

Utilizing Drone Technology for High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessments

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Abstract: High Conservation Value Assessments (HCV) are required prior to developing land under a number of voluntary sustainable commodity programs, such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS). HCV Assessments should provide baseline data for an ongoing monitoring and management program and guide the site development. We deployed “conservation drones” in support of an HCV Assessment and evaluate their practical application as a tool for improving both the quality and efficiency of the field surveys.

Keywords: Oil Palm, Sustainability, High Conservation Value, Drone, Remote Sensing