



The HCV Assessor Licensing Scheme

A requirement under RSPO New Planting
Procedures from January 2015

18 November 2014, RSPO RT12, Kuala Lumpur
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Programmes, Proforest (Secretariat of the HCVRN)

www.hcvnetwork.org





What is the HCV Assessor Licensing Scheme?

A scheme to license lead
HCV assessors in any region
and commodity context





Who requires licensed assessors?

- **RSPO** will require licensed assessors for all HCV assessments carried out in the context of **New Planting Procedures (NPP)** starting January 2015
- ALS will **replace** current RSPO assessor registration system.
- Other certification schemes such as **FSC**, **RTRS** and **Bonsucro** may require licensed assessors in the near future.





Why was the ALS created?

Response to **variable quality** of HCV assessments

- HCVs not identified e.g. 5 & 6
- HCV presence / absence not clearly justified
- HCVs inaccurately mapped
- Inadequate consultation
- Inaccessible public summaries
- Unclear reports
- ...





ALS development

2011 HCVRN strategic framework

2012 WWF and RSPO fund, others input to, concept development

2013 engagement with Technical Panel, assessors, certification schemes, companies, HCVRN governance

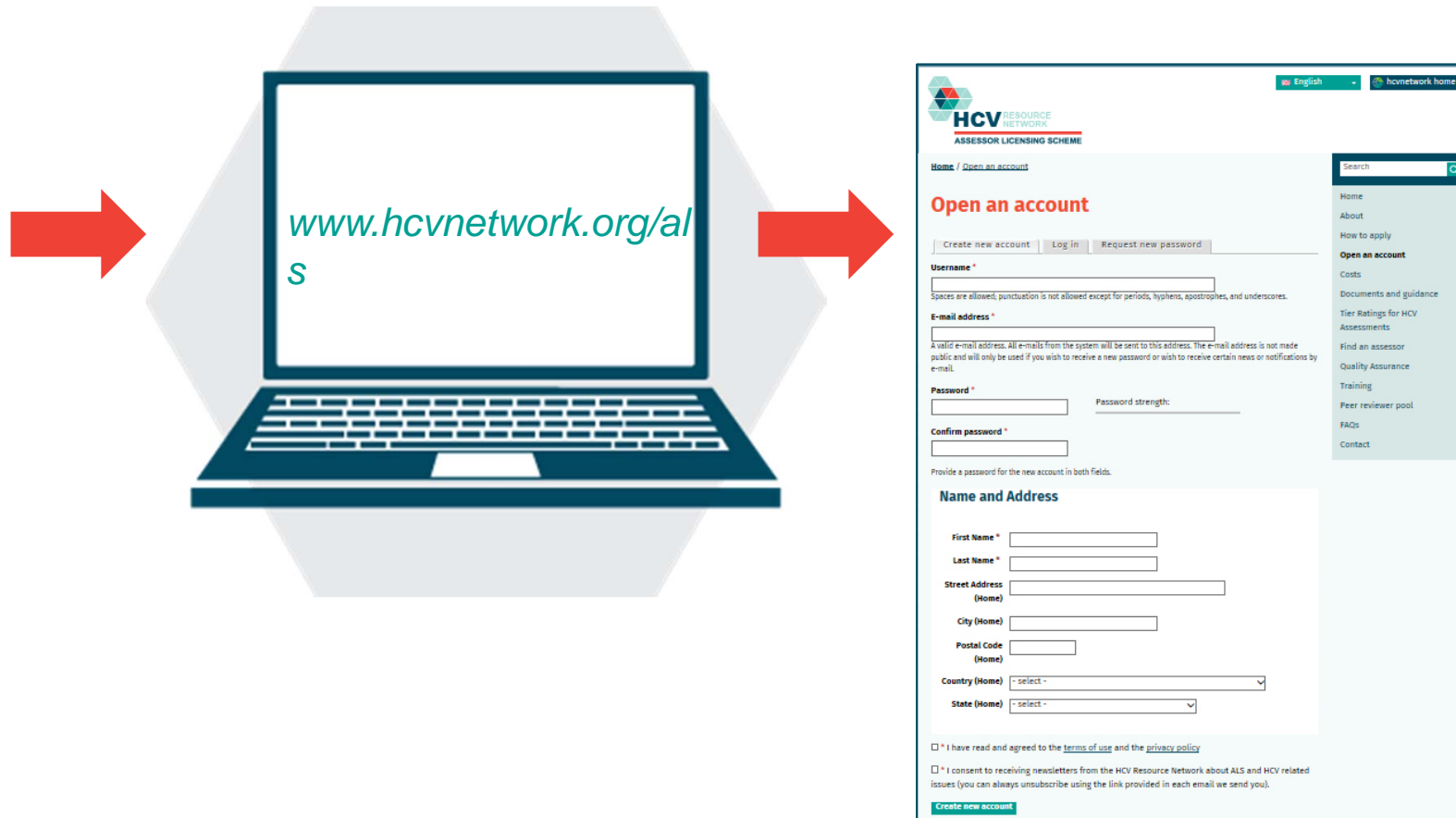
2014 ALS design published and comments invited / feedback from assessors, companies, consultancies, NGOs, standards



