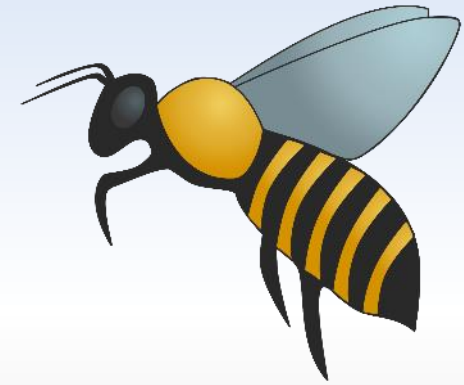


Verifying conservation in wildlife ranches

The Verified Conservation Area Approach



9th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium
Windhoek, Namibia

Dr Francis Vorhies
Earthmind

September 2016

Conserving nature 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*



Verified Conservation Areas



VCAs are geographically-defined areas listed on the VCA Registry & managed to conserve nature.



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.

Recognising area-based conservation



Through a voluntary listing on the VCA Registry

- To list as a **Proposed VCA**, submit a proposal to register within two years
- To list as a **Registered VCA**, submit an audited conservation management plan
- To remain listed as a **Registered VCA**, submit audited conservation reports annually



VCA Registry - as of Sep 2016



13 pilot listings

- 3 Registered VCAs
- 10 Proposed VCAs

Each with its own webpage

- description
- links
- images
- required docs

VCA	Country	Hectares	Ecoregion
Jama-Coaque Reserve	Ecuador	411	Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
Les Courmettes	France	600	Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands and Scrubs
Hintenteiche & Sernitz Nature Reserves	Germany	700	Temperate Broadleaf and Mixed Forests
KPHL Model Kapuas	Indonesia	105,372	Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
Cinco Grandes	Mozambique	250,000	Tropical and Subtropical Grasslands, Savannas and Shrublands
Lizards Lane	Netherlands	15	Temperate Coniferous Forest
Green Circle Bee Landscape	Netherlands	20,000	Temperate Grasslands, Savannas and Shrublands
Tetepare Community	Solomon Islands	14,400	Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
Espai Natura Montserrat-Coll de Can Maçana	Spain	177	Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands and Scrubs
Tullstorp Stream	Sweden	6,300	Temperate Broadleaf and Mixed Forests
Budongo Forest Reserve	Uganda	42,500	Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests
Knepp Castle Estate Wildland	United Kingdom	1,400	Temperate Grasslands, Savannas and Shrublands
Balhaf Headland Marine Area	Yemen	1,816	Tropical Coral

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

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 & flora in intensively cultivated farmland

Reducing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea

Operated by an association of all landowners along the stream

Cinco Grande Reserve, Mozambique



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Africa Futura
Wildlife Restoration
LDA

Coutada 5

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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 hunting concession including plans for conservation agriculture, wildlife ranching & community development initiatives

A Registered VCA & an impact investment opportunity

The VCA Standard



- Sets out VCA requirements for management plans, performance reports & audits
- Aligned with IFC Performance Standards 1 & 6
- Requires a baseline biodiversity assessment
- Requires an area-based action plan
- Requires third-party audits
- Supported by a **VCA Toolkit** of best practice

VCA Management Plan

1. Overview
 - where, who
2. Biodiversity baseline
3. Impact assessment
 - threats, opportunities
4. Action plan & monitoring

Area-based conservation action



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, & 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

The VCA Toolkit



Includes best practice for area-based sustainable use, e.g.

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



The VCA Approach



- Scales up conservation efforts across various land uses
- Promotes sustainable production at the start of supply chains
- Encourages conservation by communities, companies & landowners
- Facilitates biodiversity mitigation including restoration
- Enables conservation to be transparent & accountable
- Creates a new asset class of natural capital



VCAs & Sustainable Development



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</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

VCAs & Biodiversity Conservation



CBD 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

15: Restore 15% of degraded ecosystems

20: Mobilise financing from all sources





VCA Partners



Indonesian Ministry of Environment & Forestry - Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure & the Environment - Convention on Biological Diversity - African Wildlife Foundation - Alliance of Religions & Conservation - A Rocha International - Commonland - Conservation International - Coral Triangle Center - DOB Ecology - Earthmind - EcoAgriculture Partners - European Centre for Nature Conservation - Global Footprint Network - IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management - Wetlands International - Wildlife Ranching South Africa - World Resources Institute



The VCA Approach

*An area-based measure
for verifying conservation
in wildlife ranching*



ConserveAreas.org

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