



**HCV** HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE  
*resource network*



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

-hereinafter: MoU-

between

**FSC International Center GmbH**

Charles-de-Gaulle-Str. 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany,

Executive Director, Mr. Andre de Freitas,

-hereinafter: FSC

and

**HCV Resource Network**

South Suite, Frewin Chambers, Frewin Court, Oxford, OX1 3HZ United Kingdom,

represented by the Chairmen, Mr. Dr. Marcus Colchester and Mr. Peter Gardiner

-hereinafter: HCVRN

**I. Preamble**

Whereas, the Forest Stewardship Council A.C. with its registered office in Calle Margarita Maza de Juárez # 422, Col. C Centro, 68000 Oaxaca, Oaxaca, México, is an international Not for Profit membership organization established to promote responsible management of the world's forests and has developed the FSC Certification Scheme and the related FSC Accreditation Program.

Whereas, the FSC is a German Not for Profit with limited liability company constituted according to German law (Bonn HRB 12589) and wholly owned by the Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

Whereas, the HCVRN is established by people and organizations who use the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach. The Network has been set up to promote cooperation, collaboration and consistency in the use of the HCV concept, to enable local-level approaches to implementation, and to support activities to develop and improve the HCV approach.

Whereas, both parties acknowledge and agree to collaborate in good faith.

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**II. Scope**

The HCVRN recognises in its Charter that the FSC originated the HCV concept. It is noted that the definition of HCV is set out in the FSC's Principles and Criteria, which are amended subject to negotiated agreements by the full membership of the FSC membership. FSC is a key member of the HCVRN and it is therefore essential for both the FSC and the HCVRN that there is a consistent definition and coherent use of the HCV concept. The HCVRN, as a multi-stakeholder network with light governance and a reputation-based normative approach, is a voluntary scheme and not a certification process. HCVRN links with many different certification and standard setting processes and seeks to promote consistent use of the HCV approach worldwide through voluntary adherence to the HCVRN Charter.

In light of the above, FSC and HCVRN agree to a close coordination in all discussions to develop the HCV concept. FSC will engage proactively with the HCV Network through both the HCVRN Steering Group and the Network's Technical Panel. Both parties also undertake to explore options to improve the sharing of experiences, joint training and the development of assessment and auditing methodologies.

**III. Confidentiality**

Both parties shall not transfer or divulge any confidential information to any other person or organization (third parties), not connected to FSC unless:

- a. prior written consent from the other party is obtained; and/or
- b. the information is already in the public domain or known by one party; and/or
- c. disclosure is required by law or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

**IV. Signatures**

KOTA KINABALU, 27 JUNE 2011                      KOTA KINABALU, 27 JUNE 2011

City, Date

City, Date

On behalf of the FSC

On behalf of the HCVRN

  
  
