



HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE ASSESSOR TRAINING COURSE

13 - 17 JULY | ACCRA, GHANA



• APPLICATION DEADLINE 20 JUNE 2015

If you wish to participate, please send your CV (list any HCV experience) and a brief letter (max. 1 page) to Nana Darko (address below). State why you wish to take this course and how you plan to use HCV in your professional life.

• COST

This training is partly funded through the Proforest Africa Practitioners' Network Programme. The Programme will cover the cost of course fees, lunch and light refreshment during the course. However, participants are expected to cater for their accommodation costs.

• PARTICIPANT PROFILE

This course is aimed at those with some knowledge and/or experience of HCVs. It is also aimed at those with experience of Environmental & Social Impact Assessment. Ideally candidates have some academic training and practical experience in areas such as biology, ecology, conservation biology, sociology, remote sensing or participatory mapping.

Contact: Nana Darko Cobbina
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This course is funded by:



Course Description

The Africa Practitioners' Network is offering a training course for High Conservation Value (HCV) assessors – particularly those who would like to apply to the HCV Resource Network (HCVRN) Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS). The agenda and contents of the course meet the requirements of the HCVRN, and are designed for professionals who will lead HCV assessments, as required by a growing number of certification standards for forestry and agricultural commodities (e.g. FSC, RSPO). The course is based on HCVRN guidance, and combines taught modules and practical workshops, with group work based on a simulated HCV assessment.

Why do this course?

The HCV concept is gaining widespread recognition as an effective land-use planning tool and forms an integral part of a growing number of certification standards for forestry and agricultural commodities (e.g. FSC and RSPO). However, there have been growing concerns about the quality and results of some HCV assessments. This has been linked to a lack of understanding and capacity among assessors to lead and manage HCV assessments. This course aims to ensure that HCV assessors are adequately qualified to meet that concern.

Course Objectives

1. To provide participants with in-depth knowledge of the latest guidance and best practices for HCV assessments as per the HCVRN Assessor's manual.
2. To train future HCV assessors with a standardised approach to HCV assessments.

Key Focus Areas

- Overview of the HCV concept.
- The HCVRN ALS system.
- Determining the scope of the assessment and risk-level of a project.
- Selecting and leading/managing a team.
- The logistics of an HCV assessment (including budgeting time and resources).
- Desk-based pre-assessment study (objectives, information needs, best practice).
- How to identify data gaps and address them.
- The consultation process (stakeholder identification, approaches, timing).
- Data gathering and field survey methods
- Validation of findings.
- Interpretation and identification of the 6 HCV categories.
- Using maps and geographical data.
- Developing a spatial conservation plan.
- Threats assessment.
- Providing preliminary management and monitoring recommendations.
- Reporting requirements.

Participant Evaluation

There will be a short pre-test prior to the course as well as a written examination (1hr) at the end of the course. Participants who pass the examination will receive certificates of successful completion of the course.