**Expression of Interest**

**HCLFoundation, under its Environment flagship programme Harit , invites EOI from NGOs / CSR organizations working towards Biomonitoring of two restored and rejuvenated water structures of Harit sites in Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP, India**

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| **EOI released by** | HCLFoundation |
| **EOI Code** | HCLF/Harit/Biomonitoring/30112024 |
| **Program Name** | HCL Harit |
| **Date of Posting** | November 15, 2024 |
| **Last Date for submission of Proposal** | November 30, 2024 |
| **Location** | Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh |

**ABOUT HCLFOUNDATION**

HCLFoundation delivers the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech in India through its flagship programmes and special initiatives. As a not-for-profit organization, it strives to contribute towards national and international development goals, bringing about positive impact in the lives of people, through long-term sustainable programmes.

HCLFoundation aims to alleviate poverty and achieve inclusive growth and development through life cycle based, integrated community development approach that focuses on Education, Health, Skill Development and Livelihood, Environment, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response. Child protective strategies, inclusion, and gender transformative approaches remain central in all initiatives, thus ensuring comprehensive development. At present, it is implementing five flagship programmes - Samuday and HCLTech Grant (Rural Development); Uday and My Clean City (Urban Development); Harit (Environment Action) and four special initiatives – Power of One, Sports for Change, Academy and My E-Haat.

For more details, please visit our website – <https://www.hclfoundation.org>

**VISION**

To be the source code for sustainable socio-economic and environmental development.

**MISSION**

Nurture clean, green and healthy communities where everyone is empowered and equipped to reach their full potential in partnership with its employees, communities and stakeholders, while promoting volunteerism and establishing international standards of strategic planning, execution and measuring impact.

**Harit by HCLFoundation– The Green Initiative**

Harit is distinct flagship programme for Environment Action. Harit is a multi-year, ongoing programme, addressing environment, operational in 9 States of India, with multiple long-mid-short-term projects under its ambit.

Under this, HCLFoundation is committed towards conservation of environment and the indigenous flora and fauna; with the primary objective to conserve, restore and enhance local ecosystems and respond to climate change in a sustainable manner through community engagement.

**Vision**

To conserve, restore and enhance indigenous environmental systems and respond to climate change in a sustainable manner through community engagement.

**Background – The Environmental Complex**

We are all interdependent and share the same environment. The pressing issues such as environmental degradation and climate change are complex, boundary agnostic and are triggered by different drivers, exacerbating environmental risks and leading to deteriorating quality of life and human health. Many times, issues that seem local, would require an ecosystem approach to deal with. World leaders have identified awareness as a key solution towards sustainable development of countries, as creating a strong link between the environment and the quality of human life is crucial to ensure conservation of the environment and natural resources.

Against this context, Harit is aimed towards restoring the environmental balance; with the primary objective to conserve, restore and enhance indigenous ecosystems and its services and respond to climate change in a sustainable manner through community engagement. Throughout the process, Harit focuses on building scalable and replicable nature based solutions that are economically viable, socially acceptable, environmentally sustainable, holistic and inclusive.

An integrated and strategic broader-scale approach to environmental action and conservation enables to bring in stakeholders and partners together to work on a common and shared environment and deal better with both the site-level and wider landscape needs. This will also enable us to better understand feedback of the interventions, optimize resources and prioritize actions.

**Key Intervention Areas**

All these interventions under Harit follow a ‘Participatory and Convergent Approach’ in attaining the desired results towards Sustainable Developmental Goals aligned to the National Indicator Framework for SDG.

Operational in nine States - Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Harit by HCLFoundation is building sustainable and inclusive models towards:

* A flourishing biodiversity, green cover and building climate resilience through afforestation;
* An abundance of water resources through rejuvenating vanishing waterbodies;
* A thriving coastal and marine habitats by on and off-shore cleaning initiatives;
* A better life for animals by improving human animal relationships and addressing animal welfare inside community areas;
* Cleaner air through reducing and neutralizing CO2 emissions;
* Protecting and preserving the environment through education, community stewardship and participation.

**Achievement**

We have successful existing partnership models on mass afforestation and water bodies rejuvenation in various cities across India. Till now, HCLFoundation has greened over 66,000+ acres of land and brought under community governance, 2.8 million+ saplings planted, 81 bn litres water harvested and 90,000+ animals rescued, treated and protected. As stories of transformation reverberate across 22 states and 3 Union Territories, our commitment and investment towards the planet continues to be strengthened!

# Description of EOI

Human activities like industrialization, urbanization, and farming are causing considerable harm to India’s freshwater habitats, which include lakes, ponds, rivers, and canals. For the successful rejuvenation of these ecosystems, it’s crucial to have strong monitoring mechanisms in place to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration efforts. Monitoring ecological indicators, such as diatoms, does play a fundamental role in the restoration process. Additionally, sustaining biodiversity, including macrobenthos and phytoplankton, is crucial for successful ecological restoration in degraded wetlands. As indicated above, currently operational across six sectors, the overall aspiration of HCL Harit is towards the larger socio-environmental good; with special emphasis to mitigate climate change impact and to enhance native biodiversity, restore ecosystem services and improve human-nature co-existence. HCL Harit’s vision is to conserve, restore and enhance indigenous environmental systems and respond to climate change in a sustainable manner through community engagement. Additionally, Harit sites especially, the afforestation and waterbody sites are becoming paradise for several urban biodiversity. So far, we have documented multiple species of seasonal taxa like reptiles, amphibians, insects, and smaller mammals including several residential and migratory birds.

