

# HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE ASSESSOR COURSE

The concept of **High Conservation Values (HCV)**, initially developed as part of the FSC Principles and Criteria, is applied widely today in relation to the management of natural resources, in forestry, agriculture, biofuels/biomaterials, and other areas.

Over the last years, it has generated a new area of expertise, as several sustainability standards have adopted this concept (e.g. RSB, RSPO, and RTRS). The correct application of this concept requires specific expertise relating to the process for conducting HCV Assessments.

The [HCV Resource Network](#) has developed an Assessor Licensing Scheme which gives an opportunity to professionals engaged in natural resource management to acquire knowledge and develop practical skills relating to HCV and achieve a new qualification as HCV Licensed Assessor.

**Course type:** This is a blended course. The learning objectives of this course will be achieved through e-learning, face-to-face training and field work.

**Training language:** E-learning and face-to-face course in English.

**For:** Professionals seeking to participate in, or lead, HCV assessments relating to the implementation of sustainability standards as [HCVRN Licensed Assessors](#).

**Course duration:** 5 days (40 hours): online course (16h), face-to-face course 3 days (24h).

**Certificate:** Upon successful completion of the course, each participant will receive an HCV Resource Network/ASTRAcademy certificate.



ASTRAcademy is a Recognized Training Provider under the HCV Resource Network Assessor Licensing Scheme



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## Course objectives

1. Gain in-depth knowledge of the latest HCV guidance as per the HCV Assessment Manual and Guidance for HCV Identification.
2. Understand in detail the role and responsibility of the HCV Assessor.
3. Develop expertise on HCV interpretation and identification, and practical skills relating to the implementation of HCV assessments.

## Part 1: E-learning on the ASTRAcademy online platform

The online training program (in English, about 16h) consists of various modules and quizzes. The individual modules consist of a presentation with voice recording, which covers all requirements of syllabus for the HCV Assessor Training Courses, as specified by the HCV Network.

## Part 2: Face-to-face course

The face to face course (in English, 24 hours - 3 days) is aimed at developing skills relating to conducting HCV Assessments, using the knowledge acquired through the online course. It consists exclusively of participatory techniques and includes the following elements:

1. Group discussions about the content of the HCV Assessor Manual and its practical application in the field. Clarification of concepts

and terms. (whenever required by the group).

2. Course case study including group discussions, exercises, and role plays:
  - Information exchange
  - Information gathering
  - Preparation and planning of an HCV Assessment
  - Key elements for the identification of High Conservation Values
  - Decision-making, management and monitoring recommendations
  - Reporting
3. Field work (1 day)
  - Using maps and geographical data
  - Groundtruthing in relation to HCV identification
  - Stakeholder consultation
4. Course evaluation. The face to face course will end with a test (online or paper). The overall evaluation of each trainee will take into account the following elements:
  - The result of the online course
  - The result of the final test (after the face-to-face course)
  - Active & meaningful participation during the face-to-face course
  - Each participant will produce a Public Summary Report of the course case study (mock HCV Assessment), to be submitted within two weeks after the end of the course.