
The VCA Approach

Verifying area-based conservation



CBD SBSTTA 20, Montreal

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v-c-a.org

The VCA Registry - Verified Conservation Areas



Visible recognition of area-based conservation:

- **List a VCA**
 - initially submit a VCA Proposal & Letter of Support
- **Register a VCA**
 - submit an area-based Conservation Management Plan & Audit
- **Remain registered as a VCA**
 - annually submit a Conservation Performance Report & Audit



The VCA Standard



Sets out the **VCA Approach** to verifying area-based conservation:

- Conservation Management Plans aligned with the IFC PS6
- Annual Conservation Performance Reports
- Third-Party Audits of Plans & Reports
- Public listing of Plans, Reports & Audits on the **VCA Registry**
- A **VCA Toolkit** of recommended best practice for conservation

The VCA Toolkit - with guidance for sustainable land use



VCA Toolkit – HOME

The VCA Toolkit offers recommended tools complementing each other.

The Toolkit includes the following:

- ▶ **BIODIVERSITY** – Tools for biodiversity
- ▶ **PLAN** – Tools for developing a plan
- ▶ **REPORT** – Tools for producing a report
- ▶ **CONSERVE** – Tools for conserving biodiversity
- ▶ **USE** – Tools for alternative land use
- ▶ **TERMS** – Definitions of key terms

- ASEAN Guidelines for Maximizing Biodiversity on Golf Courses
- CCBA Project Design Standards
- EC Non-Energy Mineral Extraction and Natura 2000
- FSC Step-by-Step Guide
- ICMM Good Practice Guidance for Biodiversity and Mining
- IPECA Guide to Developing Biodiversity Action Plans
- MSC Fishery Standard
- Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code

Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda



Largest block of natural high forest in Uganda and home to a 500+ population of wild chimpanzees.

Facing threats including neighbouring sugarcane plantations, illegal logging, illegal trapping, and encroachment by immigrant farmers

Cinco Grande Reserve, Mozambique



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Original signpost dating back to 1972

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250,000 hectare wilderness restoration project

Located within a 680,000 hectare private concession which will also include sustainable agriculture & ranching

Balhaf Headland Marine Area, Yemen



Protecting coral reefs & fish habitat in an industrial harbour

Tullstorp Stream, Sweden



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

Reducing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea

Operated by an association of all landowners along the stream

VCA Approach & the Aichi Targets



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- 4: Sustainable production & consumption; use within safe ecological limits
 - 7: Agriculture, aquaculture & forestry areas managed to ensure conservation
 - 11: Conserve 10% of marine areas & 17% of terrestrial areas
 - 12: Conservation status of threatened species improved & sustained
 - 15: Restore 15% of degraded ecosystems
 - 20: Mobilise financing from all sources



Recognising & encouraging
“other effective area-based conservation measures”

The VCA Approach

Scaling up conservation efforts across different land uses

Recognising voluntary efforts to restore and conserve our planet

Encouraging conservation by companies, individuals and communities

Establishing a new bankable asset class of natural capital

Implementing the Aichi Targets on the ground, hectare by hectare

