

Contract proposal for the development of special values or High Conservation Values (HCV) management plans.

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1. Introduction

The Client is seeking to gain sustainability certification for their operation. Most if not all sustainability standards require management of special values. In some cases there is a more specific requirement to manage high conservation values (HCV). The concept of managing special values and HCV is often confusing to a business. This proposal is to develop a simple and commonsense approach to the management of special values or HCV that can be easily integrated into the operations current documented system.

2 The issues

The concept of special values and high conservation values encompasses a range of issues that the operation may impact upon and that need to be managed.

The HCV framework is the most established special values framework and is described by the HCV Network <http://www.hcvnetwork.org/> for six classes of high conservation values¹.

Many sustainability standards base their requirements for management of special values on the HCV Network framework. In some cases the framework is

¹ HCV1. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).

HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance..

HCV3. Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

HCV4. Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

regionalized. In all cases the concept of special values requires that:

- The values are known,
- The values are understood and a strategy is in place to manage these values such that they are preserved and even enhanced.

Typically new entrants to sustainability certification consider high conservation values as equating to rare and endangered species or ecosystems. Whilst these are components of special values management they are not exclusive. There is also an expectation of managing the landscape level values and social values such as cultural heritage.

3. Proposal

Pinnacle Quality will work with The Client to Identify the special values or high conservation values impacted by the business and to help the client understand these impacts and potential management strategies to mitigate those impacts. From there Pinnacle Quality will assist the client to develop a documented approach can be incorporated into the business and that meets the sustainability standards requirements.

The aim is to produce a simple approach that will integrate into the existing documented system for the operation for example as an addition to an existing environmental management system.

4. Indicative Investment

A simple plan can take as little as 4 days (@ 1500 plus GST and expenses per day) to complete including a site visit.