JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Chief Program Officer

Location: Washington, DC preferred, remote possible

Start Date: Immediately

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

A global leader helping to tackle the world’s most intractable environmental challenges, Verra seeks a Chief Program Officer (CPO) to oversee the various standards frameworks Verra currently manages, ensure effective collaboration with Verra’s Innovation, Market Development and Administrative teams, and provide strategic input to organizational opportunities and challenges. The CPO will directly supervise Directors responsible for managing diverse teams working on the day-to-day implementation of Verra programs, the development of program elements, including those related to REDD+ and AFOLU, and management of the Verra registry.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Significant experience managing standards and their associated programmatic elements, including the development of accounting methodologies, working with auditors and ensuring the quality of their work, and overseeing a registry system;

- A keen understanding of the evolving policy frameworks affecting climate change action, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other environmental and social problems;

- Expertise working with external stakeholders and the ability to understand market and user needs, to inform the ongoing evolution of Verra’s portfolio of standards;

- Deep understanding of REDD+ and nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation; and

- Proven expertise managing teams, including being detail-oriented and well organized with excellent staff and project management skills.

About Verra

Verra develops and manages standards that help the private sector, countries, and civil society achieve ambitious sustainable development and climate action goals. Currently, Verra manages the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program and its Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ framework (JNR), the Verra California Offset Project Registry (OPR), the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards, and the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta). Verra is currently developing standards under the Reduce, Recover, and Recycle (3R) Initiative to increase the value of waste plastic and promote its recovery and recycling, and is working on the development of
LandScale, an effort to drive sustainability across productive landscapes. Verra’s global standards frameworks serve as linchpins for channeling finance towards high-impact activities that tackle some of the most pressing environmental issues of our day.

**Job Responsibilities**

The Chief Program Officer will lead the management of Verra’s existing standards programs and help launch new standards programs for addressing global environmental and social challenges. The Chief Program Officer will:

- Manage the Directors working to ensure the delivery and overall success of all active Verra standards frameworks;
- Provide strategic leadership on Verra’s standards and programs, positioning them for success in the context of changing market and policy dynamics and ensuring they continue to effectively drive finance towards climate action and sustainable development;
- Work with market stakeholders and existing/potential framework users to understand and respond to trends, risks and opportunities faced by Verra’s standards;
- Serve as one of the principal spokespersons for Verra at international forums, such as the international negotiations on climate change, carbon and environmental conferences and other gatherings;
- Conduct regular reviews of program operations and recommend corrective actions where necessary;
- Collaborate with Verra’s Innovation Team to provide standards implementation leadership to new Verra initiatives, including LandScale and 3R Standards for Project and Corporate Accounting, to ensure the effective development of these frameworks and taking over management of the associated standards programs, as appropriate, once ready to be operationalized;
- Collaborate with Verra’s Market Development team to ensure use and uptake of Verra standards, and to gather feedback from users and other stakeholders to inform changes and improvements to the full suite of Verra standards;
- Lead the development of the Program Department’s annual budget; and
- Participate in Verra’s executive team and contribute to the strategic direction of the organization.

**Required Qualifications**

We encourage proven leaders who bring strong experience working on standards and who are excellent managers to apply for this position. In addition, applicants should have outstanding written and verbal communication skills, and expertise in environmental or other sustainability-related markets. Successful candidates for the Chief Program Officer position will have at least 10 years of demonstrated professional experience related to:
• The development and/or implementation of standards and their related programs;

• Detailed technical knowledge of at least one standard and the related programmatic infrastructure needed to operationalize it;

• Nature-based solutions such as REDD+, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) or landscape approaches;

• Managing teams of professionals;

• Cross-team collaboration and building effective working relationships with peers;

• Excellent written and verbal communication skills;

• Strong organizational skills, including the ability to prioritize and work efficiently and effectively under deadlines;

• Dynamic interpersonal skills, capable of maintaining a professional approach and demeanor in high-pressure situations;

• Cultural awareness, with the ability to work well with stakeholders and partners from different countries and cultures; and

• Self-starter with an ability to excel in a professional environment with limited supervision.

Employees based in the US must be eligible to work in the United States (i.e., US citizen or holding current work authorization).

Preferred Qualifications:

• Graduate degree in environmental studies/sciences, sustainable development, engineering, energy, or a related field.

• Solid network of contacts in any of the markets served by our programs.

• Fluency in a language beyond English.

Compensation

Compensation depends on experience and is highly competitive. Verra has established pay bands that are based on market data for comparable positions for each of its jobs. These bands express a salary range and provide a reference point for offers to new hires, raises within a job, and for promotions from one job to another.

Verra offers a very attractive benefits package, including 22-30 days of paid time off plus holidays, retirement contributions, access to flexible savings accounts, and a choice of top-tier health plans.
How to Apply

To apply, please send us the following:

- Cover letter (not to exceed one page)
- Resume/CV (not to exceed two pages)

All applications should be submitted to Sara Mickens at opportunities@verra.org and will be considered on a rolling basis.

Verra provides equal opportunity for all job applicants and employees and is committed to providing a work environment free of discrimination. We conduct our recruitment and hiring without regard to race, color, religion, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetics, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, and local law.