WWF *for a living planet*®

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE TRAINING: IDENTIFICATION,

DATE: 1-3 November 2016

VENUE: WWF MALAYSIA CONFERENCE ROOM, KOTA KINABALU

SUMMARY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

Background

The High Conservation Value (HCV) concept was first introduced by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Standard (Principle 9), in September 1994. It has since expanded in application especially in landuse-intensive industry such as oil palm plantations. WWF Malaysia introduced the first High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Toolkit for Malaysia in 2009. While the HCV concept itself is not new, guidelines and practices have undergone gradual improvements over the years.

The High Conservation Value approach is the process in which HCVs are identified, managed and monitored. It is important to recognize that HCV is not just another audit requirement. It is a knowledge-based, participatory and inclusive process that will benefit stakeholders, management and most importantly, conservation in the long term. While HCV has been gaining attention in Sabah, it is crucial to highlight that the HCV approach does not stop at identification or having an HCV Assessment document. It is a continuous process where HCV Management and Monitoring will achieve the desired objectives.

This compact 2-day training is designed to help new personnel with an HCV/conservation portfolio, or as a refresher.

Objective/ Aim (HCV component):

1. To improve HCV Identification, Managing and Monitoring in Sabah.
2. To learn new methods/options on how to Monitor HCV.
3. To share knowledge and experiences, lessons learnt and challenges from the industry; especially on monitoring and managing HCVs in Sabah Landscape.

Outcomes/ Expectation of Workshop (HCV):

1. Participants are able to understand the HCV Concept, including management and monitoring.
2. Participants are able to develop their own HCV management and monitoring plan.
3. **An optional training for** Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Design was offered on the 3 November 2016. Participants will be able to create their own SMART Data Model and Report Template.

Introduction

Training invitations were selectively sent to ten active (forestry-based) Forest Management Units (FMUs). Of these, only six FMUs accepted the invitation.

The participants consisted of officers and managers from the companies' HCV/conservation/environmental unit, who are mostly self-trained on the HCV concept while on the job. Most of the participants have yet to attend any organised HCV training throughout their service.

A total of 12 participants attended the training on 1-2 November while 13 participants attended the additional training on SMART design on the 3 November, including two researchers.

Training sessions were delivered and facilitated by WWF-Malaysia officers:

Speaker/trainer	Subject
Elyrice Alim, Sr Programme Officer, Responsible Forestry	HCV identification, Management & Monitoring
Tan Hao Jin, Sr Programme Officer, Protected Area	HCV identification, Management & Monitoring
Max Donysius, Sr Programme Officer, Business & Industry Engagement	HCV Assessment Process & HCV Licensing Scheme
Sharon Koh, Manager, Patrolling and Enforcement	Wildlife Monitoring, SMART application
Olivia Lapis, Wildlife Monitoring Analyst	Wildlife data analysis, SMART Application

This training is intended to be one of a series of training for the SFMLAs to deliver WWF Malaysia's conservation management strategy outlined in the Sabah Terrestrial Conservation Programme (STCP). The training agenda has been redesigned from previous trainings, notably to capture the background of HCV Assessor Licensing Scheme, the HCVRN common guidance for HCV Management & Monitoring as well as the newly published FSC Guidance for HCV Managers.

Sessions summary

1 November 2016

Overview of HCV

This session presents the six HCVs, the background of the concepts and how it is being used in industry standards.

ALS & HCVRN

This session focused on the member-based organization, HCVRN, an independent secretariat who promotes HCV consistently, expand the guidelines and issues the assessors' license. Anyone from the relevant industry can participate in the HCVRN, as a newsletter subscriber or to be a member, or join the regional working group.

HCV Assessment Process

HCV Identification involves scoping, team formation, data collection and provision of preliminary results. Scoping is a phase where desktop review and general context can be derived. The HCV Assessor Team must be assembled based on relevant expertise. Observations of HCV attributes are as equally important as consulting the relevant stakeholders. It was also highlighted that a national interpretation of HCV should be applied (the Malaysian HCV Toolkit requires update but not entirely outdated as claimed by some). Precautionary Principle: When there is doubt of HCV presence, assume there is. HCV Management and Monitoring are the actual actions taken with regards to HCVs identified- planning what to manage & how, and monitoring the implementation of these plans. An HCV assessment by right is usually required once, while management and monitoring of the HCVs is a continuous process.

