



What's new with the HCS Approach - progress, challenges and next steps

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HCS Approach Steering Group chair

Why the High Carbon Stock Approach?

- Rising concern about tropical deforestation – we are facing a biodiversity and climate change crisis
- Global brands such as Nestle, Ferrero, Unilever and P&G make policy commitments to *No Deforestation*, & more recently the NY Declaration on Forests
- Producer companies follow GAR's 2011 *No Deforestation* commitment including Wilmar, APP, Cargill, NPOL, Agropalma, and Musim Mas
- Need to know what is forest – thus HCS methodology emerged along with new multi-stakeholder collaboration

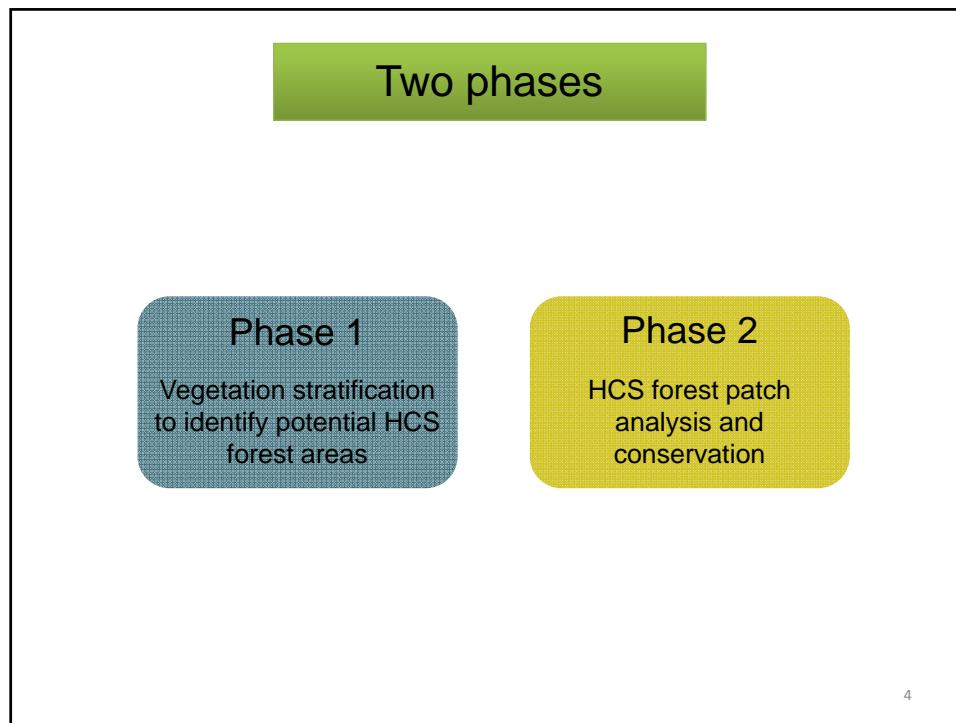
Key Question: Which areas are forest?



What is the HCS Approach

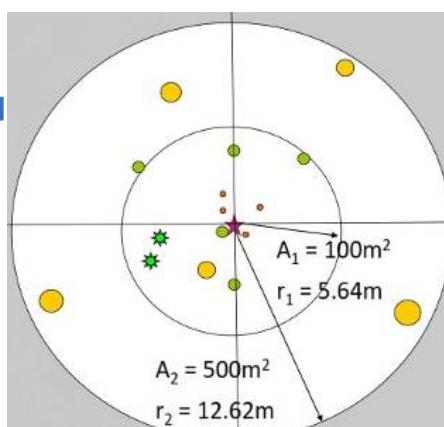
- The HCS Approach is a tool to support land use planning – it is not a carbon assessment
- Uses vegetation density, structure and composition, above ground carbon estimates, and forest patch analysis to identify viable forest areas from degraded (former forest) lands.
- Integrates with FPIC and community land use mapping, HCV and peat land assessments, and riparian zones
- pragmatically implements *No Deforestation* in the humid tropics across commodities - palm oil, pulp & paper, rubber, soya, etc
- Science-based with advice and expert reviews from international scientists – HCSA Toolkit for full details

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Phase 1: View from above + measurements on the ground


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Field plots established to estimate
 Above Ground Biomass and
 calibrate with satellite data

A combined unsupervised and supervised analysis of satellite images using visual attributes to provisionally stratify vegetation into 6 classes

