

Register a Verified Conservation Area



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

If so, we invite you to register your area as a Verified Conservation Area. Working through an international coalition of partners, we are building a new social movement to conserve our planet. You are most welcome to join us.

The **Verified Conservation Area Registry** offers communities, companies, and private individuals the opportunity to be recognised for their area-based conservation efforts.

Any area which is being managed to deliver conservation outcomes can be registered as a VCA. The area could be a farm, a forest, a recreational or industrial area, a housing development, or a private estate.

The VCA Registry is an inclusive, voluntary platform for recognising and encouraging positive area-based actions across the planet to conserve the areas where we live and work.

What do we mean by area-based conservation?

We follow the IUCN definition – conservation is “the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit...” Thus, conservation is positive, embracing:

- Preservation;
- Maintenance;
- Sustainable Utilisation;
- Restoration; and
- Enhancement of the Natural Environment.”

Importantly, conservation is not just about preserving or protecting nature. Conservation can also include management plans to restore a degraded area, to enhance an area’s natural environment, or to utilise an area’s living natural resources sustainably.

Our ambition is to recognise the diversity of responsible actions undertaken by public, private and community land managers to conserve nature.

What are the benefits and what are the costs?

Through listing your area as a VCA, you will be recognised for your efforts to conserve our planet.

Your conservation efforts will become visible to key stakeholders including neighbours, investors, donors, customers, local authorities, friends, and family.

You will be joining a growing and dynamic social movement of like-minded conservationists with whom you can exchange experiences.

Our aim is to recognise and encourage your voluntary conservation commitment.

There is no registration fee. You will, however, need to prepare a conservation management plan for your area and prepare annual conservation performance reports.

More details can be found on the VCA website and in the **VCA Standard**. We are, of course, happy to assist you in registering your area.

To get started, please go to: earthmind.org/vca/register

How to register a Verified Conservation Area

To register a **Confirmed VCA**, submit a conservation management plan and a letter of support.

To register an **Audited VCA**, also submit an audit of the plan by an approved VCA auditor.

1. Confirmed VCA	2. Audited VCA	3. Staying registered
↓ 1.1 Draft a conservation management plan including a description of the area, conservation status and conservation management.	↓ 2.1 Draft a conservation management plan including a description of the area, conservation status and conservation management.	↓ 3.1 Prepare a conservation performance report annually including conservation outcomes and lessons learned.
↓ 1.2 Secure a letter of support from an independent, reputable professional.	↓ 2.2 Also secure a management plan audit from an approved VCA Auditor who will review documents, visit the area, and conduct interviews.	↓ 3.2 To maintain Audited VCA status, also secure a performance report audit from a VCA Auditor, who will, at a minimum, review documents.
↓ 1.3 Prepare the webpage information and files for constructing the area's VCA webpage.	↓ 2.3 Prepare the webpage information and files for constructing the area's VCA webpage.	↓ 3.3 Update the VCA webpage , as needed, e.g. new text, links, or photos.
↓ 1.4 Submit the plan, the letter, and the webpage items.	↓ 2.4 Submit the plan, the audit, and the webpage items.	↓ 3.4 Submit the report, the audit (if done), and webpage updates.
↓ We will register your Confirmed VCA. Go to 3. ↗	↓ We will register your Audited VCA. Go to 3. ↗	↓ We will maintain your VCA registration. Repeat 3 annually. ↑

