



High Conservation Values & Commodity Certification

Strengthening the HCV Approach to Mitigate Impacts on Biodiversity in Agriculture

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Overview

- Background to HCV
- Examples
- Strengths & Weaknesses
- Recommendations

HCV is an extremely important tool for mitigating biodiversity impacts of agriculture, but current applications fall short of potential due to a complex of reasons (that can be overcome)



Goal of HCV Assessment

Help land managers improve social and environmental sustainability of resource production

- (1) Identify areas with exceptional social, cultural or biological attributes → the HCVs**
- (2) Develop and implement a management plan that permits development and ensures maintenance of these values.**

Stakeholder Consultation is a defining feature



History of Development

FSC definition of HCV (1999)

Global Toolkit (2003)

National Toolkits (2003 onward)

Adoption by RSPO (2007)

Indonesia

Malaysia

PNG

Vietnam

China

Poland

Romania

Bulgaria

Bolivia

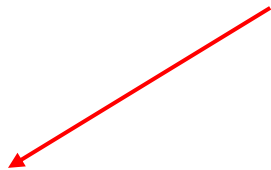
Ecuador

Canada

Gabon

Ghana

Cameroon



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



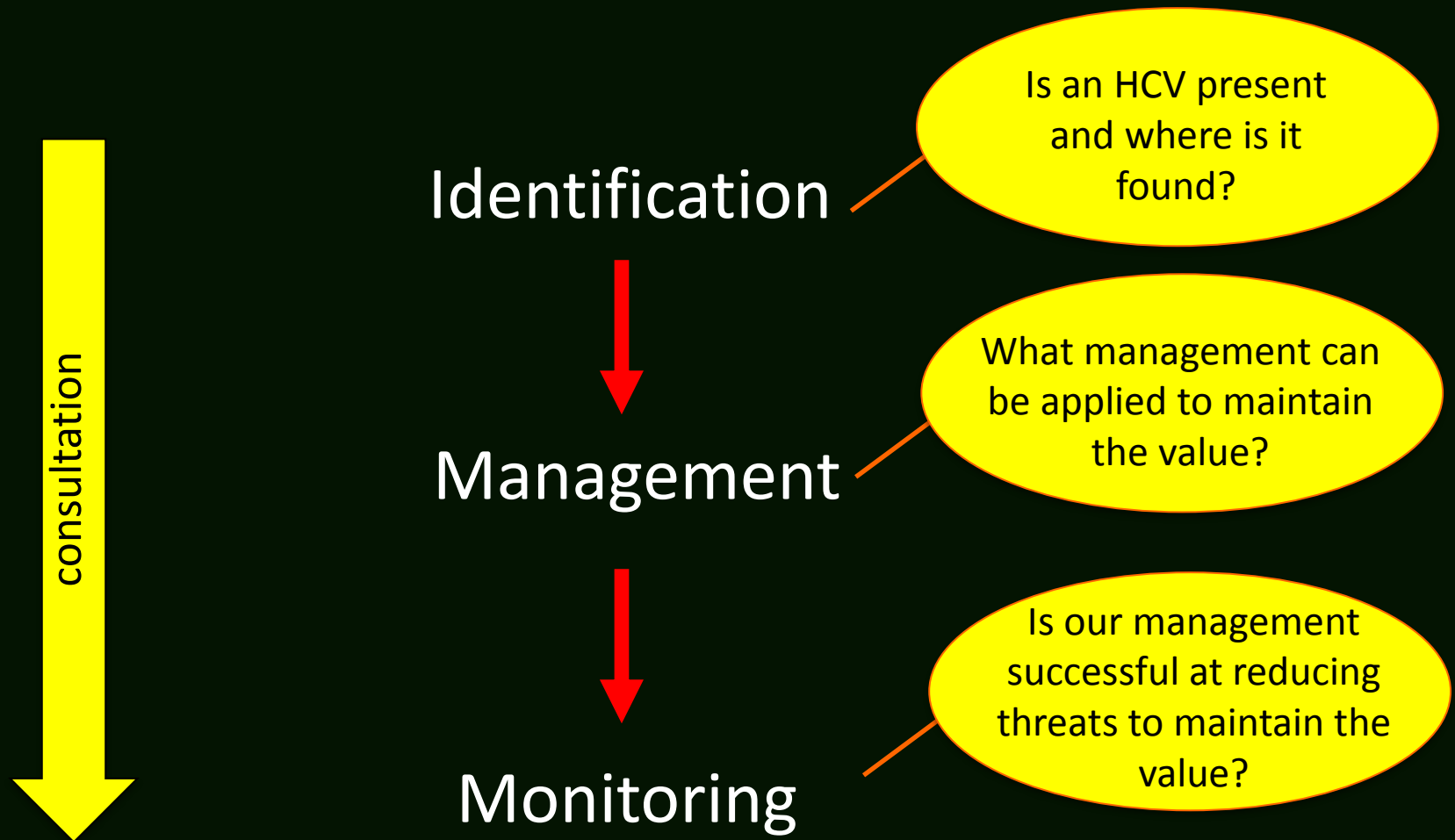
HCV 4 Critical environmental services of nature

