



## VCA Approach Partnership Agreement

Under the internationally-adopted Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to 2020, the global community has committed to conserve 17% of terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas, and to restore 15% of degraded ecosystems. This commitment was reconfirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in September 2015.

There is broad agreement that current conservation efforts are insufficient to mitigate the ever increasing ecological footprint of humanity. With the growing human population and its increasing levels of prosperity, the pressures on biodiversity are great. We all need to scale up our efforts to conserve our planet.

In light of the challenges we face, the **Global Footprint Network** and **Earthmind** confirm our common interest to implement and promote the **Verified Conservation Areas (VCA) Approach** as an inclusive measure for area-based conservation. Through the VCA Approach we will strive to scale up conservation action, engage new stakeholders, channel new financing, and strengthen the assurance that money invested in conservation effectively reduces the loss of biodiversity.

Specifically, we agree to co-host the VCA Approach programme in 2016; promote it in international policy processes including the CBD and UNEP; and seek core and project funding to scale up the VCA programme. Our target for 2016 is to agree on a sustainable institutional framework for the VCA Approach, secure international policy recognition, and secure funding from at least one new donor/investor.

This Partnership Agreement shall be promoted on our respective websites, on the VCA website and, as appropriate, through our communications. It will be valid until December 2016 at which time it can be renewed for another year by mutual consent.

15 February 2016

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Signature & Date

Francis Vorhies  
Executive Director  
Earthmind  
IUCN Conservation Centre  
Gland, Switzerland

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17 Feb 2016

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Signature & Date

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