More than 100 stakeholders engaged

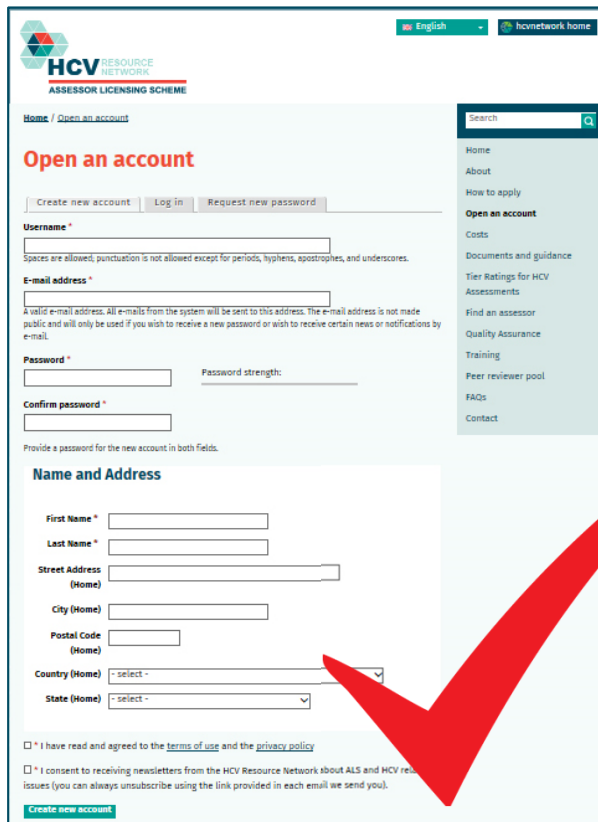
The **licensing process** in summary

1. Applicant submits an **online application**



The licensing process in summary

2. If the application criteria are met, the applicant receives a **provisional HCV assessor licence**



The screenshot shows the 'Open an account' page of the HCV Resource Network Assessor Licensing Scheme. The page includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a form with the following sections:

- Open an account:** Includes buttons for 'Create new account', 'Log in', and 'Request new password'. The form fields are: Username, E-mail address, Password, and Confirm password.
- Name and Address:** Includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Street Address (Home), City (Home), Postal Code (Home), Country (Home), and State (Home).

At the bottom of the form, there are two checkboxes for terms and conditions, and a 'Create new account' button. A large red checkmark is overlaid on the bottom right of the form.