HCV 5 Basic needs of local communities

HCV 6 Cultural identity of local communities



HCV Process





RSPO



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

✓ **Conversion**

RTRS



Roundtable on Responsible Soy

✓ **Conversion**

RSB



Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

✓ **Conversion**

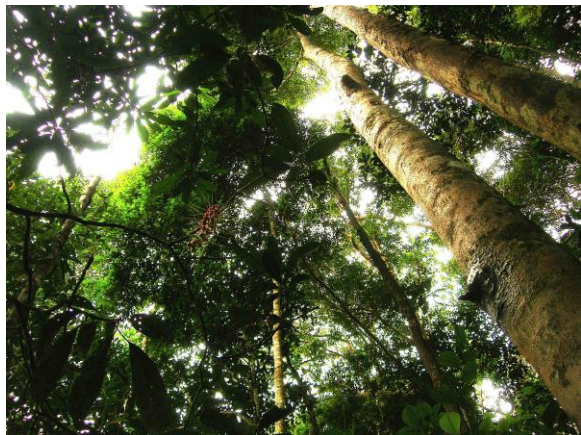
...but HCV in commodity certification has critics



HCV in logging versus conversion



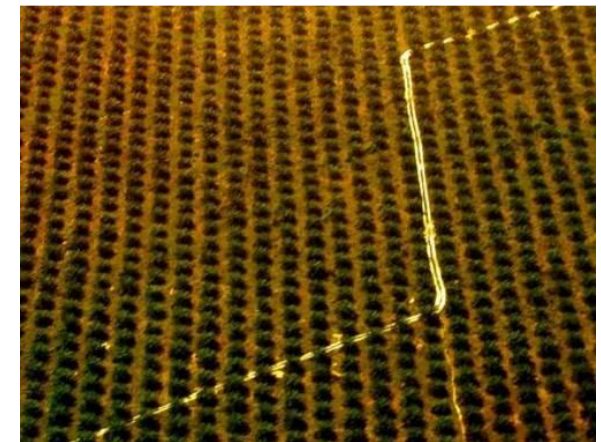
FSC



RSPO



RTRS
RSB

