

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Independent Expert Review of Revision to VM0033 *Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration*, v2.1 (M0167)

August 5, 2026

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, v5.1 \(MDRP\)](#), 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, v5.1*.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for an independent expert review of a revision to VM0033 *Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration*, v2.1 (M0167). The revision introduces a modular framework and updates baseline setting, monitoring, and leakage treatment to reflect the latest science and methodological advancements. Specifically, the revised methodology incorporates dynamic baselines for Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) activities in mangroves and a revised approach to leakage that integrates leakage mitigation directly into project design.

The draft documents to be included within the expert review are as follows:

- VM0033 *Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration*, v2.2: the core methodology document, including the revised modular framework

- Biomass and dead wood module: covering biomass and buried dead wood carbon stock change quantification
- Tidal wetland soils module: covering soil organic carbon stock changes and CH₄ and N₂O soil emissions
- Leakage module: covering leakage estimation for tidal wetland activities
- Tidal wetland ARR module: covering ARR activities involving woody biomass

Verra is therefore requesting proposals for independent expert reviews, including academic experts and consultants, 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, v5.1*.

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 (reductions) and carbon dioxide removals (removals) in tidal wetland systems.
- Technical robustness and consistency to ensure accurate/conservative outcomes:
 - Relevancy 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 reductions and removals
 - Validity of assumptions and data sources
 - Appropriateness and technical soundness of the monitoring approach
- Whether the dynamic baseline approach for ARR activities, including periodic recalibration using updated real-world data, produces an accurate estimate of the baseline scenario over the crediting period
- Whether the revised leakage approach is well-designed and effective in practice
- The technical soundness of the modular framework itself, specifically, whether the interfaces between VM0033 and its supporting modules are clearly defined
- Any stakeholder comment that requires input from the expert, as identified by Verra

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 revision documents and submit a draft Independent Expert Report issuing findings to

Verra, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.1 in the *MDRP*, v5.1.

- 2) **Iterate with Verra to resolve independent expert findings** as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP*, v5.1. 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*, v5.1).
- 3) **Issue Independent Expert Report.** Independent experts issue to Verra a final, signed version of the Independent Expert Report, using the *VCS Independent Expert Report Template*, as per Section 3.5.3 in the *MDRP*, v5.1.

The expected time commitment in number of working days:

Draft revision document	Review documents and issue draft of Independent Expert Report	Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	Issue Independent Expert Report	Total
Red-lined version of the draft VM0033, v2.2 and supporting modules	7.5	2.5	0.5	10.5

3 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- 1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including:
 - Depth of knowledge of tidal wetland projects, including challenges related to soil organic carbon analysis
 - Familiarity with dynamic baselines
 - Understanding of leakage dynamics in tidal wetland contexts, including displacement of fisheries and land-use pressures
 - Degree of innovative thinking in respect to coming up with new solutions
 - Record of scientific publications, reports, and project experience
- 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 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	September 2026
2) Iterate with Verra to resolve findings	October-November 2026
3) Issue Independent Expert Report	December 2026

5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit their proposals as follows:

- Completed Proposal Response Template, provided in Annex 1 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 2 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# M0167 in the subject line, by close of business on August 24, 2026. Verra will likely ask the top candidates clarifying questions about their proposal. Verra plans to finalize selection of the consultant by September 1, 2026, 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 – Proposal Response Template

Evaluation Criteria	Response
#1) Relevant expertise in the subject matter, including: • Depth of knowledge of tidal wetland projects, including challenges around soil organic carbon analysis • Familiarity with dynamic baselines • Understanding of leakage dynamics in tidal wetland contexts, including displacement of fisheries and land-use pressures • Degree of innovative thinking in respect to coming up with new solutions Please list relevant scientific publications, reports, and project experience.	
#2) Experience with VCS project development, GHG accounting, or VCS methodology development. Please list relevant experience.	
#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 2.

Annex 2 – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form



Confidential

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Methodology Reviewers

Name: (of collaborator)	Position/Role: (of collaborator)
Organization: (of collaborator)	Methodology / Tool / Module: Revision to VM0033 Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration, v2.1 (M0167)

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

- 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
- 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