Identifying potential HCS Forest

POTENTIAL HCS AREAS				MAY BE DEVELOPED	
High-Density Forest (HDF/HK3) Remnant forest or advanced secondary forest close to primary condition	Medium Density Forest (MDF/HK2) Remnant forest but more disturbed than HK3	Low Density Forest (LDF/HK1) Appears to be remnant forest but highly disturbed and recovering [may contain plantation/ mixed garden]	Young Regenerating Forest (YRF) Mostly young regrowth forest, but with occasional patches of older forest within the stratum	Scrub (S)) Recently cleared areas, some woody regrowth and grass-like ground cover	Cleared/Open Land (OL) Very recently cleared land with mostly grass or crops, few woody plants

MDF: Medium Density Forest

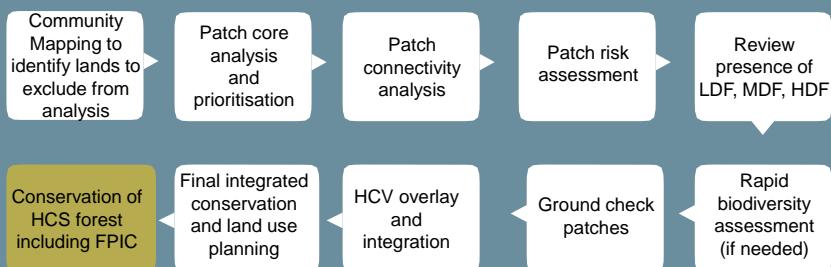
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S: Scrub

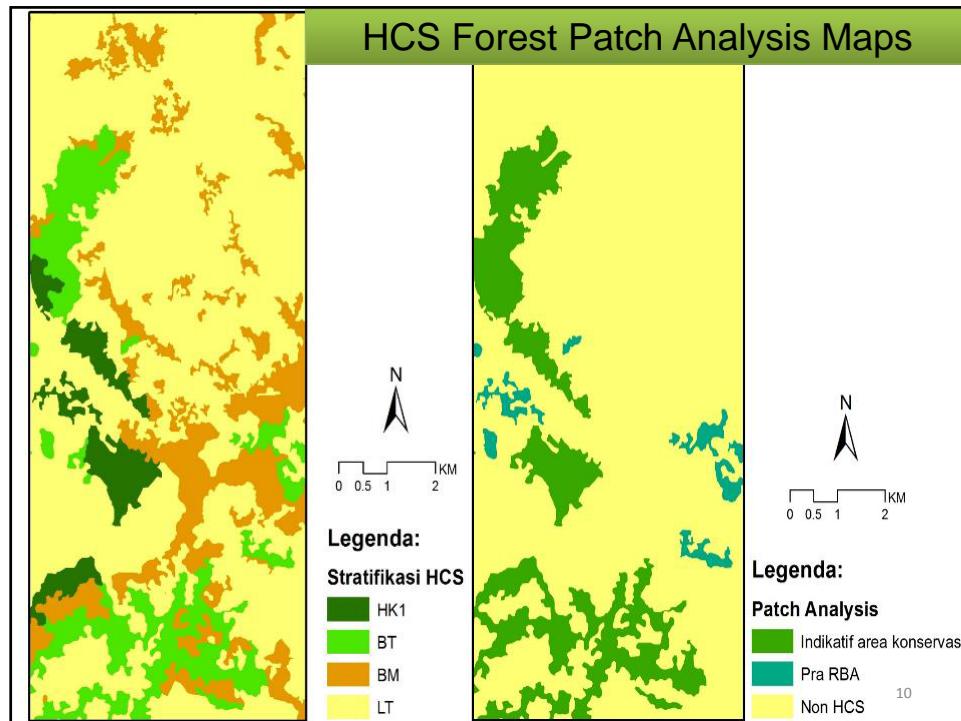


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Phase 2: HCS forest patch analysis and conservation process



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Progress with the HCS Approach

- Global multi-stakeholder HCS Approach Steering Group to oversee the methodology – membership growing...
- Over 60 HCS assessments, 5 countries, millions of ha

Steering Group Members

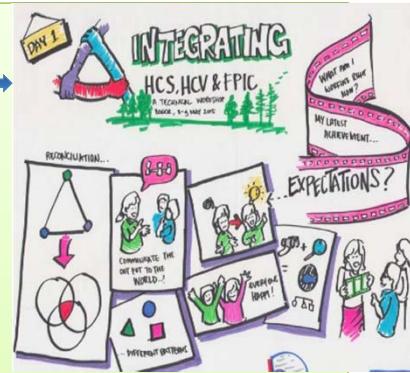
The HCS Approach Toolkit

The High Carbon Stock Approach: No Deforestation in Practice

Version 1.0 | March 2015

Progress and Challenges with HCSA

- Working Groups on key issues of:
 - ◊ Integration of HCS/HCV/FPIC →
 - ◊ High Forest Cover regions
 - ◊ Quality Assurance
 - ◊ Smallholders and Communities
 - ◊ Science Advisory Committee
 - ◊ ‘Convergence’ group
- Expanding engagement with governments and manufacturer and retail companies to get their critical input and support
- Expanding engagement with other sectors and regions – rubber, soya – Africa and Latin America