Tier Rating

ALS prescribed two tier ratings for HCV Assessments. Tier 1: potentially high impact risk; Tier 2: 'standard risk'. The ALS requires peer reviews in all Tier 1 classified assessments prior to ALS evaluation. For FSC Certification, an 'HCV Manager's Guide' outlined that all Level 1 (high risk) Risk Based Identification & Assessment of HCV requires a Licensed Assessor.

HCV Assessment: Stakeholder Consultation Process

This session highlighted how an HCV Assessor should consult stakeholder before finalizing an assessment. The process include explanation (of purpose, method, main findings and results of assessment), what to ask from stakeholders and documentation of consultation.

Participatory Mapping

An introduction to participatory mapping: It is carried out by communities to map their territories and indicate which places and which resources are used for which purposes. One of the best ways to conduct this in Sabah context is to use a terrain basemap in which community

can draw and mark. Training participants were divided according to FMU, and given a basemap of their area (FMU) for exercise.

At the end of the exercise, groups swapped maps, study their fellow participants' landscape and presented the results.

HCV Identification: Interpretation and identification of the 6 HCV categories

The final session of Day 1 detailed out HCVs 1-6 with relevant examples within Malaysia and Sabah. Some of the definition had been updated /cross-referenced with the HCVRN Common Guidance. It is important to understand the key terms such 'HCV Area' and 'HCV Management Area'. Precautions must be applied so not to assume that HCV approach alone does not guarantee sustainability or issues such as land tenure and legality.

Scenario-based exercise on HCV Identification was conducted at the end of Day 1.

2 November 2016

Recap of Day 1 and HCV Identification Exercise Discussion

After a brief recap of Day 1 , participants discussed the answer for Day 1 HCV Identification exercise. This was an interesting session where differing opinions and perspective resembled reality. Some attributes, such as HCV 3, 5 & 6 could potentially be 'present' or 'absent' depending on available information. It can be concluded from this session that HCV Assessments are heavily dependent on data collection method and availability.

HCV Management

HCV Management Plan should ideally be derived from the HCV Assessment by an FMU Management. An HCV Management Plan must be detailed and comprehensive; proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. The highlight of this session was a discussion on how to develop the HCV Objectives and targets.

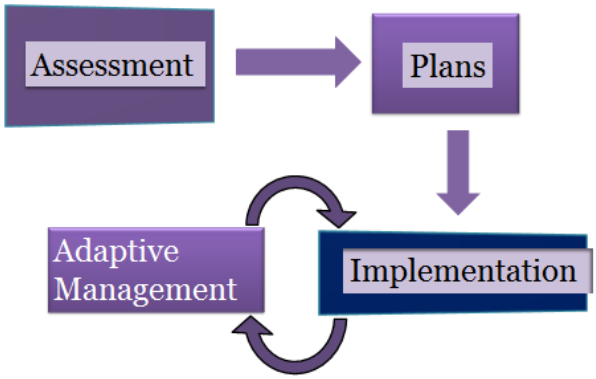


Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the HCV Process

Key understanding on adaptive management was emphasized; upon evaluation of the implementation, measures must be taken to ensure that objectives set in a Management Plan are met. A simple quiz was devised to demonstrate the correct establishment of 'Strategy', 'Objective' and 'Target'. Another video quiz was conducted to understand the adaptive management concept.

HCV Monitoring

The purposes of HCV Monitoring are to determine if the HCV Management Strategies are implemented and the HCV Objectives are met.

The session elaborated on the types of monitoring (operational, strategic, threat) and techniques (patrol, flora & fauna survey, remote sensing). Types of monitoring should be determined in the Management Plan and the techniques used must be suitable to the HCV attributes. It is of utmost important that an indicator and baseline of an HCV attribute is established prior to monitoring activities.

