



HCV Resource Network Steering Group Teleconference; 15 April 2011

Public Summary of Main Discussion Points

1. Introduction

The HCV Resource Network Steering Group (SG) held a teleconference on 15 April 2011 for a brief update on significant issues arising since the last meeting in [September 2010](#).

Participation

SG members who participated in the call were: Marcus Colchester (Forest Peoples Programme), Lena Dahl (Tetra Pak), Peter Gardiner (Mondi), Anders Lindhe (WWF International), and Laura Somerville (Fauna & Flora International), Richard Robertson (FSC International), Antti Marjokorpi (Stora Enso, representing Sustainable Forest Products Industry working group of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development), and Christoph Thies (Greenpeace International).

The Network Secretariat, currently hosted by The ProForest Initiative, involved were: Christopher Stewart, (outgoing Network manager), Heather Ducharme (incoming Network Manager) and Nilofer Ghaffar (Network coordinator).

The meeting was chaired by SG co-chair, Marcus Colchester.

Apologies

Apologies for not being able to participate were received from: Jan Maarten Dros (Solidaridad), Richard Donovan (Rainforest Alliance), Jon Hutton (UNEP-WCMC), Fran Price (The Nature Conservancy), John Leigh (ITTO), Fernanda Marques (Funbio), and Simon Siburat (Wilmar).

Objectives

Primary objectives for the meeting were to:

- Update and review Network activities and HCV developments since the last meeting;
- Review selected governance issues, including an introduction to the new HCV Network Manager, Ms Heather Ducharme;
- Highlight the Network's current financial status and to discuss the need to raise funds as an immediate priority action.

An [agenda](#) for the meeting is available, and the main points of discussion and decisions taken are summarised below.

2. Discussion summary

2.1 Network and HCV Activities Update

Network Activities

The Secretariat provided a summary overview of activities conducted over the course of the last 6 months according to the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) adopted in February 2010 designed to meet the Network's four key strategic aims; these are briefly listed below, along with follow-up actions identified as continuing priorities for the immediate / near future.

1 Provision of a credible central point of reference on the HCV concept

Awareness raising and key stakeholder outreach during this period has included presentations and attendance at / liaison with a number of initiatives and events e.g. [presentation](#) at the [COMIFAC](#) meeting on forest governance; [engagement](#) with the [Proteus Partnership](#) through UNEP-WCMC; attendance at an [IUCN biofuels strategy workshop](#) to define a road-map for future engagement; presentation on [HCV & smallholders](#) for RSPO RT8.

It was also noted that there was going to be considerable HCV Network representation – including HCV related presentations by the Secretariat, members of the SG and Technical Panel (TP) - at a forthcoming [2-day symposium on sustainable palm oil](#) (organised by ZSL, Proforest and WCS).

An additional activity has been the development and design of a new [HCV promotional brochure](#) which will be used to showcase the Network at meetings and to support future fund-raising efforts.

2 Support for the development and implementation of the HCV concept across current applications

The Secretariat reported the following significant advances under this strategic aim:

FSC meeting in Bonn, January 2011

The need for FSC to take the lead in the devolvement of consistent interpretations of HCV definitions was discussed at the last SG meeting, and a key action agreed was that Anders Lindhe (WWF) would assist with the coordination of such an initiative which would also be supported by the Network. As a direct consequence, an [HCV expert workshop](#) was convened by the FSC in January. The 3 day meeting was hosted by FSC IC in Bonn and was extremely well-attended by both [staff at FSC IC and HCV RN Steering Group and Technical Panel members](#); the aim was to develop better guidance for stakeholders on the interpretation and implementation of HCV, and to

explore the current changes being proposed to Principle 9 by the P&C revision Working Group (a [summary report of the meeting's aims](#) is available from the Network website).

The initial output from the meeting will be the production of globally applicable guidelines for HCV and FSC P9, currently being developed by Tim Synnott with contributions from workshop participants. It is envisaged that the Network will continue to play an important role in the development of this guidance, and especially in the coordination of a wider consultation with interested HCV stakeholders, to be conducted in due course.

HCV side-meeting at FSC General Assembly June 2011

As a more immediate follow-up to the FSC workshop reported above, the SG discussed the proposal for a joint FSC and Network HCV side-meeting at the forthcoming FSC GA in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah; the date and time of this is now confirmed for 16:15 – 18:15 on Monday 27 June (a [finalised timetable of side events is available at the GA website](#)).

