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Sustainability Requirements – Position of an NGO

World Wide Fund for Nature

Martina Fleckenstein

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Worldwide Fund for Nature

- Independent foundation, founded 1961
- 5 mio members worldwide
- One of the largest conservation organisations
- Global organization acting locally through a network of 90 offices in over 40 countries
- **WWF Mission:**
 - conserving the world's biological diversity
 - ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
 - promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



Content

- 1. WWF and Sustainable Biomass**
- 2. Certification and Credibility**
- 3. High Biodiverse Areas**
 - 1. High Conservation Areas**
 - 2. High Carbon Stock**
- 4. Challenges and Solutions**



Why do we need a Sustainable Biomass Production?

- Stop Climate Change
- Ensure Energy Security
- Halt Loss of Biodiversity
- Maintain Livelihood in Rural Areas and ensure Food Security





What is a Sustainable Biomass Production

- **Safeguard biodiversity**
- **Safeguard conservation values**
- **Improve water, soil, air**

- **Reduce Greenhouse gas emission**

- **Establishment and protection of**
 - **Conservation areas**
 - **Buffer zones**
 - **Ecological corridors**

- **Maintenance and enhancement of**
 - **Ecological services**
 - **Livelihood in rural areas**



Credible Certification Scheme



International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC)
www.iscc-system.org



Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) www.rspo.org



Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)



Better Sugar Initiative (BSI)



Roundtable on Biofuel (RSB)



Definition of a Credible Certification Scheme

- **Focused on key impacts (social, economic and ecologic)**
- **Performance-based and address the entire supply chain (GHG)**
- **ISEAL compliant (global association for environmental and social standards)**
- **Multi-stakeholder and transparent (Industries to Smallholders)**
- **Consensus oriented**
- **Compliant with law**
- **Based on sound science**
- **Globally applicable and adaptable to local/regional needs**





...and effective standards' implementation (certification)

This requires at a minimum:

- **Written commitment** to minimize or eliminate the most important negative environmental and social impacts. The standards should provide achievable targets which are clearly linked with environmental and social performance.
- **Decision-making procedures** which are fair, transparent, independent, and designed to avoid conflicts of interest.
- **Independent, third-party assessment** of management performance by competent, credible auditors (including training of auditors)
- **Continuous improvement** through periodic review and updating





Principles of a Credible Certification Scheme

- 1. Greenhouse gas reduction**
- 2. Direct neg. impacts of land use**
- 3. Loss of high conservation/biological values**
- 4. Erosion of biological diversity**
- 5. Impacts on the abiotic environment
(air, soil, water)**
- 6. Socio-economic impacts**
- 7. ILO Core-conventions**
- 8. Compliance with legal provision**



Sustainable Biomass Production

- **Integration of ecological, social and economic impacts in production methods**
- **Consideration of level playing field, environmental protection and food security**
- **Increasing of industry participation and creation of demand**





Mandatory Sustainability Criteria: EU-Renewable Energy Directive



- **Land with high biodiversity value:**
No raw material from undisturbed forests, highly biodiverse grassland, nature protection areas
- **Land with high carbon stock:**
No conversion of wetlands, peatland and continuously forested areas for biofuel production (to protect carbon stocks) beyond 2008
- **Greenhouse gas impact:**
GHG savings – minimum of 35%, including calculation methodology and ‘default’ values up to 60 % in 2017
- All EU biofuels must meet “**cross compliance**”
- **Reference date: 1. January 2008**



Challenges

- 1. Definition of high biodiverse areas and land categories**
- 2. Identification and Assessment of No-go areas, high and low risk areas for a sustainable biomass production**
- 3. Verification by credible certification schemes**
- 4. Long-term monitoring and maintenance of high biodiverse areas**



Assessment of no-go areas, high and low risk areas

No-go areas:

IUCN protected areas (national park), Ramsar Site, Unesco World Heritage, legally protected areas, habitats of endangered species according to IUCN red list

High risk areas:

High conservation value areas (HCVA) including ecosystem services and cultural important areas, Natura 2000 Areas including important Bird Areas, land with important carbon stock, ecological important buffer zones like riparian sites and ecological corridors, wetlands, peat land, primary forest, highly biodiverse grassland and savannah, presence of endangered species

Low risks:

