

High Carbon Stock Approach Steering Group – Executive Committee

## Advice Note 17-1

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Re:** **Scope of HCSA Assessments**

### Background:

APRIL representatives enquired during the Sept 2017 Steering Group meeting on when a company is conducting an assessment of any expansion/development, does the entire area need to go through the assessment or just the area of expansion?

### HCSA SG Position:

When a HCSA assessment is being carried out, the whole development area or concession (including conservation set asides) needs to be assessed for land cover to identify HCS forests, as well as demonstration that key elements of the approach including participatory mapping and FPIC has been completed over the whole area, even if only small areas of the concession are being considered for development or expansion.

### Rationale:

To complete the HCSA any identified HCS forest patches need to be assessed both in relation to other adjacent forest patches and HCV areas around them but also in the landscape. Secondly, there are social considerations in the HCSA that are not just related to limited development areas such as customary land rights, participatory mapping and food security. Also, if a company is going to submit the assessment for quality review and then subsequent monitoring, the concession level HCS forest data will be required. Finally, as the HCSA is about demonstrating No Deforestation, then this cannot be done for a concession through assessments of small areas within the concession, this would need the full concession level data.