

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Independent Expert Review of VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands *Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing v2.0*

26 November 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 the draft methodology revision *VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing, v2.0*

The following list summarizes the key revisions and changes included in *VM0032, v2.0*:

- Methodology framework and standards:
  - Alignment with the latest VCS Program rules and requirements
  - Adoption of the VCS tool *VT0008 Additionality Assessment*

- Updates to *IPCC 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*
- Quantification approaches and modeling:
  - Introduction of *VMD0053 Model Calibration, Validation, and Uncertainty Guidance for the Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management for the Modeled Approach*
  - Introduction of new requirements to measure SOC stocks at least every five years to re-estimate model prediction error and recalibrate the model
  - Updates to uncertainty calculation
- Scope, carbon pools, and GHG sources:
  - Aboveground woody biomass carbon (AWBC)
    - New monitoring requirements for AWBC for project activities that involve changes in fire management
    - Adoption of quantification procedures from VCS methodology *VM0047 Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation* for quantifying removals from AWBC stock changes
  - N<sub>2</sub>O from biomass burning
    - Inclusion of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from biomass burning for projects that reduce fire frequency or burn woody biomass to promote soil sequestration
  - Dung decomposition emissions:
    - Inclusion of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions resulting from anaerobic decomposition of dung in confined spaces (e.g., corrals/bomas)
- Calculation of baseline methane emissions:
  - Updates to the method for calculating baseline animal numbers for methane emissions
  - Expansion of the classification of grazing animals
- Sampling and leakage
  - Update to the requirements for GPS location accuracy
  - Inclusion of the Equivalent Soil Mass (ESM) method for measuring SOC
  - Inclusion of additional guidance, criteria and tests for stratification
- Leakage emissions
  - Adoption of *VMD0054 Module for Estimating Leakage from ARR Activities* to determine leakage emissions

Verra is therefore requesting proposals for independent expert reviews (including academic experts, consultants, 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 major revision reflects the most recent scientific knowledge of GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals from improved grazing management.
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
  - Relevance and completeness of GHG sources and carbon pools included in the project boundary
  - Appropriateness of equations for quantifying baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, and GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals
  - Validity of assumptions and data sources
  - Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring approach
  - Relevance of the inclusion of a model true-up through soil sampling every five years
  - Appropriateness of the use of *VMD0053 Model Calibration, Validation, and Uncertainty Guidance for the Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management*
  - Updates to the Measured Approach
- Any stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert, as identified by Verra

The use of the additionality tool *VT0008* and minor improvements introduced in this revision, 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 methodology and submit a draft Independent Expert Report, issuing findings to Soil for the Future, using the template provided in Annex 1, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP*, v5.0.
- 2) **Iteration with Soil for the Future 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 Soil for the Future 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 total expected time commitment is **six full working days**.

### 3 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including:
  - Grassland, Savanna, Rangeland ecology
  - Fire and grazing in natural grasslands
  - Soil science
  - Field experience related to grassland, savanna, and rangeland managementDemonstrated by record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience.
- 2) Experience in GHG accounting, VCS project development and/or VCS methodology development, or similar work under other GHG programs
- 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 independent expert review is expected to start in parallel with the public consultation.

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

Deliverable	Timeline
1) Review documents and issue draft Independent Expert Report	1 month
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	1 month
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	1 week

### 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](mailto:methodologies@verra.org), with the methodology development ID# M0279 in the subject line, by close of business on 31 December 2025. Verra will likely ask the top candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by 15 January 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.



## INDEPENDENT EXPERT REPORT: TEMPLATE

<b>Methodology Title and Version</b>	Major revision to VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing, v2.0
<b>Sectoral Scope(s)</b>	
<b>Document Reviewed</b>	
<b>Date of Issue</b>	
<b>Expert Reviewer</b>	
<b>Contact</b>	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Verra is managing the major revision of VM0032 *Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing, v2.0* (methodology ID# M0279). 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.

Based on their experience in grassland management and project development for the carbon market, Verra selected <insert name of expert> to provide an expert assessment of the proposed methodology revision. The expert assessor's assessment focused on:

- Scientific rigor: Assessment of whether the major revision reflects the most recent scientific knowledge of GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals from improved grazing management.
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
  - Relevance and completeness of GHG sources and carbon pools included in the project boundary
  - Appropriateness of equations for quantifying baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, and GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals
  - Validity of assumptions and data sources
  - Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring approach
  - Relevance of the inclusion of a model true-up through soil sampling every five years
  - Appropriateness of the use of *VMD0053 Model Calibration, Validation, and Uncertainty Guidance for the Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management*
  - Updates to the Measured Approach
- Any stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert, as identified by Verra

## 2. REVIEW APPROACH & FINDINGS

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

## 3. REVIEW CONCLUSION

The expert assessor completes the expert assessment of the draft *VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing, v2.0* and confirms that the draft methodology adheres 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

## Independent Expert Review of New VCS Methodology

## VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing v. 2.0

Evaluation Criteria	Response
#1) 1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grassland, Savanna, Rangeland ecology</li><li>• Fire and grazing in natural grasslands</li><li>• Soil science</li><li>• Field experience related to Grassland, Savanna, Rangeland management</li></ul> Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project experience.	
#2) Experience in GHG accounting, VCS project development and/or VCS methodology development, or similar work under other GHG Programs	
#3: Cost proposal. Provide both daily rate and total cost in USD.	
#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.	Please complete (sign and PDF) the Conflict of Disclosure Form provided in Annex 3.

## Annex 3 – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure: VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing v. 2.0 Expert Reviewer**

<b>Name:</b> (of collaborator)	<b>Position/Role:</b> (of collaborator)
<b>Organization:</b> (of collaborator)	<b>Methodology / Tool / Module:</b> VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing v. 2.0

**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 permissible)?

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.

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

\* 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.

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

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Signature

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Date