

# HCSA Communications and Claims Guide

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## Common HCSA Acronyms

These acronyms appear commonly in HCSA documents and communication materials and is a non-exhaustive list.

<i>ALS</i>	HCV Network Assessor Licensing Scheme
<i>EC</i>	Executive Committee
<i>FPIC</i>	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
<i>HCV</i>	High Conservation Value
<i>HCVA</i>	High Conservation Value area
<i>HCVN</i>	High Conservation Value Network
<i>HCS</i>	High Carbon Stock
<i>HCS+</i>	High Carbon Stock Study
<i>HCSA</i>	High Carbon Stock Approach
<i>HFCL</i>	High Forest Cover Landscapes
<i>HFCL WG</i>	High Forest Cover Landscapes Working Group
<i>ICLUP</i>	Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan
<i>NGO</i>	Non-governmental Organisation
<i>PWG</i>	Protection Working Group
<i>QAWG</i>	Quality Assurance Working Group
<i>SG</i>	Steering Group
<i>SHWG</i>	Smallholders Working Group
<i>SRWG</i>	Social Requirements Working Group
<i>TSO</i>	Technical Support Organisation
<i>TP</i>	Technical Panel

## Introduction

### The High Carbon Stock Approach

Established in 2014, [the High Carbon Stock Approach \(HCSA\)](#) is a methodology and toolkit that sets the standard approach for implementing no deforestation on-the-ground in tropical moist forest landscapes. It is a [methodology](#) that distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed, whilst ensuring that the rights and livelihoods of communities and workers are respected.

The HCSA methodology can be used for integrated land use planning in any country and commodity grown in tropical moist forest landscapes<sup>1</sup> and was developed through a collaboration among private sector companies in the palm oil and pulp sectors, environmental and social NGOs and technical support organisations.

It is a multi-stakeholder approach where companies or land managers with plans for new landholdings or changes in land use within existing landholdings produce and implement an Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan (ICLUP) at a “site-level.”<sup>2</sup> Its Social Requirements and associated guidance ensure this occurs with the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected indigenous peoples and local communities.

The HCSA Toolkit is open access and can be implemented by members of the HCSA and non-members, but requires [registration](#) of planned HCSA assessments and for companies to work with [Registered HCS Approach Practitioners](#) and ALS [Licensed Assessors](#) to undertake the assessments.<sup>3</sup> The requirements to use Licenced Assessors and to submit assessments for peer review are in place to ensure quality of assessments is in accordance with the HCSA Toolkit and HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual. The quality assurance processes also assist in ensuring that any claims made by land managers are supported by the published results of quality review process.

The HCSA methodologies can also be incorporated into other initiatives, quality assurance procedures, and 3rd party certification schemes. Additionally, it can be used in combination with other tools,

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<sup>1</sup> As of October 2020, the HCSA Toolkit has been used or trialled in 12 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Mexico and Peru); for plantations of oil palm, pulpwood, cocoa and rubber. See this [link](#) for more details on where the HCSA is being used and trialled.

<sup>2</sup> i.e., A management unit such as a concession or plantation holding ranging in size from many hundreds or thousands of hectares.

<sup>3</sup> The HCSA Quality Review Process is a quality assurance process to be followed for all stand-alone HCSA assessments completed by members of the Steering Group (pre-November 2017), as well as any other non-members who request review by the HCSA Steering Group. After November 2017, companies are required to conduct/commission HCV-HCSA Assessments which are evaluated by the HCVN ALS. HCV-HCSA assessments are evaluated by a Quality Panel through the HCVN's Assessor Licensing Scheme. HCSA stand-alone assessments are registered on HCSA's website [here](#). HCSA members are required to register both HCSA stand-alone and HCV-HCSA assessments with the HCSA secretariat. Non-members are required to register HCSA stand-alone assessments but also encouraged register HCV-HCSA assessments with the HCSA secretariat.

management practices, independent verification mechanisms, certification schemes and technologies to implement no deforestation commitments across supply chains.<sup>4</sup>

As of December 2020, close to three million hectares of HCSA assessment area was registered and just over 610,000 hectares of HCS forests were identified<sup>5</sup> using the HCSA methodology, and are in the process of, or have already been, set aside by companies for non-development and conservation. The HCS forest and HCV conservation and community use outcomes are reported via publicly available and independently reviewed stand-alone HCSA or HCV-HCSA assessments. The HCSA's Global Forest Watch Pro platform will be used for monitoring the long-term maintenance of the conservation areas.