The SG considered a draft agenda for the meeting which had previously been circulated by the Secretariat with suggestions to include: two plenary presentations by 1) Tim Synnott (on FSC guidelines for HCVs & Principle 9, as described above) and 2) a HCV Network representative (on the successes and challenges of practical application of the HCV approach), and a variety of selected case studies by TP /Network members (eg: HCV in the boreal and tropical managed forests, Greenpeace on Intact Forest Landscapes and HCV for plantation agriculture).

It was further noted that the following SG organisations are going to be represented at the FSC GA and would therefore potentially be available to contribute to discussions at the proposed HCV side-event: Mondi (Peter Gardiner); Forest Peoples Programme Marcus Colchester; FSC (Richard Robertson); Greenpeace (Christoph Thies); WWF (Anders Lindhe, Margareta Renström); Tetra Pak (Lena Dahl). Fauna & Flora International (possibly Laura Somerville or alternate representative); Stora Enso (possibly Antti Marjokorpi or alternative representative); Nature Conservancy (Fran Price) and Rainforest Alliance (Richard Donovan); additionally it is likely that Wilmar (possibly Simon Siburat or Calley Beamish, to be confirmed) may also be available to participate.

Agreed Action
Network to set up a small working group of SG & TP directed by Richard Robertson (FSC) to collaborate on development of side-meeting, and to assist in raising funds to support Network attendance.

HCV RN & FSC MoU

In the broader context of facilitation of joint activities between the Network and FSC, a MoU has recently been signed by FSC International (originally developed as a result of an earlier meeting between SG co-chairs and FSC SG members); a minor amendment to the wording has subsequently been proposed by some of the SG. The general consensus amongst SG members involved in this telecon was that this change was appropriate and would only serve to further strengthen the relationship between HCV RN and the FSC; it was therefore suggested that the revised MoU should now be considered by FSC, and if acceptable would then be signed by Network co-chairs, and made public by both organisations.

Agreed Action
Richard Robertson (FSC) to propose amended MoU wording to Andre de Freitas, Director of FSC International; if acceptable, both parties to finalise the agreement.

Guidance on HCV reporting for RSPO

The Secretariat noted the recommendations for [reporting requirements for HCV assessments for RSPO certification](#) that had been drafted as a result of an earlier workshop convened by the Network of RSPO HCV lead-assessors (in Bogor, July 2010); it is envisaged that this, together with ToRs for HCV assessors will be further developed as part of continuing engagement with RSPO, and with a view to developing a wider programme of joint HCV training for RSPO stakeholders.

Finalised HCV approach & IBAT tool guidance document

An additional HCV implementation activity that has been completed during the last few months has been the development of a guidance note for the use of the IBAT as input data for HCV assessments. This briefing is currently being formatted, and once finalised, is to be published on the Network website.

3 Provision of a governance and quality control function for HCV assessment and management

Priority activities from the 2010 SAP include: strengthening the SG and Technical Panel (TP); considering options for a phased transition to Network independence, and promoting the establishment of regional partnerships. Important developments discussed under this strategic aim are described below:

Steering Group

At its previous meeting the Network SG considered its current composition and rules of appointment and membership, noting that one of the co-chair positions was due for re-appointment in 2011. Having consulted internally amongst the SG, Marcus

Colchester was unanimously nominated to continue as co-chair representative of the NGO and IPO section; Marcus was therefore elected and will co-chair together with Peter Gardiner who continues to lead the Private sector and IGO section.

Peter Gardiner and Antti Marjkorpi provided a brief update on recent changes in the structure of WBCSD and the Sustainable Forest Products Industry Working Group, proposed at a strategic meeting held in Shanghai last year (November 2010): this includes setting up a new Forest Resources Action team, consisting of over 25 companies, and to be chaired by Stora Enso; it was suggested that once this is formally active, it would be appropriate to formalise the relationship with the Resource Network.

In light of their continuing lack of involvement over the past few years, and in view of their importance as a key stakeholder, the SG discussed the need to revive the engagement of the World Bank group in the Network; a number of options as to how to do this most effectively were suggested, including personal approaches by the Secretariat and co-chairs to existing representatives.

It was also noted that some existing SG member organisations did not currently have nominated alternate representatives, and that this should be addressed.

