



How HCV Approach can support Grassland and Savanna protection

What is the HCV Approach?

HCV APPROACH

A three-step tool to identify and conserve
six categories of environmental, social
and cultural values in commodity
production landscapes.

HCV APPROACH STEPS

- 1. Identification of the 6 HCVs**
- 2. Management**
- 3. Monitoring**

SCALES of application

- A. Jurisdictions and Landscapes**
 - HCV screening and prioritization
 - Guidance launched in 2019
- B. MU/Concession or plantation**
 - Detailed HCV assessments
- C. Smallholders**
 - Simplified Risk-based approaches

Where is HCV Approach used?

1. In responsible expansion contexts, used as a land-use planning tool
2. In non-conversion contexts for strengthening social safeguards and maintaining environmental HCVs

Certification



Outside Certification



Landscape /
jurisdictional
initiatives

Forest-friendly
smallholder tools

THE SIX HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

Global definitions applicable to **any ecosystem**

Equal weighting for social and environmental values

SPECIES DIVERSITY

Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels

CULTURAL VALUES

Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.

LANDSCAPE-LEVEL ECOSYSTEMS

Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance



ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITATS

Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES

Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including **protection of water catchments** and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc...), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples

Relevance and application of HCV Approach to savanna and grassland ecosystems



Conservation value of savannas/grasslands

Unique biodiversity and ecological values

1

Pastoralism by traditional communities, which also play key role in maintaining grassland ecosystems

2

Ecosystem services – e.g. water and cultural ecosystems services for fodder and livestock production, erosion controls

3

Historical and widespread conversion and loss for cultivation

- Rapid recent expansion into native grasslands e.g. soy, but potentially other crops such as oil palm
- Loss or degradation of biodiversity values, and ecosystems services
- Displacement of traditional people

HCV Approach as a globally recognized framework to provide consistency in identifying and protecting grassland/savanna values

- Embedded in certification
- Referenced in Accountability Framework Initiative, for identifying and maintaining values
- Corporate commitments – soy and oil palm
- Smallholder HCV and no-conversion tools outside of certification



Remaining gaps

Practical guidance for implementing HCV Approach in grassland/savanna ecosystems

- Serve for certification, jurisdictional process and landscape prioritization
- Comprehensive interpretation of HCV Approach to grassland and savanna ecosystems:
 - Consortium of grassland/savanna practitioners
 - Identify indicators and data-sources of 6 HCV categories, e.g. global/regional mapping and site level
 - Approaches for management and monitoring

Case-studies and practitioner expertise for identifying HCVs in grasslands

