



montrose  
environmental

# Montrose Environmental High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessments

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## High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessments

High Conservation Values (HCVs) are **biological, ecological, social or cultural values** that are considered outstandingly significant or critically important at the national, regional or global level. Montrose Environmental has an in-house licensed HCV Assessor (Phil Patton: ALS15041PP). We can assist producers, purchasers and investors identify, manage and maintain HCVs as well as a number of other environmental and social based solutions.

Many sustainability standards for forestry, palm oil, sugarcane and soy production all require that HCVs are maintained or enhanced. These include the likes of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Global retailers, banks, processors and distributors of wood, paper and vegetable oils have also integrated requirements about HCVs into their procurement and investment policies.

## Our Services

We provide consultancy services for **producers, purchasers and investors** to help them understand and implement the HCV approach. The Montrose team includes experts in a wide range of relevant areas including **biodiversity, conservation, ecology, environmental specialists, social scientists and anthropology**.

We have carried out HCV scoping studies and full assessments for numerous clients across Africa. Our Lead Assessors' current and previous clients include Natural Habitats, Feronia and Supacrush and projects have been conducted in Sierra Leone, Liberia, DRC, Cameroon and throughout Southern and East Africa.

### Our HCV services for producers include:

- **HCV assessments** - A specialist team of scientists use both desk-based research and information collected in the field to identify HCVs present in a specified area.
- **HCV management procedures** - We help land managers to draw up management plans to maintain or enhance HCVs.
- **Monitoring and updating HCVs** - We help develop bio monitoring plans to enable the land manager to check that management practices are effective.
- **HCV Training** - We provide bespoke training for land managers to enable them to apply the HCV approach. This includes presentations, workshops and in field assessments.

## Our Approach

Montrose Environmental helps people from a wide range of organisations to **understand and implement the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach**. We work with companies, largely in the palm oil and forest sectors, to identify, manage and monitor HCVs. This includes carrying out assessments to identify HCVs in proposed and existing agricultural or forestry developments in Africa and abroad.

## RSPO Standard

### Recent directive from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO):

If an HCV assessment report is **older than three years** at the time of NPP, it must be reviewed and updated by an ALS licensed assessor including any new requirements of RSPO.

### Contact:

For further information please contact Phil Patton (member of the HCV Resource Network) - [phil@montroseint.com](mailto:phil@montroseint.com)