



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Independent Expert Review of *Module for the Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting* (ID #M0398) for Use under VM0048

2 December 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs).

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [VCS Methodology Development and Review Process, v5.0 \(MDRP\)](#), which outlines procedures and rules for the development of new or revised VCS methodologies, modules, and tools. A key element of the rigorous process includes review by a group of independent experts to ensure the methodology or revision aligns with current scientific knowledge, research, and best practices. Independent experts review the technical rigor, accuracy, and consistency of the draft methodology as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v5.0*.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of its new [Module for the Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting](#) (ID #M0398). This module will become part of [VM0048 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation](#) and is based on the existing module VMD0055. The draft module describes the procedures and methods for accounting for the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions achieved by projects that reduce unplanned deforestation but also allow tree harvesting activities (for timber, firewood, or charcoal production) in the project scenario.



The draft *Module for the Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting* will be provided for review, along with relevant reference materials *VM0048 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, v 1.0* and *VMD0055 Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation, v1.1*.

Verra is requesting proposals for independent expert reviews (including academic experts, consultants, project developers, and validation/verification bodies [VVBs]) of the above-listed documents.

The requirements for the independent expert review are set out in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.5.1–3.5.4 of the *MDRP, v5.0*.

The following aspects of the revision must be assessed:

- Scientific rigor: Assessment of whether the draft methodological module reflects the most recent scientific knowledge on the quantification/estimation of GHG emission reductions by local-level projects aimed at avoiding unplanned deforestation, including tree harvesting and sustainable forest management, in consonance with procedures included in methodology *VM0048* and its module *VMD0055*.
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
 - Relevancy and completeness of GHG sources and carbon pools included in the project boundary
 - Applicability conditions of the draft methodological module
 - Appropriateness of including sustainable forest management and tree harvesting in projects aimed at reducing emissions from unplanned deforestation
 - Appropriateness of equations for quantifying/estimating baseline, project, and leakage emissions, as well as GHG emission reductions
 - Validity of assumptions and data sources
 - Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring approach
- Minor improvements introduced in this module, such as editorial changes, general clarifications, and additional guidance, are excluded from the scope of the expert review.

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include at least the following:

- 1) **Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts review the draft module and submit a draft Independent Expert Report issuing findings to Verra, using the template provided in Annex 1 as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP, v5.0*. **Level of effort: five working days.**
- 2) **Iterate with Verra to resolve independent expert findings** as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP, v5.0*. Verra may arrange a meeting or series of meetings to discuss findings and how they may be clarified or resolved within the draft revision documents. Where findings identify major risks



that cannot be addressed within a reasonable timeframe, the methodology is put on hold or rejected by Verra (see Section 3.5.4 in the *MDRP*, v5.0). **Level of effort: two working days.**

- 3) **Issue Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts issue to Verra a final, signed version of the Independent Expert Report, using the template provided in Annex 1, as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP*, v5.0. **Level of effort: two working days.**

The expected time commitment is **nine full working days.**

3 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, demonstrated by record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience, including:
 - Depth of knowledge of projects aimed at reducing emissions from unplanned deforestation and forest degradation
 - Depth of knowledge of methodological approaches for quantifying or estimating baseline emissions and emission reductions achieved by avoided deforestation projects
 - Depth of knowledge of sustainable forest management operations
- 2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development, demonstrated by relevant experience
- 3) Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes
- 4) Availability to comply with the proposed timeline
- 5) Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The main deliverables and expected timeline resulting from this assignment are as follows:

Deliverable	Timeline
1) Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report	Mid-January 2026
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	January 2026
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	Week of 2 February 2026



5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit their proposals as follows:

- Completed Proposal Response Template, provided in Annex 2 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent's qualifications, experience, rate, and ability to conduct the review
- Completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form, provided in Annex 3 and also available as a Word document, that indicates the respondent's ability to perform an independent review without risk of bias
- Separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each)

All application materials submitted to Verra will be kept confidential.

Proposals must be submitted by email to methodologies@verra.org, with the methodology development ID #M0398 in the subject line, by close of business on 16 December 2025. Verra will likely ask the top candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by 31 December 2025 with the work to begin as soon as possible after then.

Legal Nature of RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.



