

## **PROTECTING RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES AND RESPECTING DESIGNATED PROTECTED AREAS**

Through our compliance to the Principles and Criteria of the RSPO, with specific reference to Principles 5 and 7, NBPOL commits to not endangering species or areas of conservation concern. NBPOL's commitment encompasses its own estates and operations, as well as all smallholders and outgrowers in its FFB supply base. NBPOL commits to the identification, management and maintenance any areas of High Conservation Value (HCV) as determined through the HCV Resource Network's **Common Guidance, for the Identification of High Conservation Values** (HCVRN, Oct 2013).

<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/folder.2006-09-29.6584228415/hcv-common-guidance-for-id-ifl-2017>.

The following guidance is taken from the HCVRN "Common Guidance..." (page 25-26) and is utilized to define our commitments to avoid operating within internationally or nationally designated protected areas and to avoid endangering species of conservation concern.

### ***Protected areas: a proxy for concentrations of biodiversity***

*As part of an initial data gathering exercise the presence of a protected area (PA) recognised by IUCN and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) can alert the assessor to potential HCVs because it may be assumed that the PA harbours significant concentrations of biodiversity values. Without further information as to the quality of flora and fauna present in the PA, under the precautionary approach, a PA (as defined by IUCN or national governments) would be considered an HCV 1. In addition to legal protected areas, global conservation priority sites such as Key Biodiversity Areas (including IBA, IPA, AZE sites, etc.) are also strong indicators of the potential presence of HCV 1.*

***Rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species** refers to species that are at risk of, undergoing or have undergone severe population decline. Although the HCV definition mentions threatened and endangered species, these are often, together with vulnerable, subsumed under the overarching term threatened and endangered in an IUCN Red List context.*

***Rare** is scale dependent and includes species that are*

- Naturally rare, existing only at very low densities in undisturbed habitat, or*
- Rare because of human activities e.g. habitat destruction, overhunting, climate change*
- At the limit of their natural distribution (even if they are common elsewhere)*

***Threatened and endangered species** can include species classified by IUCN15 as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) and Critically Endangered (CR) at a global or regional level, or whose trade is regulated under international agreements (e.g. CITES), as well as nationally protected species. IUCN Red Listing remains incomplete and many RTE species have not yet*

*been assessed by the IUCN Species Survival Commission. In some countries, especially those lacking national IUCN red lists or nationally protected species lists, expert consultation is needed to learn if any such species might be present.*

**Endemic species** are those which are only found within a restricted<sup>16</sup> geographical region, which may range from a unique site or a geographical feature (such as an island, a mountain range or river basin), to a political boundary such as a province or country. Endemic and range-restricted species are particularly vulnerable to threats as they have a limited distribution and may have smaller populations than widespread species. Endemism only generally triggers HCV status if the population is also nationally significant. The scale of endemism (e.g. national and regional) needs to be agreed.