

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION OF PLASTIC CREDITS WITH GLOBAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES AND VOLUNTARY MECHANISMS

October 2022

1. BACKGROUND

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges.

Plastic pollution has risen exponentially in the last decade to approximately 400 million tonnes annually, with over 11 million tonnes of plastic waste finding its way into oceans each year.

In response to this crisis, Verra launched the [Plastic Waste Reduction Program](#) ("Plastic Program") in 2021, a framework used for consistent accounting and crediting of a variety of plastic collection and recycling activities. The Program drives investment into projects that increase the collection of plastic waste from the environment and/or its recycling. It also enables the independent auditing of projects to determine the extent to which they have reduced plastic waste in the environment and/or increased recycling. Credits are issued based on how much plastic is collected and recycled above baseline rates (i.e., what would have happened in the absence of the project activity). This plastic crediting mechanism provides an efficient and powerful means of financing activities that verifiably reduce plastic in the environment anywhere in the world.

Plastic Credits, when applied alongside plastic reduction and redesign strategies within a company's own value chain, regional mechanisms and/or policy instruments to stem the flow of plastic leakage into the environment, will hold the key to collectively delivering meaningful impact at scale.

2. OBJECTIVE & NEED

To ensure that the benefits of Plastic Credits are fully realized, we seek a qualified organization to support us in the integration of Plastic Credits with mechanisms that aim to combat plastic leakage into nature. To accomplish this, Verra requires support in the following areas:

- 1) Assessing the potential linkages between Plastic Credits and emerging regional and global plastic waste management schemes, including (but not limited to) mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, regional plastic collection and/or recycling commitments, and the Global Plastic Treaty;
- 2) Identifying case studies from regions that have incorporated plastic credits into their regional mechanisms and using these learnings to develop a policy advisory framework for replication in other priority regions; and
- 3) Identifying opportunities for, and facilitating, the integration of Plastic Credits with aforesaid mechanisms, clearly outlining the benefits and the use case for Plastic Credits.

We envision this work to take place from November 2022 to April 2023.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work will include the following:

- 1) Conduct a landscape assessment and review of regional legislations (such as EPR, plastic taxes), upcoming global resolutions (such as the Global Plastic Treaty) and voluntary mechanisms (such as the regional plastic pacts) that have either recognized plastic credits as eligible instruments for reducing plastic leakage or present a potential to do so. The outcome of this exercise is to prepare a landscape report enlisting priority mechanisms, synthesizing gaps existing with these mechanisms that can be addressed and opportunities that can be leveraged with Plastic Credits.
- 2) Develop policy advisory guidelines for integration of Plastic Credits with the identified schemes: This could include:
 - a. Outlining the role and use case for Plastic Credits in meeting the objectives of the identified mechanisms. The guidelines should set out the criteria to ensure that Plastic Credits do not undermine incentives for waste prevention and designing for circularity and the revenue from Plastic Credits does not displace other financial contributions in the form of taxes, user fees, or revenues from recycling.
 - b. Plastic credits design, implementation, and quality assurance principles that should be adhered to, including additionality, independent verification, inclusion of social safeguards and avoidance of double counting, issuance, or claiming.
- 3) Conduct outreach and consultations: Conduct outreach and carry out consultations with key stakeholders including regional governments, private sector entities, NGOs, civil society bodies, and any other relevant entities. The expected outcome of this exercise is to present

the draft guidelines to key stakeholders, discuss and identify integration potential, collect feedback, and incorporate learnings into the report.

- 4) Disseminate final guidelines to stakeholders: In this stage, collaboration opportunities will be finalized to facilitate the integration of Plastic Credits with the identified mechanisms.

4. TIMELINE AND DELIVERABLES

The table below sets out the timeline for the various deliverables, noting that proposals can suggest alternative deliverables and/or timelines if that is deemed a better approach.

Deliverable/Milestone	Due Date
Initial work plan	Within one week of contracting (tentatively by 10 November 2022)
Landscape assessment and review report, including identification of key global and regional compliance as well as voluntary mechanisms, existing gaps and opportunities for inclusion of Plastic Credits	25 November 2022
Draft guidelines along with criteria and a plan for integration of Plastic Credits with the identified mechanisms, approaches for outreach to stakeholders of the identified mechanisms and a plan for integration of plastic credits into the said schemes	15 December 2022
Identification of key stakeholders and conducting outreach for consultations	20 January 2023
Consultation with key stakeholders, including discussions on Plastic Credits' integration potential	15 February 2023
Final guidelines after incorporating feedback from identified stakeholders	25 February 2023
Presentation of the final guidelines and recommendations to key stakeholders	15 March 2023
Collaboration/integration opportunities finalized	25 April 2023

5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of mechanisms identified with a clear opportunity and a case for integration or inclusion of Plastic Credits
- Number of stakeholder groups reached out to and consulted on the guidelines

- Number of opportunities finalized for integration or inclusion of Plastic Credits into key global and regional compliance as well as voluntary mechanisms to meet the above objectives

6. BUDGET

The maximum budget for this work is US\$50,000. Follow-on work, if any, would be remunerated on a per diem basis. Please also provide daily or hourly rate(s) for ongoing advice and support.

7. RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are welcome to submit clarifying questions on any of the above information. Proposals should not exceed four pages and should include the following:

- Description of how the organization plans to undertake the scope of work described; including an outline of the proposed methodology and workplan;
- Description of the organization's qualifications to undertake the scope of work described and examples of similar projects or clients the consultant has worked for;
- Description of how the consultant would avoid any conflict of interest in undertaking the scope of work described;
- Resumes/CVs of the consultant's team, if applicable, may be attached as supplemental materials (not to exceed two pages each); and
- Cost proposal.

Note: All proposals and documents submitted to Verra will be kept confidential. All documents must be submitted to Komal Sinha, Director, Plastics and Sustainable Development Policy and Markets, ksinha@verra.org (cc Robin Rix, Chief Legal, Policy, and Markets Officer, rrix@verra.org), by 28 October 2022. A shortlist of candidates may be invited to an interview. We intend to finalize the selection of the consultant by the end of October 2022.

8. LEGAL NATURE OF RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal or proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.