



HCV Resource Network Telephone Conference, 11 June 2007

## Summary of Main Discussion Points

### 1. Introduction

The HCV Resource Network's Steering Group (SG) held a telephone conference, on 11 June 2007

**Objectives:** to take stock of the Network's achievements so far, and to consider the strategic direction for the Network in the coming year.

**Participation:**

SG representation: Mario Abreu, Tetra Pak (SG co-chair); Marcus Colchester, Forest Peoples Programme (SG co-chair); Ken Creighton, WWF International (World Wide Fund for Nature); Jim Ford, ForestEthics; Peter Gardiner, Mondi; Jack Hurd, The Nature Conservancy, and Andrey Kushlin, the World Bank.

Secretariat representation: Christopher Stewart (Associate Director, ProForest) and Nilofer Ghaffar (Network co-ordinator).

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: Andre de Freitas (Forest Stewardship Council); James Griffiths (World Business Council for Sustainable Development); Stewart Maginnis (World Conservation Union/IUCN); Christoph Thies (Greenpeace International) and Ruth Nussbaum, ProForest (Secretariat). Aroha Mead (Call of the Earth) and Nalua Silva Monterrey (Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana) were unable to attend, due to unforeseen circumstances.

### 2. Discussion summary

#### 2.1 Network Achievements

**Activities/Information collection**

The Secretariat reported on Network consolidation activities since the last meeting (24-25 January, Sao Paulo, Brazil). The core role of providing a central point of reference for HCV is working well:

- the Steering Group provides credibility amongst HCV stakeholders thanks to its diverse and balanced membership
- The website has become the automatic reference for information on HCV (ca. 3000 hits from > 80 countries in 6 months), and informal feedback suggests that it is being widely used by both current practitioners, and those developing policy (e.g. referenced in RTFO, BACP etc.)

- To date, Network participation stands at 164 registered individuals (this includes 29 practitioners whose details are listed on the practitioner's database). Additionally, 15 organisations have expressed institutional support for the Network's Charter, making a total number of 179 Network "Participants",
- Regional information collection is gathering pace, with submissions of country profiles, projects and analysis from around the world.
- Updates on events and HCV information is being sent on average twice a month to a mailing list of ca. 800 people.

**Agreed action:**

Several SG members noted that they had not received the regular mailings; this had been deliberate, to avoid clogging email accounts with generic updates. All SG members will now be included on information sent out to the Network's email circulation list.

**Charter Revision**

It was decided that the recent draft addition proposed by Christoph Thies, Andre de Freitas and Jim Ford, and the latest amendment proposed by the WCBSD, should both be considered at the next physical SG meeting.

**Agreed actions:**

**Secretariat:** will summarize discussions which took place in Sao Paulo relating to revision of the Charter.

**SG:** will exchange comments on the latest changes proposed via email.

**2.2 Budget and Funding**

**Current financial situation**

The Secretariat confirmed that there had been no major deviation in the budget approved by the SG at its previous meeting (2006-7).

**Agreed action:**

**Secretariat** will submit an update on the budget and forecast (July 2007-8) for review by the SG's Financial Sub-committee.

**2.3 Future Network Strategy**

Strategic options and potential future actions for the Network were presented in a draft Strategic/Business Plan outline, developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the SG. This includes core activities, actions to support the HCV concept where it is being used, and actions to promote the concept in areas where it could be useful. An outline table of specific actions was presented for the SG to discuss in

more detail. As time constraints did not allow the proposed actions to be discussed point by point, the secretariat also invited SG members to review the Strategic/Business Plan outline and the associated table, and submit comments.

**a) Supporting existing applications of the HCV concept:**

- **Regional workshops.**

The SG confirmed that S/E Africa is still a priority area for the Network. In March, the Secretariat approached the World Bank to fund a stakeholder meeting on the Brazil (Sao Paolo) model, but the funding on offer was not firmed up as a Regional priority at that time, for internal Bank reasons. The door is open for a new submission, for which SG members expressed strong support, on the basis of a need to maintain the momentum for expanding local HCV commitments as a follow-up to the 2006 regional Forest Investment Forum in S/E Africa.

**Agreed actions:**

The Secretariat will update and circulate the proposal for a S/E Africa stakeholder meeting, preferably in October. SG members and institutions will be kept informed of progress and invited to participate.

WWF (Ken Creighton) will seek seed funding and help the secretariat secure sponsors.

Mondi (Peter Gardiner) will support by providing contacts and facilitating logistics.

- **Extension of the concept to other ecosystems:**

SG members again stressed the importance of extending the concept to grasslands and wetlands, in particular. This activity should be lead by a working group, which could coincide with the stakeholder meeting proposed above.

Several SG members also stressed the impact of agriculture on valuable ecosystems, and proposed lines of enquiry; the secretariat will pursue the suggestions individually with the SG members involved.

**Agreed actions:**

S/E Africa Stakeholder meeting proposal and actions to include Working Group (WG) on HCVs in Grasslands and Wetlands.

- **Discussion and Working Groups**

The SG discussed the performance of the web-based Discussion Groups (DGs) after 6 months (the term proposed for DG duration), and agreed that the open-ended web format had not provided effective traction for engaging the HCV community in tackling significant issues. It was concluded that this would have to be done in a more practical, project-based or goal-orientated manner, through a mechanism of Working Groups envisaged in the Network's charter (e.g. the WG proposed above).

**Agreed action:**

DGs should now be discontinued (to be revived at a later date if appropriate), and invitations for WG proposals should be formulated and announced, after consultation with SG. Website will be suitably amended.

- **Other actions to support existing applications:**

The Secretariat offered to prepare short briefing notes and project outlines to launch the actions proposed, and to distribute these to the SG for further comment and action.

**b) Promoting the HCV concept in other areas where it could be useful:**

With respect to potential future applications of the HCV concept, it was agreed that the time is right to raise the profile of the concept and of the Network, notably in the context of climate change. A number of opportunities for this exist, including the announcement at the recent G-8 summit encouraging the World Bank to develop a "forest carbon partnership", FCP. The SG agreed that the Network should consider holding a side event the forthcoming UNFCC COP (Bali 03-14 December 2007). The secretariat requested that SG members continue efforts to promote the concept within their own organisations.

**Agreed actions:** Ken Creighton and Jack Hurd agreed to provide a brief summary of the relationship between HCV work and this FCP, for a prompt submission by SG co-chairs to the World Bank's Forests and Carbon Teams, and also as an input to the SG's internal decision-making about conducting such a side event in Bali.

**c) Measuring impact of Network activities:**

SG members raised the issue of how best to measure the impact of the Network's unfolding activities. Clearly defined and measurable criteria for assessing Network impact will be important for future fund-raising and overall Network development. The SG suggested that examples of activities on the ground that are catalyzed, assisted, or otherwise influenced by the Network, should be collected - with feedback from HCV practitioners solicited and recorded - so as to better identify specific needs for further Network attention and support.

**Agreed action:** The Secretariat will draft a proposal for developing and implementing a system of Network impact assessment and submit it to SG members for review and comments prior to the next full SG meeting.

### **3. Next Meeting**

It was decided that the SG should hold another virtual meeting in three months time; provisional dates scheduled for this were the week of 10 September 2007. It was suggested that the next physical meeting be held in December, in conjunction with a possible side event at the UNFCCC COP in Bali, to be confirmed.