What to Expect During an Audit

This short session was an interactive experience sharing for elements that were commonly encountered during a Forest Management Certification Audit. First, the management or the HCV manager must be well-versed in the standard that it is being audited for. The term 'Principle', 'Criterion', 'Indicator' and 'Verifier' should be well understood. 'Verifier', for example, outlined the necessary reports that must be in place to prove that monitoring/consultations had taken place.

Group Exercise

This exercise was rescheduled towards the end of the morning sessions to ensure adequate discussion time. Participants were divided into groups and provided with a sample of actual HCV Assessment (HCV for Kubaan Puak FMU). After studying a selected part of the sample HCV Assessment, each group attempted to establish a simple table of Management Objective, HCV Objective, Target and Strategies. The session resumed after lunch to discuss each groups' results. In general, it was observed that although most participants were new to the exercise and found it to be more complicated than assumed; it would be of tremendous relevance to the task of developing their respective HCV Management Plan.

Q&A points

There is always some worry by FMU managers on how the forest management plan will correlate with the HCV management plan as some FMPs have been developed before the HCV assessments have been carried out. In this case, assessors will use the situation there and then as baseline. There were some general interest in the assessor licensing scheme, as it is a new initiative to improve the quality of HCV assessments. The Sabah-wide HCV assessment initiative will help provide baseline of HCVs in Sabah so it will be easier in the long run; the current mapping of forests using LiDAR (Carnegie project) will also help in the state-wide assessment.

Seasonal habitats or ecosystems which supports migratory species, RTE species, or is critical in maintaining the species, is considered important and thus HCV 1.4. Even though an area may have infrastructure for water provisioning, HCV 4.1 may still be present depending on quality and availability of water from state-provided infrastructure.

Wildlife Monitoring

Camera traps can be used for studying animal richness & diversity, distribution mapping, occupancy, population abundance & monitoring, animal behavior, activity patterns and demography. The session further elaborated on equipment, study designs, study setup and data management. An emphasis was given on field preparations- a simple ignorance could lead to loss of vital data and wasted resources.

Other monitoring methods: participants were briefed on the proper method of conducting line transect, wildlife monitoring recce and night spotlight survey, noting on advantages and challenges for each.

Participants who were using camera traps provided the structure of their data arrangements; which were then discussed and compared to WWF's team's method for analysis purposes.

SMART-SFMLA

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is used to collect, store, analyse and report monitoring data. The software was designed to be handy and applicable even for personnel without GIS or data analysis background.

This session was an introduction to how SMART can be applied in a monitored area and how it should be designed to meet the monitoring objectives. The SMART perspectives consist of Map, Patrol, Query, Report and Planning. For each of these, initial organizational input must be fed into the system (basemap, list of personnel, monitoring attributes, management objective and monitoring plan). Samples of result such as queries and analysis chart demonstrated the output of SMART application.

Management must carefully determine if SMART is the right tool for the type of monitoring that had been planned. Similarly, basic capacity and resources need must be accounted for before deciding to use this tool. For this, participants were provided with a checklist to assess their monitoring needs and available resources which will help to plan and design their very own SMART system.

3 November 2016

Setting up SMART

Most participants from the previous two days opted to attend this whole-day session of setting up a SMART system.

The training began with outlining organization chart to identify and understand the roles of data collector, data entry, data analyst and manager. This is crucial stage to ensure the sustainability of the SMART application as well as identify the correct training for each level in SMART approach.

Next, the participants were briefed on the sample of SMART datasheet and explained specifically the right data to be collected.

Using a sample set of data, participants exercised on creating a SMART Conservation Area. This was a desktop exercise, completing a step-by-step SMART configuration setup with the help of a standard manual and instructors' guide. Afterwards, participants familiarized with running queries and producing sample reports.

Should a Management Unit decided on using SMART, it must first configure the elements described above, and determine who will be taking specific tasks such as SMART data collection, data input, analysis, admin and manager. Most importantly, a realistic programme must be planned well ahead to ensure a long-term monitoring success.

