

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.



Conserving our planet, hectare by hectare

Working through an international coalition of partner organisations, we are building a new social movement to conserve our planet. You are most welcome to join us.

The Verified Conservation Area approach 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.

Our aim is to recognise and encourage conservation in the areas of our planet where we live and work.

What do we mean by area-based conservation?

We follow the original IUCN definition of conservation: “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.” Conservation is “positive, embracing preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment.”

Importantly, conservation is not just about preserving or protecting nature. Area-based conservation can include actions to restore, or enhance the natural environment. It can also include actions to use living natural resources sustainably.

Our ambition is to recognise the diversity of actions undertaken by private landowners and 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.

There is no registration fee. However, you will need to prepare a conservation management plan for your area and this plan needs to be audited by an approved auditor. To stay registered, you will need to submit annual audited conservation performance reports.

We are, of course, happy to assist as our aim is to recognise your area-based conservation.

To get started, visit Conserveareas.org/Register

How to register a Verified Conservation Area

The core documents required to register an area in the online VCA List are a conservation management plan and an audit of the plan. If the plan is not yet ready or audited, the area can initially be listed as a proposed VCA by submitting a proposal and a letter of support.

1. Propose (optional)	2. Register	3. Stay registered
<p>↓</p> <p>1.1 Draft a VCA Proposal including an overview of the area, its conservation status, and the plan to register within two years.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>2.1 Draft a Conservation Management Plan including an overview of the area, biodiversity baseline, impact assessment, conservation actions, and monitoring.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>3.1 Prepare a Conservation Performance Report annually including monitored outcomes, updates on stakeholder engagement, and lessons learned.</p>
<p>↓</p> <p>1.2 Secure a Letter of Support from an independent biodiversity conservation expert.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>2.2 Secure a Management Plan Audit from an approved VCA Auditor who will review documents, visit the area, and conduct interviews.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>3.2 Secure a Performance Report Audit from an approved VCA Auditor, who will, at the minimum, review documents.</p>
<p>↓</p> <p>1.3 Complete the webpage template for the area's VCA webpage.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>2.3 Complete or update the webpage template for the area's VCA webpage.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>3.3 Update the VCA webpage, as needed, e.g. new text, links or photos.</p>
<p>↓</p> <p>1.4 Submit the Proposal, the Letter and the template for listing as a Proposed VCA.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>2.4 Submit the Plan, the Audit, and the template to register your VCA.</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>3.4 Submit the Report, the Audit and webpage updates to remain on the VCA List.</p>
<p>↓</p> <p>We will list your area in the online VCA List.</p> <p>Go to 2 within two years. ↗</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>We will list your area in the online VCA List.</p> <p>Go to 3. ↗</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>We will continue to list your VCA online.</p> <p>Repeat 3 annually. ↑</p>



For more information, go to ConserveAreas.org/Guidance