**Scope of Work for Biomonitoring of restored and rejuvenated water structures**

HCLFoundation requests for proposal from eligible NGOs / CSR agencies for Biomonitoring of restored and rejuvenated water structures. HCLFoundation’s response towards the development and rejuvenation of water structure, and their ecosystem will include

* Monitoring environmental changes in terms of toxicity, sensitive to heavy metal stress, etc. especially in freshwater ecosystems influenced by adjacent agricultural activities.
* Assessing the ecological quality of two restored and rejuvenated water structures, particularly in terms of organic and nutrient pollution
* Evaluating anthropogenic impacts on aquatic ecosystems
* Investigated Diatom-based taxonomical parameters under various stresses
* Documentation of Diatom diversity and abundances
* To develop biomonitoring tools based on various parameters like Trophic Diatom Index (TDI), physico-chemical characteristics, trophic status index (TSI)
* Comparison of diatom diversity between restored and control/protected sites.
* Recognize and evaluate the possibility to relate environmental or anthropogenic factors to diatom assemblages.

**Geography**

Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

**Expected Outcomes**

* Diatom quality assessment
* Diatom diversity in the waterbodies
* Ecological quality assessment

# Qualification and experience:

Agencies/organisations with experience in the following parameters are invited to submit their EOI:

* Demonstrable experience in working on Diatoms evaluation at waterbody restoration projects or similar kinds of projects
* Proven track record and experience in managing multiple stakeholders and complex situations on the ground
* Familiarity with relevant Government Policies, UN SDGs, National Indicators Framework, NDC, etc.

# Selection Parameter:

Please note that only the shortlisted agencies/organizations will be contacted for the submission of a detailed proposal. EOI will be valid for 4 months after acceptance.

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| Proposed Methodology | 40 |
| Experience (carrying out similar projects in last 3 years) | 30 |
| Team composition | 20 |
| Timeline | 10 |
| Total | 100 |

# How to apply:

Applications should have the following attachments

* Reputed agencies may submit proposals as per their strength and area of expertise.
* All EOI must be submitted with a short narrative indicating the objectives, features, etc.; proposed methodologies including strategies, past experiences, proposed team and timeline; and clearly defined milestones along with a set of deliverables.
* Send your application with the Subject Line: HCLF/Harit/Biomonitoring/30112024 Name of Organization> latest by November 30, 2024, to sugandha.s@hcltech.com, marking in cc modala.rakesh@hcltech.com
* All enquiries regarding this EOI should be made by November 20, 2024 via email to ravikumar.sharma@hcltech.com and sugandha.s@hcltech.com

# Terms & Conditions

* **Deadline:** EoI received after the designated deadline may be subject to rejection by HCL Foundation.
* **Validity:** Your EoI must remain valid for a minimum of three (3) months from the date of receipt by HCL Foundation.
* **Negotiations:** The most competitive EoI is requested. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded on the basis of merit of EoI. However, HCL Foundation reserves the right to request responses to questions and conduct negotiations with any individual consultant prior to awarding a contract.
* **Rejection of EoI:** This document is an expression of interest only, and in no way binds HCL Foundation to make an award. HCL Foundation reserves the right to reject any and all offers received and/or to cancel the EoI. HCL Foundation will not be obliged to either inform or provide a justification for rejection of proposals.
* **Incurring costs:** HCL Foundation will not be liable for any cost incurred during preparation, submission, or negotiation of an award for this EoI.
* **Financial responsibility:** EoI must certify the financial viability and adequacy of resources of the organization to complete the proposed assignment within the agreed time frame and in conformity with the agreed terms of payment. HCL Foundation reserves the right to request and review up to the last three financial statements and audit reports including schedules and annexures, as part of the basis of the award if required.
* **Branding aligned**: HCL Foundation has set brand guidelines that should be incorporated and followed while demonstrating the Foundation’s brand.
* **Copyright and Patents**: HCL Foundation shall be entitled to all copyrights, patents and other proprietary rights and trademarks with regard to the products or documents and other materials which bear a direct relation to or are produced or prepared or collected in consequences of or in the course of the execution of the contract. All plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents and data compiled by the independent subject matter expert under the contract shall be the property of HCL Foundation and shall be treated as confidential. All confidential documents should be delivered to the relevant people within HCL Foundation during the project duration and upon completion.
* **Child Safeguarding:** We hold ourselves accountable to children. Adherence to comply with HCL Foundation’s Child Protection Policy and procedures with respect to child safeguarding is non-negotiable. A range of pre-employment checks can be undertaken in conformity with HCL Foundation's Child Protection Policy.