Verified Conservation Areas

Voluntary conservation commitments

African Model Forest Network Workshop

Yaoundé, Cameroon – 11-12 July 2018

Earthmind.org/VCA

@ConserveAreas
The VCA approach

We recognise and encourage voluntary area-based conservation … particularly the areas where we live and work, outside of legally protected areas.
Verified Conservation Areas

Do you own or manage land?

Do you undertake conservation activities on your land?

If so, we invite you to register your land as a VCA.
What to we mean by conservation?

From the IUCN 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.”
The VCA system

- **VCA Registry** – public listing of VCAs
- **VCA Standard** – requirements for registering a VCA
- **VCA Guidance** – best-practice conservation guidance

Earthmind.org/VCA
Who can register & what area can they register?

**Who** – individuals, communities, and companies owning or managing terrestrial or marine areas

**What** – any area managed to deliver conservation outcomes - e.g. a farm, a forest, an industrial area, a harbour, a housing development, a private estate
How to register a VCA

- **To register a VCA** - Publish an area-based conservation plan

- **To stay registered** - Publish annual conservation reports

Option of enhanced verification through an audit process
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>(Gold) 5 years of audited reports or 10 years of confirmed reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audited</td>
<td>(Silver) Conservation plan, annual reports, and associated audits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>(Bronze) Conservation plan, letter of support, and annual reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>Proposal to register a VCA and letter of support</td>
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</tbody>
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Why register a VCA?

• 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 social movement committed to conserving the areas where they live and work
African Model Forests Network

VCA Conservation Commitments (Dec 2017)

• Register at least one model forest as a VCA in 2018

• Organise a regional workshop in 2018 to discuss the VCA approach and promote its use

• Present the VCA approach to the International Model Forests Network to encourage others engage
Register your area as a VCA

Commit to conserving the areas where you live & work

VCA
Conserving our planet, hectare by hectare

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