

ENHANCED WEATHERING AND MINERALIZATION ADVISORY GROUP

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

28 November 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 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 that also enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits. We work in any arena where we see a need for clear standards, a role for market-based mechanisms and an opportunity to generate significant environmental and social value.

Verra's flagship program, the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is the world's leading greenhouse gas crediting program with over 1800 registered projects in almost 100 countries that have cumulatively generated more than 1 billion VCUs.

2. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Background

Enhanced Weathering and Mineralization (EWM), a collective term used here to represent enhanced rock weathering and technology-based carbon mineralisation, has the potential to sequester several gigatonnes of CO₂ in the coming decades. Despite the relative novelty of EWM, it may be an important element in achieving Verra's mission and well suited for implementation through the VCS Program. Verra is interested in exploring all potential applications of EWM, including management of mine tailings and industrial wastes, usage in products like aggregates or recycled concrete, application in agricultural soils and forestry settings, as well as coastal and marine applications designed to generate ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE).

Verra is establishing the Enhanced Weathering and Mineralisation Advisory Group (AG) as a strategic and tactical resource to support development of an EWM initiative under VCS.

Objective

Verra seeks to establish an AG to consolidate efforts and expertise to evaluate the readiness, merits, and risks of EWM and if appropriate, elevate, and accelerate its global acceptance through the voluntary carbon markets.

The purpose of this document is to define the roles and responsibilities, composition, and scope of activities of the AG and call for expressions of interest from eligible individuals to become members of the AG.

3. SCOPE AND DELIVERABLES

Scope

The AG will contribute expert recommendations and respond to the following key aspects:

State of science

- State of current scientific understanding and future developments

Industry priorities and outlook

- Industry priorities and outlook, key interventions and their ERR and sequestration potentials
- New and emerging markets/sources of demand and how these could be tapped

Risks and challenges

- Risks/challenges of various EWM initiatives with safeguards and mitigation mechanisms, including the issue of maintaining permanence
- Main development and implementation barriers faced by EWM carbon projects

EWM initiative at Verra

- The role of carbon standards in driving finance to these projects and best financing approaches to help de-risk or facilitate early investment in EWM
- EWM initiative at Verra: scope, priorities, VCS program development, possible methodologies/tools, endorsements/associations, development timeline/phases and other elements
- Common upstream and downstream considerations between the three pathways (industry, agriculture, and marine application) necessary to accelerate (or limit) the development and testing of EWM/OAE applications.
- Legal and policy considerations in advancing and/or limiting the development and testing of EWM/OAE

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)

- Various MRV approaches being implemented/proposed, their pros and cons and integration into credible VCS methodologies/tools under development

Stakeholder management

- Creating public awareness and responding to stakeholder criticism
- Potential SDG impacts of various EWM initiatives

Phasing/evolution

Engagement with the AG will occur in two phases wherein phase 1 will focus on industry and agriculture pathways while phase 2 will focus on the marine application pathway. The duration of each phase is expected to be a minimum of 6 months with a possibility of extension, if needed.

Deliverables

The AG will deliver recommendations on aspects listed in the scope in pursuit of the objective. The AG will be convened by a Secretariat (Verra) and be advised by and report to Verra's Risk and Opportunities Committee (ROC) through the Secretariat. The AG will not be a decision-making body and is not meant to be involved in concept note/methodology reviews under the VCS.

4. MEMBER COMPOSITION AND COMMITMENT

The AG will represent a balance of experience, expertise, geographic representation, and stakeholder interests to support the development and evolution of the EWM initiative. Participants in the AG should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Expertise in geoengineering/geochemistry/mineralogy/soil science/hydrology/oceanography at research/academic institutions and/or consulting organizations and/or corporate sector
- Experience in conducting primary research and/or modeling at pilot trials of enhanced weathering and/or mineral carbonation in different environments namely industry, mining sites, agricultural settings and/or ocean/coastal areas
- Experience in conducting environmental and social impact assessments and/or implementing projects/creating public awareness campaigns around environment-friendly technologies and solutions.
- Expert and first-hand knowledge of various measures, MRV, risks and the potential of accelerated rock/mineral weathering (particularly in mining areas and agricultural settings), ocean alkalinity enhancement and related applications
- Experience in implementing and managing carbon credit projects (with leading GHG programs like Verra, CDM, GS etc.) in the capacity of a project developer or a carbon consultant

Verra will endeavour to convene an AG comprised of approximately 12-15 individuals, balanced across the following sectors:

- Academic experts and researchers in marine sciences/soil sciences/geochemistry/mineralogy and related domains;
- Industry experts in similar domains;
- Technology start-ups in EWM domain;
- Carbon consultants and project developers; and
- Environmental NGOs

Participation in the AG is without remuneration and expected to run between six to twelve months starting February 2023, with the possibility of extension. Members must be able to commit a limited amount of time to contribute to and support the development of the EWM initiative. This will include

inputs on collaborative documents via email, and on average, one 90-120-minute conference call every four to six weeks. The agenda for conference calls will be prepared and shared in advance. No in-person meetings are expected, though side meetings at relevant conferences where members are participating may be organized. Members may be required to spend one to two hours preparing for conference calls, including, inter alia, reviewing proposed language. If willing, a member's time commitment may be extended to include participation in ad hoc working groups (see Section 5 below).

5. OPERATION OF THE AG

The secretariat will convene the AG and be responsible for organizing and facilitating AG meetings, preparing, and disseminating agendas and minutes, producing plans for ongoing EWM initiative development, organizing input and review by the AG, and facilitating communication and consultation with other stakeholders. The secretariat may create smaller ad hoc groups for different aspects of the EWM initiative drawn from the AG and other stakeholders depending on needs, participant interest, availability, and expertise.

Given the tight time frame for this initiative's development, specified deadlines for document reviews and decisions may be requested. All recommendations and comments made by the AG determined consequential to Verra are subject to final approval by the Verra EMT and ROC.

Members of the AG will adhere to a code of ethics, confidentiality, and conflict of interest policies. **Verra may publish the name of the working group on its website and publish or discuss milestones achieved by the working group in newsletters, webinars, or other similar forums. Verra will not share membership of the working group externally without prior consent.**

The working language of the AG will be English.

6. TERMINATION

AG members or Verra may give notice of termination of member participation in the AG at any time. Verra reserves the right to terminate the AG at any time.

7. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Interested individuals are invited to apply for membership in the AG **by 6 January 2023**. Please submit a completed [application form](#) and a CV/resume to Kranav Sharma, Manager, Industrial Innovation (ksharma@verra.org).

Verra aims to select AG group members by 15 January 2023 and hold the first meeting in February 2023. The appointment of AG members will be at Verra's sole discretion via direct invitation and from the list of applicants.

Legal nature of the call for EOIs: This call for EOI is an invitation for proposals and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the call for EOIs. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.