Forests
Food
Finance

GLF CLIMATE HYBRID CONFERENCE | #GLFClimate

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) SCREENING FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

PRIORITIZING CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOODS IN PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES

FRONTIERS OF CHANGE

5-7 NOVEMBER 2021

HCV Network

proforest

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

WHITE PAPER

Authors
- Andreas Brede
- Hélène Mbaididje
- Klothilde Sikun
- Dona van Eeden
- Ellen Watson

© Ricky Martin/CIFOR

Given the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, we need to minimize risks to environmental and social values in commodity production.

The High Conservation Value (HCV) approach provides a useful framework and set of tools for sustainable commodity production.

The six HCV categories:

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

2 Landscape-level Ecosystems, Ecosystem Mosaics and IFL
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.

3 Ecosystems and Habitats
Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats and refugia.

4 Ecosystem Services
Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

5 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.

6 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.

Why use HCV screening?

HCV screening is a largely desk-based exercise that uses the six HCV definitions (see above) to characterize the environmental and social aspects of a landscape or jurisdiction.

Benefits of using HCV screening:

- adaptable to any commodity, supply chain, ecosystem, etc.;
- cost- and time-efficient;
- a structure adaptable on the ground to the landscape;
- screening results that provide a basis for multi-stakeholder discussions on planning, policy making, land management and meeting sustainability targets.

Importance of using the HCV screening tool:

- prioritize HCV areas, and protect and restore valuable and vulnerable ecosystems;
- mainstream sustainable land use;
- build and enhance nature-inclusive food systems.

The six steps of HCV screening:

Step 1
Define purpose and scope
State the purpose of the screening exercise and define the area to which screening will be applied.

Step 2
Gather information for analysis
Gather information including literature review, spatial data, and stakeholder and expert consultation to provide the basis for estimating which HCVs and threats are likely to be present in the landscape.

Step 3
Determine likelihood of HCV presence
Process available information, consider which HCVs may be present in the screening landscape and make some initial groupings of different types of HCV within each of the six categories. Consider how detailed the information is and whether it can be differentiated (e.g., spatially) across the landscape – this will lead to decisions about when mapping is appropriate.
Produce probability maps where relevant.

Step 4
Determine likelihood of threats to HCVs
In addition to determining which HCVs are likely to occur in the landscape the screening team must identify potential threats to those HCVs. As long-term maintenance or protection is the ultimate HCV management goal, analysing threats to values helps direct attention to where and how threat mitigation can be carried out.

Step 5
Identify priorities in the landscape
Step 5 produces the 'results' of the screening exercise, which should be interpreted and presented in relation to the purpose and objectives. The screening results should be shared with stakeholders during the process to gather input. This step is essential for prioritising and planning interventions and next steps.

Step 6
Present results
Pulling together the results of the screening exercise to share and communicate those results (and accompanying data) is the final step. The results should be developed into a final report with accompanying data and references.
A detailed description of the screening process is available in the **full document** on the HCV Network website in English, Bahasa Indonesia, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

HCV screening in action

Screening has been used in several landscapes, two of which will be discussed during the session.

