

Follow up to the WCD Report - where has it gone?

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SYNOPSIS. Despite the wide range of responses to the report of the World Commission on Dams, there has been an increasing realization of the need to address its recommendations through appropriate national and institutional processes. Neither rejection of the report nor full endorsement hold the answer. This paper outlines some of the momentum being built by national follow-up processes and the actions taken by an increasing number of inter-governmental, bilateral and private sector organizations. Minimizing the financial, environmental, social and reputational risks associated with dam projects is at the center of these initiatives and key concepts such as options assessment, public acceptance, benefit sharing and environmental flows are beginning to enter the mainstream of planning processes.