Making HCV Work in RSPO

Barriers to Effective Implementation and Ways to Overcome Them

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Overcoming Barriers to Effective Implementation of HCV in RSPO

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Criterion 5.2
HCV in Existing Plantations

Criterion 7.3
HCV in New Plantings
The Six High Conservation Values

HCV 1  Areas with important levels of biodiversity
HCV 2  Large intact natural landscapes
HCV 3  Areas with rare or endangered ecosystems

HCV 4  Critical environmental services of nature

HCV 5  Basic needs of local communities
HCV 6  Cultural identity of local communities
HCV Process

Identification

Management

Monitoring

Stakeholder Consultation

HCVA

HCVMA
Why is HCV in RSPO controversial?

Expectations are high, performance falls short

- Confusion
- Complexity
- Conversion
- Constraints
- Confidentiality
Four main conclusions from study

1. Simplify and sharpen HCV tool
2. Guidance on M&M requirements
3. Increase capacity of assessors & companies
4. Promote transparency in reporting
What are challenges and ways to overcome them?
Confusion on Definitions & Guidelines

How do we delineate HCVMA for a given HCV?

What are challenges and ways to overcome them?
Capacity of assessors and companies

Variation in capacity causes challenges

- Following required procedures
- Defending decisions
- Quality of reporting & mapping
- Implementing M&M recommendations
- Passing an audit
Capacity of assessors and companies

Potential solutions to capacity problems

- Tighten RSPO approval process
- Team leader responsible for report
- Mandatory well structured training for assessors & companies
- Mandatory independent peer review
- Required Code of Conduct
Lack of public reporting in HCV means...

- Basic information not available
- Poor quality goes undetected
- Limited data or knowledge sharing
- Credibility is questioned by public
Conclusions

- HCV is the right tool for RSPO
- But ‘blazing new trails’ with inadequate rules and support structures
- Clarity needed concerning role of HCV vis-à-vis other safeguards within RSPO
- Increase guidance
- Increase capacity & transparency