The HCSA is adapting its methodology for application by independent smallholders and their support-organisations or supply chain partners. This simplified methodology has been trialled in the oil palm sector in Indonesia. Also, HCSA will soon have an open-access framework technical procedure for producing high-quality indicative HCSA-HCV maps at a landscape level.

## The HCSA Organisation

The High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) is a multi-stakeholder organisation with the following purpose:

*To ensure there is 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, livelihoods, and aspirations of local peoples are respected.*

The High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) Steering Group is an organisation with three functions:

- 1) **An Approach (HCSA Toolkit development) function:** The HCSA Steering Group (SG) develops and periodically reviews the [High Carbon Stock Approach Toolkit](#), and associated methodologies and guides, to provide practical guidance for land managers on how to implement No Deforestation commitments on-the-ground through an integrated conservation and land use planning approach. The Toolkit and associated methodologies are adapted for implementation at different scales by land managers in commodity supply chains in the tropics.
- 2) **Quality Assurance (HCSA Toolkit Implementation support) function:** The HCSA Secretariat, Quality Assurance Working Group, and peer reviewers provide a quality assurance process for

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<sup>4</sup> In November 2018, the HCSA was incorporated into the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)'s P&C for the [Production of Sustainable Palm Oil \(2018\)](#), which requires "Any new land clearing (in existing plantations or new plantings) after 15th November 2018 to be preceded by an HCV-HCSA Assessment, using the HCSA Toolkit and Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual" (See RSPO Principles and Criteria 7.12.2). The HCSA has been referenced for implementing no forest conversion/deforestation requirements in the following initiatives: [Climate Bonds Initiative \(CBI\) Forestry criteria \(Nov 2018\)](#); Cocoa Forest Initiative Framework for Action – [Ghana \(2017\)](#); [Côte d'Ivoire \(2017\)](#); [Cameroon \(2019\)](#); [Global Platform Sustainable Natural Rubber \(2020\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Figure updated July 2021. For the latest HCSA infographic data, see <http://highcarbonstock.org/communications-resources/>.

stand-alone assessments. The HCSA also provides accreditation of HCSA trainer organisations and registered HCSA practitioners, as well as maintaining a grievance procedure. These functions aim to support HCSA Toolkit implementation in addition to quality assurance processes undertaken by the High Conservation Value Network ALS system for HCV-HCSA Assessments.

- 3) **Monitoring Implementation of the HCSA (Impacts) function:** The HCSA monitors the long-term effectiveness (i.e., maintenance of identified conservation areas) of the implementation of the HCS Approach. The HCSA monitoring system is established through spatial data from HCSA assessments which delineates areas for development and areas for conservation. In addition, the monitoring is supported by the provision of spatial data from SG members and other land managers, practitioners, or collaborators using the HCSA. The result of the monitoring will inform future revisions of the HCSA Toolkit and associated methodologies, internal membership performance evaluation processes, alert and response protocols, and support the organisation and members in communicating publicly on the impacts achieved by HCSA implementation.

## Governance of the HCS Approach

The HCSA is a membership-based, multi-stakeholder initiative that is governed by its Steering Group, which is made up of all its [members](#). The HCSA SG member organisations are designated to one of five membership categories: plantation companies, commodity user companies, environmental and social non-governmental organisations (NGO), technical support organisations and smallholder/farmer support organisations.

The objective of the HCSA Steering Group, defined in full in its [Terms of Reference](#) is to:

*Provide overall governance of the current HCS Approach and oversee the further development of a methodology designed to achieve no-deforestation including refining its definition, its objectives and its relationship to other approaches to halting deforestation.*

All members are either implementing the HCS Approach in their operations and supply chains or supporting/promoting the HCS Approach with commodity producers, end users and public and private sector stakeholders.

