High Conservation Values (HCVs) evaluation framework

For use in the context of implementing FSC Controlled Wood standards

DRAFT 2.1 - Published 14th April 2011

"FSC Australia discussed a revised approach to evaluating High Conservation Values at a workshop in Melbourne last week attended by about 40 members and other stakeholders. The revised approach is based on a Framework developed by FSC US. Draft 2.0 of the HCV Evaluation Framework was canvassed with participants at the workshop. Comments were captured and some changes have been incorporated into a Draft 2.1 that will be uploaded to the FSC Australia web site this week for a 60 day comment period. Other comments made at the workshop will be considered as part of the review of the Framework at the end of the comment period. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to FSC Australia. FSC International Forest Policy Manager Richard Robertson attended the session and provided some context to the discussion by outlining the history and current context of the HCV concept." (FSC Australia Newsletter - April 14th, 2011)

During a sixty day consultation period, FSC Australia received nineteen submissions from organisations and companies, representing the three FSC chambers (environment, social and economic) regarding the Draft 2.1 of the Framework for Evaluating High Conservation Value's (HCV's) in Australian forests.

Of these submissions, the majority were from the economic chamber (fifteen). The social chamber had three submissions, and the environmental chamber two. Identifying HCV's specific to the Australian forestry context, with input from all chambers, is a crucial development toward the formation of an FSC Australian Standard. This framework will be an important tool for companies required to evaluate HCV's in Australia under the International Standards for Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005 and FSC-STD-30-010).

The next stage in this process will be an extensive evaluation of comments received.

FSC Australia would like to thank to all those that took the time to comment.