

HIGH CARBON STOCK APPROACH

RESTORATION AND REMEDIATION GUIDANCE

Version 1

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Contents

High Carbon Stock Approach Restoration and Remediation Guidance	2
Purpose	2
Scope.....	3
Principles and Criteria	4
P1. Restore to the Highest Level of Ecological Recovery	4
▪ C1.1: Ecological Values: Functioning, Composition, and Structure	4
▪ C1.2 Equivalence	4
▪ C1.3 Best Approach	4
▪ C1.4 Proximate Restoration	4
▪ C1.5 Permanence.....	4
▪ C1.6 Additionality	5
P2. Social Remedy respects Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes and is established with the cooperation of affected communities	5
▪ C2.1 Social Remediation Assessment	5
▪ C2.2 FPIC Processes	6
▪ C2.3 Community Involvement in Restoration and Remediation.....	6
▪ C2.4 Rights to Remedy.....	6
P3. Long-term Restoration/Remediation Management and Monitoring Plans are established and well-resourced	6
▪ C3.1 Long-term Management and Monitoring Plans	6
▪ C3.2 Legal Compliance	7
▪ C3.3 Verification	7
▪ C3.4 Public Reporting.....	7
Annex I: Glossary	8

High Carbon Stock Approach Restoration and Remediation Guidance

Purpose

This document outlines HCSA’s Principles and Criteria for ecological *restoration* and social *remedy* for wrongly directly or indirectly¹ cleared and/or degraded *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)*, *peatland(s)*, or *community land(s)* managed by HCSA Steering Group members, including *investment holdings* regardless of the stake, and their *suppliers*, or any party committed to or implementing the *HCS Approach* via either [stand-alone HCSA or HCV-HCS assessments](#). HCSA Restoration and Remediation Principles and Criteria set the minimum guidelines that must be followed to ensure *restoration* and *remediation* packages [Note: *restoration* is the term used to cover ecological *restoration* and rehabilitation², and *remediation* for social *remedy* actions] are credible and have the best chance for long-term success.

This guidance was developed in collaboration with the HCSA Steering Group (SG), in particular with the SG Executive Committee (EC), and the High Conservation Value Network (HCVN). This guidance will be trialled over the next two years and implementation support will be provided by the HCSA and HCVN Secretariats. In 2024, the HCSA SG in cooperation with the HCSA and HCVN Secretariats, the guidance will be reviewed and revised as appropriate. Furthermore, this guidance will be used until the HCSA Restoration Technical Working Group is established and the HCSA Toolkit restoration and remediation requirements and implementation guidance are completed and published.

¹ Direct causes meaning removing or damaging identified and known *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)*, *peatland(s)*, or *community land(s)* or through indirect causes: e.g., 3rd party illegal land encroachment, fire damage, extreme climate event, etc.

² See Annex 1 Glossary.

Scope

This document applies to HCSA member *operations, investments* and *supply chains*, in accordance with the [HCSA Membership requirements](#)³ or to any party committed⁴ to or implementing the *HCS Approach*⁵ where:

- An [HCSA grievance](#) case outcome and resolution action plan that dictates *restoration* and/or *remediation* is required to resolve verified clearance or degradation of identified, known or potential⁶ *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands*⁷ and/or;
- The HCSA Alert and Monitoring system has detected and verified clearance or degradation of identified, known, or potential *HCS forest(s), HCV area(s), peatland(s), or community land(s)* that require *restoration* and/or *remediation*.

For *independent smallholders*, only the Guidance Principles, with simplified expectations for management and monitoring or alternative avenues for *remedy* apply. Furthermore, the HCSA Secretariat and its members are committed to providing *restoration* and *remedy* implementation support for *smallholders* (e.g. resources such as funding support, technical assistance such as providing training to build capacity and expertise; planning, management and monitoring support; etc.).

The guidance is applied with a strict *cut-off date* for cases of verified clearance or degradation of *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands*. The *cut-off date* is the **earlier date** of either:

- i) The publication of the HCSA Toolkit - April 2015
- or
- ii) The cut-off date established by the No Deforestation policy of an HCSA Steering Group [member](#) or any party committed to or implementing the *HCS Approach*.

³ Also see Annex 1 Glossary for more details on how HCSA members, *suppliers, investment holdings* etc. are defined.

