



HCV Resource Network Regional Meeting – Africa **and HCV capacity building activities,** **12th-16th November 2007, South Africa**

Break-out session 1: Achieving consistency

The framework provided by the HCV approach is intended to place emphasis on key aspects of environmental and social value. The framework itself it can be a powerful vehicle to build consensus around the particular issues of conservation priority.

The HCVs provide the definitions of six key aspects. However, these definitions need to be interpreted and expanded to be useful in a national context. The onus is on national groups to engage in a process to identify priorities that are consistent with these values.

The flexibility that this criteria based approach provides raises some interesting challenges. For example:

- How to ensure priorities are broadly equivalent *between* countries
- How to ensure the priorities can be linked to guidance that is useful for all the potential land use contexts *within* a country

With these questions in mind, the group should consider the following pointers:

1. What are the main advantages of defining HCVs at a national level?
2. Who are the main users/potential users of such an interpretation
3. What is a suitable process for producing an interpretation?
4. What expertise is required/who should be involved?
5. What guidance is available/not available but needed?