In view of the points raised above, it was decided that a more thorough examination of SG ToRs and membership should be conducted at the next physical meeting.

Agreed Action
SG governance and structure to be reviewed at next physical meeting

Technical Panel

Membership renewal and composition: the Secretariat reminded the SG that seven of the panel members (originally appointed in June 2008) were coming to the end of their current term, and that the TP still lacks representation from industry. It was suggested therefore that a new public call for TP members should be issued in June 2011, and that all existing members whose terms are due to expire be re-invited to apply at this stage. SG members were additionally encouraged to nominate suitably qualified competent consultants, and especially to request company experts with practical experience of dealing with the challenges of HCV management to apply for the next round of rotations.

Peer Review Service: it was noted that no independent Network peer reviews of HCV assessments had been conducted since 2009, and the SG briefly discussed potential reasons for this (also highlighted in the previous meeting). In particular, it was felt that the current process is both lengthy and cumbersome, and that the Network should work with TP members to develop a proposal for lightening this, and for adequately marketing the service eg: by institutionalising it as a standard requirement of the RSPO new plantings procedure (noting that a WG on this is due to

be convened later this year), and through consideration within the current guidance being developed by the FSC (noting that this option could further be discussed at the HCV side-meeting at the GA).

Agreed Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call for TP members to be issued in June 20112. TP to assist in development of proposal to lighten the Network Peer Review process

Network Organisation & Independence

Secretariat: A primary function of this meeting was to introduce SG members to the newly appointed Network Manager, Ms Heather Ducharme, and to mark the formal handover from the outgoing Manager, Christopher Stewart.

The chair welcomed Heather and thanked Christopher for his hard work and dedication to the Network over the last 2 years, and especially for his professionalism and science-based technical competence.

Heather provided the SG with a brief resume of her previous experience, and an overview of a proposed time-scale for a shifting focus for her role, summarised as:

- Immediate (next 3-6 months) – the development of a business model for fund-raising (also see section on Finance & Fundraising below)
- Short/ medium term (next 6-12 months) – organisational development, and review of the structure of the Network; concentrating on emerging applications and building regional partnerships
- Long-term – building the evidence basis for the effectiveness of HCV by examining if the HCV Resource Network is achieve its desired outcomes

Independence: As of January 2011, the Network is being hosted by a UK registered charity, The Proforest Initiative (PFI). One of the Network co-chairs, Marcus Colchester, and the Secretariat had recently held a meeting with the PFI Trustees, and it was suggested that the relationship between this board and the Network SG should be considered in some detail at the next physical SG meeting.

Regional Partners

The [Indonesian HCV Network](#) (Jaringan NKT Indonesia NKT-I) has now been formally established, and recently held its first General Assembly (April 11) attended by over 90 participants, and at which it elected a **Supervisory Board** (Nyoto Santoso, School of forestry, Bogor Agricultural Univ; Dicky Simorangkir, TNC; Dian Novarina, APRIL; Ani Mardiasuti, Board of Burung Indonesia -BirdLife; Harnios Arif, School of Forestry; Aisyah Sileuw, Daemeter Consulting and Ismu Zulfikar, PT SMART, Tbk), and an

Executive Board (Dwi R. Muhtaman, Yana Suryadinata and Purwo Susanto); it is envisaged that an Executive Director will be appointed in due course.

The development of this regional partnership is seen as a significant advance, and is welcomed by the HCV Network as an original Charter commitment; to maintain global consistency the NKT-I references the HCV RN Charter in its guiding principles, and it is expected that the next step will be to clarify the relationship with the Network through an MoU (potentially to be signed during the FSC GA in June).

4 Promoting the use of HCV in emerging and potential applications

Nothing specific reported for this period, and no new immediate developments considered.

