Addressing No Deforestation in the RSPO P&C

- the High Carbon Stock Approach

By Grant Rosoman, HCSA co-chair

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What does it mean to have the HCSA Toolkit in the P&C?

- RSPO has the opportunity to become a No Deforestation standard that de-links certified palm oil production from deforestation.
- Could have a clear public message: RSPO products are deforestation-free (if strong implementation, maps transparency, and across supply chain including smallholders).
- Aligns with many company and other commitments to No Deforestation, especially by 2020, and significant market benefits in particular through reducing public concern, halting the move away from palm, and alignment with EU biofuel requirements.
- Additional requirements for any new land development (e.g. in the NPPs) but integrates with other approaches – HCV and FPIC and with little additional assessment cost.
- Fully implement the HCSA toolkit for fragmented landscapes and toolkit with additional guidance coming for High Forest Cover Countries/Landscapes via joint RSPO/HCSA steering Group.
Key objective: putting No Deforestation into practice - which areas are natural forest and which are degraded land?

Established in 2014, the High Carbon Stock (HCS) Approach is a global methodology to implement No-Deforestation commitments. It is for land-use planning that distinguishes forest (humid tropics) areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed, including integration with HCVs and peatland protection and community rights and livelihoods.
A short history of HCSA

- **2009** Corporate No Deforestation commitments
  - Early methodology development and pilots in 2011/12
  - Wider pilot implementation: Asia, Pacific, Africa
  - HCSA Steering Group formed 2014
  - HCS+ process & convergence to one global in 2016
  - Collaborations: HCVRN, RSPO, research, ....
  - Revision of toolkit & launch v2 May 2017
  - Integration with HCV (November 2017)
  - 10 countries, millions ha of HCS forest identified
A unified global methodology – HCS Approach Toolkit v2.0
Modules: HCSA Toolkit v2.0

2. Module 2: Social Requirements
The first step: respecting communities’ rights to their lands and FPIC.

3. Module 3: Integration of HCV-HCS-FPIC
The HCS Approach relies on comprehensive HCV assessments and the FPIC of local communities to be put into practice.

4. Module 4: Vegetation Stratification
Initial vegetation classification through satellite and LIDAR image analysis and field data to calibrate the vegetation classification.

5. Module 5: HCS Forest Patch Analysis and Protection
Conservation science background and principles, using the Decision Tree for patch analysis, the proposed Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan (ICLUP), and protection of HCV/HCS forest areas.

6. Module 6: Developing Issues
Addressing smallholder and community participation, High Forest Cover Landscapes and carbon.

7. Module 7: Quality Assurance
Peer review and transparency and monitoring.
Phase 1: uses remote sensing and ground survey data to develop a map of potential HCS forest areas in a particular development area.

Phase 2: Classification and analysis of patches using HCS Decision Tree and to develop proposed Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan.

Phase 1: Vegetation and Landcover Classification

A combined analysis of remote sensing and field plot data to stratify vegetation into 6 classes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POTENTIAL HCS AREAS</th>
<th>MAY BE DEVELOPED</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-Density Forest (HDF/HK3)</td>
<td>Clearing/open land (OL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remnant forest or advanced secondary forest close to primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Density Forest (MDF/HK2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remnant forest but more disturbed than HK3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Density Forest (LDF/HK1)</td>
<td>Scrub (S))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appears to be remnant forest but highly disturbed and recovering [may contain</td>
<td>Recently cleared areas, some woody regrowth and grass-like ground cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Regenerating Forest (YRF)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly young regrowth forest, but with occasional patches of older</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Phase 2: Decision Tree to analyse HCS forest patches and propose an Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan
Key issues under development

Adapted approach for Smallholders

High Forest Cover Landscapes – joint SG with RSPO to provide guidance

HCS/HCV forest conservation support
## HCSA Steering Group Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steering Group members</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Toolkit and Guidance</th>
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</table>
HCS APPROACH ASSESSMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 2018

Total area covered by HCSA assessments: 2,456,129.23 ha
Total HCS forest identified for conservation: 561,589.86 ha*
* based on registered assessments for peer review

WEST AFRICA

16 HCSA assessments
4 companies
Area covered by HCSA assessments: 296,368.45 ha
HCS forest area identified for conservation: 1,464.00 ha

SOUTH EAST ASIA

63 HCSA assessments
14 companies
Area covered by HCSA assessments: 2,126,450.80 ha
HCS forest area identified for conservation: 555,671.56 ha

PAPUA NEW GUINEA & SOLOMON ISLANDS

4 HCSA assessments
1 company
Area covered by HCSA assessments: 33,309.98 ha
HCS forest area identified for conservation: 4,454.30 ha
Thank You

For more information including HCSA Toolkit
www.highcarbonstock.org

Twitter @Highcarbonstock

Or see HCSA video at:
www.highcarbonstock.org/communications-resources-presentations/