

High Conservation Value Forest-HCV Map

The Project on Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management in Solomon Islands

(Background)

One of the biggest challenge we face as country is forest degradation. Commercial logging operations and other economic activities are often the cause of deforestation. High Conservation Value (HCV) is one of the approaches that will help us to protect, maintain and sustain our forest by knowing its value.

Basically, HCV regions are those that hold biological, ecological, social or even cultural values. In the HCV areas we expect to see pristine forest, threatened or endangered species or sites that hold cultural and traditional significance. HCV is a meaningful approach for Solomon Islands as it will helps us to maintain our forests by promoting sustainable forest management ideas. The HCV map of Solomon Islands is created based on RSPO concept as it is described in the following methodology.

(High Conservation Value (HCV) Indicators)

HCV-1

- The presence of a recognized biodiversity priority area
- A designation by national authority or by reputable conservation organization
- The presence of natural habitat in good condition

HCV-2

1. Existing landscape-level designations (e.g. Ramsar sites, National parks, Sanctuaries, etc.)
2. Areas with low levels of overall disturbance and high connectivity
3. Large, undisturbed landscape-level (Intact Forest Landscapes) forests comes from the World Resources Institute
4. Other forests matching criteria (with an area of at least 5000 km² etc.)

HCV-3

1. In regions where many natural ecosystems or habitats have been eliminated, and others have been heavily impacted by development, remaining natural ecosystems of reasonable quality are likely to be HCV 3.
2. Where ecosystem proxies indicate the presence of RTE ecosystems, even if these are inaccessible or have not been confirmed on the ground.

(Probability of HCV 1-3 Presence)

High Probability of HCV 1-3 Presence

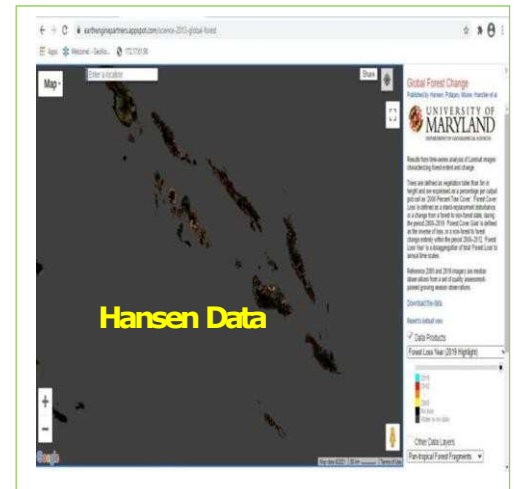
HCV1	
Forest Type	Data Source
Natural Forest >= 1,000ha	Hansen Treecover2018 Hansen Lossyear2018
Protected Areas 50m buffer	World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)
Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) 50m buffer	Intact Forest Landscape (IFL)

Data Source(s)



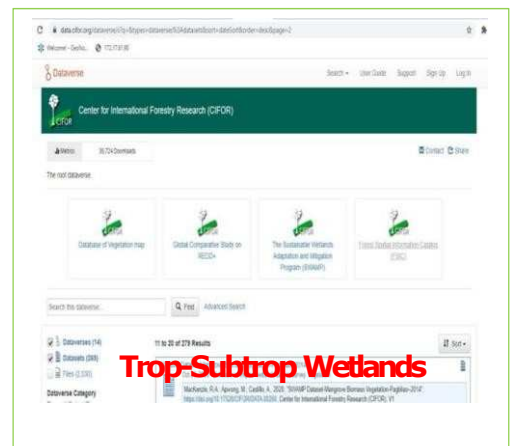
Medium Probability of HCV 1-3 Presence

HCV2	
Forest Type	Data Source
50m to 500m buffer around natural forest >= 1,000ha	Hansen Treecover2018 Hansen Lossyear2018
Swamp Ecosystems	TROP-SUBTROP WETLANDS 2016 CIFOR
50m to 1 km around Protected Areas (PAs)	World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)
50m to 1 km buffer around IFL	Intact Forest Landscape
Natural forest patches of 50-1000ha	Treecover2018



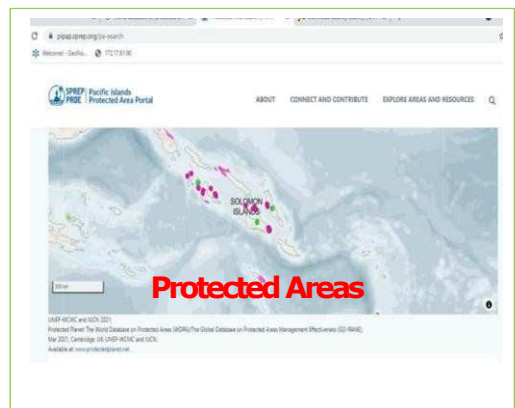
Low Probability of HCV 1-3 Presence

HCV3	
Forest Type	Data Source
All remaining areas (agricultural areas, degraded natural areas and natural forests less than 50ha)	Remaining areas

