

Sustainability Facts

STORA ENSO'S FACT SHEET FOR STAKEHOLDERS

July 2007

Stora Enso and High Conservation Value Forests

This fact sheet describes current developments on the concept of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs). HCVFs are forests containing exceptional environmental and/or social values. Stora Enso takes care of HCVFs as part of its sustainable forest management practices.

- The concept of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) is relatively new and still evolving.
- HCVFs should be managed in forestry operations in such a way as to ensure that the values of the forests are maintained.
- Stora Enso calls for and actively participates in HCVFs identification and guidance processes.
- Stora Enso uses mapping information, field assessments, certification procedures, and other methods to identify HCVFs.

What are High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs)?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCVFs are forests containing exceptional environmental and / or social values. • The concept of HCVFs is relatively new and the definitions quite broad. Further specifications will have to be done on national and/or regional levels to identify HCVF and make the concept operational. • According to Stora Enso, HCVFs should be defined in open participatory stakeholder processes involving a range of expertise using the best available ecological and social information, in order to achieve acceptance from environmental, social and economic points of view. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept can be applied to all types of forests both on a small and large scale, and includes both environmental and social aspects. • The concept is designed to safeguard critical values of forests; not to exclude forests from management or harvesting. |
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How does Stora Enso manage High Conservation Value Forests?

Stora Enso:

- addresses high conservation values (HCVs) in forestry operations through forest management planning, forest management certification and Controlled Wood certifications
- conducts risk assessments and field surveys in its own forest management and forest certification projects to ensure forest management does not threaten HCVFs
- uses all available data and mapping information to recognise and identify HCVFs
- promotes further development of data on HCVFs and co-operates with other stakeholders in improving the knowledge and identification of HCVs
- actively participates in national forest certification processes where guidance for identification and management of HCVFs is developed.

Examples of regional actions:

- Stora Enso supported the key biotope inventory and mapping project in the **Baltic countries** and integrated the results into its wood traceability system.
- In **Finland**, wood procurement personnel receive training on how to assess harvesting sites prior to harvesting in order to identify HCVs. The data is added to the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) used by Stora Enso.
- Stora Enso participates in the regional controlled wood risk assessment working group in **Russian Karelia**.
- In Pskov, **Russia**, Stora Enso and WWF work together in a Model Forest Project, where a field inventory method has been developed to recognise and map HCVs. The same method was extended to other Stora Enso subsidiary companies in Russia.
- In **Canada**, Stora Enso organised an HCVF working group that included local ENGO's, Nature Conservancy of Canada, WWF, academics and government professionals to complete an HCVF analysis for its land base. Forestry management practices are in place for identified HCVFs ranging from full protection to special management.

Background of the High Conservation Value Forest concept

- The concept was first launched in 1999 when it was included in the Forest Stewardship Council, FSC, principles and criteria for forest management certification.
- In 2003, an HCVF toolkit was developed with practical guidance on how the concept can be developed.
- In 2005, an HCV Resource Network was established aiming to encourage collaboration, provide information and support activities to develop the HCVF approach.

The mission of the HCV Resource Network is to:

- Maintain and enhance critical social and environmental values of forests and other ecosystems as part of responsible land management.
- Promote national and regional definitions and development of the HCV approach.
- Promote co-operation among users of the concept and share best practices.

Glossary

Controlled Wood – FSC standard developed for uncertified wood to enable companies to avoid wood from undesirable sources entering their supply chain

ENGO – environmental non-governmental organisation

Forest management certification – a procedure whereby an independent third party inspects forest management and utilisation practices to assess compliance with a set of ecological, economic and social standards for sustainable forestry

Forest Stewardship Council, FSC – an international forest certification system

High Conservation Values, HCV – exceptional environmental or social values that need to be maintained or enhanced

High Conservation Value Forests, HCVFs – forests containing exceptional environmental and / or social values

Pskov Model Forest – a project to develop forestry methods for Northwest Russia balancing economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainability. The project is managed by WWF Russia and sponsored by the Swedish International Development Agency, WWF Germany and Stora Enso. See: www.wwf.ru/pskov/eng/

Stora Enso traceability systems – Stora Enso's internal systems to document the origin of all wood fibre used by the Group to ensure compliance with national laws and Stora Enso principles

WWF – global conservation organisation

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