

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

COLLECTION OF JURISDICTIONAL DEFORESTATION DATA FOR ALLOCATION TO VCS PROJECTS

11 April 2022

Verra is looking to engage a number of service providers to collect deforestation data at the jurisdictional level that will be subsequently allocated by Verra to Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) REDD+ projects. Project proponents will use this data to set project baselines.

CONTEXT

In 2022, Verra will launch revised VCS methodologies for Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and Degradation (AUDD) projects. These updated methodologies will contain, among other revisions, consolidated methodological guidance on the generation of activity data for baseline setting and monitoring for avoiding unplanned deforestation (AUD) activities. This guidance has been developed as methodological modules that will undergo a public consultation in March 2022 and will subsequently be validated by a validation and verification body.

The consolidated procedure for developing baseline activity data is expected to include the following elements:

1. Generation of a series of **jurisdictional forest cover maps**.
2. Collection of **jurisdictional deforestation activity data** for the baseline.
3. Generation of a **deforestation risk map**.
4. Calculation of baseline **activity data for projects**.

These steps are summarized in the “Module – Determination of Jurisdictional Activity Data Baseline for Unplanned Deforestation” (J-ADB-UD), which will be integrated into all VCS AUDD methodologies. A [draft version of this module](#) is currently available for public consultation. This module will not be implemented by project developers themselves, but by service providers selected and contracted by Verra.

Implementing the J-ADB-UD module will require generating forest cover maps and collecting deforestation data (steps 1-2, above). This data collection would need to be undertaken separately for each jurisdiction where a project using the revised methodologies will be located. Verra expects to require such service periodically (i.e., every six years) for several jurisdictions over the coming years. To facilitate contracting, Verra will maintain a roster of qualified firms that are interested and able to provide these services to Verra.

Qualified firms are invited to express interest in being considered as service providers for collecting deforestation data for allocation to VCS projects. Firms that are found to meet Verra's selection requirements will be included in the roster of qualified service providers and may be considered for specific assignments.

ACTIVITIES

The specific assignments that firms will be contracted for will be guided by (the validated version of) Verra's methodological module J-ADB-UD. Although not yet validated, the [current draft version of the J-ADB-UD module](#), particularly section 5.5.1 and step 1 of section 5.5.3, offers a good idea of the activities to be carried out and the products to be delivered by the Service Provider. The work results in the delivery of a J-ADB-UD Description Report.

A detailed description of the scope of work will be drawn up for each specific assignment. It will then describe the activities to be undertaken, the deliverables and the timeframe. In general terms, it will include the following activities:

- Review Verra guidance.
- Map forest cover and its changes for the jurisdiction.
- Evaluate the accuracy of project-scale maps.
- Carry out jurisdictional area sampling.
- Produce the J-ADB-UD Description Report for the purpose of Verra-contracted validation.
- Interact with auditors during data validation.
- Revise and adjust data produced as required to meet the required standard and ensure completion of the validation process.

CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENTS

Where Verra requires the collection of jurisdictional deforestation data for allocation to VCS projects, proposals will be requested from one or several firms from the roster of qualified firms. Verra will select a firm for each jurisdiction based on demonstrated experience, local team/network, ability to perform the work in the desired timeframe, price, and absence of real or perceived conflict of interest. The selected firm will be awarded a contract for the provision of services with lump-sum payments against deliverables.

REQUIRED CAPABILITIES

- Strong track record in forest and forest change mapping at the jurisdictional level (countries or provinces/states of countries) in at least three jurisdictions.
- Demonstrated track record in data collection through visual area sampling at the jurisdictional level, including the ability to quickly assemble and deploy teams to carry out area sampling within the targeted timeframe (two to three months from contract start to final product).
- Strong familiarity with the VCS and its project- and jurisdictional-level approaches to reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- Availability of qualified core and support staff.
- Ability to enter into agreements with local partners to supply local experts to be involved in data collection.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested firms should express their interest by submitting an EOI document to Manuel Estrada, REDD+ Technical Innovation Director (mestrada@verra.org) by 15 May, 2022.

The EOI document should be no longer than 5 pages. It shall lay out the general profile of the firm and include a description of how the firm meets the required capabilities (see above).