

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED METHODOLOGY: METHODOLOGY FOR GHG ACCOUNTING FROM BIOCHAR ACTIVITIES

8 July 2021

1 INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven non-profit 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, tools and programs 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 removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Since its launch in 2006, the VCS Program has grown into the world's largest voluntary GHG program with over 1600 registered projects in 82 countries that have cumulatively generated almost 400 million VCUs.

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [Methodology Approval Process, v4.0](#), which allows stakeholders to develop new methodologies that set out procedures to monitor and quantify the emission reductions and removals of new project activities, thus expanding the eligibility of project activities under the VCS Program. Such new methodologies are submitted to Verra for review before undergoing a technical assessment by an approved, accredited Validation/Verification Body (VVB).

Verra seeks a VVB to conduct the technical assessment of a new methodology as part of the Methodology Approval Process.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a technical assessment of a proposed VCS methodology to account for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions from biochar activities developed by a consortium of experts (Forliance, South Pole, Biochar Works, Delaney Forestry Services) under VCS' Methodology Approval Process.

The proposed methodology covers Sectoral Scope 13, Waste Handling and Disposal. Specifically, it provides a framework for the quantification of GHG emission reduction and removals, where project activities include the adoption of improved waste handling practices that result in the production and end-use utilization of biochar in soils and certain non-soil material applications. Biochar is a carbon-rich solid material made from biomass subjected to high heat and limited-oxygen environments. Because its organic carbon component is generally one to two orders of magnitude more stable than the feedstock biomass it was produced from, biochar can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation when deployed at a massive global scale.

The requirements of the assessment are set out in Section 4.5 of the [Methodology Approval Process, v4.0](#).

3 QUALIFICATIONS

Verra is seeking a VVB that is in conformance with the requirements set out in Section 5 of the [Methodology Approval Process, v4.0](#).

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The VVB must produce an assessment report in accordance with the requirements as set out in Section 4.5.4 of the [Methodology Approval Process, v4.0](#). The duration and timeline of the assessment must be outlined by the respondent within the proposal. We expect that the services will be needed in September/October 2021, with some flexibility in the timeline.

5 RESPONSES TO RFP

Interested respondents should feel free to submit clarifying questions on any of the above information.

Respondents are requested to submit the following as part of their proposals:

- Cost proposal
- Estimated timeline for the assessment
- 2-3 page narrative detailing how the VVB will execute the scope of the work as set out in the *Methodology Approval Process* and describing the VVB's qualifications.
- Disclosure statement of services (conflict of interest statement) provided to the methodology developer

All proposals and documents submitted to Verra will be shared only with the methodology developer, and otherwise will be kept confidential.

All documents must be submitted to Liz Guinessey at eguinessey@verra.org by close of business July 23, 2021. We will finalize the selection of the VVB by July 30, 2021.

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.