The HCSA SG and its elected Executive Committee (EC) member representatives oversee the implementation of the three functions to ensure they are run in a way that are science based, practical, and supported by broad range of relevant key actors and stakeholders. The HCSA SG, EC and its working groups are supported by elected conveners and/ or the HCSA secretariat staff.

## About the Communications and Claims Guide

The HCSA SG members are encouraged to actively support and promote the HCSA, their membership and implementation of the HCS Approach through a variety of media and communication materials. All members have agreed to acknowledge their commitment to 'No Deforestation' and the HCS Approach through explicit endorsement. This includes a commitment to proactively promote and educate on the methodology, both internally and externally, including within members' own organisations and in communication or publicity materials (including web) to wider stakeholder groups.

This Communications and Claims Guide is to assist members in ensuring accurate representation and promotion of the HCS Approach and the HCSA SG as well as to avoid any miscommunication to external stakeholders or other third parties.

It is also a guide to claims that can be made by members and non-members that refer to the use of the HCSA Toolkit when implementing the HCS Approach or HCV-HCS Approach and when using the HCSA Quality Review Process or the High Conservation Value Network ALS system for assessing stand-alone HCSA assessments or HCV-HCSA assessments respectively. It also provides guidance on what claims cannot be made when requirements for Registered HCS Approach Practitioners and ALS Licenced Assessors and submission of assessments to the quality review processes have not been adhered to.

## HCSA Communication Guidance

The guidance below clarifies the appropriate use of the main acronyms' terms related to the High Carbon Stock Approach and provides a definition and a broader explanation for communicating about 'What is the High Carbon Stock Approach?'

### HCSA vs HCS Approach Terminology

*HCS Approach* or *HCSA* is used to refer to the HCS Approach as a methodology/Toolkit. E.g., "We implement the HCS Approach across our operations" or to describe stand-alone HCSA assessments. The terms can be used interchangeably.

*HCSA* can also be used when referring to the Steering Group. E.g., "We are members of the HCSA."

*HCV-HCSA* should be used when referring to integrated HCV-HCSA assessments, to distinguish them from HCSA stand-alone assessments.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> ALS Licenced Assessors conduct HCV-HCSA assessments according to the [HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual](#). For other interested parties looking for an overview of the steps in an HCV-HCSA assessment refer to [Toolkit Module 3](#).

## Definition

**HCS Approach:** is a methodology and toolkit that sets the standard approach for implementing no deforestation on-the-ground in tropical moist forest landscapes. It distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon, social, and biodiversity values that may be developed, whilst ensuring that the rights and livelihoods of communities and workers are respected.

**HCSA Toolkit:** used when referring to the HCS Approach Toolkit modules.

*Note: Toolkit is capitalised word ('T' is uppercase).*

## Public commitment requirements for HCSA Steering Group members

Prior to membership approval, organisations are required to release a public statement regarding their commitment and membership with HCSA. The public statement requirements are outlined in the [HCSA SG Membership Document](#) and the [HCSA Membership Requirements Review HCSA-MR-001-Version 1](#).

## Requirements for Claims made by HCSA Steering Group members

### Membership

In reference to its membership and commitment to the HCS Approach, a HCSA SG member can:

- Claim it is a member of the HCSA Steering Group;
- If an Executive Committee (EC) member, claim it is a member of the HCSA EC or the HCSA SG EC (It is incorrect to say a member of the HCS EC or HCS SG);
- Display the HCSA logo in its materials (e.g., documentation, website, communications) when referring to the HCS Approach and 'No Deforestation' according to the HCSA Logo Use guide (see below);
- Display and/or provide the HCSA website link in its HCSA-related communication materials.

### Claims about Use of Toolkit and stand-alone HCSA and HCV-HCSA assessments

This section is relevant for any HCSA SG member or non-member that refers to the use of the HCSA Toolkit when implementing the HCS Approach.



