

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Validation/Verification Body Assessment of a Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Targeted, Short-Term Harvest Deferral

7 February 2022

### 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 1,770 registered projects in 82 countries that have cumulatively generated more than 860 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 Improved Forest Management through Targeted, Short-Term Harvest Deferral*, as part of the Methodology Approval Process.

### 2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a technical assessment of the Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Targeted, Short-Term Harvest Deferral, developed by NCX under the VCS Program's Methodology Approval Process.

The methodology falls under the improved forest management (IFM) subclass of extended rotation age (ERA) projects. The methodology is applicable to projects in all types of forests, including plantation forests, wherein participants elect to defer timber harvests for a specified length of time.

The geographic applicability of the methodology is limited only by the availability of appropriate data sources and quantification techniques. Currently, the methodology specifies a process that is applicable in the United States only, but the methodology may apply to projects located anywhere when data to develop the models becomes available. It is expected that projects utilizing this methodology will typically employ a grouped project approach, thereby opening carbon markets to landowners with smaller-size properties with historically low rates of participation in the market.

The methodology relies on a performance method for the demonstration of additionality and selection of the crediting baseline. The baseline scenario needs to be reconstructed for each activity period during a crediting period and therefore represents a dynamic performance benchmark. This ensures that the baseline scenario is continually evaluated to ensure validity based on the participating properties during each activity period. Project proponents must estimate the percentage likelihood that a given acre would be harvested during the activity period, and what proportion of the standing carbon would be expected to be removed in that event. The aggregation of the carbon at risk across all acres of the participating properties will generate the carbon at risk of removal due to harvesting during the activity period. The methodology does not prescribe a specific model to derive the common practice harvest and associated carbon at risk but provides guidance to project proponents.

Harvest deferrals, and any associated stock changes, are monitored through plot-based field measurements of carbon stocking that inform both the baseline scenario and the project scenario. Considering that the performance-based methodology relies on measurements to demonstrate harvest deferrals, growth and yield modeling that is necessary in most IFM project types is not employed.

The methodology uses a tonne-year accounting approach to permanence (where a tonne-year refers to one MT of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered for one year). The tonne-year accounting approach allows for equivalence to permanent tonnes on an annual basis and therefore permanence risk assessment and buffer pool contributions are not required. Note that Verra is currently working on establishing a rate for tonne-year equivalence to permanent tonnes, but that is not part of this methodology assessment process.

The assessment requirements 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 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,
- A 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 the methodology developer and will be kept confidential otherwise.

All documents must be submitted to Cecilia Simon at [csimon@verra.org](mailto:csimon@verra.org) by close of business 28 February 2022. We will finalize the selection of the VVB by 18 March 2022.

### **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.