



**HCV RN Technical Workshop on landscape-level mapping and planning:
Oxford, 9-10 December 2008**

Summary

1. Introduction

It is widely recognised that the identification and management of High Conservation Values (HCVs) at the site level requires an understanding of the surrounding landscape, which provides the frame of reference and spatial context for assessing the presence and status of conservation values which occur within the management unit (whether a plantation or a managed forest).

There is a clear risk that inconsistent methodologies for HCV mapping and assessment at the landscape level could result in conflicting results and recommendations to industry, devaluing the HCV concept and leading to confusion, poor implementation and damage to conservation values.

For the integrity of the HCV concept to be maintained, forest managers, plantation owners and other key stakeholders (e.g. assessors, local communities, certifiers) need shared maps and consistent information on HCVs at a regional or landscape scale, a shared understanding of terminology and appropriate assessment methods, tools to address risk and uncertainty, and guidance on planning/management options if HCVs are present.

In order to address some aspects of this challenge, and as the first step towards a consistent and shared understanding of the range of possible solutions, the HCV Resource Network (HCV RN) convened a workshop of some 20 conservation professionals in the second week of December 2008.

Workshop Objectives

The specific aims of this workshop were to:

- to discuss the technical basis for mapping HCVs at the large, landscape level, including ecosystem, species and (to a limited extent) socio-cultural values;
- to provide an understanding of the links between practical HCV methodologies and the existing systematic conservation planning (SCP) science, and
- to review the principles underpinning successful approaches to conservation planning within production landscapes.

A detailed [agenda](#) for the workshop is available to download.

Attendance

The representatives at the workshop had diverse backgrounds in consultancy for HCV identification and planning, conservation science (academics and conservation NGO

staff), conservation funding, and government-level conservation planning, and included key experts from Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, Russia, the US, and the UK, five members of the HCV RN Technical Panel, and two HCV Network Steering Group members. A full list of workshop [participants](#) is also available to download.

2. Main Outcomes

The workshop made valuable progress towards a shared scientific and technical basis for HCV mapping and planning. This is the first step in a process which will need to be widened greatly to include the views of industry and social groups. The workshop outputs need to be fused with the practical experience of land use managers and the priorities of community representatives in order to develop guidelines for economically sound, socially responsible and scientifically credible HCV management.

The recommendations of the workshop will be drafted into a working document with some preliminary guidance for HCV mapping at a range of spatial scales, the integration of HCVs into land use planning frameworks, and the interpretation and appropriate use of HCV maps and data at the project site level. The document will be made available for wide consultation through the HCV Resource Network and its member organisations, and will be informed by other planned events (to be discussed at the forthcoming Steering Group meeting, 5-6 February 2009), prior to being finalised later in 2009.

A number of the case study presentations made during the 2 days of the workshop are available to download from the [Network Meetings & Briefings](#) section of the Resource Centre of the Network's website. The Network was also involved in organising a seminar on the theme of Landscape Level High Conservation Value Mapping (Monday 8 December 2008) which included a number of the workshop participants. This was hosted by the recently launched initiative, the [Oxford Centre for Tropical Forests](#), and was aimed at MSc students and staff of Oxford University for the Environment. All of the [presentations](#) made during the seminar may also be downloaded from the Network website.