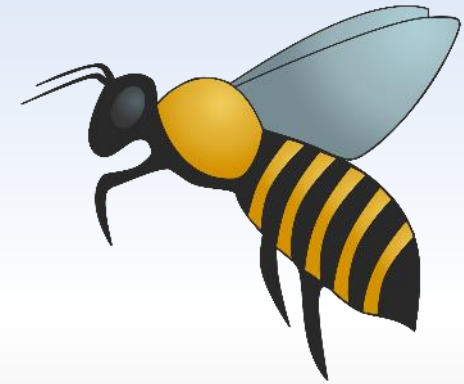

The VCA Approach

Verifying area-based conservation

v-c-a.org



Green Room Event

UNEP UNEA2, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr Francis Vorhies

May 2016

Caring for our planet



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...

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



The CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity



Aichi Targets

- 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

Mainstreaming biodiversity



‘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.’ (E.O. Wilson, New York Times, Mar 2016)

Or in CBD language:

‘Other effective area-based conservation measures’ need to be ‘integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes’



Verified Conservation Areas



- Scale up conservation efforts across various land uses
- Promote sustainable production at the start of supply chains
- Encourage conservation by companies and landowners beyond legally protected areas
- Facilitate biodiversity mitigation including restoration
- Establish transparency and accountability in natural capital



Recognising area-based conservation



The VCA Registry

- **To list a VCA**, submit a proposal to draft a conservation management plan within two years
- **To register a VCA**, submit an audited conservation management plan
- **To remain registered as a VCA**, submit annual audited conservation reports



VCA Registry - as of May 2016



12 pilot listings

- 3 Registered VCAs
- 9 Proposed VCAs

Each with its own webpage

- description
- links
- images
- required docs

VCA	Country	Hectares
▶ Jama-Coaque Reserve	Ecuador	411
▶ Les Courmettes	France	600
▶ Hintenteiche & Sernitz Nature Reserves	Germany	700
▶ Cinco Grandes	Mozambique	250,000
▶ Lizards Lane	Netherlands	15
▶ Green Circle Bee Landscape	Netherlands	20,000
▶ Tetepare Community	Solomon Islands	14,400
▶ Espai Natura Montserrat-Coll de Can Maçana	Spain	177
▶ Tullstorp Stream	Sweden	6,300
▶ Budongo Forest Reserve	Uganda	42,500
▶ Knepp Castle Estate Wildland	United Kingdom	1,400
▶ Balhaf Headland Marine Area	Yemen	1,816

Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda



Home to a large (500+) population of wild chimpanzees

Facing threats including:

- neighbouring sugarcane plantations
- illegal logging
- illegal snaring & trapping
- encroachment by immigrant farmers

Cinco Grande Reserve, Mozambique



HOME | POLICIES & PRIVACY | CONTACT US | PHOTO GALLERY

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Africa Futura
Wildlife Restoration
LDA

Coutada 5

ABOUT US | ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE | OUR POLICIES | MANAGEMENT PLANS | MISSION & OBJECTIVES | COUTADA SYSTEM

Original signpost dating back to 1972

More images...

Click to enlarge...

DOWNLOAD

250,000 ha wilderness & wildlife restoration project

Located in a 680,000 ha private concession including plans for sustainable agriculture, ranching & community development initiatives

A Registered VCA & an impact investment opportunity

Balhaf Headland Marine Area, Yemen



Protecting coral reefs & fish in an industrial harbour

A Registered VCA for biodiversity mitigation assurance

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

The VCA Standard



- Sets out the VCA listing requirements
 - management plans, performance reports & third-party audits
- Aligned with the IFC Performance Standards
- Requires a baseline biodiversity assessment
 - habitats, protected areas, invasive alien species, ecosystem services & primary production of living natural resources
- Requires a conservation action plan
 - avoid, minimise, restore, offset
- Supported by a **VCA Toolkit**
 - recommended best-practice guidance for sustainable land management

The VCA Toolkit



Includes guidelines & standards for sustainable land use...

- ASEAN Guidelines for Maximizing Biodiversity on Golf Courses
- CCBA Project Design Standards
- CSBI Guide for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy
- EC Non-Energy Mineral Extraction and Natura 2000
- FSC Step-by-Step Guide
- GRI Biodiversity Reporting Resource
- ICMM Good Practice Guidance for Biodiversity and Mining
- IFC Performance Standard 6
- IUCN Siting and Design of Hotels and Resorts
- IPECA Guide to Developing Biodiversity Action Plans
- MSC Fishery Standard
- Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code



VCA



Conserving our planet, hectare by hectare

A registry, a standard & a toolkit
to make area-based conservation
inclusive, visible & accountable

Register VCAs, Invest in VCAs

Join the VCA Approach

v-c-a.org

[@ConserveAreas](https://twitter.com/ConserveAreas)