

**FSC High Conservation Value Workshop
Bonn, 24 – 26 January 2011.**

**Summary report on workshop and results.
Tim Synnott April 2011.**

Introduction. A workshop of HCV specialists was held at FSC in Bonn, at the invitation of FSC and WWF. The detailed objectives are shown in the Agenda, Annex 1. Overall, the aim was to contribute to the development of guidance documents, approved by FSC, for the application of Principle 9 and the conservation of High Conservation Values.

In advance of the meeting, participants were provided with links to some of the basic HCV documentation (see Agenda), and a new draft of the FSC P9 Guide prepared by Tim Synnott.

23 participants (see Annex 2) worked in plenary and in small groups during three days, to complete the extremely crowded agenda. The work concentrated on two main aspects:

- 1 A scrutiny of the definitions of the six HCVs, in order to propose changes for the revision of the Principles & Criteria, and
- 2 Numerous and detailed suggestions for the proper application of Criteria 9.1 – 9.4 by forest managers and for their evaluation by certification bodies.

Results:

1 HCVs Many suggestions were made to improve the clarity and application of the HCV definitions. Most of them are now included in the latest Draft 4-0 of the P&C, dated 20 March 2011.

These changes include, for example:

In HCVs 1 and 2, a focus on “recognition as significant” as an objective way of determining the value-status of species-concentrations and ecosystems.

In HCV 2, the inclusion of ecosystem mosaics.

In HCV 4, the replacement of Environmental Services by Ecosystem Services.

In HCV 6, the explicit coverage of elements with local and community significance as well as those with global or national significance.

In each HCV, the inclusion of a mini-title, as a communication tool.

In several HCVs, clarification about the scope of consultations or engagement required for their proper identification.

There was considerable discussion about the inclusion of a carbon-related HCV, perhaps related to High Carbon Forests. Several participants also recognised the risks of including a new HCV before a full discussion of FSC's position on carbon, and without adequate testing of methods, definitions etc. In view of the difficulties of including a comprehensive carbon-related value in Criterion 9.1 at this stage, it was agreed to suggest the removal of the reference to "vulnerable peat deposits" from HCV 4. (This has been done). The notes related to carbon will be directed to the next stage of FSC's carbon policies, after the next General Assembly.

The discussion about the specific HCV definitions was urgent, since this meeting was believed to be the last possible opportunity for influencing these definitions before the vote on the Principles and Criteria. The meeting made good use of this opportunity, and the results are included in the draft FSC P9 Guide dated 8 March 2011, and in the next draft due before the end of April. The P&C consultation period has now been extended by FSC. Other elements related to the identification and conservation of HCVs are covered in the next section.

2. Criterion-related Guidance:

The workshop devoted much time to the practical implications of each HCV, and the application of each of the Criteria 9.1 – 9.4, especially to interpretation, identification and implementation, and the implications for forest managers, certification bodies and FSC-ASI (see Agenda items). All these discussions were designed to contribute to the Purpose of the Workshop, "To produce better guidance for all stakeholders, including FSC NIs, CBs, ASI and forest managers ...".

The discussions in small groups and in plenary mainly took the form of brainstorming, with key points and areas of general agreement being noted on 42 flipchart sheets. These sheets are now among the most important sources for developing the FSC HCV Guidance document. The draft of 8 March 2011 was particularly complete in its coverage of the HCV definitions, since these were needed for the draft P&C. The notes on Guidance are now being abstracted and collated for the next draft FSC P9 Guide, due out by the end of April.

The Workshop did not intend (or agree) to produce a separate guidance document, based only on the results of the workshop, but every effort is being made to ensure that the FSC P9 Guide takes account of all the workshop output, and other comments from participants, as completely as possible. In many cases, the key issues were identified as needing further guidance, with only a broad indication of the form of the possible guidance.

3 Among the most important conclusions were:

Identification: recommendations for the use of international, national and ad hoc local classifications. Specific guidance needed for RTE ecosystems.

Levels of engagement: Guidance on the most appropriate levels of consultations with Interested & Affected Stakeholders to ensure identification, monitoring, decision-making and conservation of each HCV, including outside specialists and participatory consultation as necessary.

Scale, Intensity & Risk: guidance needed, including focus on threats of irreversible damage.

Conversion: This was identified as a major issue with implications for non-FSC systems.

Challenges for implementation were identified for most HCVs.

Compatibility and conflicts with national laws and regulations: guidance needed.

Recommended inclusion of case studies and illustrative examples.

Monitoring: separate guidance for Operational and Strategic monitoring.

Precautionary Approach: more details needed.

4 Next steps agreed:

By the end of April, a new draft, revised from the version of 8 March, based on comments received and other sources. This will be widely distributed, including Nis and CBs.

Before the end of May, another document will be prepared for distribution to all participants at the General Assembly, in preparation for a Side Meeting.

Annex 1 Workshop Agenda

FSC HCV Workshop Bonn, Monday 24 – Wednesday 26 January 2011

Purpose of the Workshop

To produce better guidance for all stakeholders, including FSC National Initiatives, Certification Bodies, Accreditation Services International and Forest Managers on how to interpret and implement the HCV definitions in relation to Principle 9.

