



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 **IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)** and Earthmind in partnership with the Global Footprint Network confirm our common interest to promote the **Verified Conservation Areas (VCA) Approach** as an inclusive measure for area-based conservation in a way that complements and enhances the development of other IUCN Knowledge Products such as the Green List of Protected Areas and the Red List of Ecosystems. Through the VCA Approach, we will strive to scale up conservation action outside traditional protected areas, engage new stakeholders, channel new financing, and strengthen the assurance that money invested in conservation effectively reduces the loss of biodiversity.

Specifically, we will collaborate to improve the contribution that conserved landscapes can make to sustainable development. This will include seeking opportunities to jointly promote approaches to ecosystem management in the context of the CBD process and the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress. In 2016, we will also aim to identify at least two new areas which could be listed on the VCA Registry and to invite CEM members to become VCA Auditors.

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.

08 April 2016

Signature & Date

Francis Vorhies
Executive Director
Earthmind
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EARTH  MIND

16 April 2016

Signature & Date

Piet Wit
Chair
IUCN Commission on Ecosystem
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