

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB)
Working group on ENVIRONMENT (WG ENV)

Background documents - Paper 6
Definition of High Conservation Values Areas
(As found on <http://hcvnetwork.org/>)

High Conservation Value areas are critical areas in a landscape which need to be appropriately managed in order to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values (HCVs). There are six main types of HCV area, based on the definition originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council for certification of forest ecosystems, but now increasingly expanded to apply to assessments of other ecosystems.

HCV1. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).

HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV3. Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

HCV4. Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).