



High Conservation Value Assessment

Earth Systems offers integrated solutions to identify, assess, manage and monitor High Conservation Values (HCV) to achieve the best possible outcome for the client, environment and local communities. Earth Systems' experienced HCV Assessors are part of a wider environmental, social, water and energy team; we therefore offer a holistic and integrated approach to HCV assessment and management.

The HCV Approach is a well-established methodology, developed over more than 25 years, that pragmatically identifies and protects values of outstanding biological, ecological, social and cultural significance from the impacts of land-use change. It is increasingly recognised as the preferred global approach due to its clear and systematic framework, and is widely applied in certification standards in forestry and agriculture contexts, and more broadly in land management and conservation planning.

Earth Systems has been providing high-quality environmental management and planning expertise for major industry for more than 30 years. Earth Systems' experienced HCV assessors specialise in gathering field and background data in complex ecological and sensitive socio-economic settings, often in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

HCV Assessments are applied in many situations, including:

- Product certification (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council, Roundtable for Responsible Palm Oil)
- Carbon credits (e.g., Climate, Community and Biodiversity [CCB] Standards for Verified Carbon Standard [VCS] Projects)
- Financing a new or existing project
- Land planning that aims to avoid sensitive ecological and social values
- Improving environmental and livelihood outcomes
- Demonstrating a commitment to ecological and social values, ensuring operational sustainability and avoiding reputational risk

We collaborate with clients during all stages of project development to ensure that HCV considerations are fully integrated in a timely, economic and technically viable manner. Assessments are conducted to HCV Network (HCVN) and certifying body standards. Our assessments ensure that HCV is adequately considered, and that appropriate, implementable measures are recommended to avoid potential impacts to HCV. HCV Assessments can also be combined with High Carbon Stock (HCS) Assessments as and where required.

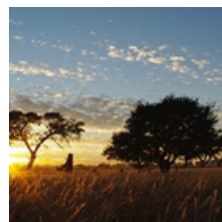
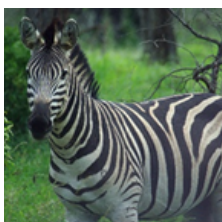
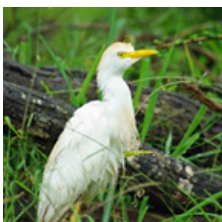
SERVICES PROVIDED

- Full HCV Assessments and HCV Scoping Studies
- Combined HCV-HCS Assessments
- Threat Assessment and HCV monitoring plans
- Vegetation / Habitat mapping
- Specialist aquatic and terrestrial surveys, data management and interpretation
- Threatened species and habitat surveys and management, including IUCN Red List threatened species and endemic, migratory and other priority taxa
- Ecosystem services and resource use assessment
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation through the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process
- Detailed GIS analysis
- Forestry and Agroforestry assessment and planning

PROJECT EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Our HCV Assessors specialise in surveying areas with highly sensitive ecological and socio-economic values, such as the tropical rainforests of West Africa and Southeast Asia, often working in remote areas with high levels of dependence on natural resource use. Some recent projects include:

- Sustainable timber projects seeking FSC certification, Lao PDR
- Peatland restoration under the VCS certification scheme, Thailand
- Shrimp aquaculture project seeking international investment, Vietnam
- Agroforestry in Africa and Asia



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