Annex 1 – Independent Expert Report Template



INDEPENDENT EXPERT REPORT: VMD00XX
ESTIMATION OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS
FROM AVOIDING UNPLANNED
DEFORESTATION FOR PROJECTS INCLUDING
TREE HARVESTING (TEMPLATE)

Methodology Title	<i>VMD00XX Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting</i>
Version	
Sectoral Scope(s)	14. Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU)
Documents Reviewed	
Date of Issue	
Expert Reviewer	
Contact	

1. INTRODUCTION

Verra is managing the development of a new [Module for the Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting \(ID #M0398\)](#). The new module will be part of the methodology [VM0048 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation](#). An integral component of the VCS Program is the [VCS Methodology Development and Review Process, v5.0 \(MDRP\)](#), which outlines procedures and rules for the development of new or revised VCS methodologies, modules, and tools. A key element of the rigorous process includes review by a group of independent experts to ensure the module aligns with current scientific knowledge, research, and best practices. Independent experts review the technical rigor, accuracy, and consistency of the draft methodology as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v5.0*.

Based on their experience in the *<insert specific area of expertise>* and project development for the carbon market, Verra hired *<insert name>* to provide an expert review of the proposed *<methodology, module, tool, or revision>*. The expert's review focused on:

- 1) *<insert specific areas of focus from the RFP>*

2. REVIEW APPROACH & FINDINGS

The independent experts reviewed the draft module and provided feedback to Verra. Verra prepared responses to the expert reviewer's findings and updated the module accordingly. The independent experts reviewed the responses and provided confirmation that the planned updates address the findings. See Section 6 below for detailed expert review feedback.

3. REVIEW CONCLUSION

<Insert name of expert> has completed the expert review of the draft module and confirms that the draft module and proposed updates adhere to the criteria established.

4. EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS

<Insert a brief summary of the expert qualifications>

For example: <Insert name of expert> has authored <x> peer-reviewed scientific publications to date. A detailed list of <Insert name of expert's> employment, education, and qualifications, and research publications is available here: <insert link>.

5. SIGNATURE

Signed for and on behalf of:

Name of entity: _____

Signature: _____

Name of signatory: _____

Date: _____

6 EXPERT FEEDBACK

Section -			
#	Paragraph from Draft Methodology	Comment	Developer's Response and/or Update

Annex 2 – Proposal Response Template

Evaluation Criteria	Response
<p>1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth of knowledge of projects aimed at reducing emissions from unplanned deforestation and forest degradation • Depth of knowledge of methodological approaches for quantifying or estimating baseline emissions and emission reductions achieved by avoided deforestation projects • Sustainable forest management operations • Degree of innovative thinking in respect to coming up with new solutions <p>Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project experience.</p>	
<p>2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development. Please list relevant experience.</p>	
<p>3) Cost proposal. Provide both daily rate and total cost in USD.</p>	
<p>4) Availability to comply with the proposed timeline.</p>	
<p>5) Ability to perform an independent review, without risk of bias that could impact the integrity of the methodology.</p>	<p>Please complete (sign and PDF) the Conflict of Disclosure Form provided in Annex 3.</p>

Annex 3 – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Expert Reviewer for Module for the Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting (M0398)

Name: (of collaborator)	Position/Role: (of collaborator)
Organization: (of collaborator)	Module: <i>Estimation of Emission Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation for Projects Including Tree Harvesting (M0398)</i>

Instructions

Conflict of Interest (“COI”):

A COI is a situation in which a personal interest interferes with or is perceived to interfere with your ability to carry out your responsibilities in an impartial, unbiased, and objective manner. There are three categories of COIs: potential, perceived, or actual. Each category could potentially pose risks for Verra, your relationship with our organization, the integrity of the consultancy and the resulting methodology, and your personal and professional reputation.

In undertaking your review responsibilities, you have an ongoing duty to be transparent and are required to disclose any potential, perceived, or actual conflicts of interest within five (5) business days of being aware of the situation. When in doubt, please make a disclosure.

Disclosure

1. Do you have any affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity that develops projects under the proposed methodology? Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) No
2. Do you have interests, financial,* personal,† or otherwise, related to project development (interests that concern the broader support of climate mitigation are not required to be disclosed)? Yes (Verra will contact you regarding next steps) No

If you answered “Yes” to #1 or #2, or if you have a situation that is different from them, please provide details in the space below. Please include names of organizations, activities, and relevant relationships.

*Financial interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative has been or is currently engaged in discussions to have, directly or indirectly, through business or investment, an ownership or investment interest in any project development.

† Personal interests arise when the reviewer or their immediate relative obtains an advantage, profit, right, or share or may benefit in any manner from the project development.

I have declared all relevant interests on this form and will continue to raise relevant interests as and when they arise.

Signature

Date