⁴ For any party that is not a HCSA member or connected to a HCSA member's supply chain or *investment holdings* nor has yet to implement the *HCV-HCS Approach*, it is highly recommended this guidance is implemented to ensure alignment with a party's commitment to implementing the *HCS Approach*. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that a party not yet a HCSA member or HCSA Toolkit user commits to joining the HCSA and use the Toolkit which can greatly assist a party's implementation of its commitment to use the *HCS Approach*.

⁵ For cases where no HCSA assessment has been conducted e.g. clearance of an area under *moratorium*, a calculation/Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) and/or social assessment would also be required to determine the nature and extent of what needs to be restored or remedied.

⁶ In some cases, the exact classification of which *HCS forest* class or *HCV value* has been cleared or degraded cannot be fully determined thus potential is included here for these cases and the restoration action plan will have the possibility to use proxies to restore the potential HCS forest class or HCV value e.g. a formerly known presence of a RTE species can no longer be confirmed but the habitat associated with its former presence can be verified and restored.

⁷ It is noted that *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands* may be overlapping and not always independent of one another.

Principles and Criteria

P1. Restore to the Highest Level of Ecological Recovery

- **C1.1: Ecological Values: Functioning, Composition and Structure** - The goal of the ecological *restoration* shall be the highest level of recovery attainable which includes restoring the ecosystem composition and structure of cleared and/or degraded *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)* and *peatland(s)* and thereby working to restore its ecological functioning.
- **C1.2 Equivalence** - Equivalent ecosystem types and ecological values, ‘like for like’, to the *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)* and *peatland(s)* cleared and/or degraded shall be restored informed by *proximate* reference HCS vegetation classes and/or HCV types and/or *peatland*. At a minimum, an equivalent area to that cleared or degraded must be restored and remain in an undisturbed state⁸.
- **C1.3 Best Approach** - The most appropriate *restoration approach(es)* and management shall be determined by the ability to restore the equivalent ecosystem type and its ecological values. The adopted *restoration approach(es)* and management, and their demonstrated effectiveness, must be based on the best available peer-reviewed science and/or *traditional knowledge*; with *natural regeneration*⁹ considered as the first option as confirmed as the most suitable option.
- **C1.4 Proximate Restoration** - The priority for *restoration* is for it to be carried out *in situ*.¹⁰ If this cannot be done then equivalent ecological values and ecosystem type to the *HCS forest*, *HCV areas*, and *peatland* areas cleared and/or degraded areas may be ‘off-site’ but must be *proximate*¹¹ to the area cleared /or degraded in an adjacent site(s) or within the landscape.¹² Restoration should aim to take place within a company’s *jurisdiction(s)* of *operation(s)*.
- **C1.5 Permanence** – The ecological *restoration* must aim at being permanent.¹³ This acknowledges ecological *restoration* is a continuous improvement process that requires regular monitoring to support its success. It also includes consideration of how to manage the *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)*, and *peatland(s)* adaptively to ensure their long-term resilience, especially under different climate change scenarios and other natural and anthropogenic disturbances risks. Risk mitigation measures (e.g. a larger *restoration* or *conservation area*, buffer approaches to safeguard against potential reversals) may need to be put into place.

⁸ Unless otherwise agreed with affected communities and in accordance with HCSA Integrated Conservation Land Use Guidance sections: 3.1.3 Zoning of the concession (page 19), and 3.1.5 Management measures (Page 23).

⁹ See Annex 1 Glossary.

¹⁰ See Annex 1 Glossary.

¹¹ See Annex 1 Glossary.

¹² Under exceptional circumstances where *in situ* or off-site *proximate* activities are not feasible, *restoration* may take place off-site outside of the landscape. Examples of exceptional circumstances include where these activities would be in violation of the law(s), where communities would require *involuntary resettlement*, and/or the FPIC of each affected community is not given. Cost of *restoration* or not wanting to restore already planted lands is not normally considered an exceptional circumstance. Any applications for exceptional circumstances will require approval by the HCSA EC or a panel appointed by the HCSA EC.

¹³ The outcomes are sought to be permanent which is defined as a minimum of 25 years and preferably in perpetuity. Plans and monitoring outcomes should also aim to set regular short and medium-term milestone goals and ensure plans are reviewed and updated as necessary and at minimum at 5-year intervals.

