HCS Approach Steering Group - News & Updates

HCS Convergence Making Good Progress

The 'convergence' of the HCS Approach and the HCS study continued to make good progress recently in a meeting of stakeholder organisations on the 13th and 14th of July in Singapore. This follows a meeting in March when the group confirmed agreement to working together to develop a single, coherent set of rules for implementation of companies’ commitments to “no deforestation” in their palm oil operations and supply chains. "We are well on the way to achieving convergence of the two methodologies by the end of the year," said Grant Rosoman, Executive Committee Chair of the HCSA Steering Group. "Considerable trust has been built over the last year and we are all looking forward to ending the confusion and uncertainty of having two methodologies."

Collaboration Announced: HCS Approach & HCV Resource Network

Last April, the Executive Committee of the HCSA Steering Group and representatives from the Management Committee of the High Conservation Value Resource Network met in Singapore to formally agree on collaborative efforts to integrate the governance and quality assurance of the HCV and HCS approaches. The meeting resulted in agreed next steps relating to joint quality assurance of HCV and HCS assessments, a future joint HCV-HCS assessment manual and the potential for a shared institutional home for the HCS and HCV approaches. For a full update on the meeting in April please visit www.highcarbonstock.org.

Rubber Sector Moves to No Deforestation and the HCS Approach

The recent policy announcement by Michelin signaled a move by the rubber sector to implement the HCS Approach for No Deforestation. Following this, Socfin, with rubber and palm oil plantations in Africa and Asia, has committed to using the HCS Approach.

The Michelin and Socfin policies can be viewed through the links below:


Images: courtesy of TFT and Golden Agri-Resources
High Carbon Stock Approach

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Sabah Jurisdictional Process Includes HCS Forest

The Sabah State ‘jurisdictional’ process, announced in November 2015, with the aim to comply with sustainable certification requirements for oil palm and forestry at a state level rather than by individual concessions or companies, has included consideration of high carbon stock forests identification. A working group has been formed that includes several members of the HCSA Steering Group and the Sabah State Jurisdictional Approach Steering Committee to incorporate this in the current plan.

Next HCS Approach Steering Group Meeting in September 2016

We are pleased to announce that the next in-person full member meeting will take place in Singapore on the 21st of September, 2016. A number of side meetings will also be scheduled for the various work streams. For more information, please contact: info@highcarbonstock.org

HCS Approach Methodology and Toolkit Revision Updates

Since February, the revision of the HCSA methodology has been making good progress. On the 30th of March, 65 stakeholders met for a Consultation Workshop to collect feedback on the current HCS Approach Toolkit. Following this, ‘expert clusters’ have been formed to discuss and make recommendations on key components of the methodology and draft a version 2 of the toolkit by mid-August. This includes converging many elements with the HCS Study methodology, such as the use of LiDAR, social requirements, and soil carbon, as well as including several new sections in the toolkit such as on Smallholders, High Forest Cover regions, Quality Assurance, and HCV/HCS/FPIC integration. A further round of stakeholder consultation is planned from mid-August, with the revision process expected to be completed by November.

Quality Review Process Guidance & Registered HCS Assessments

New sections have been launched on the HCSA website dedicated to quality review submissions and registered HCS assessments. One section houses the list of ongoing and completed registered assessments, while another section offers full guidance on the peer review submission process. To view these new pages, please visit: www.highcarbonstock.org.

Upcoming Dates & Events

3 - 5 August, 2016
Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit

1 - 10 September, 2016
IUCN World Conservation Congress - Hawai’i 2016

27 - 28 September, 2016
Innovation Forum 2016 - How business can tackle deforestation: Asia under the lens

27 - 28 October, 2016
The Consumer Goods Forum: The Sustainable Retail Summit

New Translations of the HCS Approach Toolkit Released

Spanish, Portuguese and French translations of the HCSA Toolkit are now available at: www.highcarbonstock.org. Artwork for print is available with the HCSA Secretariat, please contact: info@highcarbonstock.org

Images: courtesy of TFT and Golden Agri-Resources
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HCS Approach Work Stream Updates

High Forest Cover Landscapes

Case studies are being trialed in high forested landscapes with high social complexities in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Africa, using field data and research, mapping at a local and large landscape level, FPIC and community engagement and multi-stakeholder consultation. There are plans to feed in the initial findings into the HCS Approach toolkit revision, while the final report is likely to be included as an addendum to the toolkit and presented in a multi-stakeholder forum.

HCV-HCS-FPIC Integration

Since finalising the framework to synchronise HCV, HCS and FPIC, the working group has focused on looking for field sites to test the new framing. The working group is also in collaboration with the HCV Resource Network to prepare a descriptive manual for the application of the integration framework in the field.

Smallholders

Following a successful first meeting in April this year, the working group has now developed a plan for 2016 and 2017. This plan includes: market incentive research, developing materials that explain the HCS Approach concept for smallholders, and trialing extension services and incentive programmes for uptake of the HCS Approach by independent smallholders.

HCS Approach on the Web

10 March, 2016: Making 'no-deforestation' a political win-win for Indonesia
- Eco-Business

1 April, 2016: Palm oil’s new frontier: averting a Great Ape catastrophe in Cameroon
- Mongabay

13 June, 2016: Greenpeace France’s reaction to Michelin Zero Deforestation Commitment
- Greenpeace

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

New Member Announcement

The Steering Group welcomes its newest member Asian Agri, having joined in April 2016. To learn more about Asian Agri please visit: www.asianagri.com

Images: courtesy of TFT and Golden Agri-Resources