

# Environmental, Social and Cumulative Impact Assessment for hydropower development in the Upper Trishuli Basin, Nepal

The Upper Trishuli-1 hydro project consists of a run-of-the-river hydropower facility with a generation capacity of 216 MW that will be located in a watershed where hydropower is rapidly developing and there are a number of other concessions. The preliminary environmental studies were done according to local standards and, because of IFC involvement, the Project needed assistance to upgrade its environmental and social management to international standards.

ESSA was hired by the Project Sponsors (NWEDC and IFC) to ensure project compliance with international environmental and social standards (including the IFC Performance Standards) and provide guidance in the implementation of the actions required to achieve such compliance. In particular, ESSA: (1) conducted a Gap Analysis of the current ESIA done to local standards against international standards; (2) completed additional environmental and social baseline studies in collaboration with a local firm; (3) evaluated the Minimum Ecological Flow requirements in the diversion reach; (4) conducted GIS Mapping and Spatial Analysis (vulnerability indicators); (5) completed a Cumulative Impact Assessment; (6) developed an Environmental Management Plan for construction; and (7) upgraded the ESIA to international standards.

Ensuring project  
compliance with  
international  
environmental and  
social standards.

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