



HCV Resource Network Steering Group Meeting 24-25 January 2007

## Summary of Meeting Outcomes

### 1. Introduction

The HCV Resource Network's Steering Group (SG) held its inaugural meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 24-25 January 2007.

**Attendance:** The SG was represented by: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, SG co-chair); Tetra Pak (Mario Abreu, SG co-chair); ForestEthics (Jim Ford); Forest Stewardship Council (Andre de Freitas); Greenpeace International (Christoph Thies); International Tropical Timber Organization (represented by Jorge Malleux, alternate to Emmanuel Ze Meka); Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana (Nalua Silva Monterrey); World Bank (represented by Adriana Moreira, alternate to Andrey Kushlin), the World Conservation Union/IUCN (represented by Marcello Arguelles, alternate to Stewart Maginnis) and World Wide Fund for Nature (Ken Creighton, WWF International). Members of the Secretariat (represented by ProForest) present were: Ruth Nussbaum (Director), Dawn Robinson, (Associate Director); Anders Lindhe, (Associate), and Nilofer Ghaffar (Network co-ordinator).

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from The Nature Conservancy (Jack Hurd), Mondi (Peter Gardiner), and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (James Griffiths).

**Objectives:** The primary aim of this SG meeting was to review progress of the Network project, especially in the context of the stakeholder event immediately preceding the SG meeting. This included:

- A review and evaluation of the Brazil Stakeholder Meeting
- An update and assessment of the Network's structure
- A review of the Network's budget and funding
- A review of current Network activities and development of a future work plan

The main outcomes of the meeting are summarised below.

### 2. Main Outcomes

#### 2.1 Stakeholder Meeting Brazil 2007

The SG considered the procedures (encompassing both the organisation and structure) and the content of the regional HCV meeting just held. This stakeholder event had multiple objectives; in brief these were:

- 1) Placing the HCV concept, and its application, in a global perspective.

- 2) Providing regional updates in the use of the HCV approach with an emphasis on the situation in Brazil.
- 3) Sharing experiences by discussions in breakout groups (divided along the lines of language).

The SG shared their perceptions of the stakeholder meeting, and reviewed the feedback received both as a result of the breakout sessions and evaluation forms completed by conference participants.

The general consensus was that the meeting had been very successful, both with respect to attendance from a broad variety of key regional stakeholders, and from a logistical point of view. It was noted that:

- The meeting would have benefited from increased representation from social NGOs/indigenous peoples organisations, and that in the future more efforts should be made to encourage direct participation from this sector;
- It would have been valuable to have had an industry perspective included as part of the presentations, and that this should be ensured in future meetings;
- Some of the countries in the region were not represented, and there may be a need to be more strategic in future planning to include key regional perspectives;
- The structure of future meetings may need to be changed so as to allow for more time to discuss significant issues, and/or allow for the possibility of having multiple events occurring in parallel.

Additionally the SG identified three regions as priority areas for future Network meetings to promote the HCV concept, and share experience:

- South-East Asia, with a focus on Indonesia
- Europe and Central Asia
- Southern and East Africa

## **2.2 Network Structure**

### **Charter**

In response to suggestions for improved clarity, the SG reassessed the wording of the Network's key document, its Charter. It was noted that the original wording in the charter may have been somewhat ambiguous with respect to the exact nature of the Network. Minor amendments to the Charter document were therefore proposed to clarify the function and role of the Network, and to stress the voluntary nature of participation in the Network.

An additional suggestion by SG members was that there needed to be a clause in the Charter, possibly as part of the mission statement, which explicitly recognised the value of all forested areas. A small drafting group comprising of Christoph Thies

(Greenpeace), Jim Ford (ForestEthics) and Andre de Freitas (FSC) agreed to meet to discuss an addition to the Charter to incorporate this proposal, and to forward this to the rest of the SG for further discussion by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

It was noted that to date there are some 120 signatories to the Network's charter (including individual participants, and supporting organisations), and that they should be informed of proposed changes to the text before these are finalised. Subsequent versions of the Charter are to be posted on the Network's website, and all existing participants notified that the document has been revised.

### **SG Composition**

It was agreed that the current size of the SG was more or less appropriate with respect to maintaining manageability. However, in the context of composition it was noted that there was a need:

- for increased representation from women
- to improve regional perspectives
- to maintain wide representation of different views

Bearing these recommendations in mind, the SG agreed to seek additional representation from an indigenous spokesperson, and to invite a suitable candidate to join the SG in time for its next meeting.

