



HCV Resource Network Steering Group Telecon: 11 December 2008

Summary of Main Discussion Points

1. Introduction

The HCV Resource Network's Steering Group (SG) held a telephone conference on 11 December 2008.

Participation

The SG was represented by: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, SG co-chair); Mondi (Peter Gardiner, SG co-chair), The Nature Conservancy (Fran Price); Stora Enso, representing the Sustainable Forest Products Industry working group of WBCSD (Anna-Liisa Myllynen); Tetra Pak (Lena Dahl), the World Conservation Union/IUCN (Guido Broekhoven), and WWF International (Geri Steindlegger).

Members of the Secretariat (represented by ProForest) involved were: Christopher Stewart, (Associate Director), and Nilofer Ghaffar (Network co-ordinator).

The meeting was chaired by Marcus Colchester.

Apologies

Apologies for not being able to participate were received from: Jack Hurd (TNC) and Jim Ford (Borealis Centre/Climate for Ideas/Forest Ethics).

Objectives

The primary objectives for holding this meeting were to update SG members on:

- Network Progress and activities since the last telecon (held in June 2008), and in light of actions agreed upon at that time.
- Status of current SG membership.
- Confirmed dates for the SG's next physical meeting.

2. Discussion summary

2.1 Update on Network Progress and Activities

a) Technical panel

The Secretariat provided a review on the development of the Technical Panel (TP), highlighting the first kick-off meeting held in Oxford at the end of July. Thirteen of the current twenty-one TP members were able to attend this, whilst almost all of the others provided input to key discussion documents. It was noted that this physical meeting had been highly successful both in terms of promoting group cohesion and with respect to finalising the mechanism of operation of the TP, its specific terms of

reference, and the guidance it will follow when conducting peer reviews of HCV assessments (all documents are available to download from the Network's website).

The need to fill the 3-4 spaces retained on the TP for the additional skill sets currently lacking in representation (eg: experts from Africa and LAC region and with experience of social issues) was discussed. Additionally, strong concerns were relayed to the SG from the forestry industry sector, regarding the lack of industry member representation on the TP. It was recognised that the Network should invite further participation from industry technical experts. It was noted that expanding the TP further would have cost implications. A larger group may also need to revise its working procedures to avoid becoming too unwieldy or expensive.

The Secretariat noted that there had not been any requests for HCV assessment report reviews for the TP – their main public function. Further efforts need to be made to 'market' the TP's services and to capitalise on the expertise, capability and goodwill of TP members through a range of other activities.

In the context of financing for the TP, and in particular the need to raise money in advance of the planned annual meetings, it was noted that the Network still needed a policy for accepting funds from private donors.

Agreed Actions

1. 2 spaces are to be held open on the TP for industry representation: Peter Gardiner to consult within forestry industry and suggest suitable candidates in time for February meeting.
2. Secretariat to provide nominations from South America, and/ or potential candidates with social expertise.
3. Promotion of the TP's services and productive use of the TP to serve Network aims to be discussed as an agenda item in February.
4. Marcus Colchester to draft a policy for accepting funds, based on FSC guidance (provided by Andre de Freitas), in time for further discussion by the rest of the SG in February.

b) Meetings / events (2008)

The Secretariat provided a brief overview of some of the additional key meetings and technical workshops that had taken place during 2008:

- At the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, October 2008, where the Network held a well-attended event at IUCN's Forest Pavilion.
- At the FSC General Assembly in Cape Town, November 2008, where the Network was publicised through the Mondi stand.

- A briefing to Dutch forestry and oil palm industry stakeholders in November 2008, in conjunction with IUCN Netherlands.
- A successful meeting with Brazilian NGOs involved with implementing HCV within the RTRS process, held in Brasilia, November 2008.
- A technical HCV landscape planning and mapping workshop held in Oxford, December 2008, involving a number of experienced HCV practitioners and applied conservation scientists, including selected members of the Network TP and 2 SG members (Marcus Colchester and Laura Somerville).

Agreed Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretariat to share working document on methodologies for landscape-level HCV mapping with the SG prior to conducting a formal public consultation process. 2. SG to form sub-committee to review resulting guidance after the public consultation process, as a Network-branded benchmark document.

c) Russia meeting

The urgent need to hold a technical regional meeting on the HCV process in Russia was again emphasized; it was noted that previous plans to hold this in Syktyvkar (Komi Republic) in early September 2008 had not materialised as the proposed timing did not suit any of the Russian collaborators, and a revised date of March / April 2009 has been suggested. The SG highlighted the need to ensure adequate involvement of relevant people from other boreal regions (eg: Canada).

Agreed Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretariat to liaise with Tatayna Yanitskaya (WWF HCV co-ordinator) and Przemyslaw Majewski (Director of Silver Taiga Foundation) to develop detailed proposal for the meeting, and confirm exact dates. 2. SG members to forward names of potential invitees to include from other regions to the Secretariat.

d) BACP proposal for developing HCV landscape planning re. RSPO

The Secretariat reported back on the IFC BACP proposal which was accepted as an outline in September and submitted as a full proposal at the end of November 2008, aiming to build on the recent workshop on landscape-level HCVs in Oxford. The proposal was seeking 100K USD from BACP, to match 200K USD conditionally sourced by the Secretariat to promote the integration of HCV in national land use planning processes, develop shared regional HCV maps and resources, and develop

consistent methodologies for HCV assessment and management across sectors, focusing primarily on the on the needs of the palm oil industry and RSPO.