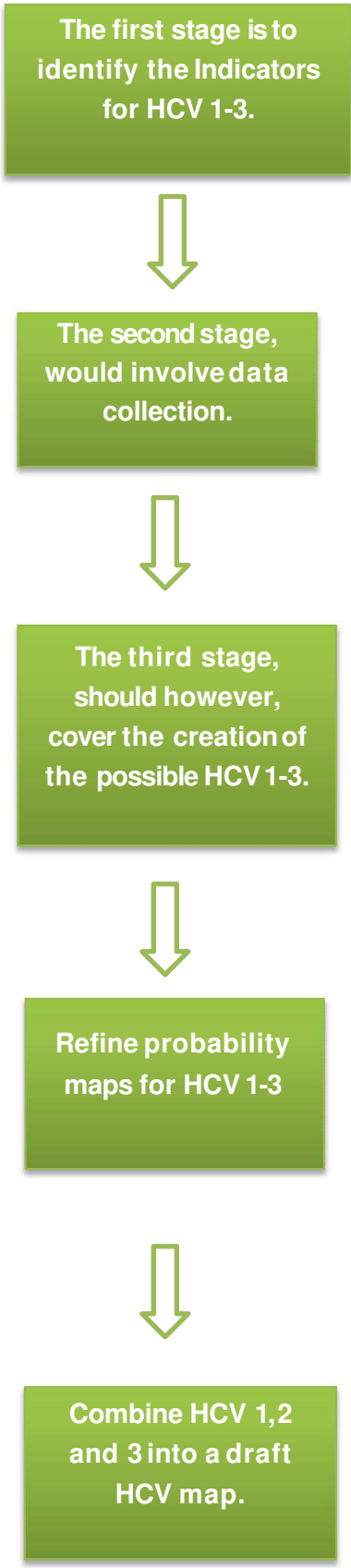


(Data Classification)

Data Source	File Name	Feature Type
Global Forest Watch	Treecover2018	Raster
Global Forest Watch	Loss year2018	Raster
Intact Forest Landscape	IFL	Polygon
Center for International Forestry Research	Trop- Subtrop Wetlands, Mangrove	Raster
World Database on Protected Areas	Protected Area	Polygon
Ministry of Forestry and Research	Admin Boundary	Polygon



Basic Steps for developing HCV Maps



These are the presence of certain recognized biodiversity areas and other forest regions which matches the conditions for HCV creations. For instance, High Forest Areas, Intact forest regions and so forth.

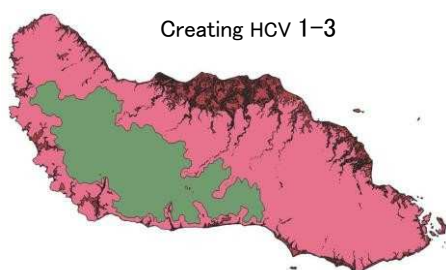
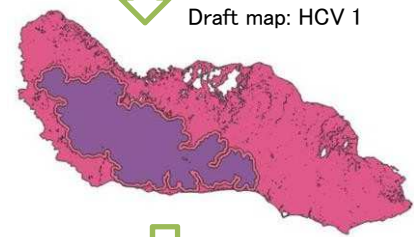
This is where right source(s) for the data repository was consulted to acquire the appropriate data for the HCV creation. For this, some of the data was acquired from Hansen datasets, IFL, PA etc.

Data will be processed to create the possible HCV 1-3 levels. With that, right applications have to be employed as well. QGIS 3 was used to create all HCV 1-3.

For each HCV levels, each criteria used to refine the HCV 1-3. For instance, to create HCV 1, we use IFL, protected areas and Natural forest patched. Other HCV 2-3 have their own criteria and datasets to use.








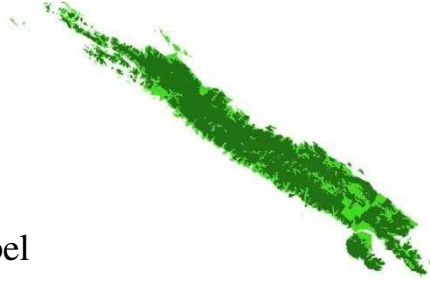

This is the output for the HCV 1-3. In this, maps of the HCV 1-3 are created which reveals the various levels for the HCV 1-3 in all the provinces (SI).

Based on RSPO Documents The RSPO outlines the criteria for HCV(s).



Final Output: The final output map will contain shapefiles or Raster files including documentations.

Created Maps

 <p>Guadalcanal</p>	 <p>Malaita</p>
 <p>Choisuel</p>	 <p>Central</p>
 <p>Makira</p>	 <p>Rennell</p>
 <p>Temotu</p>	 <p>Isabel</p>
 <p>Western</p>	

[Summary]

Generally the HCV 1-3 maps help us realize the different levels of High Conservation Value areas in Solomon Islands. With the challenges of unsustainable harvesting of our forests, we can apply HCV concepts to protect our HCV values regions. Besides that, it also educates us on the costs and benefits we can get from our forests and finally, it help us to make better forest planning decisions. By promoting these HCV ideas, we will have sound forest management approach.