

The High Conservation Value Resource Network Technical Panel

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 Technical Panel will both support the HCV Resource Network and provide advisory services to industry, policy-makers and other HCV stakeholders.



www.hcvnetwork.org
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What is the HCV Resource Network Technical Panel?

In order to provide elements of quality control and governance for the ongoing development of the HCV framework, the Steering Group of the HCV Resource Network has established a globally representative Technical Panel composed of experts in the use and interpretation of the HCV concept. This both supports the HCV Resource Network and provides advisory services to industry, policy-makers and other HCV stakeholders.

This is an important milestone in the development of the Network, and is particularly valuable for providing consistent, practical technical guidance for users of the HCV framework as it is adopted globally, both in agricultural commodity, carbon and biofuels standards, and outside the context of certification.

What is the Panel's role?

The main functions of the panel are to:

- undertake peer reviews of specific HCV assessments or uses
- provide recommendations on how the HCV

concept should be interpreted and used in practice

- play a leading role in developing HCV tools and methodologies
- inform the HCV Network of important developments in the evolving usage of the HCV concept.

How does the Panel operate?

The Technical Panel carries out activities in response to requests from the Network Steering Group or from third parties, and provides two main services:

1. Conducting peer reviews of HCV-related assessments, projects or uses
2. Making recommendations on the interpretation and use, and development of the HCV concept.

The costs of providing these services are usually met by the organisation requesting either a review or any urgent clarification. The Panel normally meets physically once a year, and considers less urgent requests or requests with wide-reaching implications at this time – there is not normally a requirement to pay for such recommendations.



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Undertaking Peer Reviews

As the HCV concept is being used in an increasing range of situations and locations, there is an increasing need to have an authoritative and credible mechanism for checking whether a particular application of the concept or a specific HCV assessment is appropriate and adequate or not. This type of quality control is essential to the long-term credibility of the concept. Any use of the HCV concept is eligible for peer review, e.g.:

- Individual HCV assessment: data, methods and consultation for identification of HCVs, development of appropriate management and monitoring plans.
- Policies, initiatives or standards where HCV is used as a criterion of sustainability.

The Technical Panel has developed a standard process and criteria for peer reviews (available from www.hcvnetwork.org) providing HCV practitioners with a checklist of the key elements which should be covered in an HCV assessment and ensuring that reviews of HCV reports are consistent and comparable across different applications, countries and sectors.

Interpretation, use and development of the HCV concept

For contexts where the HCV approach is being used in decisions about conversion of land to agriculture or plantation forestry, as well as outside the framework of certification, the rigour of assessments needs to be of a very high standard. This requires in particular a renewed and urgent focus on large-scale mapping tools and data, and on their use within conservation and land use planning frameworks, in order to minimise the risk of misuse of the concept.

Many technical and methodological challenges arise in the use and interpretation of the HCV concept within this wider context. A key role of the Panel is to keep up with developments on the ground and provide technical recommendations on these issues to the Steering Group, which can then take action to address gaps in knowledge or methods and promote appropriate interpretations.

Steering Group Oversight

The Technical Panel is overseen directly by a Quality Control sub-committee of the Network's Steering Group.

The Quality Control sub-committee is responsible for the initial selection of TP members, reviewing their performance, and on-going oversight of the Panel's activities. The full Steering Group is involved in the appointment to the Panel, annual reviews of its activities and any issues raised by the Technical Panel's work and/or recommendations.

Who are the current members?

For the time being there are 24 spaces on the Panel, which are currently filled by 20 individuals; members are selected on the basis of their qualifications and practical experience of using the HCV concept, and with a view to balancing representation from different regions together with ecological, social and relevant management expertise.

HCV Resource Network Technical Panel Members October 2009

- Daniel Arancibia, USA (WWF)
- Reza Azmi, Malaysia (Wild Asia)
- Zhivko Bogdanov, Bulgaria (WWF)
- Tom Clark, Canada (CMC Consulting)
- Nigel Dudley, UK (Equilibrium)
- Jeff Hayward, USA (Rainforest Alliance)
- Marcelo Levy, Canada (RFS.)
- Douglas Macfarlane, South Africa (INR)
- Ted Mamu, Papua New Guinea (WWF)
- Dwi Muhtaman, Indonesia (Aksenta)
- Gary Paoli, Indonesia (Daemeter Consulting)
- Edward Pollard, Cambodia (WCS)
- Aisyah Sileuw, Indonesia (Daemeter)
- Jim Stritholt, US (Conservation Biology Institute)
- Winfried Suess, Austria (OB AG Consulting)
- Yana Suryadinata, Indonesia (TNC)
- Maria Tysiachniouk, Russia (CISR)
- Matthew Wenban-Smith, Brazil (OneWorld Stds)
- Lee White, Gabon (Gabon Government)
- Tatiana Yanitskaya, Russia (WWF)