Q&A points

SMART can be used during wildlife monitoring to record the effort spent in patrolling as well as to monitor the threats to wildlife and its habitat. Often, we are questioned by the auditor on the result of threats observed: Is the threat low due to lack of patrolling effort? Or had regular patrolling actually reduced or eliminate the threat? Therefore, SMART not only provides spatial data and analyses to assist the manager to plan for an effective patrolling regime, it is also a powerful tool to quantify the patrolling efforts in an area.

Feedback

From the participants

Day 1 & 2 (HCV Identification, Management and Monitoring)

WWF provided a feedback form to evaluate participants' perception of the training facility, course relevance, level of confidence and delivery of trainers. All participants responded in favor of the venue and facilities. Trainers were rated from 'good' to 'excellent'. All participants agreed that the training content was relevant. Confidence level for monitoring/managing HCV after the course could be interpreted as *positively confident*. The most challenging part of the training was discovered to be the monitoring and management section, and notably the SMART software command requirement. In the improvement and general comment sections, participants had noted on the benefit of extending the training duration and the possibility of conducting field training. There were significant mentions of the need for more exercises to help with their understanding, which could be achieved if the training duration were extended. In the same section, it was noted that participants appreciated the management and monitoring plan drafting exercise, and the possibility of future training on HCV.

Day 3 (SMART setup)

Participants generally indicated satisfaction with the trainer and relevance of the training in their work. However, comments on the duration suggested that a longer training duration is preferred. Opinions on the delivery pace were varied; some admitting it was too fast, while others noted it was just fine. The difficulty level could be interpreted as medium; additional notes indicated that they can improve with more practice. The probability of establishing SMART application was very encouraging. In general comments, participants have expressed gratitude for the opportunity of learning the SMART tool, the need for advanced/in-depth training and future assistance/collaboration with WWF on SMART, wildlife monitoring and enforcement.

From the organizer & trainers

It was observed that participants have benefited significantly from the HCV Management and Monitoring Plan exercise session. Future HCV trainings will delve into more Management and Monitoring elements, anticipating that the target group would then be dealing with certification surveillance and facing more adaptive management requirements. A longer duration (1 week) had been proven to be a more comfortable for either HCV or SMART course delivery; however, participants' time commitment varies. In the future, these will be redesigned to achieve a better balance.

The organizer expressed great admiration for the participants' commitment and cooperation. The training sessions had been interactive and lively where participants have demonstrated respectable range of knowledge and experiences.

The trainers look forward to continuous feedback and updates from the participants with regards to their HCV Approach and SMART implementations.

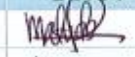
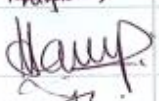
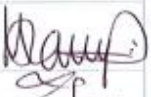
Conclusion

The training has reached out to the relevant participants, and feedbacks suggested that it will positively benefit the participating FMUs in their HCV Identification, Management and Monitoring. There is an encouraging potential of SMART application as participants discovered the multiple function of the tool.

Next steps

i. Future training will seek wider participation from FMUs who could benefit from similar or refined training module.
ii. WWF team plans to visit more FMUs in Sabah in the near future to gain more insights on their HCV Management/ Monitoring, Wildlife Monitoring, as well as observing and providing inputs on SMART application.
iii. The participating FMU are encouraged to seek reviews of their HCV Management & Monitoring Plans.
iv. A follow-up training to be devised next year, to include introductory sessions on High Carbon Stock (HCS).

Attendance List

	Name	Company	1 Nov	2 Nov
1	Mitchell Maluda	Timberwell		
2	Mark Rampangajouw	AFI		
3	Gerald Nonoi Hiu	Zillion Fortune		
4	Ms. Wilvia Olivia William	Forest Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd		
5	Ms. Chrystalyziana Venchin	Forest Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd		
6	Timothy Pan Vui Tsung	Bornion Timber		
7	Tan Mei Yun	Bornion Timber		
8	Frederic Ansis	Bornion Timber		
9	Sherone Caroline U. Oboi	Bornion Timber		
10	Anis Pinita Andrew	Bornion Timber		
11	Renny Jinoleh	Sapulut Forest Development		
12	Fredoline Martin	Sapulut Forest Development		