Objectives

By the end of the workshop we will have:

- Explored the changes being proposed by the Principles & Criteria Review Group
- Affirmed the goal and objectives for Principle 9
- Affirmed the values requiring high conservation status
- Agreed what is to be achieved in relation to each HCV
- Reviewed the evidence of the challenges FMs, CBs, ASI, Nis and other stakeholders have faced in interpreting and implementing HCVs
- Agreed and clarified the **interpretation** of each HCV, including subjective and technical terms
- Agreed and clarified how the presence of HCVs should be determined
- Identified the management implications, including obligations, for the forest manager
- Identified the implications, including obligations, for Certification Bodies
- Identified any new/additional responsibilities for ASI as a consequence of the above
- Agreed the/some next steps, including dialogue and consultation with members, the HCV Network and other significant stakeholders
- Formulated suggested next steps for further work beyond the global level guidance, such as the need for local guidance and the process for its development and approval, and use of existing sources of data and guidance.

Authority of the workshop

The workshop is not a decision making forum for either FSC or the HCV Network. However, the timing of the workshop means there is the smallest opportunity to influence the final draft of FSC's Principles and Criteria, or even to identify potential motions that might go towards the FSC General Assembly.

Preparation

Participants have been invited on the basis of their specific HCV knowledge and expertise whether geographical, sectoral and/or technical. In the unlikely event that individuals are not familiar with them, we ask everyone to review the following documents:

- Timothy Synnott's Draft Guidance paper (to be circulated)
- HCV Resource Network Charter including 2010 Annex: Principles of application of the HCV approach ([link](#))
- The HCV Network Peer Review template for HCV assessment ([link](#))
- The Proforest HCVF Toolkit ([link](#))
- FSC Step by Step Guide for HCVF and SLIMF ([link](#))

Further information is also available on the Resources Page of the HCV Network website www.hcvnetwork.org

You are also encouraged to bring your knowledge of national interpretations to the workshop, where these have clear relevance to more global level issues e.g., the national interpretation of ‘landscape level’.

Schedule

Monday 24 January 2011

9.00	Participant introductions Purpose, objectives and output of the workshop General logistics
9.40	The background and history associated with HCV (Presentation by Tim Synnott)
9.55	Proposed changes to Principle 9 from the P&C Review Group (Presentation by Tim Synnott)
10.15	The Goal of Principle 9 (Presentation by Tim Synnott)
10.45	Break
11.00	All forests contain environmental and social or socio-economic values that merit protection. However, some values are more important, hence HCVs. Does the transition from area to value based HCVs capture our common understanding of the most valuable values?
12.45	Lunch
13.45	The goal of each HCV. What is the underlying ambition? What are the known and potential consequences of these ambitions?
15.45	Break
16.00	HCV 1 (Plenary and working groups) What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation • Identification • Implementation Discussion of the Draft Guidance Paper <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What further guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of interpretation and terminology. 2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers? 3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies? 4. What are the implications for ASI?
18.00	Close
19.00	Dinner

Tuesday 25 January 2011

9.00	Review of Day One Overnight inspiration
9.10	HCV 2 (Plenary and working groups) What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation• Identification• Implementation Discussion of the Draft Guidance Paper <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What further guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of definitions and terminology.2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers?3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies?4. What are the implications for ASI?
11.00	Break
11.15	HCV 3 (Plenary and working groups) What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation• Identification• Implementation Discussion of the Draft Guidance Paper <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What further guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of definitions and terminology.2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers?3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies?4. What are the implications for ASI?
13.00	Lunch
13.45	HCV 4 (Plenary and working groups) What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation• Identification• Implementation Discussion of the Draft Guidance Paper <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What further guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of definitions and terminology.2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers?3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies?4. What are the implications for ASI?

15.45	Break
16.00	<p>HCV 5 (Plenary and working groups)</p> <p>What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation • Identification • Implementation <p>Discussion of the Draft Guidance Paper</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What further guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of definitions and terminology. 2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers? 3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies? 4. What are the implications for ASI?
18.00	Close
19.00	Dinner

Wednesday 26 January 2011

9.00	<p>Review of Day One</p> <p>Overnight inspiration</p>
9.10	<p>HCV 6 (Plenary and working groups)</p> <p>What challenges have different parties experienced in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation • Identification • Implementation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What guidance is required/should be offered, including clarification of definitions and terminology. 2. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for forest managers? 3. What are the implications, including obligations, of this guidance for Certification Bodies? 4. What are the implications for ASI? <p>Break to be taken as appropriate</p>
12.30	Lunch
13.30	<p>Next Steps, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the output of the meeting • Out put of the FSC HCV project • Options for further action, including dialogue and consultation with key stakeholders. • Formulated suggested next steps for further work beyond the global level guidance, such as the need for local guidance and the process for its development and approval
16.00	Close

Annex 2 Participants.

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