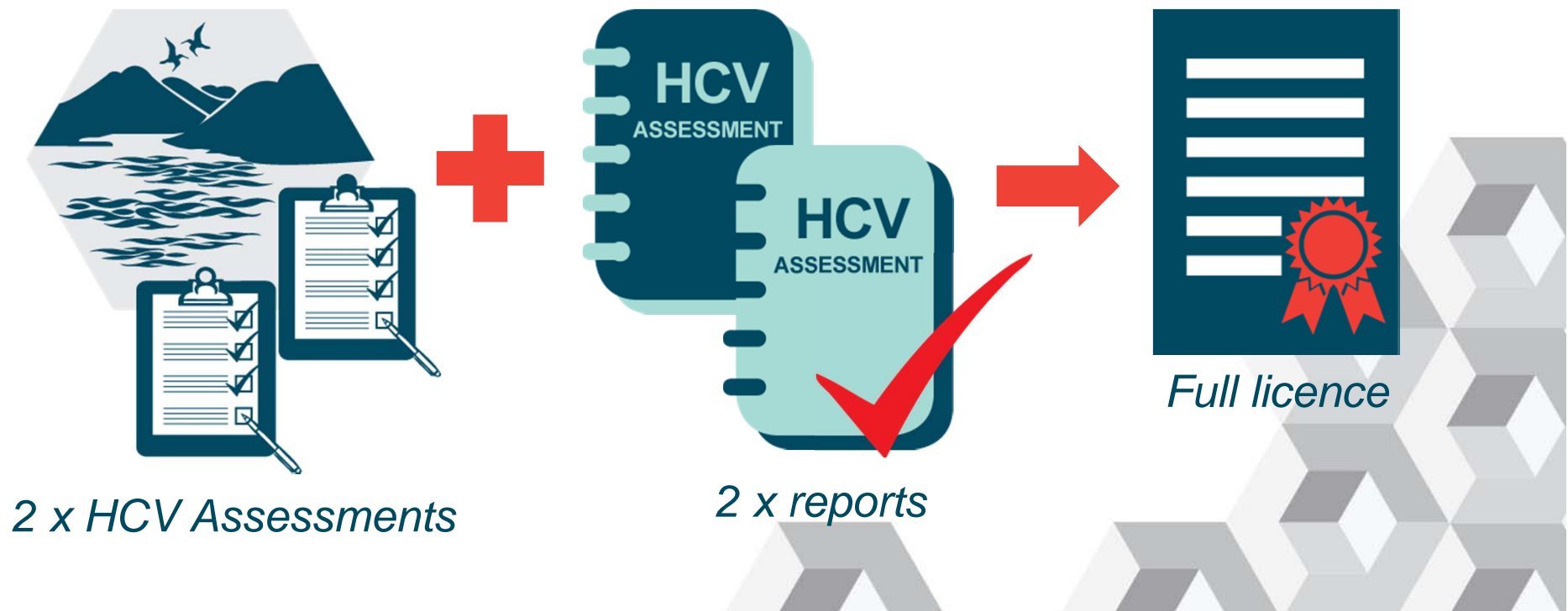


*Provisional
licence*



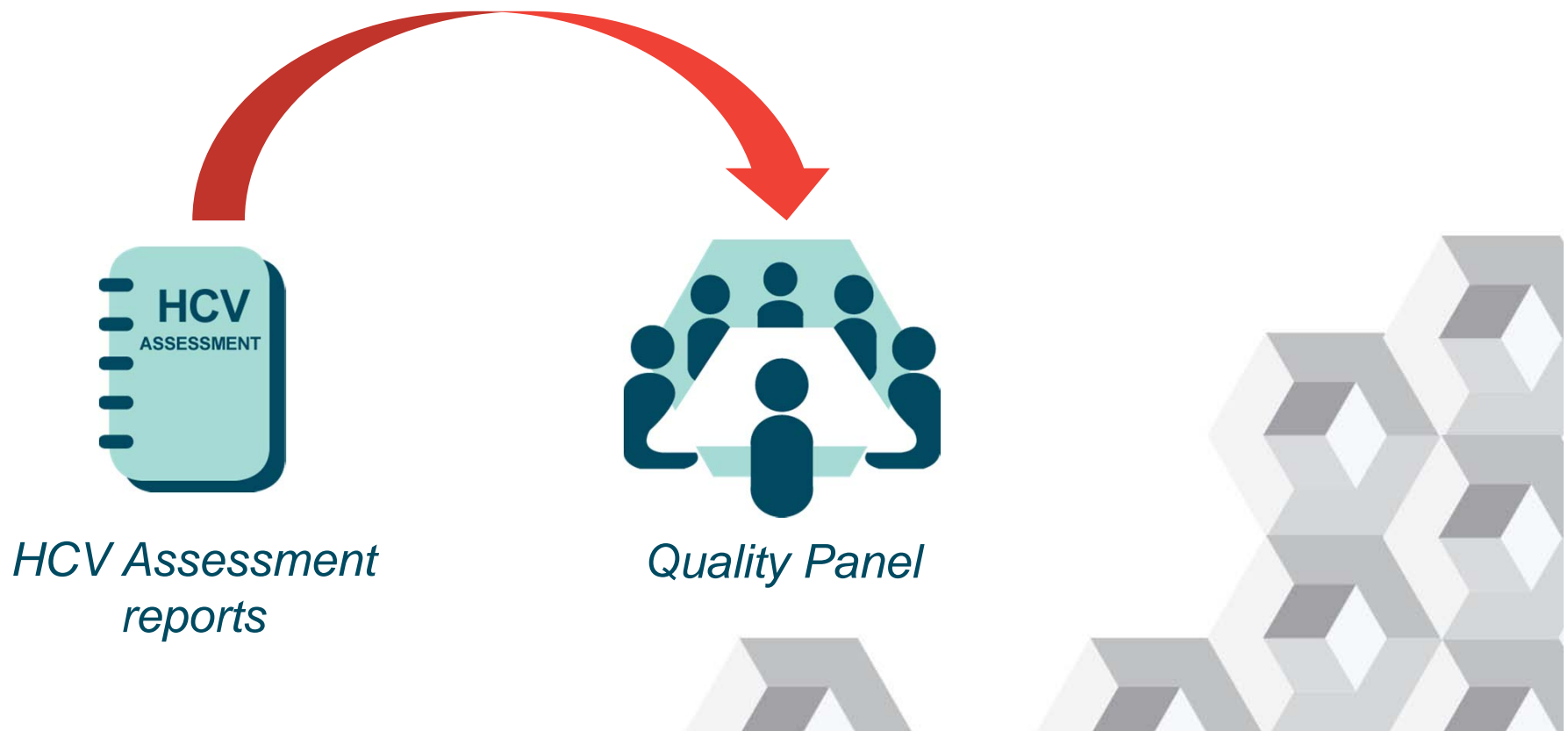
The **licensing process** in summary

3. After **leading two assessments** and submitting **two adequate HCV assessment reports** in line with the HCV Assessment Manual, a provisionally licensed assessor is issued with a **full HCV assessor licence**.



