



First Regional HCV Meeting held in Latin America

The **High Conservation Value Resource Network** hosted its first regional meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, from 22-23 January 2007. The event drew over fifty participants, including representatives from forestry businesses, certification bodies, FSC national initiatives, global financial lending operations, conservation organizations and government.



This one and a half day stakeholder meeting provided an excellent opportunity for information exchange about the identification, management and monitoring of 'high conservation values' in forest landscapes and other ecosystems. While the event focused on Latin America, additional global perspectives were provided by international speakers from regions where the HCV approach has been used extensively, namely Russia, Indonesia and North America. The agenda, participant list and all presentations made at the meeting are available at www.hcvnetwork.org.

Immediately following the stakeholder event, the Network's Steering Group - which has now taken over from the original Advisory Group - held its inaugural meeting, the primary aim being to prioritise future activities for the Resource Network based on some of the challenges identified in Brazil. A report on this Steering Group meeting is also available on the website.

Meeting Highlights

Presenting the HCV Resource Network

The meeting was hosted by the HCV Resource Network secretariat and Steering Group.

During the meeting members of the Network's Steering Group introduced the role of the Network and made short presentations explaining the significance of the HCV concept to their organizations. These included Greenpeace, ITTO, FSC, ForestEthics, Tetra Pak, Forest Peoples Programme and WWF.

Nilofer Ghaffar of the Network secretariat invited attendees to sign up as Participants on the website and to share their experiences of using the HCV tool by using the website to post documents and project summaries.

Additionally, the attendees were introduced to the Resource Network's recently-launched electronic Discussion Group topics (Box 1), designed to explore some of the emerging issues in the development of the use of the HCV approach.



Box 1: Discussion Groups

There are four live HCV discussion topics:

- Information sources and links
- Extension from Forests to other Ecosystems and across landscapes
- Methodologies for National Interpretation
- Safeguards and Ecosystem Conversion

To participate sign up to the network and go to <http://www.hcvnetwork.org/network-forum>



Presentations from the region and further afield

The regional focus of the meeting was on Latin America: individual presentations were made by representatives from voluntary forest management standards setting bodies in Brazil, Mexico and Bolivia, and the FSC Director for Latin America gave an overview of the importance of the HCVF concept as a tool to promote responsible forest use within the region. The Bolivian presentation introduced the HCV identification guide produced by the FSC National Initiative (CFV), and shared some of the challenges to the use of the approach, including an irregular quality of data sources and methodologies and a low level of awareness of the concept among stakeholders. In Mexico, work has begun recently to provide foresters and certifiers with a simple guide to HCVF identification, management and monitoring, and to strengthen the forest certification standards in which this concept is used. In Brazil, work is underway to develop particular guidance for HCV identification and management by communities, whilst the need to revise the Brazilian FSC forest certification standards presents an opportunity for a national interpretation of HCVF. The audience also learned about a national conservation planning tool (PROBIO) which has generated a

large amount of data which can support HCV identification in Brazil.

The meeting was enriched by experiences shared about HCV applications from other parts of the world: a presentation from Indonesia showed how HCV mapping with associated planning and consultation workshops is being used to influence policy making by a provincial government, and to raise awareness about local community resource dependence. From Russia the meeting learned of the work carried out to develop a national HCVF framework in a country with over 289 million ha of intact forest landscapes, spanning over 39 regions. The framework is now complete, although more challenges lie ahead to manage and protect HCV areas. From Canada, the participants were introduced to a simple, practical tool for supporting HCV identification in forest certification assessments, with the National HCVF Assessment Framework created for use with all FSC Canada forest certification standards.

A list of all of the presentations made during the meeting is provided in Box 2, and they are all available for download at www.hcvnetwork.org. You can also find some of the reports and tools produced by the different projects in the relevant country sections of the web site.

Box 2: Meeting Presentations

DAY 1

Welcome and Opening Remarks. Mario Abreu, *Tetra Pak / HCV Network Steering Group co-chair*

Update of the Map of Priority Areas for Conservation, Sustainable Use and Distribution of the Benefits of Brazilian Biodiversity, Tasso Azevedo, *Brazilian Ministry of Environment*

The HCV Concept, An Overview, Ruth Nussbaum, *ProForest / HCV Network Secretariat*

The HCV Resource Network, An Introductory Overview, Ken Creighton, *WWF International / HCV Network Steering Group* & **Registering as a Network Participant,** Nilofer Ghaffar, *ProForest/ HCV Network Co-ordinator*

HCVF and HCV concept in Russia, Tatiana Yanitskaya, *WWF Russia*

Landscape HCVF Identification in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, Purwo Susanto, *WWF Indonesia*

High Conservation Value Forests, Experience from North America, Marcelo Levy, *Responsible Forestry Solutions, Canada*

