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## HCV and smallholders: new tools and approaches

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Preparatory Cluster 5: How to Better Conserve Biodiversity?  
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### Overview

#### 1. Background

- Evolution of HCV under the RSPO
- Smallholders

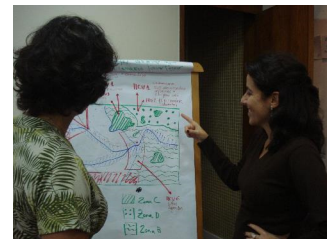
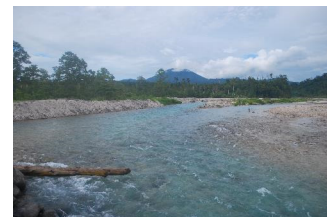
#### 2. Strategies for SH

- Key principles

#### 3. New tools: examples

- RSPO Simplified 7.3 HCV approach for ISHF
- Mobile technology

#### 4. Challenges & next steps

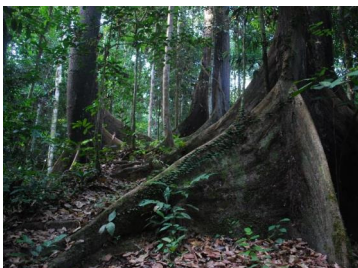


## 1. Background



- Concern about deforestation and biodiversity loss
- Beyond Protected Areas...
- Led to voluntary certification schemes
- High Conservation Value (HCV) approach originated in FSC in 1999
- HCV:
  - A management decision tool to identify, manage and monitor important environmental and social values*

## 1. Background



- HCV adopted by RSPO 2005
- Now in Criteria 5.2 & 7.3:
  - *Maintain and/or enhance HCVs*
  - *No replacement of HCVs since 2005*
- But governance and quality a problem
- Constantly evolving:
  - RSPO approved HCV assessors
  - Assessor Licensing Scheme

## 1. Background

- But how effective is HCV within the RSPO?
  - ALS has improved quality for larger, higher risk developments,
  - But it is costly and complex for smallholders,
  - Need for an equitable approach



## 1. Background



- 40% of palm oil from smallholders (SHs)
- Challenges for SHs on HCV, sustainability and certification:
  - Cost
  - Technical
- Most SH simply don't get certified
- Certification having minimal impact on deforestation caused by SHs
- *Limits of supply chain approach: '3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers'*

## 2. Strategies for SHs

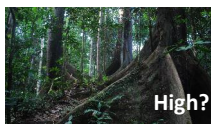
- **How to make HCV work for SHs?**
- Learn from/align with certification for SHs
- General principles:
  - Group-based, e.g. RSPO
  - Step-wise, e.g. RSS
  - Landscape scale
  - **Risk-based approaches**
  - **Use of GIS / remote sensing data**



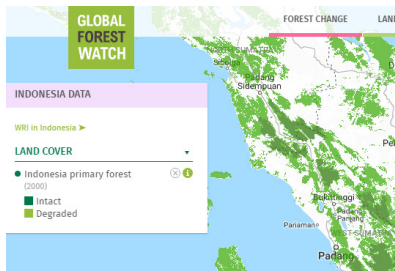
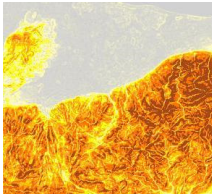
## 2. Strategies for SH

- **Risk-based approaches**
  - Requirements should reflect risk of damaging HCVs
  - Risk of damaging HCVs depends on **location**, **scale** of operation and **intensity** of operation
  - Need to consider small scale of SHs, especially if in low risk locations..
- Scale Intensity Risk (SIR) in FSC

**HCV probability** X **Scale** X **Loss**



## 2. Strategies for SH



- **GIS and remote sensing data**
  - A wealth of existing global and national GIS data now available
  - Especially land cover and biodiversity data
  - **Map HCV probability: i.e. high or low risk areas for HCV 1-4**
  - Understand limitations: Just a first screening ('probability'), not definitive
- Examples:
  - Indonesia's official online GIS databases
  - Global Forest Watch
  - ArcGIS Online

## 3. New tools:

### Simplified HCV Approach for ISHFs in the RSPO

- **Aim:** support ISHFs comply with 5.2 and 7.3
  - Guidance for Group Managers on HCVs in existing plantings (5.2): **applicable since Jan 2016**
  - **Separate** approach for 7.3 new plantings: **in development**
- *Higher risk of converting natural vegetation means 7.3 is higher risk than 5.2*



### 3. New tools:

#### RSPO Simplified 7.3 HCV Approach for ISHFs

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- Risk-based approach, where assessment required depends on risk of damaging HCVs
  - *May require independent assessor if higher risk*
- Provide tools for Group Managers to assess risk in their context:
  - HCV 1-3 Probability Maps (env HCVs)
  - Simplified surveys for HCV 4-6 (social HCVs)
  - Reporting templates and manuals
- **Status:**
  - Taskforce reviewing draft procedures this week
  - Draft maps ready for Indonesia, Honduras and Malaysia



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### 3. New tools:

#### RSPO Simplified 7.3 HCV Approach for ISHFs

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#### HCV 1-3 Probability Indicators

##### High probability of HCV 1-3 presence

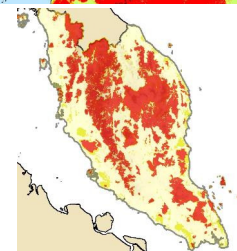
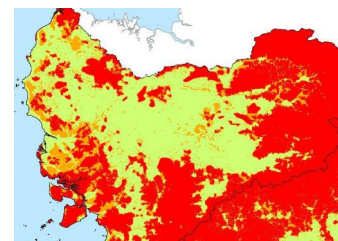
- Protected Areas, Intact Forest Landscapes, large areas of forest/natural vegetation (>1,000 ha) and precautionary buffers

##### Medium probability of HCV 1-3 presence

- Larger buffers around high probability areas, natural forest patches of 50-1,000 ha, connectivity corridors, and peatlands or other nationally important ecosystems

##### Low probability of HCV 1-3 presence

- All remaining areas: existing agriculture, scrubland/degraded natural areas and remnant natural forest patches <50 ha.



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### 3. New tools: Mobile technology

- How to put new tools in hands of SHs?
  - Mobile applications and technology
  - Widely used in other sectors (e.g. Cocoa) and increasingly in palm
  - Advantages:
    - Simplify and standardise data collection/reporting/auditing
    - Access to technical data, for example GIS
    - Low cost
    - GMs take ownership



### 3. New tools: Mobile technology

- Many data collection tools available, for example, SNV/Akvo Flow.
- Another example:
  - Proforest Initiative, Blue Raster, HCVRN, SHARP and Daemeter.
  - GFW Small Grants Fund
  - Jaremar mill and Unpala cooperative in Honduras
  - Project to trial data collection and review with ISHFs GMs:
    - HCV data, farmer needs and labour issues
    - Existing ESRI apps for field data collection
    - **New web dashboard to review and export basic maps**
  - **Good uptake by GMs and positive feedback**





## 4. Challenges and next steps

- Need to increase access to tools and build capacity
- Tools to support management decision making (go beyond data collection)
  - **An RSPO smallholder app?**
- Solutions for SHs living in high risk locations.
  - Financial support needed for:
    - More costly HCV assessments
    - Incentives/compensation to protect HCV (or HCS) areas
    - **How far can the RSSF stretch?**



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Thank you for listening

Any questions?

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