1   GIZ in Kapuas Hulu, Indonesia

Kapuas Hulu is a district in West Kalimantan spanning 29,842km².
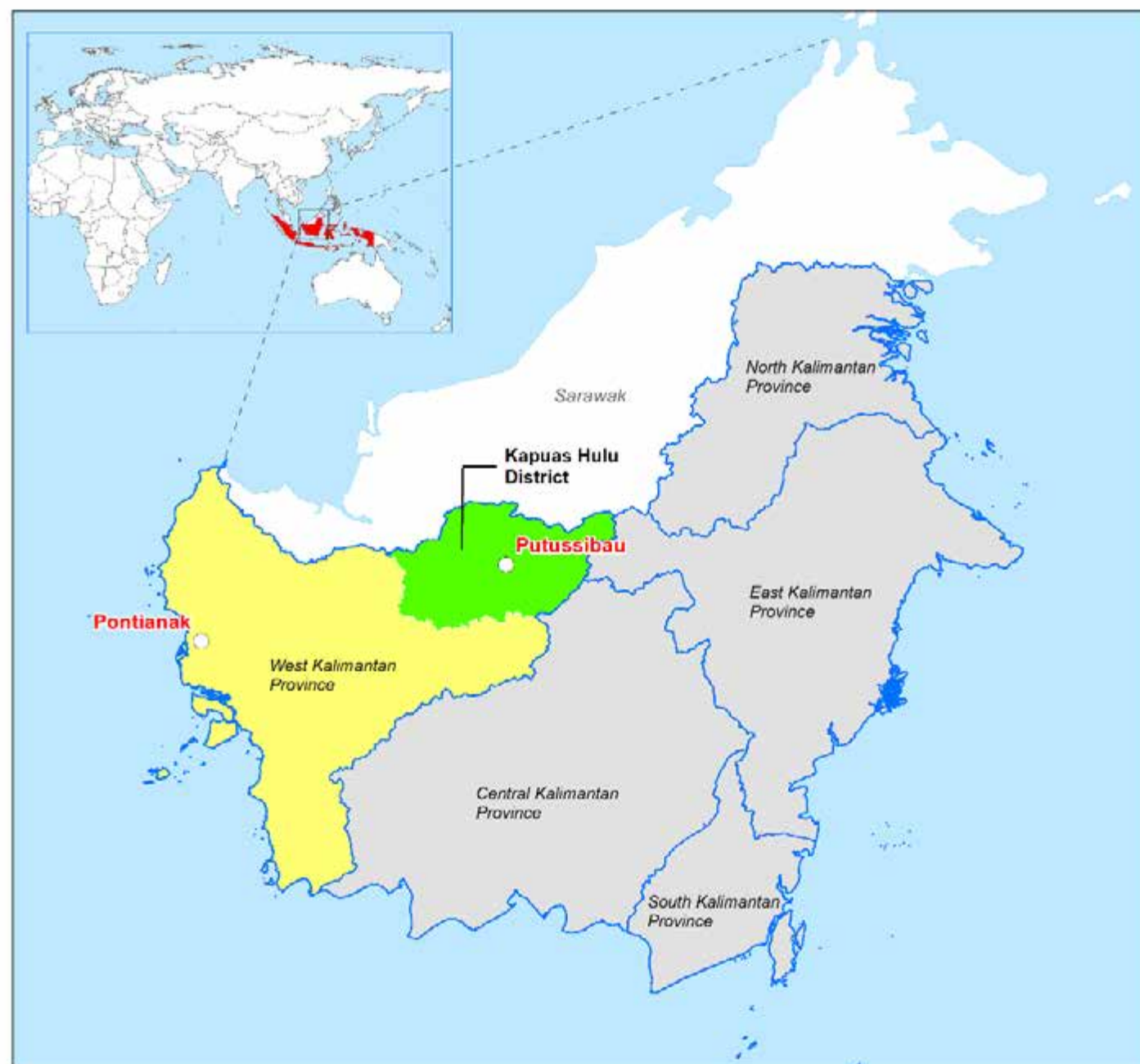
Only 40% of the remaining forest in Kapuas Hulu is protected. Unprotected forest areas are under threat of being destroyed or fragmented due to fire, agriculture, logging and mining activities.

HCV screening in Kapuas Hulu

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) commissioned a screening to identify the environmental and social aspects of the jurisdiction.

Key findings:

- HCVs and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests are most at risk in areas allocated to agricultural land use and production.
- Due to the high forest dependency of communities, all of Kapuas Hulu District is likely to have social HCV values.

The screening results provided important information for district spatial planning, for meeting the district's sustainability objectives and for sustainable sourcing of initiatives for rubber and oil palm smallholder farmers.

