

The High Conservation Value Resource Network

HCV HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE resource network



The High Conservation Value (HCV) framework is a valuable, flexible conservation tool with practical applications in natural resource management, land-use planning, the design of responsible purchasing and investment policies and conservation advocacy. The HCV approach was developed in the context of FSC forest certification but is relevant to all kinds of ecosystems and habitats.

The High Conservation Value Resource Network is a network of organisations and individuals using the HCV approach, including: forest owners and managers; suppliers, buyers and certifiers of sustainable timber, palm oil, soy, and non-timber forest products; international development agencies; and environmental and social NGOs. The Network promotes practical conservation by supporting collaboration, providing information on the evolving usage of HCVs, and ensuring that a consistent approach to HCVs is understood and applied throughout the world.



The overall purpose of the HCV resource network is the protection of High Conservation Values, which it seeks to achieve by promoting widespread understanding and adoption of the HCV concept.



What is the Network's mission?

The overall purpose of the Network is the protection of High Conservation Values, which it seeks to achieve by promoting widespread understanding and adoption of the HCV concept.

The Network's Mission and core concepts are set out in a Charter, which commits participants *"to maintain and enhance critical social and environmental values of forests and other ecosystems as part of responsible land management, and to advance locally adaptable management strategies through the development and use of the HCV approach."*

The Network aims to do this specifically by:

- increasing collaboration and cooperation,
- promoting consistency and best practice,
- enabling local-level approaches to implementation.

The Charter also details the structure of the Network and its shared view of the HCV concept and implementation.

Network Structure

Steering Group: The Network is overseen by a Steering Group composed of key stakeholder organisations, which sets the Network's strategic direction and regulates its activities. Steering

Group members include: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Bank; World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Tetra Pak; Mondi; International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); Greenpeace International; Forest Stewardship Council (FSC); Forest Peoples Programme; and Climate For Ideas.org

Technical Panel: The Network's Technical Panel has an advisory and quality control function, including peer review. It is composed of HCV experts and practitioners from across the globe, with experience in biological, ecological and social sciences, land use management, resource certification and participatory processes.

Participants: Anyone can become a participant in the Network. Individuals and organizations can sign up as Network Participants by registering their agreement with the Network's Charter on the website. Network Participants can be involved in all Network activities, including membership of the Steering Group and Working Groups.

Secretariat: Day to day coordination of the Network's activities and central facilitation is carried out by a dedicated team within Proforest, UK.



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What does the Network do?

The Network has four key strategic aims:

- **To provide a credible central point of reference** on the HCV concept and a networking hub for anyone with a stake in HCV.
- **To support the development and implementation of the HCV concept** across all its current land management applications, promoting consistency, comparability and appropriate local level approaches.
- **To provide a governance and quality control function** for HCV assessment and management, supporting good practice within natural resource certification and safeguarding the integrity of the HCV approach outside certification.
- **To promote the use of HCV in emerging and potential applications** and ensure consistency with existing approaches.

The Network's **website**, www.hcvnetwork.org, provides a central point of reference for the HCV concept, its development and practical uses. This offers access to a wealth of resources, such as global and national HCV Toolkits, translations of key documents, country profiles, HCV project summaries, background information (e.g. HCV methodologies), and links to useful sites.

The website also provides a **searchable database** of HCV practitioners, which is an open-source networking tool, where Participants who are also HCV practitioners can post their interests and experience.

The Network organises and supports participation in **regional stakeholder events**, which are open to anyone with an interest in the development and application of the HCV approach, and **technical meetings and Working**

Groups made up of Network participants, including experts and key stakeholders.

The Network's Technical Panel plays a key role in quality control, providing a **peer review service** for HCV assessment and management reports according to the Network's standardised process and review template. It can also advise on the technical use of the HCV approach in standards and policy documents.

The Network participates in key international events to raise awareness and provides training and briefing for key stakeholders as needs arise.

As the Network develops, it will also seek **Regional Partners** to provide the local representation and lead on regional or national development of HCV concepts and tools, and provide local support and information on HCV in local languages.

The Network will also initiate other activities to build capacity, develop new HCV resources (including improved guidance material, toolkits and training), exchange ideas and participate in projects. It will strive to refine and adapt the HCV concept and tools to emerging challenges, including support for local level and pluralistic approaches to implementation.

How to get involved

- Become a Participant (by signing up online to register support for the Network's charter),
- Register online as an HCV practitioner,
- Provide a summary of an HCV project for the website
- Volunteer as a Regional Partner
- Attend our Stakeholder Events
- Contact the Network with your views

More information on all aspects of the Network can be found on the website.

