HCS Approach Steering Group - News & Updates

HCS Approach Steering Group Meeting - March 2016
The full Steering Group meets annually between two to three times a year. The next full member meeting will take place in the last week of March 2016. A number of side meetings have also been scheduled for the various work streams, including: Quality Assurance, High Forest Cover Landscapes, HCV-HCS-FPIC Integration and Smallholders.

Consultation Workshop: HCS Approach Methodology and Toolkit
In 2016, the Steering Group plans to review the HCS Approach Methodology in preparation for launching the second version of the HCS Approach Toolkit. As part of this revision, the Steering Group will hold a Consultation Workshop in the last week of March to gather feedback from members, practitioners and other key stakeholders. Are you interested in providing feedback on your experience or views on the methodology? Come have your say! Contact the Secretariat at info@highcarbonstock.org for further details.

Call to Companies: Register your HCS Approach Assessments
In November 2015, a Quality Review Process was launched, to be followed for all HCS assessments completed by members of the Steering Group, as well as any non-member who requests review. To use the new HCS Approach Peer Review process for Quality Review of completed HCS assessments, please contact QA@highcarbonstock.org. The Secretariat also welcomes registrations of any ongoing or completed HCS assessments, the basic information of which will be published on the HCS Approach website.

HCS Approach Toolkit: Upcoming Translations

Upcoming Dates & Events

22–26 February, 2016
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016

16 - 18 March, 2016
ICOPE 2016

29 March - 1 April, 2016
HCS Approach Steering Group Meetings

30 March, 2016
Consultation Workshop: HCS Approach Methodology and Toolkit

25-26 April, 2016
Responsible Business Forum on Food and Agriculture 2016
HCS Approach Work Stream Updates

The HCS Approach & HCS+ Study Convergence
Discussions have been held over the last few months between the HCS Approach Steering Group and the SPOM Group to identify where the HCS Approach and HCS+ methodologies are aligned and how convergence might take place. Plans for integrated and side by side trials are underway in the first half of 2016.

Quality Assurance
This year the HCS Approach Quality Assurance work will focus on training practitioners, collecting HCS assessment registrations, and implementing and evaluating the recently launched Quality Review/ Peer Review Process. To find out more about the HCS Approach Quality Review Process, please visit: www.highcarbonstock.org

HCV-HCS–FPIC Integration
An initial version of an Integration Guidance document has been developed and will be trialed on the ground this year.

Smallholders
The HCS Approach Smallholders work will focus on exploring how the HCS Approach could be adapted to and more accessible for smallholders, starting in the Indonesian context. The first physical Smallholders Working Group meeting will be held at the end of March 2016.

New Member Announcement
The Steering Group welcomes its newest member BASF, having joined in November 2015. To learn more about BASF, please visit: www.basf.com

HCS Approach on the Web

14 December, 2015: Sabah to test high carbon stock for sustainable oil palm
- Eco-Business

16 October, 2015: A new business model for palm oil?
- Eco-Business

16 October, 2015: Sustainable Palm Oil Manifesto group’s High Carbon Stock forests study would continue business as usual, environmentalists say
- Mongabay

To contact the HCS Approach Secretariat, please e-mail: info@highcarbonstock.org