



BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE HCV ASSESSMENT IN THE OIL PALM SECTOR IN INDONESIA



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Introduction

- HCV originally developed for use in forest certification (HCVF)
- Used more frequently now in other sectors and for other purposes
- Seen as positive development but has strained the concept
- Within RSPO, HCV is key provision to mitigate social, biodiversity and environmental impacts, but its use in new planting is one of the biggest challenges for achieving RSPO certification
- Challenges include divergent interpretation by different assessors, lack of standard data sets, weakness of current Toolkit, impractical management guidance, poor definitions by RSPO itself
- RSPO has commissioned a formal review to set out how RSPO can help overcome challenges and simplify HCV in oil palm



Purpose of Study

- Identify barriers to effective HCV assessment in oil palm in Indonesia
- Identify potential solutions to these barriers
- Analysis will focus on HCV assessment for compliance with Criterion 7.3, which requires that:

“New plantings since November 2005, have not replaced primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values”.



Tasks & Methods

- Interview HCV assessors,producers, RSPO auditors, NGOs andobservers
- Review 'grey literature on HCV' and auditor reports
- Invite and incorporate written submissions
- Upon completion of first draft of report, convene multi-stakeholder forum (in Indonesia) to review and improve the report
- Provide final report that incorporates stakeholder inputs from forum, noting areas where audience members were divided in viewpoints.



Focus Areas of Analysis

1. Problems with HCV identification and management

- Divergent interpretations of HCV (especially management requirements)
- Legal status of HCV set asides within oil palm landscapes (on APL land)
- Lack of recognition of HCV areas within Indonesian rules & regs for oil palm
- Is time frame of 3yrs for oil palm development before license expires too little?
- Options for maintain or enhance HCVs (e.g. populations of HCV1 species) in areas where ecosystem degradation is high



Focus Areas of Analysis

1. Problems with HCV identification and management (cont.)

- Conflict between HCV 5 and 6 designation by HCV assessors and aspirations of local communities for change or to modernize
- Conflict between HCV 1 and HCV 5&6
- Options/requirements to manage non-viable populations of HCV1 species
- Lack of integration between EIA and HCV assessment process
- Utility, quality and status of 'large scale mapping projects' to delineate HCV areas at regional, provincial or island scales



Focus Areas of Analysis

2. Weaknesses of definitions and criteria of revised HCV Toolkit
2. Impressions on “*Guidelines for Management and Monitoring of High Conservation Values for Sustainable Palm Oil Production in Indonesia*” prepared by the HCV RSPO Indonesia Working Group, especially consistency with RSPO and 2008 Toolkit
2. Gap analysis of guidance, expertise, training, peer review and other forms of HCV assessment support
3. Brief evaluation of HCV and FPIC – can they be combined?



Potential Solutions to be Explored

1. Steps to improve usability of Indonesian Toolkit (2008)
 1. Identify priority public domain data sets and guidance documents that are needed
 2. Policy reform options
 3. Steps to increase capacity and expertise in Indonesia
 4. Recommendations to improve transparency
 5. Recommended TOR for revising HCV Toolkit
 6. Other



Time frame

- Complete First Draft by end of May
- Complete Final Draft by end of June



Questionnaire



THANK YOU
&
QUESTIONS