The **licensing process** in summary

4. To maintain a full licence, the assessor is required to **submit the reports of all HCV assessments** to the **ALS Quality Panel**. Failure to do so can result in the suspension or revocation of the licence.





How is assessor quality maintained?



+ Updated guidance

+ Feedback from report monitoring

+ Community of practice



Maintaining quality: who does what

Overall: Management Committee of HCVRN

Quality Manager: review of applications

Quality Panel: evaluation of reports for compliance with ALS procedures & templates

- Expert in carry out assessments, involved in creating guidance, ALS procedures, proficient in Bahasa, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

Peer reviewers from all regions: required for provisional licensees and full licensees when HCVs at significant risk

Stakeholders: access to public summary



Costs

- Application Fee: USD \$500
- Annual Renewal Fee:* USD \$250
- Report evaluation fees:**
 - Tier 1: USD \$2,000
 - Tier 2: USD \$900

*Payable after 1 year of submitting an application.

**By the time report evaluation fees are payable, assessors already have HCV Assessment Manual, which provides guidance on how to include such fees in the budget they deliver to the client.



Benefits for assessors, communities, companies & certification schemes

- Reduce environmental and social risks from inadequate identification, consultation
- Increase confidence: public summaries
- Clarity, certainty and efficiency: scoping, planning, reporting





Benefits: Assessors

Recognition of professional competence



Continuing professional development

- Peer feedback
- Online community of practice



Practical support: access to register of specialists



Diversification: able to work in various commodity and regional contexts



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The six High Conservation Values cover a broad array of conservation priorities including biological, ecological and cultural values

photo: J. Martin-DeMoor

The High Conservation Value Resource Network ensures the consistent application of the High Conservation Value approach

The High Conservation Value (HCV) approach is one of the most important tools for responsible resource management and responsible sourcing. It is a key component of major voluntary sustainability standards schemes.

The HCV Resource Network (HCVRN) brings together organisations and individuals who use the HCV approach.

About the HCV approach



Learn more about the six HCVs and their identification and management.

About the HCV Resource Network



Read more about the HCV Resource Network's governance, projects and activities.

Recent news and updates



JOIN THE HCV RESOURCE NETWORK

The HCV Resource Network brings together users of the HCV approach, a tool for responsible resource management and sourcing that is a key component of major certification schemes



What does the HCV Resource Network do?

The Network, created in 2006, brings together stakeholders who support use of the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach to safeguard outstanding social and environmental values. A main objective is to promote best HCV practices and sustainable use of resources. To maintain credibility and achieve consistency of use, the Network provides services such as peer reviews of HCV assessment reports, reliable and up-to-date information, guidance documents on HCV implementation, and training courses on HCV. The Network also implements projects to respond to specific needs and challenges of using HCV in practice.

Who can join?

Organisations and companies who use or promote the HCV concept, and who are keen to become more active in the governance and use of HCV. We welcome sustainability schemes, NGOs, private companies, universities and research centers, agricultural commodity producers and consultancies, among others. In addition to **members**, we are seeking to strengthen our Network by inviting organisations and companies who would like join the Network as **supporters**.

Categories and benefits

| Category | Description | Benefits |
|------------------|---|---|
| Member | This category is open to organisations and companies that want to actively support use of the HCV approach. Members pay an annual fee based on their annual turnover or number of employees and Gross National Income (GNI) of the country where they are based. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence and shape the future of the HCV concept Participate directly in HCVRN governance: vote and be elected to be part of the Network's governance body |
| Supporter | This category is open to organisations and companies that want to stay informed but do not wish to take part of decision-making. Supporters pay an annual fee based on the GNI of the country where they are based. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive first-hand updates and information about HCV trainings, conferences, workshops, and policy discussions Participate in working and discussion groups and give feedback on HCV documents, guidance and tools |
| Advisor | This category is open to multilateral organisations that share the commitment of the Members to promote the use of the HCV approach, but that, due to their statutes or for other reasons, are precluded from applying for formal membership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in annual meetings on equal footing with Members but cannot stand for or elect representatives for the Management Committee. |

Join the Network now!

Help shape the future of the HCV approach. For further information please visit

www.hcvnetwork.org or contact us at secretariat@hcvnetwork.org



Thank you!

More: <https://hcvnetwork.org/als/>

Any questions:
secretariat@hcvnetwork.org

www.hcvnetwork.org

