

Advice Note 07: HCSA and HCV–HCSA Assessments

22 December 2022

About this HCSA Advice Note:

The purpose of this document is to respond to technical queries that arise from the implementation of the HCSA methodology and the evaluation of HCSA and HCV-HCSA assessment reports. Queries are gathered through HCSA or HCVN and centralised in a query tracker. Then, subject area experts propose a response. Next, the query and draft response are shared with the HCSA Technical Panel for input. Finally, the advice note is updated accordingly and published.

If you have a technical query, please contact the HCSA Quality Assurance team:

qa@highcarbonstock.org

If your query is related to an HCV-HCSA assessment currently under ALS evaluation, contact the ALS Quality Manager: qualitymanager@hcvnetwork.org

Note 2022-02-01	Mangrove Areas
Main topic(s)	Carbon stock assessment
Date published	22 December 2022
Date revised (if relevant)	-
Date(s) of applicability	Applies for new assessments from 22 December 2022 and to assessment reports undergoing ALS evaluation and HCSA peer review as of this date
Document reference	<i>HCSA Toolkit (V2) Module 5 pages 21 – 23</i>
Query / request for clarification	
HCV-HCSA assessment has been conducted in an area including mangrove forests. Is HCS assessment is expected to be applied to this type of forest, and if yes, how?	
Response by HCSA (outlining the requirements)	
<p>Mangrove areas can be considered as critical ecosystem; thus, they qualify as HCV areas, specifically be categorised as HCV 3 and 4 (in western Indonesia at least).</p> <p>E.g., the Malaysia HCV national interpretation lists them as critical ecosystems, and APP HCV assessments a few years ago identified all mangroves as HCV. Mangroves can also fall within the riparian zone that is also considered HCV (see HCSA Toolkit V2, Module 5 pages 21 to 23).</p> <p>Mangrove areas are generally easy to be mapped out using satellite imagery. Therefore, it is not necessary nor practical to inventory aspects of the HCSA Toolkit in mangrove areas.</p>	

Note 2022-02-02	Village Boundary Mapping in Papua New Guinea
Main topic(s)	General requirements including Patch analysis
Date published	22 December 2022
Date revised (if relevant)	-
Date(s) of applicability	Applies for new assessments from 22 December 2022 and to assessment reports undergoing ALS evaluation and HCSA peer review as of this date
Document reference	-
Query / request for clarification	
Mapping of village boundaries in Papua New Guinea	
Response by HCSA (outlining the requirements)	
<p>Mapping village boundaries in PNG may be difficult due to lack of official government defined boundaries. However, mapping of the family, clan, or tribal customary ownership, or other social grouping boundaries should be done, where the community consents and are involved in the mapping, and if the land ownership or management unit is not based on village boundaries.</p> <p>These can be contentious to map and maybe outside the scope of the HCV-HCS assessment, and assessor needs only to demonstrate legal ownership / permission for the development / FPIC for use of land. Maps of two villages can be combined if the villages are directly connected.</p> <p>It may also be useful to break down on the AOI by village e.g., for estimating land requirements for village agriculture.</p> <p>Hence, the mapping of village boundaries in PNG will not be subject to the pass / fail review.</p>	