

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

EXPERT TO CONDUCT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED VCS METHODOLOGY FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

28 January 2020

1 INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2005, Verra is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. that supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods and protect ecosystems and the services they provide. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards and programs that credibly, transparently and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up these benefits. Verra is the secretariat for a growing number of standards and programs.

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 1600 registered projects in 82 countries that have cumulatively generated almost 400 million carbon credits. Of these, almost 180 are AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) projects that have generated more than 160 million carbon credits. However, due to a number of barriers, only a minor percentage of these AFOLU projects are Agriculture Land Management (ALM) projects.

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [Methodology Approval Process](#), which allows stakeholders to develop new methodologies to quantify and monitor the emission reductions and removals of new project activities, thus expanding the eligibility of project activities under the VCS Program. These new methodologies are submitted to Verra for review before undergoing a technical assessment by an approved, accredited Validation/Verification Body (VVB), and ultimate approval by Verra.

Verra seeks an external expert to act as a consultant to review the technical aspects of a proposed new VCS methodology for regenerative agriculture to ensure its credibility and robustness.

2 SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a consultant to conduct the review of the technical aspects¹ of a proposed new VCS methodology for regenerative agriculture to ensure its credibility and robustness. The proposed methodology provides procedures to estimate the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and removals resulting from the adoption of regenerative agriculture management practices. The methodology focuses on quantifying soil organic carbon (SOC) enhancements but also includes quantification of reductions in CH₄ and N₂O emissions in grower operations, where relevant. The methodology uses a combined quantification approach of modeling with direct measurement.

Specifically, we are seeking proposals that include the following work components:

- Review the technical aspects of the proposed *Methodology for Regenerative Agriculture* prior to Verra accepting the methodology for public consultation², and again once the proposed methodology has completed assessment by the VVB and has been submitted for final approval.
- Document any material findings or concerns to submit to Verra on the basis of these reviews, for discussion with Verra and other key stakeholders such as the ALM expert working group.
- Participate in conference calls with Verra staff, the methodology developer, the VVB, and other key stakeholders as needed, to clarify and/or discuss any findings or concerns raised as part of the review.
- Develop a final summary statement describing the task undertaken and final conclusion.

3 QUALIFICATIONS

Verra is seeking a consultant with the following qualifications:

- A science-based understanding of GHG emissions pathways inherent to a range of regenerative agricultural land management practices.
- Experience using different approaches to quantifying such GHG emissions/removals including modelling and emerging technologies (e.g., IR spectrophotometry).

¹ The focus of this review is on the technical concepts included in the proposed methodology, especially as related to the credibility and robustness of the soil carbon accounting. Copy editing and formatting is outside of the scope of work of this review.

² These reviews are outlined within Sections 4.3 and 4.6 of the [Methodology Approval Process, v4.0](#).

- A science-based understanding of the benefits and limitations of different approaches, eg uncertainty in biogeochemical models.

4 MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The approximate duration of this consultancy will be intermittent over seven months (February to August 2020). Submission of the final proposed methodology by the project developer to Verra, and the duration of the VVB assessment are key variables in determining the exact start and end dates.

Milestone	Deliverables	Estimated Date of Completion
Kick-off call with Verra	None.	17 February 2020
Initial technical review of the proposed methodology	Draft report outlining material findings to be submitted to Verra to be raised with the project developer ³ .	2 March 2020
Close initial review	Submit report to Verra closing any material findings raised during review.	27 April 2020
Final technical review of the proposed methodology	Final report outlining any outstanding material findings to be submitted to Verra and raised with the project developer and VVB (if applicable), taking into account feedback from Verra and other key stakeholders ⁴ .	3 August 2020
Complete technical review	Summary statement describing the final conclusions to be submitted to Verra.	10 August 2020

5 RESPONSES TO 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 proposal⁵.

³ Conference calls with Verra staff and the project developer will likely be required at this stage.

⁴ This may include technical items raised through the Climate Action Reserve development process of the [Soil Enrichment Project Protocol](#), or by Verra's ALM Working Group.

⁵ Please note Verra anticipates that each of the two major reviews will be between 12-20 of work per review, with follow up calls with Verra staff and the developer, for a total of 29-45 hours.

- Brief 2-4 page narrative proposal detailing how the consultant will respond to the scope of work and describing the consultant's qualifications.
- Resumes/CVs of the consultant (not to exceed three pages).
- Disclosure statement of services provided to the project developer, Indigo Ag, or technical consultant, TerraCarbon LLC.

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

All documents must be submitted to Andrew Beauchamp at abeauchamp@verra.org by close of business **12 February 2020**. We will finalize the selection of the consultant by mid-February 2020.

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.