High Conservation Value Definitions

The High Conservation Value Network recognises six categories of High Conservation Values described below.

**HCV 1: Species diversity.**

Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

**HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and IFL.**

Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

**HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats.**

Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

**HCV 4: Ecosystem services.**

Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

**HCV 5: Community needs.**

Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.

**HCV 6: Cultural values.**

Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.