This also includes management considerations such as securing long-term tenure agreements, financing, management arrangements, and monitoring.¹⁴

- **C1.6 Additionality** - Areas to be permanently restored must exceed the status quo or business-as-usual scenario. For instance, they must be additional to existing *conservation areas* and conservation efforts that are already planned, are required by law, or are likely to manifest as a result of typical processes of ecological succession.¹⁵

P2. Social Remedy respects Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes and is established with the cooperation of affected communities

- **C2.1 Social Remediation Assessment** with the consent of each affected community¹⁶ in a Social Remediation assessment of the social landscape¹⁷ must be undertaken to:
 - 1) Map the actors and/or communities involved in or impacted by cleared and/or degraded *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands* and that may be involved or impacted by the proposed *restoration and remediation* activities.
 - 2) Document the *negative social impacts*¹⁸ that the cleared and/or degraded *HCS forest(s), HCV area(s), peatland(s), or community land(s)* had and/or continues to have on community food security and livelihoods, access to water, medicines and forest products, and cultural sites. *Negative social impacts* must be determined in consultation with affected communities.
 - 3) Include information on any intimidation or criminalisation that each community may have suffered in resisting the clearance of *HCS forest(s), HCV area(s), peatland(s), or community land(s)*.
 - 4) Assess the availability and accessibility of a grievance mechanism for local communities to potentially use to address *negative social impacts* and harms caused to communities should also be assessed for the period when clearance or degradation took place and for use into the future, as a minimum for the duration of the implementation of the *restoration and remediation* activities.

The Social Remediation Assessment must be undertaken by independent 3rd party evaluators and in consultation with affected communities. When requested, assessments must be carried out through procedures that protect the security and provide anonymity to community

¹⁴ Adapted from The Accountability Framework 'Operational Guidance on Environmental Restoration and Compensation'. Published June 2019; minor revision March 2020.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ The pool of potentially affected communities can be identified from the relevant [HCSA assessment report\(s\)](#) linked to the landscape area of interest.

¹⁷ To inform the range of what local communities may have been impacted and need to be engaged in the assessment, the completed social studies required to be conducted as part of HCSA assessment(s) (see HCSA Social Requirements Module and Implementation guidance for [more details](#)) should be reviewed. If the range of local communities i.e. a subset of local communities from all affected communities recognised under the relevant [HCSA assessment\(s\) reports](#) impacted from, is not clear and justified then all the recognised affected communities identified within the relevant [HCSA assessment\(s\) reports](#) must be engaged in the social assessment.

¹⁸ See Annex I Glossary.

spokespersons. Consultations must ensure that harms to women, the elderly, children, migrant and informal workers, and marginal groups are given due consideration, where necessary through targeted consultations.

The results of the assessment of social harms caused must be shared in full and documented as approved by affected communities prior to being submitted to the HCSA or being used as a basis for the development of remedial plans.

- **C2.2 FPIC Processes** Proper mutually agreed FPIC processes are respected and undertaken in accordance with the HCSA Social Requirements. Evidence must be available to demonstrate the use of FPIC processes and used to:
 - 1) Confirm consent by communities as to who conducts the Social Remediation Assessment or other 3rd party involvement.
 - 2) Verify the *negative social impacts* of the clearance and/or degradation of *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands*.
 - 3) Define the actions that must be taken to remedy the *negative social impacts* and rights violations resulting from cleared and/or degraded *HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands* and obtain consent to the *remediation* plan; including time-bound milestones for the delivery of *remedy* for all harms caused.

- **C2.3 Community Involvement in Restoration and Remediation** Community consent for and involvement in *restoration* and *remediation* planning, activities, and the ongoing use and management of the restored *HCS forest(s)* and/or *HCV area(s)* and/or *peatland(s)* must be obtained and organised to respect the land tenure rights and self-determination of communities. In cases where land tenure rights are unclear or weak¹⁹, company support for community efforts to obtain more secure land tenure must still be presented as an option to affected communities, along with benefits and incentives for playing an active role in *restoration* and conservation.

- **C2.4 Rights to Remedy** Violations of a human right give rise to a right to *remedy* and *remedy* may take the form of a combination of restitution, *restoration*, compensation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. Compensation may not necessarily be in the form of cash but maybe in the form of other benefits requested by or agreed with the community. Measures must be taken to ensure that the benefits of *remedy* are equitably shared among all those whose rights have been impaired.

P3. Long-term Restoration/Remediation Management and Monitoring Plans are established and well-resourced

- **C3.1 Long-term Management and Monitoring Plans** should include:

¹⁹ This may be the case where: i) land tenure security was insufficiently completed under a stand-alone HCSA assessment as identified by the stand-alone HCSA assessment peer reviewer and documented in the published stand-alone [HCSA assessment report](#) and/or ii) if *restoration* is required in a new area where new communities, not formerly engaged, require engagement and cooperation to implement the *restoration* plans.

