Verified Conservation Areas

Recognising & encouraging conservation in the areas where we live & work

Conservation Optimism Summit
London, UK - 20-21 May 2017

ConserveAreas.org
@ConserveAreas
Verified Conservation Areas

Do you own or manage land?
Do you undertake conservation activities?

VCA

If so, we invite you to register your area as a Verified Conservation Area.
Who can register & what can they register?

Communities, companies, local authorities & individuals

VCA

Any area being managed to deliver conservation outcomes - a farm, a forest, a recreational or industrial area, a housing development, or a private estate.
What do we mean by conservation?

We use the IUCN definition from its World Conservation Strategy:

“Conservation is the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

Thus conservation is positive, embracing preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment.”
What are the benefits of registering?

Be recognised for your efforts to conserve our planet.

Make your conservation efforts visible to key stakeholders - neighbours, investors, donors, customers, local authorities, friends, and family.

Join a growing and dynamic social movement of like-minded conservationists with whom you can exchange experiences.
What are the costs of registering?

There is no registration fee.

However, you will need to prepare a conservation management plan for your area and this plan needs to be audited by an approved auditor.

To stay registered, you will need to submit annual audited conservation performance reports.
The VCA approach

**VCA Registry** recognises voluntary, area-based conservation

- To register a VCA, publish an audited conservation plan
- To stay registered, publish audited conservation reports annually

**VCA Pipeline** lists areas committed to becoming VCAs within 2 years

**VCA Standard** sets requirements for plans, reports & audits

**VCA Toolkit** provides best-practice guidance
### VCA Management Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Management Objectives</th>
<th>IFC Performance Standard 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect &amp; conserve biodiversity, maintain the benefits from ecosystem services, &amp; promote the sustainable management of living natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<th>IUCN World Conservation Strategy</th>
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<td>Management of human use of the biosphere to yield the greatest sustainable benefit while maintaining its potential to meet the needs &amp; aspirations of future generations</td>
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<th>Actions for:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Habitats, Legally Protected Areas, Invasive Alien Species, &amp; Ecosystem Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Avoid negative impacts</td>
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<td>2. Minimise negative impacts</td>
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<td>3. Restore biodiversity</td>
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<td>4. Offset like-for-like or better</td>
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| 1. Preservation |
| 2. Maintenance |
| 3. Restoration |
| 4. Enhancement of the natural environment |

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<td>Primary Production of Living Natural Resources</td>
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<td>5. Implement sustainable management practices to credible standards as demonstrated by independent verification</td>
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| 5. Sustainable utilisation |
Lizards Lane, The Netherlands

A 15 hectare strip of land managed as an ecological heathland corridor to enhance the viability of local populations of amphibians and reptiles

Backed by Vitens’ commitment to sustainable water extraction
Tullstorp Stream, Sweden

Improving living conditions for wild fauna and flora in intensively cultivated farmland

Reducing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea

6,300 hectares managed by an association of the landowners along the stream

Proposed VCA - Restoring green infrastructure
Cinco Grande Reserve, Mozambique

250,000 hectare wilderness & wildlife restoration project

Located in a 680,000 hectare sustainable use concession including plans for conservation agriculture & ranching plus community initiatives

Registered VCA - An impact investment opportunity
Balhaf Headland Marine Area, Yemen

1,816 hectares protecting coral reefs & fish in an industrial harbour

Registered VCA - Biodiversity mitigation assurance
Voluntary contributions to the Aichi Targets

4: Sustainable production & consumption

7: Agriculture, aquaculture & forestry areas managed to ensure conservation

11: Conserve 10% of marine areas & 17% of terrestrial areas

15: Restore 15% of degraded ecosystems

20: Mobilise financing from all sources
We recognise that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet’s natural resources. We are therefore determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands...
VCA Partners

Register your area. Become a partner.

Join a movement to conserve the areas where we live & work

VCA

Conserving our planet, hectare by hectare

ConserveAreas.org  @ConserveAreas