



One Thomas Circle, NW
Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20005
www.verra.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOREST CONCESSION AND TIMBER HARVEST PERMIT CONVERSION RATE RESEARCH

November 27, 2023

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 helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods, and protect natural resources across the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and that also enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits. We work in any arena where we see a need for clear standards, a role for market-based mechanisms, and an opportunity to generate significant environmental and social value.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Verra seeks a consultant to assess our current Avoiding Planned Deforestation (APD) projects using data from concessions and timber harvest permits granted and executed in several countries and comparing this with the rates claimed by existing planned deforestation projects. This analysis would demonstrate the extent of the threat these projects face and their success at halting deforestation.

The assessment could also inform updated methods of establishing a more performance-based approach to APD baselines and identify gaps or issues in Verra's current APD accounting methods. Where usable for project activities, data produced by this analysis could also be used to set baselines for projects in the selected countries and provide peer-reviewed data that improve the scientific basis for such baselines.

3 SCOPE OF WORK

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include, at a minimum, the following:

- Identifying countries where data is available for timber harvest permits and concessions granted for activities that would cause forest conversion (e.g., logging, wood fiber, oil palm, mining, and agriculture), possibly including, but not limited to, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Brazil; liaising with Verra to select countries for research
- Liaising with the relevant government representatives in selected countries to access timber harvest and concession data
- Recommending the usefulness of that data for comparison to registered Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) APD projects in the selected countries
- Conducting the comparison, based on this recommendation and pending Verra approval

4 DELIVERABLES

The main deliverables resulting from this assignment are as follows:

- 1) A report detailing the types of harvest permit and concession data available in each country and its relevance to registered VCS APD projects in the selected countries
- 2) If approved by Verra, a report comparing the actual rates of harvest permit and concession granting resulting in complete forest conversion with the rates claimed by existing planned deforestation projects. This report should include recommendations on the relevance of this data for establishing a performance-based approach to APD baselines and any gaps or issues it illuminates in Verra's current APD accounting methods.

5 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- Depth of understanding of the issue
- Demonstrated engagement with the proposed government(s) on this issue and access to relevant government information
- Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes
- Examples of having successfully used the proposed approach in prior work

Preference will be given to consultants from the selected countries or those that engage significantly with local universities.

6 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Proposals should not exceed three pages, and should include the following:

- A description of how the consultant plans to achieve the overall objective that includes:
 - A timeline for key/major deliverables
 - Demonstrated government contacts for harvest permit and concession data access
 - A plan for engaging with one or more local university
 - An initial assessment of harvest permit and concession data that are known to be available (e.g., only palm oil or palm oil and logging)
 - A proposed timeframe for the period in which harvest permit and concession data would be retrieved (e.g., 2012--2022)
- A description of the consultant's qualifications to undertake the described scope of work, including, if possible, examples of similar projects or clients the proponent has worked for and outcomes achieved
- An estimated timeline for completing the project
- A cost proposal, including the rationale for main budget items

Resumes/CVs of the consultant's team may be attached (not to exceed two pages each).

All proposals and documents submitted to Verra will be kept confidential.

All documents must be submitted to Julianne Baroody, Senior Director, Forest Carbon Innovation, ibarood@verra.org, by the close of business on January 14, 2024. The top candidates will likely be asked clarifying questions or invited to discuss their proposals more deeply. Verra plans to finalize consultant selection by February 2, 2024, with the work to begin as soon as possible after that.

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.