Steering Group HCV Updates

SG members present provided the following contributions on HCV activities and perspectives from the point of view of their respective organisations:

- Fauna & Flora International (FFI), highlighted two recently submitted HCV assessment proposals which are currently under review: 1) to Sime Darby in Liberia, and 2) to BACP in West Kalimantan in the vicinity of Gunung Palung National Park;
- Greenpeace, noted that the FSC Forest Carbon WG had concluded its findings and a final report had been submitted to the FSC Board, and will also be subject of side-event at the forthcoming General Assembly; the significant overlap between HCV 2 and large intact forest landscapes, and their importance from the Carbon perspective was emphasised;
- WWF, discussed a proposal for a workshop, provisionally scheduled for Brazil in early Autumn 2011, to consider an operational interpretation of HCV in grasslands; in this context, Mondi also reported on the HCV grasslands initiative underway in South Africa (led by SANBI);
- FSC, with the previously mentioned HCV workshop in Bonn (January 2011), expected to result in the production of a first draft of global level HCV guidance by the end of April and to be further discussed at the HCV side-event at the FSC GA; and an update on Australia where the FSC NI has recently developed guidance for HCV in relation to controlled wood, which is now available for a 60-day public consultation period;
- Forest Peoples Programme, which recently held a workshop of HCV stakeholders in conjunction with the 3rd meeting of the RSPO Ad Hoc WG on

HCVs in Indonesia (February 2011); the next phase of this work will involve a field-assessment (mid-May) to look at the legal challenges for applying HCV.

2.2 Financial Report & Fundraising

The Secretariat provided a summary report of the Network's current financial budget based on the secured income for this year from existing and pledged contracts.

The following funding sources were noted: 1) WWF-Ikea, which is non-renewable beyond June 2011 as a proposal for Phase 1V funding under this agreement was rejected 2) WWF-Tetra Pak, which may be renewable beyond 2011 3) a pledge for core-funding from Mondi; 4) a new contribution to core-funding just received from ITTO (which was thanked), and 5) funds previously received through TNC, which are earmarked for the development of HCV activities in Indonesia and may be used to support a meeting with the Indonesian HCV Network and / or attendance of their members at the HCV side-meeting at the FSC GA.

The Secretariat reiterated the significant short-falls in core funding, both with respect to the minimum needed to cover Manager and Coordinator salaries and the extra required for core Network activities (eg: convening meetings of the SG and TP); fundraising was emphasised as an immediate Network priority activity for the new Manager, and various opportunities for core-funding & project-based funding were discussed.

Specific projects that require funding that have been previously identified as strategic actions for the Network and are potentially promising to develop in the near future, include:

- training & capacity building, noting that the previous proposal submitted to the RSPO needs to be revived;
- refining methodologies for HCV 5 and 6, for which FPP re-committed to developing a concept and proposal.

It was also suggested that the next annual TP meeting could be combined with an HCV conference as this may be of broader interest to a number of funders.

The SG considered a previously circulated proposal to develop a HCV RN future business model, the ultimate aim of which is to shift from grant-to-grant funding to a more sustainable financial model; this study would involve both the Network secretariat and an external consultant, and it is hoped that this advice would be provided in time for the next SG meeting. Although some money has been secured for this activity, the need for matching funds to develop a business model was discussed, with some SG members indicating potential possibilities to provide financial assistance. The SG briefly discussed various aspects of this proposal, including the identification of a suitably qualified external consultant.

In light of the immediately pressing need to raise funds, it was suggested that the Finance sub-committee needs to be more pro-active and should also act as a fund-raising body to support the Secretariat's efforts. It was noted that currently only one

active member of SG is involved in the Finance sub-committee, and that there is an urgent need for other members, and / or for SG organisations to delegate responsibilities within their organisations to individuals with the relevant expertise (eg: as in the model implemented by FFI). It was agreed that exactly how SG organisations will help with Network fund-raising should be decided at the next physical meeting, and that in the interim, a finance sub-committee telecon should be scheduled for 1st / 2nd week of May 2011.

Agreed Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. FPP to develop a concept and proposal for HCV 5 and 6 methodologies2. Secretariat to identify appropriate external consultants and seek matching funds for project to develop and transition to a sustainable business model for the HCVRN3. Financial sub-committee to be re-established and to include fund-raising function; Secretariat to request as many SG members to join as possible (or to suggest relevant people from within their own organisations).4. Teleconference of finance sub-committee to be convened in early May

3. Date and Nature of Next Meeting

The SG considered various options for the next meeting, and it was decided that in view of a number of significant issues which merit detailed discussion this would best be conducted as a dedicated physical SG meeting in Oxford over the next few months (notwithstanding the significant number of SG members likely to be present at the FSC GA at the end of June, as listed previously).

Agreed Action
Secretariat to set up a poll to determine most appropriate dates for the next physical meeting.