

# Factsheet on RSPO Simplified High Conservation Value (HCV) approach



## INTRODUCTION

The RSPO Simplified High Conservation Value (HCV) approach is a simplified HCV methodology developed to help smallholders to identify, protect and manage HCVs for both existing and new plantings. This approach recognises that existing and new plantings have different probabilities of HCVs being present and impacted on.

In existing plantations, there is a potential loss of natural vegetation due to clearance for oil palm development. Traditional forest use has ceased, and most of the plants and animals that had been originally present are no longer there. Consequently, the risk of damaging HCVs in established plantings is considered low.

For new plantings, the lands are more likely to contain natural habitats, thus the risks of damaging HCVs are higher. The risks of potential damages are dependent on the:



### Probability of HCVs' presence

The more likely that HCVs are present, the higher the risk of negative impacts from planting oil palm on that site, such as the decrease in forest size, number of animals (HCV 1-3) as well as land available for the subsistence or cultural identity of local communities (HCV 4-6).



### Size or scale of expansion

Large scale oil palm development is likely to have more impact on HCVs than small scale expansion as greater reductions of natural habitat/ecosystems increase the risk of habitat destruction and fragmentation.

Thus, different HCV assessment procedures have been developed for existing and new plantings.

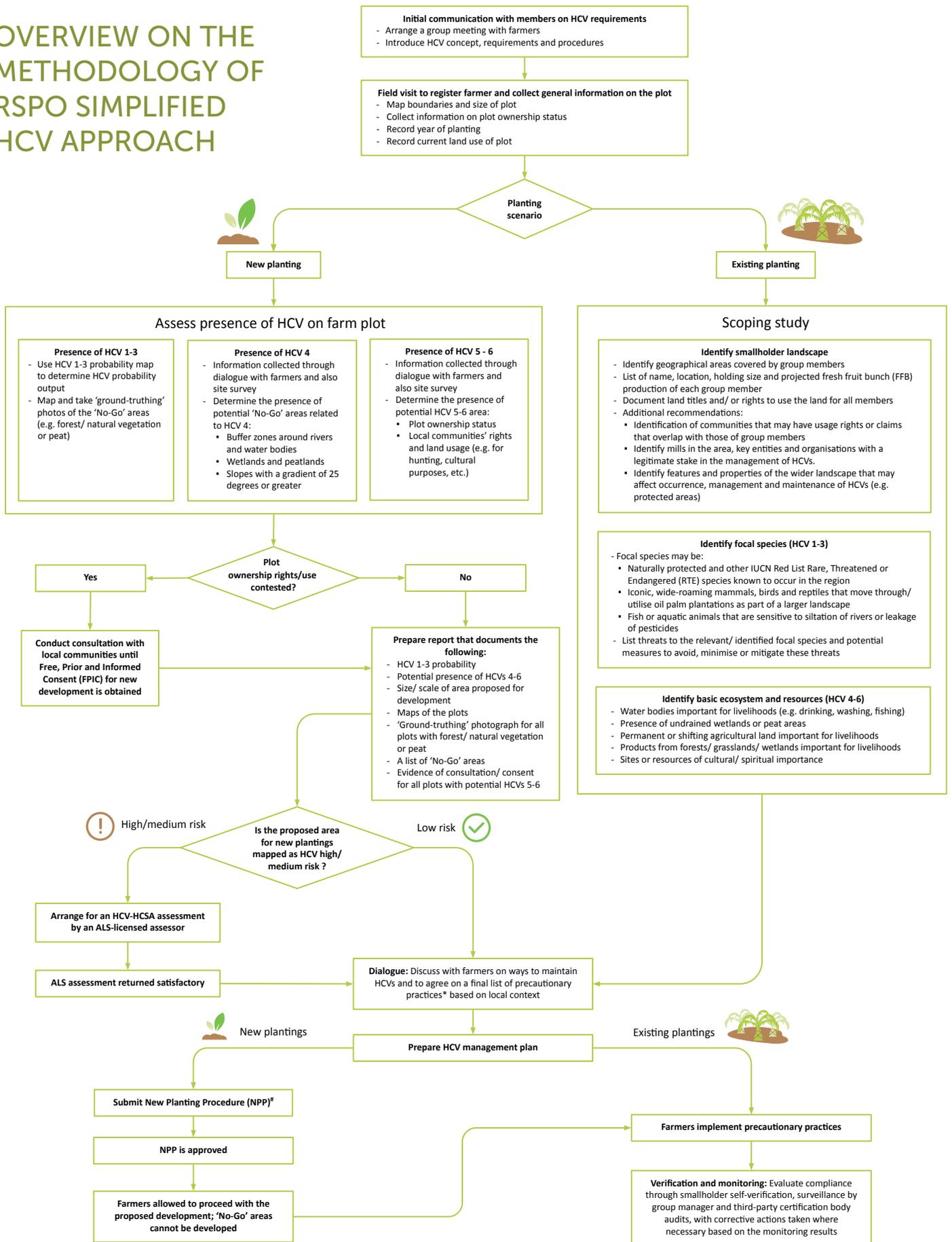
## OVERVIEW OF THE SIMPLIFIED HCV APPROACH

This document introduces the simplified HCV approach and explains the procedures for new and existing plantings.

