

# JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



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Washington, DC 20005  
[www.verra.org](http://www.verra.org)

- Job Title:** Manager, LandScale Product Development
- Location:** Washington DC preferred, other locations possible
- Start Date:** Immediately
- Reports to:** Senior Manager, LandScale Partnerships and Development
- Supervises:** Program Officer, LandScale Product

Verra is seeking an experienced project manager and innovator to provide strategic leadership on the design and development of LandScale, in cooperation with a consortium of partners including Rainforest Alliance (RA), the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA), and others. This position is grant-funded.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Strong experience with the development of tools, programs, and other approaches to advance or assess sustainability;
- Demonstrated ability to integrate thinking from diverse information sources to develop and execute long-range visions;
- Experience with the design or development of online platforms, data synthesis and communication for decision-makers, and/or sustainability standards; and
- Outstanding communication, interpersonal and collaboration skills to effectively engage with a wide range of key stakeholders, experts, and prospective partners.

## 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.

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## **About LandScale**

LandScale is a new initiative for assessing and communicating sustainability performance at the landscape scale in order to drive stronger incentives, greater action, and more effective decision-making for sustainability. LandScale intends to target organizations and leaders who are ready to think big and collaborate between sectors or across an entire landscape - beyond single supply chains - to address and drive sustainability at scale. It is designed to provide actors in the private sector, governments, and civil society with objective and credible information about the status of and trends in sustainability performance at the landscape scale.

As a product, LandScale will comprise an assessment framework and metrics, validation/assurance mechanism, guidelines for users, and a data and reporting platform. LandScale seeks to leverage existing data and increase the visibility of and accountability for landscape-level outcomes across the four sustainability pillars of ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and production. LandScale will help make it easier for companies, governments, NGOs and others to simultaneously meet existing sustainability commitments and drive incentives towards investments in landscape approaches, allowing them to collaborate to tackle climate change, deforestation and other environmental challenges, improve livelihoods and human wellbeing, and efficiently meet demand for food, fiber, and other commodities in the years to come.

The initiative is co-led by Verra, the Rainforest Alliance, and CCBA, in collaboration with a growing number of global partners, including early testers in pilot landscapes around the globe.

## **Job Responsibilities**

The LandScale Product Development Manager will be responsible for finalizing the LandScale assessment framework and developing the other main components of the LandScale product. In particular, the Product Development Lead will:

- Lead the development and implementation of the strategy and workplan to finalize the LandScale product, which includes: 1) LandScale assessment framework and guidelines; 2) assurance/validation mechanism; 3) data and reporting platform; and 4) any supporting tools agreed upon by the LandScale leadership
- Provide strategic vision for the LandScale product overall to ensure that this product is effective in driving sustainable development action at landscape scale and adding value relative to the current and evolving state of landscape approaches, monitoring, metrics, and associated tools and programs;

- Lead the Product Development Working Group -- a subset of LandScale partners that is tasked with designing and developing the LandScale product to meet customer needs and drive uptake amongst potential LandScale users including private sector, governments and donors;
- Serve as the lead writer, managing editor, and producer of all facets of the LandScale product, including the validation/assurance mechanism, claims options, and related procedural rules, requirements, and guidance;
- Develop Terms of Reference for, interview, hire and manage external consultants and/or contractors to contribute research for and development of the above-mentioned LandScale components;
- Lead the development of the LandScale online data and reporting platform, including finalization of platform specifications, recruitment and management of a qualified IT vendor, co-development of platform wireframes and content, and integration of the platform within LandScale's overall user-facing persona and communications strategy;
- Coordinate closely with LandScale's market development lead, the lead on piloting, and other team members to optimize the functionality and positioning of the LandScale product in relation to user profiles and needs/interest, and to co-develop LandScale's long-term business model;
- Solicit, respond to, and integrate feedback from LandScale pilot partners, technical experts, public reviewers and other LandScale stakeholders to ensure diverse relevant perspectives considered in the development and refinement of the LandScale product;
- Work with LandScale leadership to explore partnership building and fundraising where appropriate;
- Manage relevant LandScale team members in their daily duties; and
- Represent LandScale at relevant meetings, conferences, workshops and events.

### **Required Qualifications**

We encourage creative, data & tech savvy practitioners who bring strong experience in product development and project management in the service of sustainable development to apply for this position. Successful candidates for the LandScale Product Development Manager position will have:

- Undergraduate degree in forestry, agriculture, natural resources, environmental management, international development, economics, or a related field (graduate degree is preferred);
- At least 10 years of relevant and progressively responsible professional experience, preferably with significant time working in or with developing countries;
- Strong understanding of sustainability issues in rural landscapes in developing countries, including those related to land use change, environmental degradation, climate change, poverty, governance, and human rights;



- Familiarity with current and emerging monitoring technologies (e.g. remote sensing), data sets, and information platforms to monitor and communicate landscape sustainability, as well as challenges and limitations of these;
- Demonstrated experience in product development, ideally in the area of online platforms and/or tools to assess and monitor sustainability;
- Strong awareness of the market and policy drivers for advancing and scaling up sustainability of rural landscapes, including current initiatives and innovations in landscape and jurisdictional approaches;
- Experience managing working groups to advance collaborative work;
- Experience working with companies and other end-users of environmental standards;
- Innovative, strategic thinking to solve complex, interconnected challenges;
- Strong project management skills with the ability to work independently, be persistent, and juggle multiple, sometimes competing priorities;
- Outstanding written and verbal communications skills; and
- Highly collaborative disposition with the ability to work effectively across teams and take into account diverse opinions and advice with a sense of humor and humility.

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

#### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Demonstrated experience working with a range of sustainability data types including earth observation, demographic and health surveys, and/or other datasets that assess sustainability;
- Solid network of contacts in the landscape sustainability space;
- Fluency in a language beyond English, preferably Spanish;
- Experience supervising and coaching staff; and
- Training or experience in data science and visualization.

#### **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. For this position, the salary range is \$84,500 USD - \$95,000 USD

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 1 page);
- Resume/CV (not to exceed 2 pages); and
- Two of your own work samples (preferably one narrative written product and one other sample that uses a graphical, web, video, or other format to convey complex or technical concepts to non-technical audiences) totaling no more than 10 pages.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with the first round of review to begin approximately the second week of January 2020. All applications should be submitted to Sara Mickens at [opportunities@verra.org](mailto:opportunities@verra.org).

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.