Key recommendations

There needs to be coordination and engagement with government, private sector, non-governmental organizations and community actors to determine actions and strategies to achieve conservation and development objectives. Examples include allocation of oil palm concessions; requirements for plantation-level safeguards, participatory mapping and recognition of customary rights; and habitat restoration.
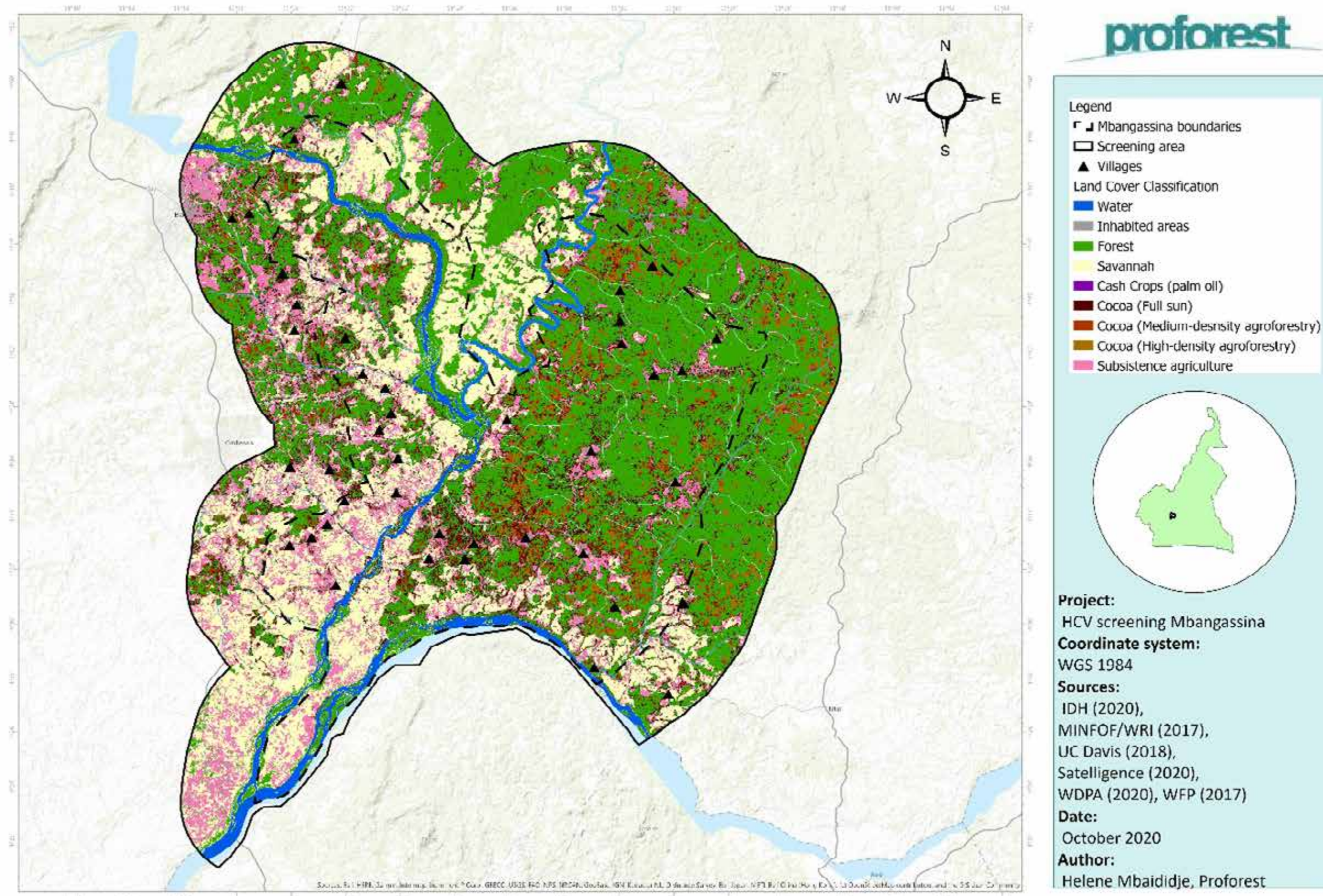
2 Mbangassina, Cameroon

The municipality of Mbangassina is located within the Grand Mbam landscape and spans 806 km².