The HCSA Quality Review Process is a quality assurance process to be followed for all stand-alone HCSA assessments completed by members of the Steering Group (pre-November 2017), as well as any other non-members who request review by the HCSA Steering Group.<sup>7</sup>

The Quality Review Process mainly focuses on the quality of the HCS forest identification; however, the procedure also considers other elements such as a cursory review of the quality of the HCV assessment, environmental impact assessment, if a FPIC process was undertaken, and looks at how both are integrated alongside HCS forest in the proposed Integrated Land Use and Conservation Plan.

Outcomes of the quality assurance process are captured in public summary reports and published on the [HCSA](#) and/or [HCV Network](#) websites.

After November 2017, companies are required to conduct/commission HCV-HCSA Assessments which are evaluated by the HCVRN ALS.<sup>8</sup>

#### Appropriate claims for stand-alone HCSA Assessments:

- If the HCSA assessment was conducted by any of the organisations listed on the registered practitioners' [page](#), the organisation can say the HCSA Assessment was undertaken by an HCS Approach Registered Practitioner Organisation;
- Once the stand-alone HCSA assessment is listed on the website, the organisation can state that its HCSA assessment has been registered with the HCSA Secretariat and the HCSA will be used to identify HCS forests for conservation, safeguard HCV areas, and as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitment in the operation/s subject to the stand-alone assessments;
- If a stand-alone HCSA assessment(s) has been submitted for peer review through the HCSA Quality Review Process, then a claim can be made that the HCSA has been used to identify HCS forests for conservation, safeguard HCV areas, and as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitments in the operation/s subject and awaits the publication of the stand-alone assessments results of the quality review process;
- If the stand-alone HCSA assessment has gone through the HCSA Quality Review Process, is listed as a 'Completed Peer Review Assessment' on the HCSA registered assessment [webpage](#), then an organisation can claim:
  - the organisation has completed the HCSA Quality Review Process;

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<sup>7</sup> Note there are other limited exceptions to the November 2017 cut-off date for stand-alone HCSA assessments linked to the HCSA incorporation into the RSPO scheme. Due to the recognition that in some cases HCV assessments have previously been undertaken, Annex 5 of the RSPO P&C 2018 outlines a transition from HCV assessments to HCV-HCSA assessments and allows for standalone HCSA assessments to be conducted for specific scenarios. RSPO has published its Interpretation of Indicator 7.12.2 and Annex 5 for the RSPO Principles and Criteria 2018 which details the scenarios where an HCV-HCSA assessment and HCSA Standalone assessment are applicable. The RSPO is working with the HCSA on evaluating applicable assessments with a pass-fail mechanism to assess its members' compliance with the RSPO 7.12.2 indicator and the HCSA Toolkit requirements.

<sup>8</sup> The HCSA Quality Review Process is a quality assurance process to be followed for all stand-alone HCSA assessments completed by members of the Steering Group (pre-November 2017), as well as any other non-members who request review by the HCSA Steering Group. After November 2017, companies are required to conduct/commission HCV-HCSA Assessments which are evaluated by the HCVN ALS. For more details on the two quality assurance processes see this [link](#).

- they have implemented the HCS Approach to identify HCS forests for conservation, safeguarding HCV areas, and as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitments in the operation/s subject to the stand-alone assessments.

If making one of these claims, the organisation must explain that they are taking the recommendations of the HCS quality review into account and provide a link to the findings of the quality review panel.