- 1) *Restoration* and *remediation* goals and objectives with clear implementation timeframes and contain measurable indicators for monitoring progress and success.
 - 2) A description of the *restoration* and remedial practices and activities, and the roles and responsibilities of the *restoration/remediation* team tied to delivering the desired outcomes. It is also highly recommended that local ecologists and social experts are a part of the team or at minimum involved in reviewing and providing recommendations to the plans and monitoring results.
 - 3) *Restoration/remediation* and monitoring plans are sufficiently resourced. The resources should include funding to support affected communities to fully participate in the planning and implementation of *restoration* and *remediation*.
 - 4) Supporting long-lasting outcomes²⁰ of the Restoration/Remediation Management and Monitoring Plans to:
 - i) Secure long-term tenure agreements and any other necessary legal approvals or instruments that may be needed to support the management and monitoring plans.
 - ii) Support Continuous learning, monitoring, and management plans which are maintained long-term²¹ and adapted as necessary for the long-term resilience of the *restoration* and *remediation* outcomes.
- **C3.2 Legal Compliance:** *Restoration* and/or *remediation* plans and activities comply with all applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations. An organisation has in place a system to document how it complies with all relevant laws and this system has the means to track changes to the law(s) and/or new applicable laws.
 - **C3.3 Verification:** Independent third-party²² *verification* is regularly used to assess and verify the fulfilment of *restoration* and *remediation* plans and the *restoration* and *remediation* progress/achievements on-the-ground.
 - **C3.4 Public Reporting:** Regular publication of progress/results against the organisation's *restoration* and *remediation* goals and objectives, which is accompanied by spatial data, is managed at a minimum every 2 years. Publications are widely disseminated and communicated to affected communities in their chosen language, stakeholders, and partners in a transparent manner.

²⁰ Restoration/Remediation Management and Monitoring Plans designed to deliver long-lasting outcomes. The outcomes are sought to be permanent which is defined as a minimum of 25 years and preferably in perpetuity. Plans and monitoring outcomes should also aim to set regular short and medium-term milestone goals and ensure plans are reviewed and updated as necessary and at minimum at 5-year intervals.

²¹ At minimum for 10-20 years or until evidence is provided that the *remediation* goals have been met including having resilience to be maintained long-term.

²² By independent 3rd parties with relevant environmental and social expertise including traditional knowledge; and highly desirable, with parties with *HCS forest(s)*, *HCV area(s)* and *peatland(s)* *restoration* and/or related *remediation* experience.

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 HCSA membership and is an active member of HCSA.
Commodity user	Organisations that process, manufacture or trade in commodities. ²³
Community lands	Customary property that is/was traditionally controlled and managed by an Indigenous People (IP) or a traditional community regardless of current legal designation* and lands of IP and local communities and/or lands of IP and local communities recognised by government. * See HCSA Social Requirements 3 and 13 for more guidance on recognising customary property rights of IP or a traditional community.
Conservation area	Areas containing <i>High Conservation Values, High Carbon Stock forests, peatland</i> or other areas established for the protection, connection, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species, and population, via an Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan, including in order to safeguard the areas from conversion to another land use.
Corporate owned landbanks	All <i>raw material producers</i> that are not <i>independent smallholders</i> .
Direct supplier	A supplier selling directly to the buyer, commonly referred to as Tier One <i>supplier</i> . The supplier can also be a mill, own <i>plantation</i> , third party <i>plantation</i> , schemed smallholder groups that sell directly to the company without any intermediaries. [Source: adapted from Accountability Framework definitions].

²³ Group, control and associated entities is yet to be clarified and as such the definition that can be used is the [RSPO](#) or Accountability Framework definition (found under Different types of supply chain actors, corporate group definition).