This approach:

- Uses a specialised HCV smartphone app for smallholders, with a web dashboard, to collect and aggregate data on farmer group members and their plots, for both existing plantations and proposed new plantings.
- Is designed to be implemented by the group manager as far as possible, but with the need for mandatory independent review in medium-risk situations, and assessment by an Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS)-licensed assessor in high-risk situations.
- Provides guidance on how to manage and maintain HCVs, and in medium-risk situations, identifies precautionary “no-go” areas that cannot be developed.
- Serves as a one-stop shop guidance for group managers on how to address the RSPO requirements for HCVs of their group members.

# OVERVIEW ON THE METHODOLOGY OF RSPO SIMPLIFIED HCV APPROACH

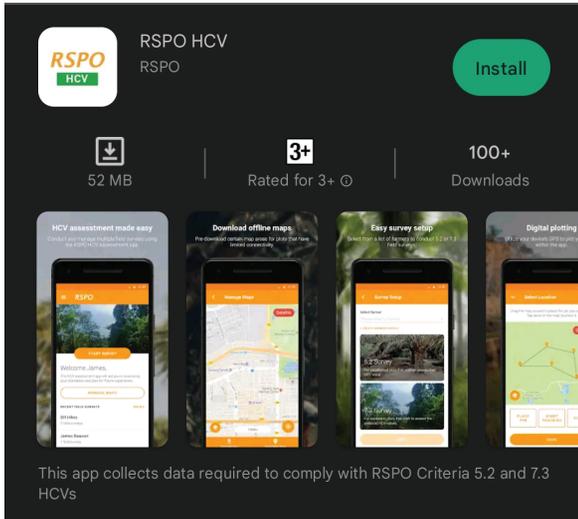


# This NPP is developed for scheme smallholders

\*List of precautionary practices

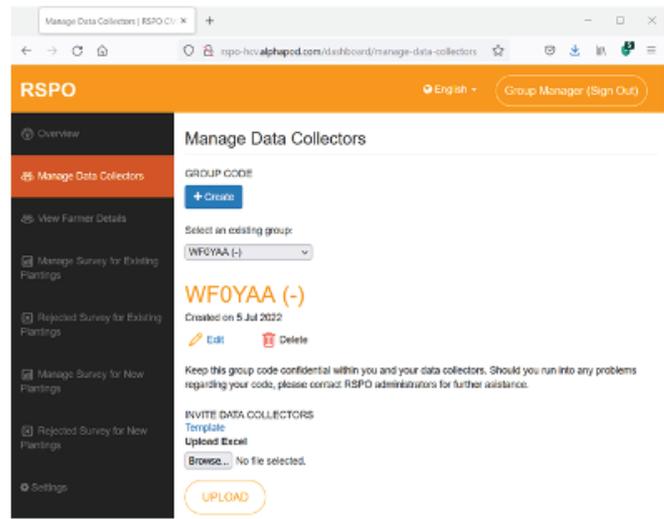
1. No use of pesticides or fertilisers (other than mulch/ harvest residues) close to (less than 20m from) rivers, ponds and lakes.
2. No dumping of waste or sewage into rivers, ponds or lakes.
3. Maintain vegetation cover close to rivers, ponds and lakes at all times (no bare soil).
4. No draining of natural wetlands or peat areas.
5. Maintain vegetation on steep slopes.
6. Respect the traditional use/ access rights of others.
7. Do not hunt or kill focal species.
8. Do not buy, handle or eat bush meat of focal species.
9. Do not collect or trap focal species or use poison that may affect them.
10. Use human-wildlife conflict resolution measures as agreed upon with group manager.
11. Do not block access (beyond agreed measures to minimise human-wildlife conflicts) or mobility of wild animals (beyond necessary fencing of livestock).
12. Do not clear land for any new plantings without prior agreement of the group manager.

## RSPO HCV APP



Data collectors can download the app to their mobile phone from Google Play Store and use it in the field for data collection and HCV assessment.

## WEB DASHBOARD



Group manager can access data collected from the field via <https://hcv-sh-apps.rspo.org/dashboard/login> for review and to download summary report.

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Refer to the following guidance documents for the full details on the RSPO Simplified HCV approach.