Appropriate claims for HCV-HCSA assessments:

- If an HCV- HCSA assessment is registered and listed on the HCSA website,<sup>9</sup> the organisation can claim that:
  - its HCV-HCSA assessment has been registered with the HCSA Secretariat and the HCV-HCSA Manual, and the HCS and HCV Approaches, will be used to identify HCS forests and HCV areas for conservation and HCSA will be used as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitment in the operation/s subject to the HCV- HCSA assessments;
- If the HCV-HCSA assessment Manual has been used and an HCV-HCSA assessment report(s) has been submitted for review through the HCV Network Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS), then a claim can be made that:
  - the results of an HCV-HCSA assessment have been submitted to the HCVN ALS for Quality Assurance
  - the company awaits the publication of the results of the Quality Assurance Process that will verify the correct use of the HCV-HCSA Manual, and the HCS and HCV Approaches, to identify HCS forests and HCV areas for conservation and the HCSA as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitments.
- Once an HCV-HCSA assessment report has undergone evaluation by the HCV Network Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS) and been deemed satisfactory, then an organisation can claim:
  - they have used the HCV-HCS Manual, and the HCS and HCV Approaches, to identify HCS forests and HCV areas for conservation and HCSA as a tool to implement their No Deforestation commitments in the operation/s subject to the HCV- HCSA assessment(s) and that the organisation's HCV-HCSA assessment is satisfactory according to the HCVN ALS Quality Assurance Process.

A land manager cannot claim that:

- They have used the HCSA Toolkit if the assessment has not been registered with the HCSA Quality Review Process and completed either the HCSA Quality Review process, or the HCVN ALS Quality Assurance Process;
- They have used the HCSA Toolkit or that the HCS Approach has been followed if the assessment has not completed the HCSA Quality Review Process (including the registration step) or the HCVN ALS Quality Assurance Process;

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<sup>9</sup> HCSA assessments are registered on HCSA's [website](#). HCSA members are required to register both HCSA stand-alone and HCV-HCSA assessments with the HCSA secretariat. Non-members are required to register HCSA stand-alone assessments but also encouraged to register HCV-HCSA assessments with the HCSA secretariat.

- That any of the operation/s of the company, has been certified by the HCSA or has undergone HCSA certification as the HCSA is not a certification system;
- That using the HCSA, or HCVN quality review processes means that any of the operation/s of the company have been verified by a third party as being in compliance with a 'No Deforestation' policy. The HCSA does not provide a service for third party-verified compliance with a 'No Deforestation' policy.
- That an HCS Assessment was 'deemed satisfactory' by the HCS Quality Review Process, as the HCSA Quality Review Process does not provide a 'pass' or 'fail' determination nor verifies that any recommendations made by the Peer Review Panel were implemented in full.<sup>10</sup>

## HCSA Trial Claims

As HCSA trials are conducted to learn and adapt the HCS Approach, the project results and recommendations arising from the trials will not be disclosed via external publications nor HCSA claims made unless agreed and approved under the trial proposal by the HCSA Executive Committee. Any HCSA claims must be approved by the HCSA communications task force.

Non-member trials are not permitted to link any HCSA claims to the results unless there is a request and approval by the HCSA EC to conduct a trial according to the [HCS Approach Trialling Protocol](#) and any subsequent HCSA claims are approved by the HCSA communications task force.

## Misleading claims or links to project-level carbon trading

Members must not make any misleading or unsubstantiated claims about the use of the HCSA methodology, including linking the HCS Approach with project-level carbon trading. This does not include government-mandated carbon-related submissions and registrations.

## Communications Risk Management

Members will – normally in advance of publication – share information to the affected member and the HCSA secretariat on external communications on HCS Approach-related issues or other issues that may indirectly impact the reputation of HCSA or other members directly. This may include public campaigns or commercial actions that adversely affect the reputation of other members.

The accused member will be provided 10 working days to respond to the allegations. All allegations discussed within the HCSA are confidential in nature. The HCSA Secretariat also should be informed of any allegations on potential membership breaches in order to have oversight and provide assistance to ensure HCSA SG members are following the HCSA membership code of conduct.

Any disputes regarding breaches of the HCSA SG Code of Conduct (outlined in the [HCSA SG Membership Document](#)) will be addressed under HCSA's Grievance Mechanism.

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<sup>10</sup> Note the RSPO is working with the HCSA on evaluating applicable assessments with a pass-fail mechanism to assess its members' compliance with the RSPO 7.12.2 indicator and the HCSA Toolkit requirements.