Cocoa production accounts for more than 70% of household incomes in the region. Unfortunately, low yields have led to lower incomes for farmers, often causing them to expand activities into forest areas. This, in turn, leads to increased forest degradation.

IDH (The Sustainable Trade Initiative) and WWF commissioned an HCV screening through the Proforest Production Landscape Programme, supported by the Forest, Governance, Markets and Climate Programme of UKAid. This was part of an initiative to bring together key cocoa stakeholders to co-design and implement actions that help protect forests, improve sustainable cocoa production and enhance the livelihoods of farmers and communities.

Key findings:

- Stakeholders highlighted that the land cover classification was not accurate as many cocoa farms were classified as forest. Hence, there is probably much less high-quality forest left in the area than expected.
- Various threats such as housing and agricultural expansion, unsustainable resource use, pollution and climate change may potentially impact HCVs identified in the area.

proforest

Legend
⌐⌐ Mbangassina boundaries
▢ Screening area
▲ Villages
Land Cover Classification
■ Water
■ Inhabited areas
■ Forest
■ Savannah
■ Cash Crops (palm oil)
■ Cocoa (Full sun)
■ Cocoa (Medium-desnsity agroforestry)
■ Cocoa (High-density agroforestry)
■ Subsistence agriculture

Project:
HCV screening Mbangassina
Coordinate system:
WGS 1984
Sources:
IDH (2020),
MINFOF/WRI (2017),
UC Davis (2018),
Satelligence (2020),
WDPA (2020), WFP (2017)
Date:
October 2020
Author:
Helene Mbaididje, Proforest

Caveats and challenges of the screening tool

1. Screening is one tool for implementing sustainability initiatives to help protect nature and reduce emissions and must be accompanied by enabling conditions.
2. There will be trade-offs between the effort (time and resources) invested and the accuracy and detail of results.
3. Some HCVs (particularly social HCVs) are often difficult, if not impossible, to screen in a desk-based study. Therefore, it is important to plan follow-up work on the ground.

Proposed solutions

1. Screening must be accompanied by resources and long-term commitment from government, private sector and civil society.
2. The feasibility and practicality of invested resources and detail of the screening will depend on the landscape.
3. Desk-based study must be accompanied by targeted field work and stakeholder consultation to identify any HCVs that might have been missed.

Considerations for policymakers

1. At a national level, governments can use spatial planning, conservation tools and fiscal incentives to encourage sustainability-focused activities.
2. Large-scale analyses like screenings must be linked to village-level planning instruments. Formal rights recognition of Indigenous territories and community lands is critical to slow deforestation. Recent global assessments by DiGiano et al. (2020) recommend strengthening Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' land rights as part of nature-based climate solutions.

References and further reading

Watson E. ed. 2020. High conservation value (HCV) screening: Guidance for identifying and prioritising action for HCVs in jurisdictional and landscape settings. HCV Network Ltd. https://hcvnetwork.org/library/hcv-screening-guidance/

DiGiano M, Stickler C, David O. 2020. How can jurisdictional approaches to sustainability protect and enhance the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities? *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*. 22 May. https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2020.00040/full

Forests
Food
Finance

GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihoods, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UNEP and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM – Organics International, The International Livestock Research Institute, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, SAN, TMG-Think Tank for Sustainability, UNEP, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Farmer Organization, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, World Resources Institute, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL)

Funding partners

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

FOLUR
Food · Land Use · Restoration

gef

© Ricky Martin/CIFOR

@GlobalLF   @GlobalLandscapesForum

bit.ly/GLFClimate2021