

Technical Director Position for the High Carbon Stock Approach

The High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) is looking for a technical director to provide technical direction, expertise and support for HCSA's priority work streams and quality assurance.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with an international multi-stakeholder initiative supported by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), smallholders, communities, agricultural and forestry commodity production companies, consumer good companies and international initiatives and schemes to support the HCS Approach uptake in tropical forest biomes.

Role & Responsibilities

- Lead the technical coordination for the ongoing maintenance and further development of the HCS Approach methodology;
- Support the technical aspects for HCSA's priority work streams and corresponding working groups; monitor and report on progress;
- Provide technical expertise and support on quality assurance related matters including HCSA assessments, HCSA Peer Review Process, HCSA membership compliance, Integrated High Conservation Values (HCV)-HCSA assessments under HCV Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS) and training in coordination with the HCV Resource Network (HCVRN);
- Coordinate technical submissions linked to schemes and initiatives that have integrated or are integrating the HCS Approach and provide implementation support as required, on behalf of the HCSA Steering Group;
- Contribute to the technical direction and implementation support for HCSA's strategy;
- Engage with members, potential members and strategic partners such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), World Cocoa Foundation and the HCVRN;
- Represent the organisation at high-level and strategic forums;
- Support the production of technical reports and general communications.

Qualifications and experience required

- At least 5 to 7 years of working experience in a related field;
- Previous technical experience related to a natural science as well as concepts such as HCS Approach, HCV, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC);
- Experience and/or knowledge related to land use management, commodity production systems, natural resource management certification schemes and/or initiatives;
- Proven ability to understand and work with technical aspects (i.e. natural resource conservation, mapping and community rights) of responsible land use conservation and management and experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and monitoring systems;
- Work experience in multi-stakeholder and membership organisations, including consensus decision-making processes;
- A degree in a relevant subject (e.g. natural resources management, conservation, ecology, geography, social sciences);
- Experience of working in Latin America, West and Central Africa, or Southeast Asia would be valuable.

Skills and abilities

- Excellent research and analytical skills;
- A demonstrated ability for neutral judgement and able to listen and synthesise ideas;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a global team that is connected remotely;
- Excellent project management skills including excellent time-management, problem-solving and organisational abilities;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English; Indonesian or French is an advantage;
- Highly developed interpersonal and team working skills, as well as proven ability to operate in a multi-cultural environment;
- Ability and willingness to travel locally and internationally.

Pay, terms and conditions

The HCSA will offer a competitive salary for this role. Benefits and other conditions of engagement will be discussed and negotiated with short-listed candidates, based on the type of contract agreed, as well as the experience and background of the candidate.

Location

The location of the role is flexible. However, to facilitate smooth daily interaction with the HCSA secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, it would be ideal if the candidate is in a South-East Asia time zone, or otherwise able to spend 20% of their time in the South-East Asia region.

Duration and review

The role is offered preliminarily as a one-year contract, with a mutual break clause and performance review of six months. The ideal starting date for this position is before 15th September 2019.

Background

The HCS Approach is a widely recognised practical, field-tested methodology to implement commitments to halt deforestation in the tropics, while ensuring the rights and livelihoods of local peoples are respected. This has allowed major plantations and supply chain actors to reduce their impact by not clearing or purchasing goods from HCS forests that have high carbon, biodiversity and social values. The HCS Approach is being implemented in ten countries (i.e. Malaysia, Indonesia, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) and has aided the prevention of deforestation of several million hectares of tropical forests with over 500,000 hectares of HCS forests being conserved. The methodology is not country-, region-, nor commodity-specific; however, initial development, trialling and implementation are focused primarily on fragmented landscapes, in Asia Pacific and Africa, and with palm oil and pulp and paper plantations.

As of 2019, the HCS Approach's Steering Group membership and governance body has grown to 29 members and has nine further applicants. In addition, many more companies and organisations have made commitments and/or are implementing the HCS Approach.

The HCSA is a global civil society organisation registered in Singapore.