

Terms of Reference – Consultancy for the HCSA Integrated and Land Use Plan (ICLUP)

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.

One of the main outputs and objectives of the HCS Approach is the development and implementation of an Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan (ICLUP), which formalises plans that optimise conservation, livelihoods, and commercial production, and respect the rights of local communities. The HCSA Steering Group has published guidance on how to develop and implement an HCSA ICLUP and it was approved as HCSA ICLUP Interim Guidance with a plan to be finalised and re-published in 2022.

This interim guidance was trialled by a HCSA plantation member, and a gap analysis was shared with the HCSA Secretariat. Further trial findings will be used to strengthen and finalise the ICLUP as well as develop and finalise the ICLUP quality assurance process.

Objective

The main aim of this work is to simultaneously produce a finalised Integrated Conservation and Land Use Plan and a Quality Assurance System Procedures for the finalised ICLUP.

Deliverables

- 1) Review the GAP Analysis that was submitted by the HCSA Plantation member company.
- 2) Coordinate with the HCSA plantation member on gap analysis and lessons learnt between the company's current practice versus the guidance.
- 3) Coordinate with the HCSA Protection Working Group to share experience, exchange information and discuss challenges/proposals to overcome issues/problems raised. The findings should be integrated into a trial report.
- 4) Integrate the proposed improvements from the trial report into a final version of ICLUP Guidance document and simultaneously develop a Quality Assurance system procedures, templates, and guidance for companies.

Timeline*

End of October 2022	Consultant finalised and LOA signed with consultant
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of Gap Analysis of plantation member. ▪ Calls convened to discuss input from plantation member.
December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calls with Protection Working Group members. ▪ Integration of discussion findings into trial report.
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration of recommendations / changes into final version of ICLUP Guidance document.
February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final version of ICLUP Guidance approved by PWG. ▪ First draft of the ICLUP Quality Assurance system procedures, templates, and guidance is produced and sent to PWG for review.
March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The HCSA ICLUP Guidance is approved by the HCSA EC and published on the HCSA website.
April 2023	Final versions of QA system procedures, templates, and guidance for companies is produced.

*The above timeline will be further discussed and finalised with the consultant.

Expertise and abilities

- Demonstrate expertise and experience related to conservation and land use planning.
- 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.
- Adequate understanding of tenure legal framework in countries such as but not limited to Indonesia, Malaysia and/or Africa for key commodities (e.g., palm oil, pulp & paper, cocoa) is preferable

Budget

Estimated days needed for this consultancy work will be approximately 10 days¹ offering a competitive consultancy fee. The ideal starting date for this tender is no later than early November 2022.

¹ To be finalised with the appointed consultant.