



HCV Resource Network strategic planning 2009

Request for input

The HCV Resource Network's Steering Group (SG) will meet in early February 2009 to discuss the Network's activities for the coming year, and we would like to invite you to provide us with your comments, suggestions and insights into how to make the Network more relevant to you, how the Network can support you in your work, and how we should focus the Network's activities next year on the urgent needs of the HCV stakeholders and organisations. Your comments will be extremely important in informing the discussions of the SG as they set the strategic direction for the Network.

The challenges ahead

The HCV Resource Network is committed to addressing the challenges of using of the HCV approach in the context of conversion, as well as improving its implementation within its original certification context. This year has seen important developments including, the launch of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil as an active certification standard, the adoption of HCV by the Round Table for Sustainable Soy, and the inclusion of HCV within various biofuel and carbon standards. Some of our key challenges include:



- Ensuring HCV methodologies are consistently and robustly applied in the context of forestry and agricultural plantations;
- Ensuring that HCV 5 and 6 are properly assessed and taken into account in decision-making processes;
- Linking HCV 1, 2, and 3 to other conservation approaches and integrating them with existing land use planning frameworks;
- Supporting industry to develop internal capacity to assess and manage HCVs;
- Improving the certifiers' capacity to assess HCV management plans;
- Improving the capacity of organisations providing HCV support to companies;
- Ensuring that the HCV process is robust and actually delivers conservation benefits, maintaining or enhancing HCVs in practice;

- Ensuring adequate governance over the use of the approach and that proper safeguard measures are in place to ensure consistent application of HCV across all land use, especially in the context of conversion and to secure legality and rights.

Network activities in 2008

In the past year, actions of the Network towards implementing its Charter have included, among others:

- The appointment of a Technical Panel (TP) of international experts in HCV assessment, to advise the Steering Group on technical issues;
- Guidance on HCV reporting and reviewing, and a TP peer review service to offer assurance that assessments meet a suitable standard of quality;
- A major application for funding from the IFC to address many of the key challenges (e.g. tools, maps and capacity-building) for the palm oil sector and RSPO specifically;
- The organisation of a technical workshop on landscape-scale HCV mapping and planning¹.

We need to build on our progress to date in order to strengthen the Network's operation, improve our communication with stakeholders, and plan for the many activities which are needed to develop and maintain a consistent and credible approach to HCV implementation across the range of its current applications.

We would be extremely grateful for your comments on key improvements to be made in the Network's operation and services to participants, and priority actions to be taken in relation to the implementation of the Network's Charter.

Please send your comments to the Network's Coordinator, Ms Nilofer Ghaffar (info@hcvnetwork.org), by January 30th 2009.



¹ This workshop (9th-10th December 2008) was a first step towards guidance on one important facet of HCV management, and a working document will be distributed in the New Year for wide consultation. The discussions and supporting activities will need to be widened greatly to include the views and priorities of forestry and plantations industries and social groups/local community representatives.