DAY 2

Overview of HCV use in FSC certification in Latin America, Daniel Arancibia, *Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Latin America*

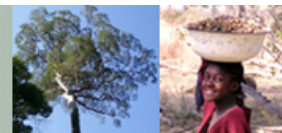
High Conservation Value Forests: Experience from Brazil, Bruno Martinelli, *Conselho Brasileiro de Manejo Florestal, Brasil*

Project: identification, management and monitoring HCVF, Sergio Madrid, *Sociedad para la Promoción del Manejo Forestal Sustentable en México - CERTIFOR, Mexico*

Forest Management and High Conservation Values in Bolivia, Damian Rumiz *Consejo Boliviano para la Certificación Forestal Voluntaria, Bolivia*

Identification of Priority Areas for Conservation based on Systematic Conservation Planning, Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, *WWF Brasil*

Wrap up and Closing Remarks, Marcus Colchester *Forest Peoples Programme / HCV Network Steering Group co-chair*



Identifying opportunities, challenges, and the role of the Resource Network

The meeting included discussion groups held in Portuguese, Spanish and English which reported back on two main issues:

- **Opportunities and Challenges:** the identification of existing data sources, initiatives and methodologies which can contribute to the application of the HCV approach, and of some of the gaps and challenges to HCV use in different countries.
- **Work needed:** Suggestions for work needed to support the implementation of the HCV concept and the possible role of the HCV Network in doing so (see section on emerging challenges, and future role of the Network, below).



Outcomes

Networking: The event provided networking opportunities among a range of actors who are using the concept, ranging from participants in national HCV definition processes, to financial organizations using the concept as part of their environmental and social investment criteria.

Invited stakeholders included both practitioners of HCV methods and those promoting or supporting use of the HCV concept, from within Brazil and from the region, with participants from Bolivia, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay. These included representatives from: social and environmental NGOs, forest industry, oil palm and soy production sector, government, multilaterals and certification organisations, in addition to international participants and members of the Network's SG and Secretariat. A full list of delegates who attended is available at www.hcvnetwork.org

Emerging Challenges

The following points were among the emerging challenges for the effective use of the HCV approach identified during the meeting:

An urgent need for information, tools and safeguards to support the broader range of applications of the concept. For example HCV concept use in other biomes such as grasslands, in other sectors such as agricultural production landscapes eg: palm oil and soy bean, and in forest management outside of a certification framework eg: forest conservation planning.

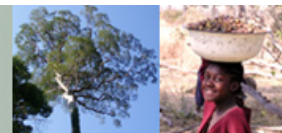
Discussion and information sharing about methodological aspect. One such issue is that of 'scale' - for instance, how to know at which scale it is most appropriate to start work, eg: mapping at a national level or forest management level, and how to apply the tools to forest users with small management units?

Data Availability. A common challenge was the lack of availability of valuable data known to have been generated by public or private bodies

Strengthening the application of HCV5 and 6. Many participants identified the importance of developing or incorporating locally-appropriate methodologies to strengthen the identification and management of values relating to local community livelihoods (HCV5 and 6). Whereas mapping may be useful for some values, the social values need more participatory methodologies.

The need for awareness raising and broader participation. Meeting participants highlighted the need to reach out to various levels of governments, academia, financial institutions, and international policy discussion with information about the HCV concept, and to provide material suitable to support local-level users' engagement in the consultation processes.





Next steps for the HCV Resource Network

The HCV Resource Network's first regional meeting confirmed the usefulness of the Network in facilitating information exchange and critical discussion of High Conservation Values. It also presented an opportunity for the Network to receive input from a broad range of people who have been working with the HCV concept to learn about how the Network could best serve them, and which activities the Network should be prioritising. The key actions which participants suggested should form the core of the HCV Network activities in the future are summarised below. This list is based on feedback received during the break-out sessions, and from the end-of-workshop evaluation forms.

Information Sharing, including

- Sharing examples of HCVF management and HCV use in non-forest and non-certification contexts
- Sharing tools and documents related to HCV monitoring
- Acting as a clearing house for all HCV information

Training

- For organizations and individuals using the concept, both at national level and at landscape level (inside and outside of FSC certification)
- For local-level users, especially to clarify the intent of the tool, and encourage participation

Refining concept, including

Carrying out research and providing guidance, on issues such as:

- Working at different scales
- Scope/context
- Setting thresholds for values
- Strengthening the use of HCVs 4, 5 and 6

Broadening outreach

- Seeking to involve other actors and disciplines at all levels eg. governments, academics and social scientists
- Identifying and implementing mechanisms for regional participation in the Network
- Supporting the leverage of more funding, including possible economic incentives for HCV areas

These issues were further discussed at the Network's SG meeting held immediately after the stakeholder event, and a number of them prioritised as future activities for the HCV Resource Network. A summary is available on the HCV Resource Network website.



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