

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY ASSESSMENT OF A METHODOLOGY FOR AFFORESTATION, REFORESTATION AND REVEGETATION PROJECTS

October 15, 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 Methodology for Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation Projects of the Methodology Approval Process.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a technical assessment of Methodology for Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation Projects developed by Verra under the VCS' Methodology Approval Process.

The ARR methodology is applicable for project activities that qualify as afforestation, reforestation or revegetation, including direct (e.g., manual planting, broadcast seeding) and indirect activities (e.g., activities that permit or facilitate natural regeneration, like herbivory exclosures). It is not applicable for project activities that take place on organic soils or wetlands and result in an intentional manipulation of the

water table (i.e., the project activity must not involve manipulation of hydrology or otherwise affect hydrology).

The methodology allows for two quantification approaches: area-based and census-based. The area-based approach scales biomass per hectare estimates to the project level using an area multiplier. The census-based approach scales biomass per planting estimates to the project level using a census and can be appropriate where a full census of plantings is practical.

For the area-based approach, demonstration of additionality and baseline definition follows a performance benchmark approach that is set based on observations from a network of representative sample plots outside of the project area. The control area is appropriately matched to the project area through the incorporation of bio-physical and behavioral parameters correlated with probability of forest restoration/natural regeneration and productivity. Over each five-year evaluation period, transitions from non-forest to forest are observed and recorded, and relative stocking evaluated using remote sensing. The census-based approach employs a project method to set up the baseline and demonstrate additionality.

Leakage is estimated through a *Module for Estimating Leakage from ARR Activities*. The module accounts for leakage related to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities whether it is caused by the baseline agent (activity-shifting leakage) or by other actors (market leakage) by using a standardized leakage discount rate adjusted for the relative carbon stocks and minimum accounting period of the project.

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 of the methodology 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.

5 RESPONSES TO THE 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, and
- 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 our contracted methodology developer (Terra Carbon), and otherwise will be kept confidential.

All documents must be submitted to Abel Marcarini at amarcarini@verra.org by close of business October 31, 2021. We will finalize the selection of the VVB by November 15, 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.