## Claims by non-members

The HCSA reserves the right to publicly refute misleading or unsubstantiated claims made by any party regarding the HCS Approach, including regarding claims of using the HCSA methodology or Toolkit, meeting HCSA requirements, or achieving compliance with the HCS Approach methodology.

Non-member organisations are not allowed to use the HCSA logo in any way or display and/or provide the HCSA website link in a claim without prior approval from the HCSA Secretariat.

Non-members who use the HCS Approach are allowed to make claims about their use of the methodology according to the guidance above. Non-members are not allowed to make any statements on behalf of the HCS Approach, or claim to be a member of, or affiliated with, the HCSA.

If a member or stakeholder identifies a misleading claim, the member or stakeholder is requested to inform the HCSA Secretariat. The HCSA Secretariat will take appropriate action thereafter.

## HCSA Logo Use



When using the HCSA logo, always position the logo for maximum impact and give it plenty of room to breathe. This will help to ensure our logo's visibility and legibility.

The "HCS" and "A", as well as the "High Carbon Stock" and "Approach", in the logo are intentionally different to signify that this group represents the HCS *Approach*.

**Minimum size:** When reproducing the HCSA logo, be conscious of its size and legibility. Generally, our logo should **never appear less than 3/8"** tall in printed materials, and **no less than 36px** tall in the digital realm. A minimum blank border size of **0.3 cm** should surround the logo.

**Do not:**

- redesign, redraw, animate, modify, distort, or alter the proportions of the marks.
- surround the components with—or place in the foreground over—a pattern or design.
- rotate or render the components three-dimensionally.
- add words, images, or any other new elements to the components.
- replace the approved typeface with any other typeface.
- enclose the components in a shape or combine it with other design elements or effects.
- modify the size or position relationship of any element within the components.

Non-member organisations are not allowed to use the HCSA logo in any way, without prior approval from the HCSA SG Secretariat.

Various communications materials for HCSA SG member promotion and stakeholder reference are available on the [HCSA website](#). These include:

- [HCSA Toolkit](#) - The Toolkit is designed to standardise the methodology and to make it available to all practitioners. This revised version incorporates the latest scientific research, feedback from on-the-ground trials as well as new topics and inputs from working groups of the HCS Approach Steering Group.
- A [Resource library](#) - namely documents issued by the HCSA SG and WGs for download including documents for the HCSA Quality Review Process; videos on the HCS Approach and how it works; and case studies developed by members and non-members in implementing the HCS Approach;
- [PowerPoint presentations](#) – reference material by HCSA SG members who have attended events on behalf of HCSA;
- [News and events](#) – with the latest newsletters, a list of events with HCSA SG presence and links to the HCS Approach and HCSA SG activities.

*For more information on the guidelines or to get a hold of the HCSA logos and font, you may contact the Secretariat at [info@highcarbonstock.org](mailto:info@highcarbonstock.org).*



## Annex I: Glossary

Below are the identified key definitions applicable to this document.