Degraded land, agricultural land, pasture land

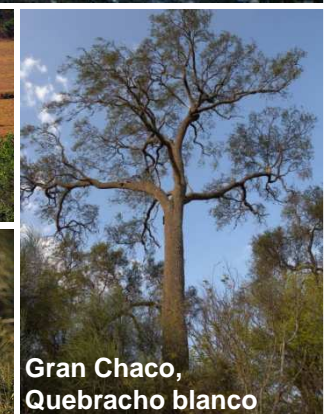
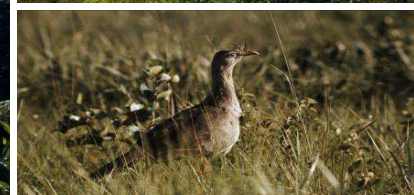
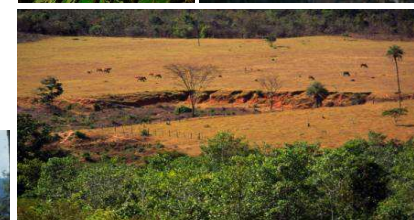


Areas with High Biodiversity: Global Perspective

- **South East Asia**
Indonesia/Malaysia
- Lowland rain forests have almost entirely vanished
- **Latin America**
Amazon (Brazil)
- 15% of total area already cleared
- 61,6 Mio. ha = almost twice the size of Germany
- Gran Chaco (Argentina)
- Around 20 % have already been converted to agricultural land



Sumatratiger

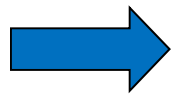


Gran Chaco,
Quebracho blanco



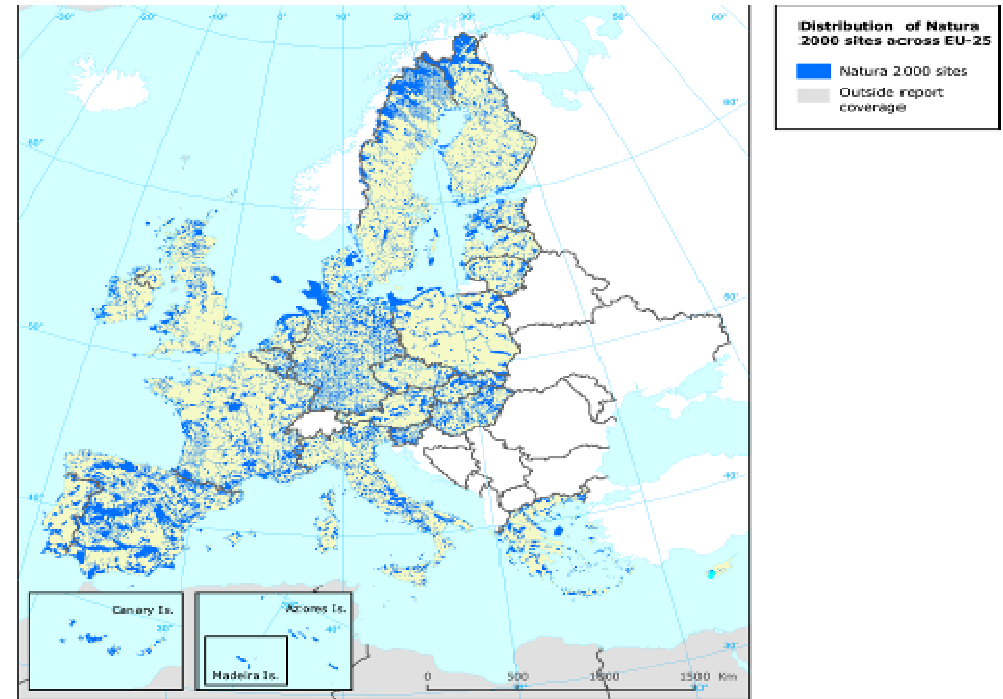
Areas with High Biodiversity: European Perspective

- Natural forests
- Highly biodiverse grasslands
- Wetland



Natura 2000 Network of protected areas

**= 18 % of Europe
= 14 % of Germany**



Germany, Uckermark





Areas with High Carbon Stock

Global Perspective

- **No conversion of peatland**
 - only cover 3 % of land mass but account for around 25-30 % of global underground C storage (540 GT of C)
 - South East Asian peatlands store around 42 Gt of C
- **No deforestation**
 - globally 13 million ha of forests converted per a (FAO 2005)
- **No conversion of wetlands**





