

Terms of Reference

Defining and Conserving High Conservation Value Forests

A Training led by WWF in Valdivia, Chile

High Conservation Value Forests are those of outstanding and critical importance due to their high environmental, socio-economic, biodiversity or landscape values. They can include areas that are recognized for their cultural (religious) value, habitat for endangered species, and/or unique plant diversity.

Meeting Overview:

With Chile now being the world's second largest producer of pulp, some 60% of Chile's native temperate forest has been converted to pine and eucalyptus. A growing world demand for pulp and timber coupled with a weak Chilean native forest law, has highlighted the need for an understanding of identifying high conservation value forests (HCVF) and its application in Chile. Green pressures from Chilean industry buyers in Europe and the US have brought the need for knowledge and application of HCVF to industry leaders and they are asking WWF to provide training on this topic.

Meeting Objectives:

Train members of Chilean NGOs and forest industry in the science and application of (HCVF) <http://www.proforest.net/our-services/abouthcvf> within native forest blocks. Forest industry generally considers HCVF landscapes to only occur on large forest tracks. This course will expand that concept by showing that even small tracks of land can have considerable cultural, social, and/or biological value. The course will then challenge industry to use this analysis to change their management approach and redesign their plantations to protect the integrity of these sites.

This course will spur a national dialogue on HCVF values for Chile's temperate forests and discuss financial mechanisms for taking these lands out of production for perpetuity. The training will be based on ProForest's HCVF Tool Kit and will include HCVF theory as well as application of the methodology in the field. A secondary objective will be to increase the dialogue between Chilean forest industry, government and NGO representatives.

Implementation plan:

This week-long training will include a classroom setting overview of HCVF principles, identification, application, and financing mechanisms as well as an application of the concepts in the field at the 140,000 acre Valdivian Coastal Reserve owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Expected outcomes:

MASISA, Chile's third largest timber company, received WWF's Leader for a Living Planet award in late 2006 based on their commitment to identify and set aside HCVF lands on their native forest holdings. While MASISA has repeatedly stated their commitment to this exercise, little progress has been made to date. WWF Chile has also received a verbal commitment from Chile's second largest forest company, CMPC, to identify and set aside HCVF lands on their native forest holdings. We expect this workshop to:

- 1) spur a national dialogue on HCVF and its importance within Chile;
- 2) result in MASISA and CMPC making good on their HCVF commitments within Chile;
- 3) pressure Arauco, Chile's largest timber company to apply HCVF principles on their native forest holdings in Chile; and
- 4) urge all three timber companies to consider the possibility of applying HCVF principles to their holdings throughout Latin America.
- 5) Result in changes in management practices around HCVF landscapes.

Method of Evaluation:

There will be an evaluation of the workshop and the understanding of HCVF concepts at the end of the week-long session. More importantly, however, MASISA and CMPC will identify HCVF lands on their native forest holdings and set these aside for conservation.

Participants:

To ensure a high level of discussion and sharing of expertise, the workshop will be limited to a maximum of 20 participants. These will include 3 representatives from each of Chile's major forest industries (Celco, CMPC, MASISA, AnChile) as well as 1-2 representatives from Chilean conservation NGOs including FSC, CODEFF and 1-2 government representatives.

Dates:

Sept. 10 – 14, 2007 (tentative).

Facilitators:

- A to-be-identified consultant
- Daniel Arancibia, WWF LAC Forest Coordinator

