



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Verified Conservation Areas

Voluntary conservation commitments



African Model Forest Network Workshop

Yaoundé, Cameroon – 11-12 July 2018

Earthmind.org/VCA

@ConserveAreas



What do we mean by conservation?

From the **IUCN World Conservation Strategy**:

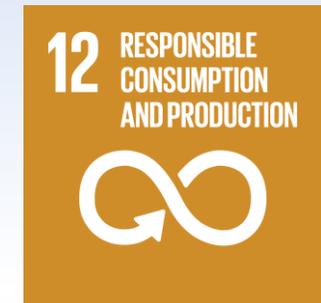
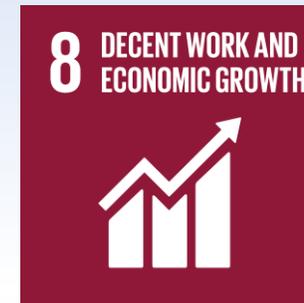
“Conservation is the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

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...”



VCA's & 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...

 The icon for Sustainable Development Goal 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', features a white bar chart with an upward-pointing arrow on a dark red background. The number '8' and the text 'DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH' are in white.	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>
 The icon for Sustainable Development Goal 14, 'Life Below Water', features a white fish swimming above wavy lines representing water on a blue background. The number '14' and the text 'LIFE BELOW WATER' are in white.	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>
 The icon for Sustainable Development Goal 15, 'Life on Land', features a white tree and a bird on a green background. The number '15' and the text 'LIFE ON LAND' are in white.	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>

Conserving where we live & work



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 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



VCA & 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



VCA & the IFC Performance Standard 6



VCA management framework

	IFC	IUCN
Objectives	Protect & conserve biodiversity, maintain the benefits from ecosystem services, & promote the sustainable management of living natural resources	Management of human use of the biosphere to yield the greatest sustainable benefit while maintaining its potential to meet the needs & aspirations of future generations
Actions for habitats, legally protected areas, invasive alien species, and ecosystem services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid negative impacts 2. Minimise negative impacts 3. Restore biodiversity 4. Offset like-for-like or better 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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](https://earthmind.org/VCA)

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