



Dams and Sustainability

ICOLD WEBINAR #4

Environmental Sustainability of Dams & Reservoirs

November 25, 2026

1pm - 3pm (CET)

Free event

To pre-register, please send an email with your name, country and affiliation to dams.sustainability@icold-cigb.org

(a ZOOM registration link will be sent to your email address prior to the event)



Technical support from the Spanish National Committee on Large Dams

In 2023, the *International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)* launched the *Dams and Sustainability (D&S)* initiative, which brings together the efforts of several technical committees. The main objective of the D&S initiative is to raise awareness among dam professionals about the need to improve the sustainability and life cycle thinking of existing and new dams. It also seeks to investigate appropriate tools and methodologies for assessing the social, economic and environmental sustainability of dams and reservoirs.

To date, the ICOLD D&S group has organised *three Webinars*. The first, which took place in May 2024, presented the main sustainability goals and objectives of this new ICOLD initiative. The second Webinar, held in May 2025, introduced Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) methods. The third Webinar focused on climate change and the estimation of GHG emissions. Full videos of all three webinars are [available here](#).

This *Webinar #4* will focus on the environmental aspects of the sustainability of dams and reservoirs beyond GHG emissions. This webinar will explore the interaction between dams and reservoirs and river ecosystems, and its impact on biodiversity. Topics covered will include water quality, sediment management and environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of these infrastructures. Finally, it will present design and operational strategies aimed at minimising ecological disruption and enhancing sustainability. ICOLD has invited a distinguished group of speakers to present this important topic.

Program

- Introduction
Devendra Sharma (President of ICOLD)
- Webinar presentation
Francisco Ortega (ICOLD TC-DS)
- ICOLD and the environmental aspects of the sustainability of dams and reservoirs
Peter Amos & Tracey Williamson (ICOLD TC-G)
- Improving outcomes: dams and freshwater ecosystems
Jian-hua Meng (WWF)
- Biodiversity footprint tools for hydropower and dams
Leah Beche (ICOLD TC-G)
- World Bank's approach to biodiversity
Nicholas Zmijewski (World Bank)
- Downstream flow and sustainability of dams and river systems – Indicators & tools
Liza Bensasson (ICOLD TC-U)
- Recovery of river connectivity and restoration of sediment transport environment
Tetsuya Sumi (ICOLD TC-J)
- Use of biodiversity offsets to improve sustainability outcomes
Kogi Naidoo & Joseph Mülders (ICOLD TC-G)
- Assessment of water quality throughout the operational life cycle of dams and reservoirs
Patrick Rouquet (ISL)
- Q&A Session
Moderation by
Steve Usher (HP&D)