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)	<p>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.</p> <p>It stratifies the vegetation in an area of land into six different classes using analyses of satellite data and ground survey measurements. These six classes are High Density Forest, Medium Density Forest, Low Density Forest, Young Regenerating Forest, Scrub, and Cleared/ Open Land. The first four classes are considered potential High Carbon Stock forests.</p>
High Carbon Stock Forest(s)	Natural <u>tropical moist</u> forests classified as High-Density Forest, Medium Density Forest, Low-Density Forest, Young Regenerating Forest defined by levels of biomass, vegetation structure, and composition using the <u>High Carbon Stock Forest Approach</u> .
High Conservation Values (HCV)	<p>Any of the following values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. ■ HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics, and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL). Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and 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. ■ HCV 3 -Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats, or refugia.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HCV 4 - Ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes. ■ 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. ■ 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. <p>[Source: Common Guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values]</p>
<p>Independent smallholders</p>	<p>Farmers who own land or have long-term lease or sharecropping arrangements to a certain maximum farm holding size*, live in villages, use the farm as their main income, are free to manage their land and its production, and the farm is based primarily on their own family labour and capital. This is compared to scheme smallholders, who are structurally bound by contract, by a credit agreement, or by planning to supply a particular mill or processing facility and do not qualify as <i>independent smallholders</i>.</p> <p>* For Indonesia: 10 hectares. HCSA will develop maximum farm holding sizes for <i>independent smallholders</i> in all commodity supply chains and other geographies that the Simplified HCS-HCV Approach for Smallholders is being applied. Certification Standard National Interpretations (NIs) for <i>independent smallholders</i> where they exist for a specific commodity, or where commodity NIs do not exist, common global definitions for <i>independent smallholders</i>, may be applicable if they are considered by the HCSA to be applicable.</p>
<p>In situ</p>	<p><i>Restoration</i> of the actual areas of cleared or degraded <i>HCS forests/ HCV areas/ peatlands</i> within a development area.</p>

Integrated Conservation Land Use Plan (ICLUP)	An organisation’s map of its proposed <i>conservation areas</i> , development areas, <i>community land</i> 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]
Investment holding	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.
Involuntary resettlement	Refers both to physical displacement (relocation or loss of shelter) and to economic displacement (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood) as a result of <i>HCS forest/HCV area/peatland restoration</i> and/or restrictions on current land use. Resettlement is considered involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land <i>restoration</i> or restrictions on land use due to <i>restoration</i> that result in physical or economic displacement, which may result in long-term hardship and impoverishment as well as social stress. An adapted definition from the Involuntary Resettlement from International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 5 .
Jurisdiction	An area established by administrative boundary including sub-national levels of government.
Land conflicts	Disputes over ownership of land use rights.
Landholding	An area of land that an organisation owns, rents, or has management rights on. This includes development areas, administrative areas, permit areas, and other such government allocations.
Landbank	All parcels of land or real estate managed, owned or leased by the <i>Plantation Company</i> , provided to a company through legal means by the government agency responsible for issuance of permits for land allocation and use, purchased by the company through legal means, or held in trust, as for future development.
Manufacturer	A company that <i>manufacturers</i> consumer products from raw or processed agricultural or forestry materials. [Source: Accountability Framework definitions]
Moratorium	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 <i>High Carbon Stock Forest</i> or has <i>High Conservation Values</i> .

Natural regeneration	<i>Restoration</i> should prioritize the use of native species, seek to accelerate <i>natural regeneration</i> and succession as much as possible and restore pre-existing hydrological conditions (e.g. water flow and quality) where these are necessary for the <i>restoration</i> of ecosystems (such as <i>peatlands</i> and other wetlands). An excerpt from The Accountability Framework ‘Operational Guidance on Environmental Restoration and Compensation’. Published June 2019; minor revision March 2020.
Negative social impacts	<i>Local communities that are negatively impacted or harmed by cleared and/or degraded HCS forests, HCV areas, peatland, or community lands and that may be impacted by the proposed restoration and remediation activities.</i>
Non-Governmental Organisation [HCSA member category]	A non-governmental organisation that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of HCSA membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.
Non-governmental organisation	Any non-profit or voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level.
Operations	All of the businesses that constitute an organisation.
Peatland(s)	Histosols (organic soils) are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm or 100cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more of organic matter (35% or more Loss on Ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon (FAO 1998, 2006/7; USDA 2014; IUSS 1930). Note under the HCSA <i>peatlands</i> of any depth is required to be conserved (The HCS Approach Toolkit, Module 5 , Version 2.0, August 2017)
Plantation	A land area predominantly composed of an agricultural crop or tree species established through planting and/or deliberate seeding that lacks key elements of a natural native ecosystem to the area such as species composition and structural diversity, and associated land uses such as infrastructure (e.g., roads), riparian zones and conservation set asides.
Plantation Company [HCSA member category]	A <i>plantation company</i> that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of HCSA membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.

