access to sustainable finance.

By the end of this second ESG module, it is hoped that participants not only have a solid understanding of ESG, compliance and financial models, but also to be equipped with practical tools to adopt these within their organizational context.

**Let's embark on this journey together to build a more sustainable future.**

# International Centre for Hydropower (ICH)

ICH has focused on developing human capital, providing tools to incorporate new skills, opportunities and knowledge into strategic and operational plans. The practical nature of the courses leads to the integration of knowledge into implementation practices using case studies and experienced industry professionals from the relevant sectors.

ICH training programmes include innovative approaches to the hydropower sector's potential for environmental, social, and economic value creation utilizing the new financial models available. This requires transformation in participants' work environments, adopting new trends, striving for efficiency in its value chain, and being responsive to the needs of the different stakeholders.

## Energy connects us ICH unites us!

### Norad

Is the Norwegian agency for development cooperation. Norad supports ICH to strive for a greener future in a world without poverty. Norad aims to leave no one behind, aligning with the need for a just transition to renewable energy. By way of knowledge and cooperation, we ensure that the funds of Norwegian development aid contribute to global development.

Together with our partners and on behalf of Norway, Norad strives for a greener future in a world without poverty. Human rights must be respected, and none should be left out. Through knowledge and cooperation, we ensure that Norwegian development aid funds contribute to global development.

### IFC

-A member of the World Bank Group – is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work in more than 100 countries, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities. Our mission is to leverage the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet. IFC's Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Advisory is delivered through a continuum of engagements to support business priorities and address ESG risks in an integrated manner. We provide advice and guidance to the private sector and governments including extensive capacity building programs. IFC's extensive program on hydropower in Nepal is supported by the Government of Norway and focuses on cumulative impacts, policy change, gender in the sector and river basin Management.





The USAID Urja Nepal Program supports the U.S. government's Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy Initiative (Asia EDGE) via its commitment to fostering sustainable and secure energy markets in Nepal. By creating a financially viable electricity sector, Urja Nepal aims to provide affordable, reliable, and secure power through four strategic objectives: enhancing utility performance and sector policies, deploying advanced energy systems, increasing private sector engagement, and advancing cross-border electricity trade. These efforts are tailored to meet Nepal's specific energy needs and opportunities.

Urja Nepal's initiatives include modernizing utilities for improved efficiency, integrating advanced technologies such as electric vehicles, and facilitating long-term energy planning by supporting the Government of Nepal in institutionalizing integrated resource and resilience planning (IRRP) processes. The program also identifies opportunities to encourage private investment, from strengthening competitive bidding processes to designing capacity building initiatives to power the banking community with the latest skills in sustainable finance. It is also dedicated to enhancing cross-border electricity trade with neighboring countries, unlocking economic opportunities and ensuring energy security. Through these targeted actions, Urja Nepal aims to prepare Nepal's energy landscape to leverage green growth pathways to fully realize its sustainable development potential.







## Objectives

- Opportunity to deep dive into ESG factors for sustainable finance.
- Overview of social risk assessment methodologies.
- Case studies highlighting effective social risk assessment practices in the energy sector.
- Interact with project leaders to understand their approach to sustainable finance.



## Course Topics

### Understanding Environmental and Social Governance

- Social considerations in renewable energy projects.
- Comparison of social risks and opportunities in hydropower and renewable energy.

### Sustainable Financing:

- Funding sources and mechanisms for green projects in Nepal.
- Role of sustainable finance in advancing social development in Nepal.
- Understand the importance of compliance and creating a supportive legal framework.

### Reporting and Transparency:

- Guidelines for ESG reporting and disclosure.
- Demonstrating transparency in ESG performance.

### Social Risk Assessment frameworks:

- Provide an overview of relevant laws and policies related to social risks of renewable energy projects.
- Overview of social risk assessment methodologies. Mitigating Social Risks in Project Financing.

### Stakeholder Engagement:

- Importance of stakeholder engagement in social risk assessment.
- Conducting social impact analysis for hydropower and renewable energy projects.



## Training Methodology

- ICH and IFC will lead the participants through an active learning journey through interactive sessions, facilitated discussions, case studies, and group activities.
- All topics delivered by experts with real-world project experience or people with lived experiences, sharing ideas and practical advice.
- Self-Reflection: Encourage participants to reflect on personal biases and experiences to validate and promote individual growth.
- Periodic quizzes and assessments to reinforce key concepts.

## Sustainability E- Learning requirement.

ICH is proud to announce a new web-based e-learning course. There are five modules which can be completed at your own pace, but they must be completed by all selected participants prior to starting this course. This will give a common understanding of the elements of sustainability at the core of ICH's mission. Full details of this will be forwarded to you on successful application to the course.

## Speakers & Trainers

All lecturers and resource persons are well-known specialists within their field, and they have extensive international and regional experience. Attending the courses is an opportunity to discuss current issues related to hydropower and other renewables together with professionals from the region and further afield.



## Target group

The target group is finance professionals, sustainability practitioners, environmental and social specialists, and other stakeholders interested in ESG and in particular, social risk management.

Participants are expected to attend full time for all days of the training and will be provided an attendance certificate only if they complete all sessions and assignments.

Women and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.





## Applying for the course

Applicants should hold an applicable degree or possess relevant background knowledge. Proficiency in English is compulsory for this course. Applications must be made online via <https://form.ich.no/> Course name 202444 Advancing ESG Nepal, Module II

ICH policies and academic committee require applicants to give a complete description and relevant information about their job position. Please highlight why this training programme will be applicable to your job position.

ICH reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant based on their qualifications and experience.

## COURSE FEE

A limited number of sponsored seats are available for participants from countries prioritized by NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation).

Only applications submitted online will be accepted. No applications can be accepted if received after the deadline.

**Deadline for registration is the 17th September 2024**

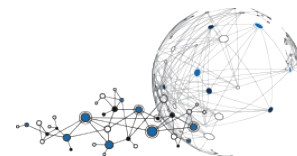
Selected participants, as well as those favored with NORAD sponsored seat, will be notified by 20th September 2024, along with practical information about the course.



For detailed information regarding the training course please contact:

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of Foreign Affairs