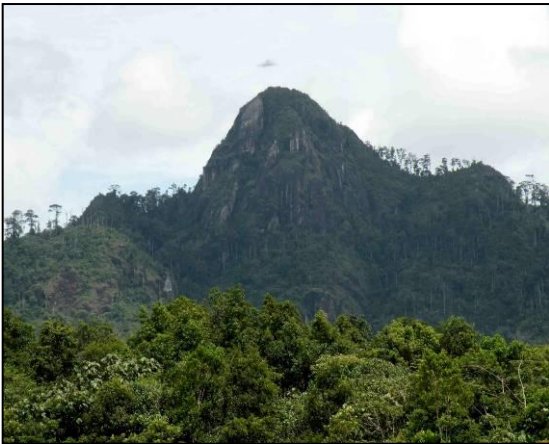


Some Examples

HCV in Agriculture

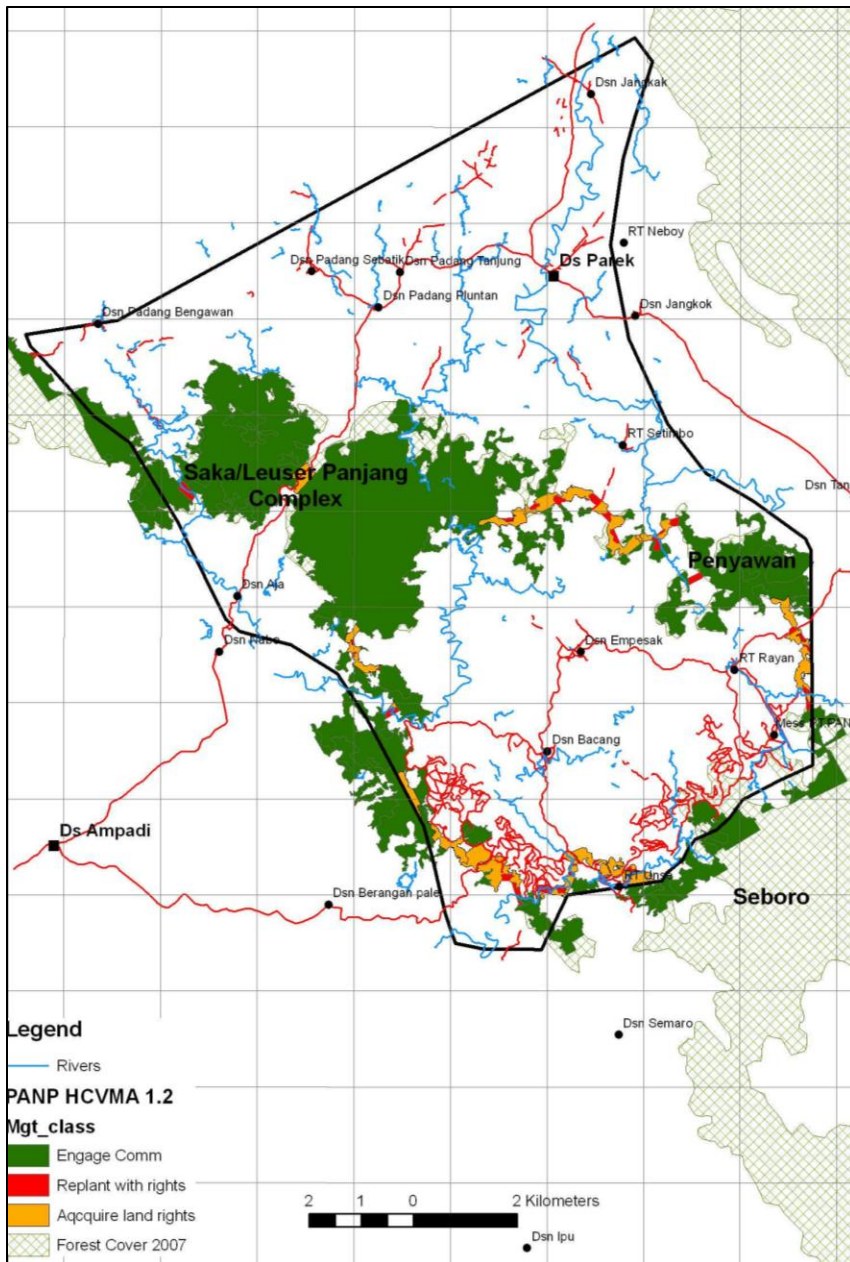


HCV 3



HCV 3

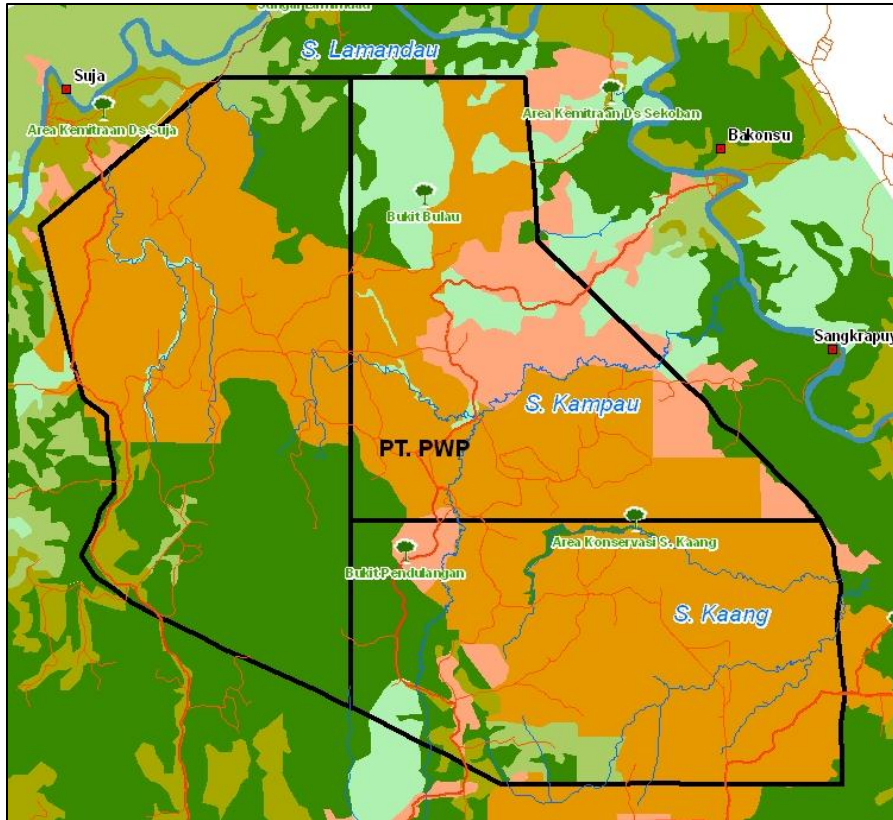
Endangered Ecosystems



Remnant Forest Set Asides

HCV 1

Protected Areas & Threatened Species



**Set asides +
Riparian corridor networks**





Strengths & Weaknesses

Overcoming Barriers
to Effective Implementation of
HCV in RSPO

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Observations on six years of applying HCV in the RSPO