SG members prioritised the need for training and capacity-building as a vital component of any future work-programme, and the need to refine methodologies for social aspects of the HCV framework (ie. HCVs 4, 5, & 6). The SG also discussed the importance of coordinating HCVF work and methodologies by different NGOs (eg: TNC staff working on palm oil issues in Indonesia), and recognised the crucial role the HCV Resource Network has to play in creating maximum synergies.

Agreed Action
Awaiting BACP decision.

NOTE ADDED 9th January. The BACP board informed the Secretariat in January that the HCV Network's application had not been accepted by the BACP project advisory board. The BACP's decision came as a great surprise and disappointment to the Network Secretariat, in view of the relevance and timeliness of the proposal, the comprehensive effort made to meet BACP concerns at the outline stage, and the matched funding secured at short notice, indicating industry and NGO support for the initiative. The Secretariat proposes to discuss whether and how to carry forward this initiative in the absence of funding from BACP at the February SG meeting, as part of a broader discussion on Network strategy in 2009 onwards.

e) Implementing Charter commitments

Dealing with conversion issues:

The SG recognised that both the HCV landscape methodologies workshop and the BACP proposal (see above) would in part contribute to the development of safeguards around conversion (i.e. by proposing cohesive methodologies to build capacity amongst practitioners). As this remains a top priority for a number of the organisations represented on the SG, it was decided to postpone a more detailed discussion of this agenda item until the physical meeting.

Agreed Action
WWF to provide a basis for further discussion on safeguards around conversion for a detailed consideration by the SG in February

Promoting other safeguards:

Two means of promoting additional safeguards were mentioned:

1. Through the Network-endorsed Technical Panel Peer Review process, which now needed to be actively promoted and publicised both amongst key payers (eg: NGOs) , and different sectors (eg: biofuels, RSPO, RTRS);
2. Through additional processes to be developed.

Agreed Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SG members to encourage organisations, especially NGOs, to submit to Peer Review. 2. Marcus Colchester / FPP to formulate starter discussion on a process to develop safeguards to share with rest of SG in February.

f) Additional agenda item: discussion of the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)

The SG mentioned that it had recently been approached by Jon Hutton of UNEP-WCMC regarding the IBAT which was officially launched at the WCC meeting in Barcelona. The potential complementarity of this tool with the HCV approach was discussed. One aspect of concern to some SG members is that the tool only considers one layer within a broader HCV assessment i.e. is concerned with biodiversity alone (HCVs 1-3), and has specifically been designed to serve the purposes of industry. Additionally, the SG expressed serious reservations that there was no commitment to transparency, and that this contravened the Network's guiding principles (as set out in the Charter).

Agreed Action
WWF / IUCN to present ideas for further discussion on IBAT at February meeting.

2.2 Update on Steering Group Membership

a) WWF representation

It was noted that Ken Creighton has now stepped down as the primary WWF representative, and will be replaced by Geri Steindlegger with Margareta Renstrom acting as alternate.

b) TNC changes

Jack Hurd has recently moved within TNC to run its South East Asian programme, and will be replaced by Fran Price as the primary TNC representative; Fran will name an alternate by February.

c) Aroha Mead and Nalua Silva replacements

Aroha Mead has requested that a replacement be found to represent her as she has been unable to make an adequate contribution to the Network, and will not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting. The need for including an indigenous person with conservation knowledge and expertise was reiterated. In light of the continuing gap in representation of Latin American and social experience, it was suggested that Augusta Molnar of the Rights and Resources Initiative, open in principle to being invited, should now be approached.

Agreed Action
Secretariat to contact Augusta Molnar and invite her to join the SG, and attend the physical meeting in February.

d) Members / Alternates for 2009

The current list of SG organisations, including primary members and alternates is as follows:

Organisation	Primary Contact	Alternate
Borealis Centre / Climate For Ideas / ForestEthics	Jim Ford	Laura Somerville
Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)	Marcus Colchester	Joji Cariño
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC International)	Andre De Freitas	To be named
Greenpeace International	Christoph Thies	To be named
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Eduardo Mansur	John J. Leigh
MONDI	Peter Gardiner	Christopher Burchmore
Tetra Pak	Lena Dahl	Mario Abreu
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Fran Price	To be named
World Bank (WB)	Andrey Kushlin	Gerhardt Dieterle
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	Antti Marjokorpi (Stora Enso) (replacing Anna-Liisa Myllynen)	Neil Franklin (April)
World Conservation Union (IUCN)	Guido Broekhoven	Stewart Maginnis
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International)	Geri Steindlegger	Margareta Renström

Agreed Action
Secretariat to remind all SG members of the need to nominate alternates to attend SG meetings and / or deal with SG matters arising on their behalf.

e) New NGO co-chair

In light of Marcus Colchester's term as co-chair being up, he has requested that the other NGO members of the SG have a discussion, and propose a suitable replacement from within this caucus.

Agreed Action
NGO members to suggest alternate co-chair by February meeting.

2.3 Date of next meeting

The date of the next physical meeting of the SG was confirmed for Thursday 5 (pm) - Friday 6 (all day) February 2009 in Oxford, UK. An agenda will be circulated in due course.