Verified Conservation Areas

Voluntary conservation commitments

Indonesian Strategic VCA Workshop

Jakarta, Indonesia – 24-26 September 2018

Earthmind.org/VCA

@ConserveAreas
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.”
VCAs are voluntary commitments to the SDGs

“We are determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands...”
VCAs & Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A plan of action for people, planet and prosperity... to heal and secure our planet for present and future generations...

- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
VCAs are voluntary commitments to the CBD Aichi Targets

- Sustainable production & consumption
- Conservation in agriculture, aquaculture & forestry
- Conserve 10% of marine areas & 17% of terrestrial areas
- Restore 15% of degraded ecosystems
- Mobilise financing from all sources
The emerging *nature needs half* target

**E.O. Wilson, New York Times, Mar 2016:** ‘The only way to save upward of 90 percent of the rest of life is to vastly increase the area of refuges... to **half of the land and half of the sea**. That amount... can be put together from large and small fragments around the world to remain relatively natural, without removing people living there or changing property rights.’

**CBD Aichi Target 11:** ‘Effective area-based conservation measures... integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes’
VCAs as a key Post-2020 Biodiversity Indicator

- **Measurable** – hectares under conservation management
- **Inclusive** – open to public, private and community areas
- **Accountable** – requires verified planning and reporting
- **Investable** – creates a supply of conservation to finance
- **Effective** – enables societies to conserve half for nature
VCAs & sustainability standards

• Scales up conservation efforts across various land uses

• Promotes sustainable production at the start of supply chains

• Encourages conservation by companies, communities and landowners

• Facilitates biodiversity mitigation including restoration

• Enables conservation to be transparent and accountable

• Creates a new asset class of natural capital
### VCAs & the IFC Performance Standard 6

#### VCA management framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IFC</th>
<th>IUCN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
<td>Protect &amp; conserve biodiversity, maintain the benefits from ecosystem services, &amp; promote the sustainable management of living natural resources</td>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Actions for habitats, legally protected areas, invasive alien species, and ecosystem services** | 1. Avoid negative impacts  
  2. Minimise negative impacts  
  3. Restore biodiversity  
  4. Offset like-for-like or better | 1. Preservation  
  2. Maintenance  
  3. Restoration  
  4. Enhancement of the natural environment |
| **Actions for primary production of living natural resources** | 5. Implement sustainable management practices to credible standards as demonstrated by independent verification | 5. Sustainable utilisation |
| **Source**           | IFC Performance Standard 6                                           | IUCN World Conservation Strategy                                      |
A registry, standard & guidance making conservation visible, accountable & inclusive

Register a VCA - Invest in a VCA - Become a VCA Partner

Earthmind.org/VCA  @ConserveAreas