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Strengths of the HCV Approach

- Consultative process
- Surging popularity in voluntary standards
- Growing ‘HCV literacy’
- Emerging global standards
- Knowledge-based decision making
- Guide legally permitted conversion

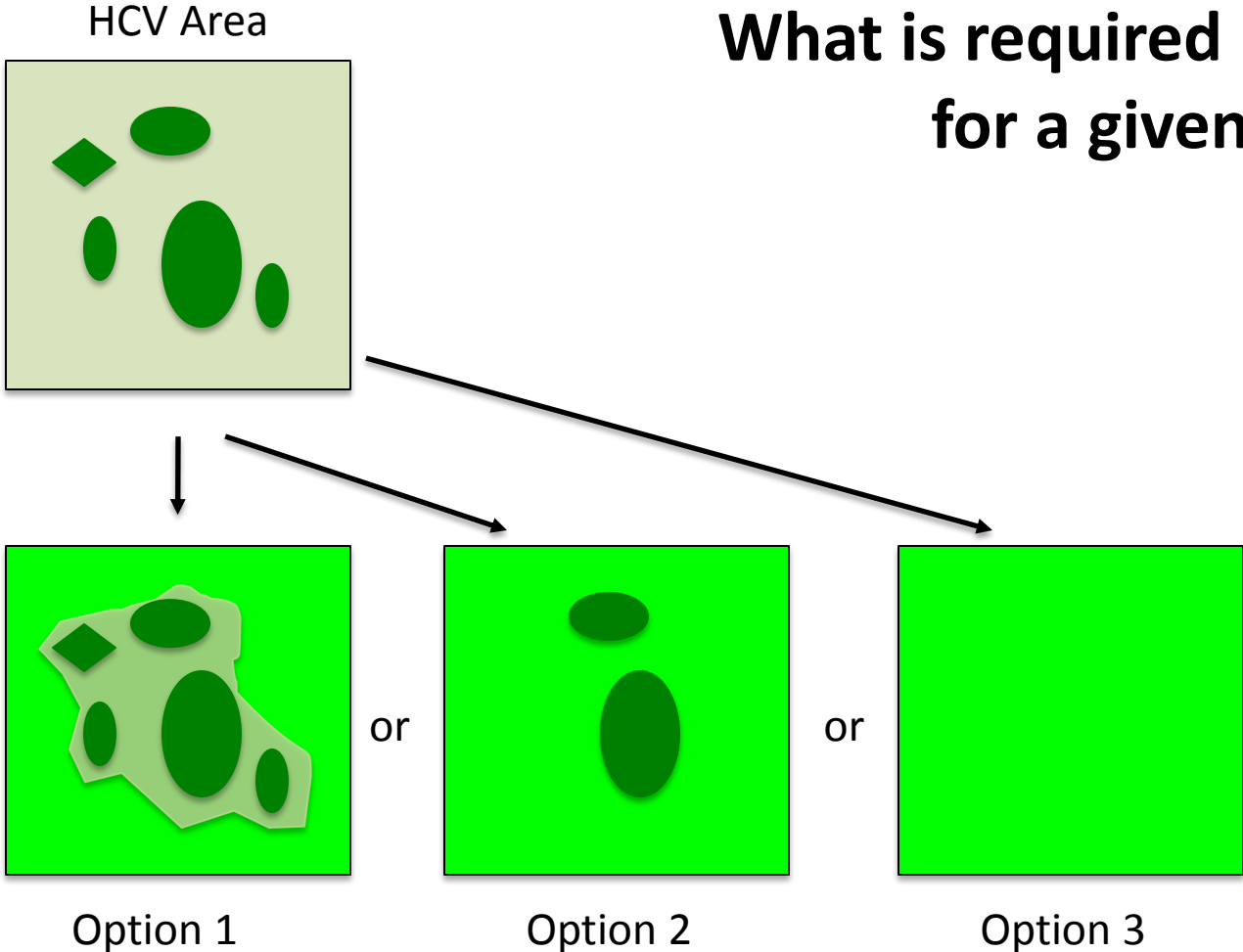


Weakness of the HCV Approach

- Confusion
- Complexity
- Controversy surrounding Conversion
- Constraints on Capacity
- Confidentiality
- Conflict with Local Laws

Confusion, Complexity & Controversy

What is required management for a given HCV?



???



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Recommendations



Priority Actions

- Guidance for Required Management
- Engagement with Government
- Training & Capacity Building
- Public domain datasets
- Enhanced Transparency & Peer Review



Conclusion

HCV is an extremely important tool

Current applications are having impact but fall short of potential

Weaknesses can be overcome but require targeted, sustained commitment from diverse groups



Thank You

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