### **Rules of Appointment and Membership**

Rules of appointment and membership of the SG were discussed, and it was agreed that the terms for membership of the group should be set at three years, with the possibility of renewal once, and that exits should be staggered. The SG members agreed to suggest substitutes from within their own organisations, and to continue to ensure adequate representation from a broad range of stakeholders.

Additionally it was agreed to employ a "dead-wood" clause whereby if SG members missed two consecutive meetings without nominating an alternate, they would automatically be considered to be withdrawing from the group.

The current co-chairs agreed to continue chairing the group, until January 2008, when the term for one of them will end whilst the other would continue to serve until January 2009. The co-chairs tossed a coin, and on this basis it was decided that Marcus Colchester would be up for re-election/dismissal in January 2008.

### **Regional partners**

The SG considered the issue of how best to achieve regional representation of the Network. Whilst it was noted that there was a lack of funding in the short-term for setting up any formal partnerships, it was important to continue to engage in regional networking activities by encouraging involvement from key institutions and

interested individuals. For South America, Marcello Arguelles (IUCN) offered to help in identifying such contacts by using the existing network of IUCN regional offices, and Jorge Malleux offered assistance in the form of supplying a list of ITTO's projects in Africa; both offers were gratefully acknowledged and accepted by the SG.

The following activities were agreed as a means of strengthening the Network's regional outreach in the near future:

- Asking key players (individuals and/or organisations) for contributions to periodic briefing notes/newsletters summarising important regional developments;
- Conducting more regional and national meetings;
- Seeking funding to allow the development of regional partners.

## **2.3 Budget and Funding**

### **Current budget**

The Secretariat presented a summary of spend to date, and committed funds to the end of the current financial year (June 2007). This was reviewed and approved by the SG. An additional request for a more in-depth report on funding for the Brazil meeting was made, and this will be provided by the Secretariat in due course.

### **Future Potential Funding Sources**

It was noted that whilst the Network project had a confirmed budget for core funding, it was going to be crucial to actively fundraise during the next 18 months to support future Network activities.

A number of possible existing and future opportunities were highlighted and SG members agreed to work with the Secretariat in identifying potential funding sources. In this context, the Secretariat provided the SG with a proposal for future work items, and the SG further discussed what funding possibilities existed for specific activities. The Secretariat agreed to draft brief, simple concept notes for a number of desired activities (see Section 2.4 for a list of priority Network activities) which may be used to secure multiple funding from a variety of sources.

## **2.4 Network Activities**

### **Discussion Groups**

The SG discussed the Discussion Groups (DGs) that have recently gone live on the Network's website. It was noted that DG coordinators need to assume a more active role to encourage engagement with current discussion topics. The Secretariat agreed to help facilitate this by regular reminders to the Network's email circulation list, and by publicising DGs through press releases. The possibility of having some parallel discussions in different languages was also raised.

## **Future Network Activities**

As a result of some of the feedback received from the Brazil conference, a number of priority activities were identified for the Network; these may be broadly categorized as:

1. **Information sharing** – to include:
  - follow-up from the Brazil conference
  - regional networking and engagement via information collection and sharing
  - case studies using both existing projects and conducting future field projects
2. **Website translations** – to include:
  - Translations of the core pages from the existing site
  - Discussion fora in different languages
3. **Training** – to include:
  - Developing training material and guidance to address emerging issues
  - Training HCV trainers
  - Running training courses in different countries
4. **Meetings** – to include:
  - Regional meetings to promote the HCV concept and share experience
  - National meetings to introduce and promote the HCV concept
  - Technical meetings and Working Groups
5. **Implementation** – to include:
  - Landscape-level HCV assessments in a conversion context
  - National Interpretation processes
  - Revision of methodology and guidance

## **3. Next Meeting**

The SG agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. The exact nature (i.e. whether physical or virtual) and precise location of the meeting is yet to be determined. The suggestion was made that a virtual meeting would help reduce costs, and the Network's carbon footprint. The SG decided to investigate the possibility of computer conferencing. An additional suggestion aired was the potential to make use of the World Bank's video conferencing facilities; in the end, the group decided to await final confirmation on the nature of the meeting until an agenda has been more precisely defined.