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HCS Approach and HCS Study ‘Convergence’ process update

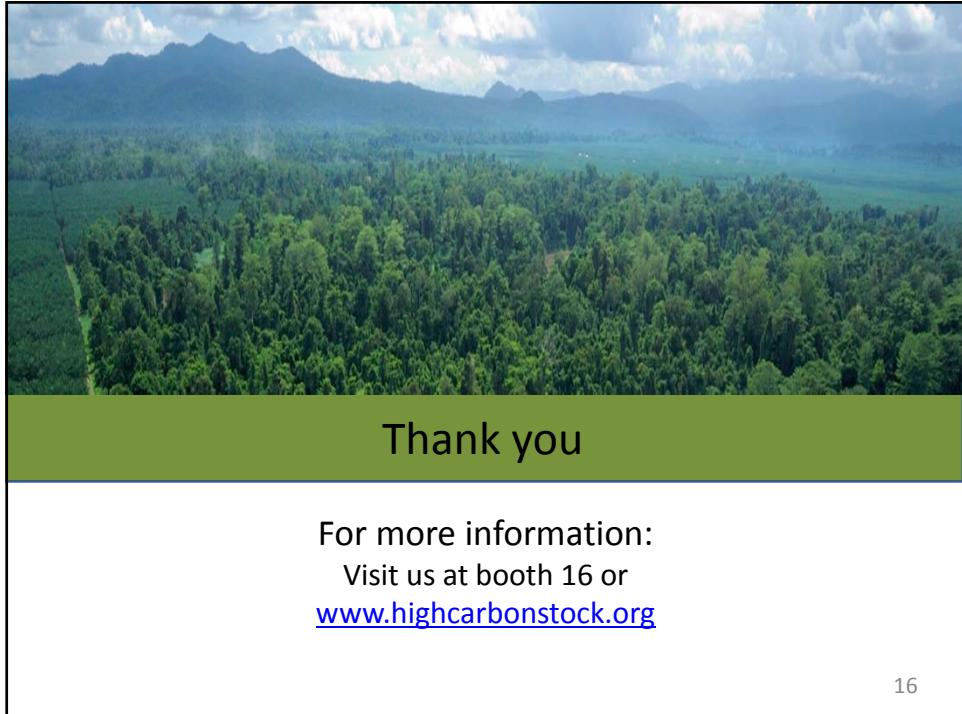
- **General commitment on a goal of one methodology for No Deforestation**
- **Common ground but different focus:** HCSA ‘No Deforestation’, whereas HCS Study GHG emission and ‘sustainable development’
- **Convergence:** biomass estimates, use of LiDAR, importance of soil carbon, protection primary and older secondary forest, HCS forest patch analysis, strong FPIC and livelihoods, and HCV integration and land use planning
- **Different:** young regenerating forest conservation, carbon neutrality
- **Next Steps:** further discussion, collaboration in Working Groups esp. to address Smallholder and forest conservation challenges, HCSA review consider convergence aspects, consider joint and/or parallel implementation trials

Going forward with the HCS Approach

Key Issue	How being addressed
Community rights, land use and support for HCS forest conservation	<i>FPIC integration, land use planning, food security, benefits/incentives</i>
Achieving the long-term conservation of HCS forest (and HCV areas)	<i>Innovative approaches with communities, laws and regulations – government support</i>
Smallholder engagement and support	<i>New working group including smallholder reps, link with other smallholder initiatives</i>
Ensuring the methodology is state-of-the-art, credible, practical and efficient	<i>Revision - new science, field experience, trials, working group and HCS study recommendations – Toolkit v2. Also FPIC/HCV/HCS integration</i>

Going forward with the HCS Approach (2)

Key Issue	How being addressed
Palm oil development in High Forest Cover regions	<i>Working group addressing: framing question, case studies</i>
One broadly supported HCS methodology	<i>'convergence' process with HCS Study and further science input</i>
HCSA being implemented through other initiatives	<i>Engagement with RSPO (incl. Next), POIG, FSC, HCVRN, etc</i>
Ensuring HCS Approach has government support	<i>Government engagement, input and collaboration, IPOP</i>
Ensuring consistent and quality implementation	<i>Rolling out Quality Assurance and transparency requirements</i>



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