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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Comparative analysis of the activity data, emission factors, and Forest Reference Emissions Level produced by MINAM-Perú in relation to Verra's specifications and requirements

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 helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods, and protect natural resources across 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. We work in any arena where we need clear standards, a role for market-based mechanisms, and an opportunity to generate significant environmental and social value.

Verra is issuing this request for proposals (RFP) for conducting an in-depth comparative analysis of the activity data, forest cover maps, emission factors, and Forest Reference Emission Level produced by MINAM-Perú in 2021 to determine their alignment with the corresponding specifications and requirements established in both the upcoming VCS [MD00XX Module for Estimation of Emissions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation](#) and the VCS JNR Requirements.

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Verra is finalizing a new consolidated REDD methodology to be published in July-September 2023. A key component of this new REDD methodology is the allocation approach. In this approach, portions of the jurisdictional activity data (AD) are allocated to project areas within the jurisdiction proportionally to the relative risk of deforestation in the project area. AD in this RFP refers to the area deforested (in hectares) across the jurisdiction over a given period. The AD allocated to projects within the jurisdiction is then used to construct the project's baseline in conjunction with local-level estimates of the relevant emissions factors. In general, jurisdictional level AD production, forest cover benchmark map development, deforestation risk assessment, and AD allocation are to be carried out by Verra or its designated data services providers, while emission factors are to be estimated by project proponents.

However, countries that are participating in Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (e.g., World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) or bilateral (e.g., Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative) initiatives have already invested efforts to compile country-wide activity data, estimate emission factors, and construct national Forest Reference Emissions Levels (FREL). As of March 2023, a total of 61 developing countries have submitted full Forest Reference Emissions Levels to the UNFCCC.

While FRELs submitted to the UNFCCC follow the UNFCCC’s guidelines for developing FRELs/FRLs (described in UNFCCC’s decision 12/CP.17), such guidelines are flexible to accommodate national circumstances and capabilities and allow for a stepwise approach to enable countries to improve their FRELs by incorporating better data and improved methodologies over time.

Thus, national FRELs submitted to the UNFCCC may need further evaluation and processing to meet stringent accuracy and data quality requirements and specifications demanded by a GHG accounting program oriented toward the carbon markets – such as Verra’s Verified Carbon Standard.

Nevertheless, some recently produced FRELs (and their underlying data) may be able to comply with Verra’s stringent specifications and requirements, either directly or after being subjected to relatively minor improvements. Those compliant jurisdictional data sets would be acceptable for Verra in case the country or projects being implemented in the country want to register in the VCS Program and participate in voluntary carbon markets, in addition to multilateral or bilateral payment-for-performance initiatives.

Perú submitted its second national FREL to the UNFCCC in 2021. As described in the submission document and later confirmed by the UNFCCC technical assessment, Perú’s latest national FREL used the best-quality data available and followed the latest best practices for its construction. This is an RFP for an in-depth technical assessment of the data and methods used for producing Perú’s 2021 Forest Reference Emission Level (and its underlying activity data, forest cover maps, and emission factors) to determine their alignment with the corresponding specifications and requirements established in both the upcoming VCS [MD00XX Module for Estimation of Emissions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation](#) and the VCS JNR Requirements.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Principal tasks and responsibilities will include, at a minimum, the following:

TASK 1. Review documents and data

The consultant team shall conduct an in-depth examination of all the documentary, cartographic, and statistical information provided by the *Ministerio del Ambiente* of Peru

(MINAM, henceforth) and that were used for, or produced during, the construction of Perú's 2021 national FREL.

The consultant team shall engage in direct consultations with the designated MINAM's technical staff and supervision of Verra staff to fully understand the workflow followed by MINAM in the production of the national FREL and how each of the information materials provided was used in the process.

TASK 2. Data and information compilation

The consultant team shall identify and verify with MINAM the following:

- the operational definitions (e.g., forest, deforestation, forest degradation, etc.) and particular considerations adopted;
- the raw and ancillary data used;
- the analyses carried out; and
- the intermediate and final results obtained

during the production of:

- a) Historical trend of deforestation
- b) Estimation of (deforestation) activity data
- c) Estimation of emission factors
- d) National FREL

TASK 3. Comparative analyses

The consultant team shall examine each of the elements compiled in Task 2 and compare them with the corresponding specifications and requirements established in the Jurisdictional FREL Requirements of the [JNR Requirements Scenario 1, Scenario 2, and Scenario 3, v4.0](#). And Appendix 1 of the (draft) [MDOOXX Estimation of Emissions Reductions from Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation](#).

For each requirement and element examined, the consultant team will determine:

- Presence or absence in the process of constructing Perú's FREL
- Full, partial, or lack of alignment with the corresponding Verra specifications and requirements

The consultant team will share this assessment with MINAM for verification.

TASK 4. Remedial actions

For those elements and requirements exhibiting partial or lack of alignment with Verra's requirements/specifications, the consultant team will determine the adjustments or additional processing that would be necessary for each of them to achieve – if at all possible – full alignment.

TASK 5. Report

The consultant team shall produce a report listing and briefly describing the outcomes from Task 2; a full description of the findings from Task 3; and a full description of the recommendations emerging from Task 4.

The draft of this report will be socialized with MINAM before it is finalized.

3 DELIVERABLES

The single deliverable resulting from this assignment is the report produced in Task 5.

4 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

- Depth of understanding of the assignment;
- Qualifications and experience of the consultant team members; the team shall include at least:
 - an expert in satellite imagery processing and classification for land cover and land cover change analyses, including sample-based area estimation of activity data, and
 - an expert in forest carbon accounting;
 - both members shall have substantial knowledge of Peruvian Amazon forests.
 - both members shall be fully bilingual Spanish-English.
- Cost, including making sure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes; and

Examples of previous successful experience in similar assignments.

5 RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Proposals should not exceed five pages and include the following:

- Description of how the consultant plans to achieve the overall objective, including a timeline for key/major deliverables;
- Description of the consultant's qualifications to undertake the described scope of work, including, if possible, examples of similar projects or clients the proponent has worked for and outcomes achieved;
- Estimated timeline for completing the project (maximum 10 weeks);
- Cost proposal, including rationale for main budget items; and



- Resumes/CVs of the consultant's team members (not to exceed 10 pages each; can be in addition to the five-page body of the main proposal).

All proposals and documents submitted to Verra will be kept confidential.

All documents must be submitted to Basanta Gautam (bgautam@verra.org), Manager, REDD+ Technical Innovation, by 11 June 2023. The top candidates will likely be asked clarifying questions or invited to discuss their proposals more deeply. Verra plans to finalize the selection of the consultant by 16 June 2023, with the work to begin by 19 June 2023.

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.