Areas with High Carbon Stock

European Perspective

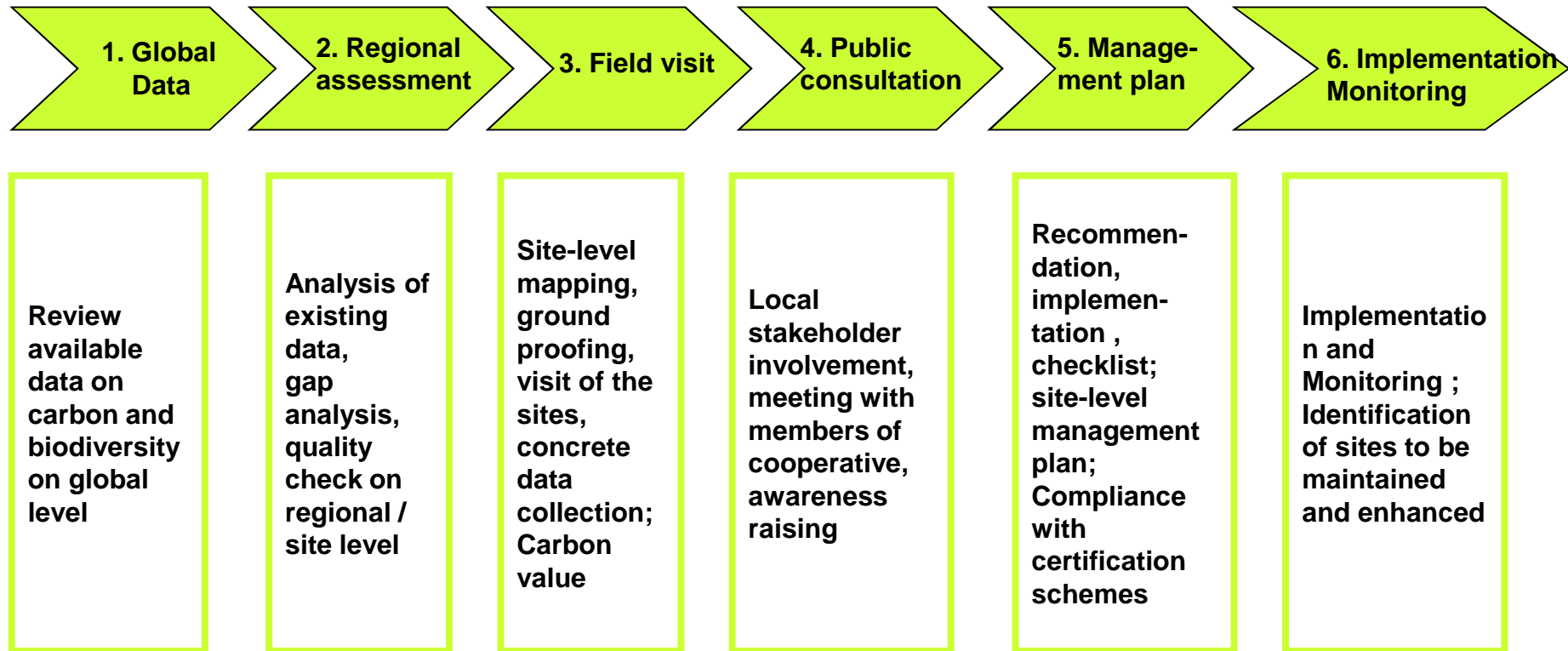
- **Ploughing up of grassland**
→ 203.808 ha have been converted in Germany since 2003
- **Drainage of marshland and wetland**