Plantation company	<p>An enterprise, firm, or other organisational and legal entity involved in the development and management of <i>Plantations</i>. This definition encompasses all company ownership structures, including privately held, publicly traded and state-owned companies as well as companies in which states hold an interest. For the purpose of the Accountability Framework, a company is defined to include the corporate group²⁴ of which it is part. This includes the company’s subsidiaries, affiliates, joint ventures and majority holdings.</p> <p>[Source: adapted from Accountability Framework definitions]</p>
Plantation development area	<p>Any area where it is proposed to establish new forestry <i>operations</i> or plantings of agricultural commodities which would result in deforestation and pose a threat to <i>High Carbon Stock forests</i>. The development area may include existing <i>plantations</i>, new areas permitted for land use, conservation and/ or management.</p>
Processor	<p>Those that are processing and/or refining a commodity that potentially contributes to deforestation.</p>
Proximate	<p>A comparable area either on site, adjacent to the site or within the same landscape. A comparable area is one that is of the same ecosystem type and possesses similar conservation values (Source: The Accountability Framework ‘Operational Guidance on Environmental Restoration and Compensation’. Published June 2019; minor revision March 2020). A landscape is defined as a geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (source: IUCN).</p>
Remediation (and remedy)	<p>Terms used interchangeably or in combination with one another to refer to both the process of providing redress for a negative impact and the substantive outcomes that can counteract or make good a negative <i>social impact</i>. Source: adapted from the Accountability Framework definition.</p>
Restoration	<p>Ecological <i>restoration</i> is process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem and its associated conservation values, that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Source: adapted from the Accountability Framework definition.</p>

²⁴ The totality of legal entities to which the company is affiliated in a relationship in which either party controls the actions or performance of the other. ([Accountability Framework](#))

	<p><i>Restoration</i> can include ecological rehabilitation which emphasizes the reparation of ecosystem processes, productivity and services. Source: UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre biodiversity terms.</p>
Restoration approach	<p>Techniques applied to achieve <i>restoration</i>. Techniques can include <i>natural regeneration</i>, assisted regeneration (such as alien invasive species control, pest control and groundwater level stabilisation) and intensive replanting or reforestation.</p>
Respecting human rights	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The HCSA includes a set of Social Requirements which define the obligations of commodity producers to respect human rights.</p>
Smallholder/farmer support organisation [HCSA member category]	<p>A <i>smallholder/farmer support organisation</i> that meets the Eligibility Requirements of HCSA membership and is an active member of HCSA.</p>
Smallholder/farmer support organisation	<p>An organisation which has the primary mission to collectively engage and provide assistance to smallholders and/or farmers.</p>
Supplier	<p>Individual, company or other legal entity providing goods or services to an organisation, commonly referred to as “Tier One supplier”.</p> <p>[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"> ▪ <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. ▪ A given company can be both a supplier and a buyer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). <p>[Source: Accountability Framework definitions]</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 originates directly from a management unit under the control of the primary processing facility</p> <p>Supply which originates directly from the primary processing facility.</p> <p>For <i>Commodity Users</i>, <i>direct suppliers</i>: A supplier selling directly to the buyer, commonly referred to as Tier One <i>supplier</i>.</p>
Technical support organisation [HCSA member category]	A <i>technical support organisation</i> that addresses the Eligibility Requirements of HCSA membership and becomes an active member of HCSA.
Technical support organisation	An organisation with proven knowledge of the <i>HCS Approach</i> and its application, with the aim of providing assistance to those organisations applying for or maintaining membership of the HCSA.
Trader	A business that purchases and sells raw or primary processed agricultural or forestry materials. <i>Traders</i> commonly also provide transport services for these goods. Trading companies may also engage in primary or secondary processing.
Traditional Knowledge	Knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous and local communities around the world. Developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is transmitted orally from generation to generation. Adapted from http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/traditional-knowledge
Verification	<p>Assessment and validation of compliance, performance, and/or actions relative to a stated commitment, standard or target. <i>Verification</i> processes typically utilize monitoring data but may also include other sources of information and analysis. Related definitions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First party <i>verification</i>: <i>Verification</i> conducted by the company itself but carried out by personnel not involved in the design or implementation of the <i>operations</i> being verified. * Second party <i>verification</i>: <i>Verification</i> conducted by a related entity with an interest in the company or operation being assessed, such as the business customer of a production/processing operation or a contractor that also provides services other than <i>verification</i>.

- Third party *verification*: *Verification* conducted by an independent entity that does not provide other services to the company.

*The concept of *verification* signifies that information is validated by persons other than those involved in the operation or entity being

[Source: [Accountability Framework definitions](#)]