

Terms of Reference – Consultancy for the HCSA on HCS forest and HCV area restoration

Introduction

Established in 2014, the High Carbon Stock (HCS) Approach is a methodology that distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon, social and biodiversity values that may be developed. The methodology was developed with the aim to ensure a practical, transparent, robust, and scientifically credible approach that is widely accepted to implement commitments to halt deforestation in the tropics, while ensuring the rights and livelihoods of local peoples are respected.

The role of HCSA in tropical forest restoration is multi-fold. HCS forest and HCV area restoration may be recommended outcomes from HCV-HCSA assessments ('give and take' process, step 13 of the decision tree) if areas, such as corridors, stepping stones, or in-fill need to be restored to improve the viability of conservation areas and/or as a part of completing a conservation mosaic. HCSA restoration guidance is also needed for remediating or compensating areas wrongly cleared including areas important for community livelihoods. Engaging in the restoration of tropical forests also presents an opportunity for HCSA to engage in wider efforts to conserve tropical forests and further contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience.

The plan for developing restoration guidance and incorporating it into the HCSA toolkit was included in HCSA's Global Strategic Business Plan (section 1.1.7) and an agreement to institute a Restoration Technical Working Group was approved by the HCSA EC in 12th April 2019.

Objective

We are seeking an expert consultant to support the HCSA's restoration technical working group (RTWG) in developing technical guidance for a HCSA toolkit restoration module or other supporting documentation.

Deliverables

- 1) To review relevant scientific literature, research and guidance on restoration and remediation and existing relevant restoration, compensation and remediation models, in order to base HCSA requirements on best science and practice and to maximise efficiencies. This should include best practice and evidence on priority ecological contexts to include forest on mineral and peat soils in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. The review should also assess the evidence base and relative strengths/weaknesses of "proximate"¹ restoration, conservation and remediation versus "off-site"² compensation or conservation.
- 2) To develop for the HCSA RTWG *draft technical guidance*³ for restoration and remediation required when potential HCS forests, HCV areas and community use areas⁴ that are currently

¹ Either on site, adjacent to the site, or within the same landscape.

² Off site means outside of the landscape where the event occurred that requires restoration

³ Guidance on how to do restoration (evidence base on conservation outcomes for restoration, techniques for assisted, natural regeneration, also mechanisms for on or off site etc). The focus will be on forest restoration, with associated HCV and social remediation as applicable.

⁴ Aspects of the scope such as this are to be further discussed by the working group.

degraded or have been cleared or degraded in a manner that contravenes the HCSA Toolkit, HCSA membership requirements, including co-impact of lack of community consent. Collect and incorporate feedback from HCSA's RTWG, with the support from the HCSA secretariat, on draft proposals with aim to presenting final draft proposals to the working group in early October 2019.

As required, the HCSA technical working group will work with the consultant commissioned to produce a draft proposal of technical HCSA restoration guidance and principles.

Timeline

September 2019	Project commences with scientific literature review.
1 October 2019	Attend HCSA RTWG meeting present 1 st draft of guidance and collect feedback for producing next draft.
15th October 2019	2 nd draft submitted to the HCSA RTWG for feedback.
Nov/Dec 2019	Final draft submitted to the HCSA RTWG for approval.
March 2020	Final draft from HCSA RTWG submitted to the HCSA EC for approval.

Expertise and abilities

- Demonstrate expertise and experience related to restoration of tropical forest ecosystems
- Experience and/or knowledge of the High Carbon Stock Approach toolkit as well as concepts such as HCS Approach, HCV, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is preferable
- Excellent written communication skills with experience in producing formal technical documentation
- Excellent project planner/manager and time management skills;

Budget

Estimated days needed for this consultancy work will be approximately 10 days offering a competitive consultancy fee. The ideal starting date for this tender is no later than late September 2019.

If you have the relevant experience and are interested in the position, please send in your CV and cover letter to the HCSA Secretariat at info@highcarbonstock.org by **Friday, 20 September 2019**.

For all queries relating to this tender please also contact info@highcarbonstock.org.