Term	Definition/Reference
Commodity User [HCSA member category]	A <i>commodity</i> user that meets the Eligibility Requirements of a HCSA SG membership and is an active member of HCSA.
Global supply chain	The entire global network of producers, <i>processors</i> and <i>traders</i> of an applicable commodity to the organisation.
High Carbon Stock Approach (HCS Approach)	HCS Approach is a methodology and toolkit that sets the standard approach for implementing no deforestation on-the-ground in tropical moist forest landscapes. It is a methodology that distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed, whilst ensuring that the rights and livelihoods of communities and workers are respected.
High Conservation Value (HCV)	<p>Any of the following values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ HCV 1 -Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.</li> <li>■ HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and IFL. Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</li> <li>■ HCV 3 -Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</li> <li>■ HCV 4 - Ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ HCV 5 -Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>■ HCV 6 - Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ul> <p>[Source: <a href="#">Common Guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values</a>]</p>
<p><b>Integrated Conservation Land Use Plan (ICLUP)</b></p>	<p>An organisation’s map of its proposed <i>conservation areas</i>, development areas, community land use areas, including a full management and monitoring framework for land use and evidence of agreement with the local communities. [Source: Adapted from HCSA Glossary of Terms]</p>
<p><b>Investment holding</b></p>	<p>Any company in which a <i>Plantation Company</i> or <i>Commodity User</i> has any form of stake, regardless of whether this is a majority stake, board membership or any other form of stake or investment.</p>
<p><b>Moratorium</b></p>	<p>A temporary prohibition of an activity. In this case, the cessation of roading, drainage and clearance in <i>potential High Carbon Stock forests</i> until it has been determined whether the area is a High Carbon Stock Forest or has High Conservation Values.</p>
<p><b>Non-Governmental Organisations [HCSA member category]</b></p>	<p>A <i>non-governmental organisation</i> that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of a HCSA SG membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.</p>
<p><b>Planned, potential or active deforestation</b></p>	<p>Clearance of High Carbon Stock forests, High Conservation Value areas and peatlands, as defined by the <a href="#">HCSA Toolkit</a>, which is either in progress, programmed to occur or may possibly occur in the near or distant future.</p>
<p><b>Plantation Companies [HCSA member category]</b></p>	<p>A <i>plantation company</i> that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of a HCSA SG membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.</p>



<p><b>Potential High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests</b></p>	<p>All areas within and outside the management of an organisation that have yet to be assessed through the application of the HCSA Toolkit that have the potential to be identified through analyses of satellite data and ground survey measurements as High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests: vegetation on the land that could be categorized as High Density Forest, Medium Density Forest, Low Density Forest or Young Regenerating Forest.</p>
<p><b>Processors</b></p>	<p>Those that are processing and/or refining a commodity that potentially contributes to deforestation.</p>
<p><b>Respecting human rights</b></p>	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 sets out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Dozens of human rights instruments (declarations, conventions and treaties) have since been developed which build on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These instruments cover the rights of workers, women, children, indigenous peoples, minorities, farmers, migrants, refugees and etc. The HCSA Social Requirements are based on these international human rights instruments and describe the obligations of those applying the HCSA to respect human rights.</p>
<p><b>Smallholder/Farmer Support Organisations [HCSA member category]</b></p>	<p>A <i>smallholder/farmer support organisation</i> that meets the Eligibility Requirements of a HCSA SG membership and is an active member of HCSA.</p>
<p><b>Suppliers</b></p>	<p>Individual, company or other legal entity providing goods or services to an organisation, commonly referred to as “tier 1”. [Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1.]</p> <p><i>Suppliers</i> may include a producer or company that supplies raw materials, processed materials, or finished products to a buyer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Suppliers</i> can include producers, <i>processors</i>, <i>traders</i>, and <i>manufacturers</i>. For instance, farms or processing mills supply raw or processed materials to <i>traders</i>, while <i>manufacturers</i> supply consumer products to retailers.</li> <li>▪ A given company can be both a supplier and a buyer.</li> <li>▪ A supplier may either be a <i>direct supplier</i> (selling directly to the buyer) or an <i>indirect supplier</i> (selling to an intermediary that is one or more steps removed from the buyer).</li> </ul> <p>[Source: <a href="#">Accountability Framework definitions</a>]</p> <p>For <i>Plantation Companies</i>, who are also <i>processors</i> and/or <i>traders</i>, <i>direct suppliers</i> may include:</p>





	<p>Supply which originate directly from a management unit under the control of primary processing facility</p> <p>Supply which originate directly from primary processing facility.</p> <p><i>For Commodity Users, direct suppliers: A supplier selling directly to the buyer, commonly referred to as Tier One suppliers.</i></p>
<p><b>Technical Support Organisations [HCSA member category]</b></p>	<p><i>A technical support organisation that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of a HCSA SG membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.</i></p>
<p><b>Traders</b></p>	<p>A business that purchases and sells raw or primary processed agricultural or forestry materials. Traders commonly also provide transport services for these goods. Trading companies may also engage in primary or secondary processing.</p> <p>[Source: <a href="#">Accountability Framework definitions</a>]</p>