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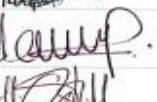
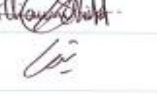
1	Mitchell Maluda	Timberwell	
2	Mark Rampangajouw	AFI	
3	Ms. Wilvia Olivia William	Forest Solutions Malaysia Sdn Bhd	
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6	Tan Mei Yun	Bornion Timber	
7	Frederic Ansis	Bornion Timber	
8	Sherone Caroline U. Oboi	Bornion Timber	
9	Anis Pinita Andrew	Bornion Timber	
10	Renny Jinoleh	Sapulut Forest Development	
11	Fredoline Martin	Sapulut Forest Development	
12	Roshan Guharajan	IZW	
13	Teoh Shu Woan	University of Montana	

Agenda

Day 1

Time	Activity	Description
08:30	Registration	
09:00	Participants introduction	
09:15	HCV Assessment: Overview	*A quick overview on HCV 1-6*
10:00	Break	
10:30	ALS & HCVRN	*Introduction to the Licensing Scheme and the Resource Network*
11:30	HCV Assessor & Assessment Process	*The basic assessment process and its assessor requirement*
12:30	Break: Lunch	
13:30	Information Exchange & Tier Study	*HCV assessments carried out by licensed assessors can be classified as **Tier 1 or Tier 2**.*
14:30	HCV Assessment: Stakeholder Consultation Process	*Recommended approach: HCV stakeholder consultation*
14:45	Participatory Mapping	*Introduction and exercise on participatory mapping*
15:00	Break	
15:30	HCV Identification: Interpretation and identification of the 6 HCV categories	*HCV 1-6 in more details and examples.* *+Exercise*
17:00	End of Day 1	

Day 2

Time	Activity	Description
09:00	Recap of Day 1 Discussion: HCV Identification Exercise from Day 1	*Recap Day 1 and discussion*
09:40	HCV Management Plan	*The HCV Process: Developing a Management Plan* *Quiz*
10:00	Break	
10:30	Monitoring Plan	*HCV Monitoring: Types of monitoring and monitoring methods*
11:30	HCV :What to expect during an audit	*Principles & Criteria requirement, and what to expect during a certification audit* *Experience sharing from participants*
	(exercise for HCV Management Plan)	*Exercise: Developing Management objective, HCV Objective, Target & Strategies using Sample Assessment*
12:30	Break: Lunch	
	(continue exercise)	*Discussion on exercise result*
14:00	Wildlife Monitoring	*Recommended wildlife monitoring method*
15:00	Introduction to SMART tool for monitoring	*Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool: Is it right for you?*
16:00	Break, Training Evaluation	
	Group Photo	
	End of HCV training	

Day 3

Time	Activity	Description
09:00-17:00	SMART setup	*SMART Data Model & Report Design*

Photos from the training


Participatory mapping presentation

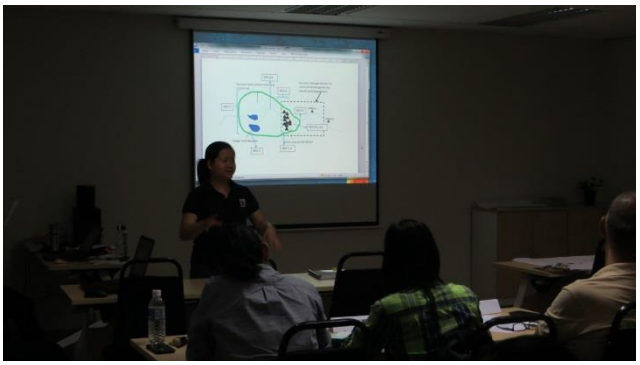

Participatory mapping: Hard at work!


Participatory mapping- teamwork


Participatory mapping: Identifying potential HCV


Mapping presentation


Day 1 recap: HCV identification


HCV Management concept


Thinking hard: Management Plan

Discussing Management Plan exercise

Difficult? Discussing Management Plan exercise.

Study Design: Wildlife Monitoring Session

Camera trap data management

SMART design briefing

SMART setup: Hands-on practice with sample data