

## Advice Note 18-1

Date: 5 September 2018

Re: Application of HCSA SG Membership Globally

### Background:

During the application process a query has arisen on whether membership of the HCSA Steering Group (SG) means a commitment to HCSA across all commodities and globally. This is a particular concern for global producers, trading and manufacturing corporate groups. The query relates to whether it is a requirement to implement the HCSA for commodities that are not yet applying the HCSA or in regions/countries that have yet to trial or apply the HCSA. Additionally, this question has come up in the RSPO P&C revision process, where if the P&C require the compliance with the HCSA, is this a requirement across all tropical regions where palm oil is produced.

### HCSA SG Position:

The HCSA SG requires a clear global corporate/company/organisational commitment to halting deforestation or no deforestation by the membership applicant, including a commitment to the HCS Approach and for corporate applicants, across their supply chain. For commodities and regions where the HCSA is being applied, it is a requirement that the HCSA toolkit (and the HCV-HCSA Integrated Manual) is used to implement no deforestation. For commodities that have the HCSA applied to them but not yet in a particular region, then it is expected that the HCSA toolkit will be applied, initially via trials and pilots in that region<sup>1</sup>. For a commodity where the HCSA has not yet been used, the HCSA toolkit is not required to be applied, but trialing and piloting is encouraged according to the HCS Approach Trialing Protocol.

### Rationale:

The HCSA toolkit is currently being applied with palm oil, pulp and paper and rubber across a number of countries in Asia Pacific and Africa. It is a reasonable expectation that the HCSA toolkit is applied by all Steering Group members for these commodities and these regions, as well as trialing and piloting in Central and South America. However, for other commodities such as cocoa (trials being proposed for Africa), coffee, sugar, avocados, soya, beef, etc., for which the toolkit has yet to be tested or trialed, it cannot be expected that it is a requirement that the toolkit is used. It is however a preferred option for the toolkit to be trialed and applied with these commodities.

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<sup>1</sup> With oversight and if necessary technical input from HCSA secretariat.