Source: BfN 2009



Identification: Six Step Approach





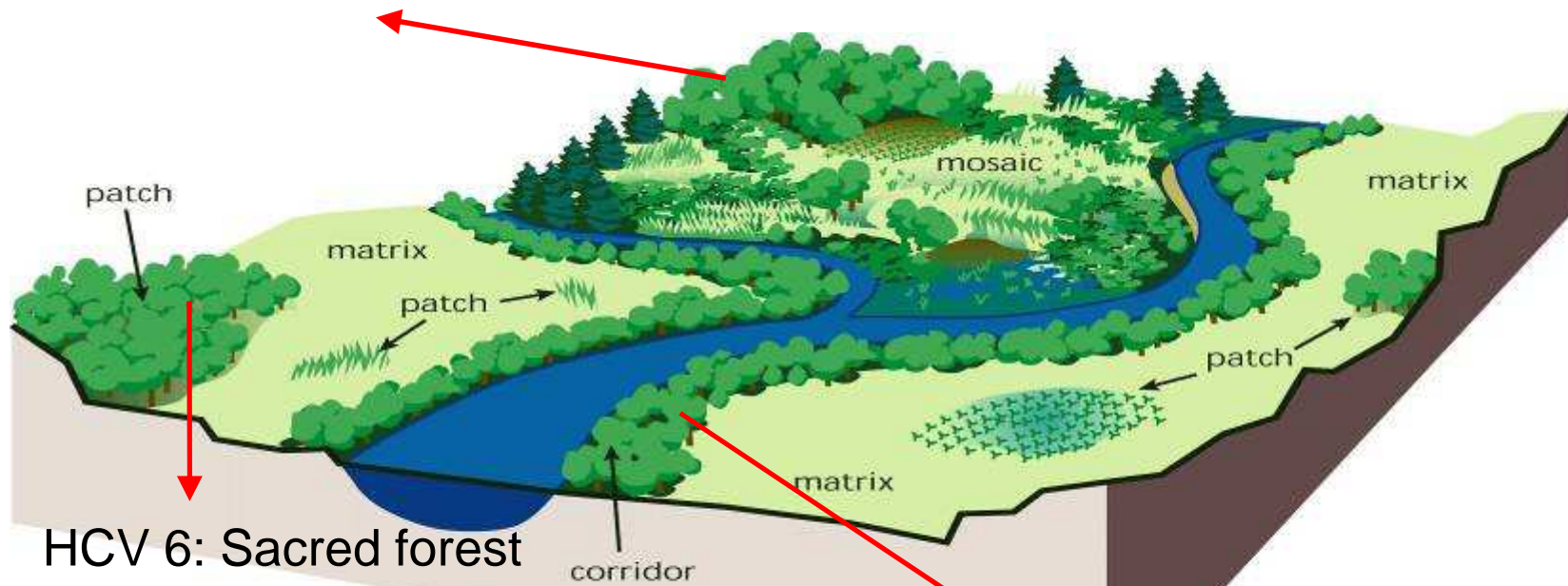
Example: High Conservation Value

- **Biodiversity (HCVA 1)**
 - Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values
- **Landscapes (HCVA 2)**
 - Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level areas
- **Ecosystems (HCVA 3)**
 - Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
- **Ecosystem Services (HCVA 4)**
 - e.g. watershed protection, erosion control
- **Livelihoods (HCVA 5)**
 - Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health)
- **Cultural identity (HCVA 6)**
 - Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance)



HCVA Example

HCV 1: Protected areas



HCV 6: Sacred forest

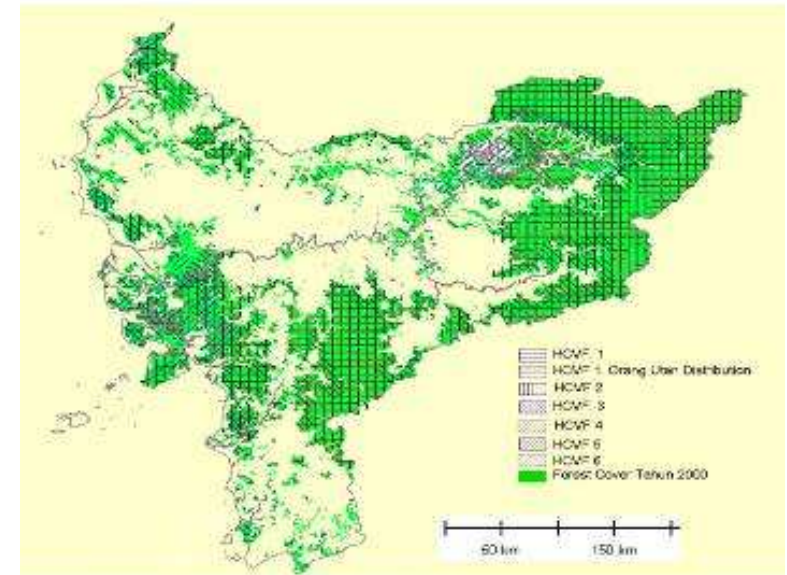
HCV 4: Riparian areas

- ➔ Corridor along riparian
- ➔ Matrix (oil palm planted/other land uses)
- ➔ Mosaic



HCVA Assessment

- HCV areas are not legally secure
- HCV only suitable for large areas
- Defining HCV criteria can be time consuming
- Toolkits currently focused on forest
- Extensive HCV areas are re-allocated by local government to other companies
- HCV areas are being relinquished by companies



Landscape Level HCVF in
West Kalimantan, WWF
Indonesia



The Way Forward to a Sustainable Biomass Production

- **Stop conversion of forest, grassland and wetlands into agricultural land**
- **No enlargement without previous environmental assessment**
- **Help to identify suitable areas for biomass production e.g. by using environmental assessments and social assessments**
- **Use only a credible certification scheme which regards ecological and social aspects (No low level certification!)**
- **Join credible certification schemes for biomass production**



Recommendations and Next Steps

- Support of land use planning and implementation of management plans
- Support civil society and good governance initiatives
- Use only a credible certification scheme which regards ecological and social aspects
(No low level certification!)

But Land use change will not stop if we only focus on a sustainable biomass production:

Next step:

Policy framework that do not favour conversion of forest and other natural ecosystems

Global sustainability standard –mandatory - for all agriculture commodities and for all applications

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Thank you

Martina Fleckenstein

WWF Germany

fleckenstein@wwf.de

+49 30 30 87 42 11