

# Terms of Reference

## Review of the RSPO HCV approach for Smallholders and the HCSA's approach on HCS for smallholders

### 1. Introduction

The RSPO is in the process of developing a new standard for Independent Smallholders (ISH) – the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard (RISS). The development of this standard is related to the objective of the RSPO smallholder strategy to promote inclusion into the RSPO system, whilst upholding the sustainability requirements, including the protection of forests and stopping deforestation.

As such, the RISS includes specific Principles, Criteria and Indicators for ISH related to the protection of High Conservation Values (HCVs) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests.

To support ISH in meeting the requirements related to protection of HCVs under the RSPO P&C 2013, the RSPO developed a simplified approach for ISH to identify, manage and protect HCVs. To support the implementation of this approach, the RSPO also developed an App and dashboard that would make it easier for group managers to collect data from individual group members and document and track this data.

With the adoption of the RSPO P&C 2018, the RSPO also includes HCS as part of its indicators and definition to no deforestation. The RISS also includes references to both protection of HCVs as well as HCS forests. This implies that the current simplified HCV tool for ISH will need to be updated to also include HCS forest protection.

In the meantime, the HCS Approach Smallholder Working Group (HSCA SHWG) has developed and is piloting a simplified approach and guidance for ISH (initially Indonesian only) to implement the HCS Approach including HCVs.

In order to meet the objective of smallholder inclusion and protection of HCS forests, the RSPO would like to develop a simplified combined HCV-HCS approach and toolkit that ISH can use to meet the Principles, Criteria and Indicators of the RISS. To start this process of developing a combined HCV-HCS approach, the RSPO wants to build on existing tools.

This Terms of Reference lays out the scope of work, activities and expected deliverables that would inform the development of the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach and toolkit for ISH.

### 2. Objective

The main objective of the consultant is to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive technical and functional review of the RSPO HCV approach and the HCS approach for identifying and maintaining HCV areas and HCS forests in smallholder plots
2. Provide recommendations, firstly, to the RSPO on potential interim measures to include in the implementation of RSPO ISH standard and, secondly, for consideration by the No Deforestation Task Force (IS-NDTF) on an integrated HCV-HCS approach for ISH that can be globally applied.

### **3. Scope of roles and responsibilities**

RSPO is looking for an independent consultant to do the following:

1. Contact targeted relevant stakeholders from the RSPO, HCSA and HCVRN familiar with the RSPO HCV approach for ISH and draft HCS toolkit for smallholders to:
  - a. On starting the consultancy:
    - i. Ensure understanding of the principles, steps and outcomes of each approach
    - ii. Gather all necessary documentation or datasets
  - b. At the results phase:
    - i. Confirm that interpretation/results of this consultancy are consistent with RSPO's HCV and HCSA's approaches
2. Review of the overall framework and approach for both the RSPO HCV approach for ISH and the draft HCS toolkit for smallholders. This comparison should include:
  - a. An overview of the overlaps, gaps and key differences between both approaches, including but not limited to the following:
    - i. Scope - who is the target audience, who is eligible to use the toolkit;
    - ii. Questionnaires / checklist;
    - iii. Approach - Is the focus on assessment or engagement? What resources are made available to smallholders? Are principles of risk captured? What safeguards or assurance mechanisms are included?
    - iv. Limitations and gaps – e.g. - what are the possible or anticipated challenges for smallholders to use the approaches?
  - b. Feasibility assessment of applicability and user-friendliness for smallholders or group managers to use and implement the tools
3. A review of the HCV probability maps (identifying probability of presence of HCV 1-3) available by RSPO. This would include:
  - a. Identify possible gaps in terms of protection of HCS forests
  - b. Comparison of existing HCS maps with the available HCV probability maps
  - c. Desk-based comparison using available data from combined HCV/HCS assessments (and HCSA only assessments if relevant)

### **4. Consultant Qualifications**

The person(s) conducting the study is expected to have:

- a. Technical expertise on identifying and assessing HCV areas and HCS forests

- b. Familiarity with the smallholder context, particularly about the challenges faced by smallholders in identifying and maintaining the HCV and HCS areas
- c. Knowledge of the RSPO HCV apps and probability maps is an added advantage

## **5. Deliverables**

The final deliverables expected are:

- a. A final report which includes the following:
  - i. Benchmarking of the RSPO HCV app and the draft HCS smallholder toolkit, highlighting the overlaps, gaps and the ease of use of these tools
  - ii. Gaps, if any, between the RSPO HCV probability maps and HCS maps
  - iii. Summary of technical findings on the comparison between the tools and the maps
- b. Suggestions, in the form of a report and a presentation, on the best way forward in integrating the HCV and HCS approach for smallholders

## **6. Timeline and Budget**

The review and comparison of HCV and HCS approaches for smallholders is expected to take place between October and November 2019 .