**Expression of Interest**

**HCLFoundation, under its Environment flagship programme Harit, invites EOI from NGOs / CSR/Agencies, organizations working towards afforestation & habitat restoration in Bengaluru, Karnataka and Hyderabad, Telangana**

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| **EOI released by** | HCLFoundation |
| **EOI Code** | HCLF/HARIT/EOI/KA-TS/A&HR/19122024 |
| **Program Name** | Harit by HCLFoundation |
| **Date of Posting** | 19/12/2024 |
| **Last Date for submission of Proposal** | 10/1/2025 |
| **Location** | Bengaluru and Hyderabad |

**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**

Till now, HCLFoundation has planted 822,000+ saplings on 233+ acres area across India. Around 124+ waterbodies are being rejuvenated with an increased water holding capacity of 6,000+ Mn Liters. Through the afforestation and carbon reduction initiatives, we have been able to sequester/ reduce emission to 6500+ tons of CO2e. We worked towards improvement of coastal habitats planting more than 8,20,000+ Mangrove and Shelter belt saplings and around 1,20,000+ Kgs of ghost nets were retrieved from coastal waters. We have been able to treat 79,000+ domestic animals and around 7,500+ wild animals through our Animal Welfare vertical. Through our outreach and environment education programme we have been able to reach out to 17,900+ people pan India.

 **Description of EOI**

Harit, under its Afforestation and Habitat Restoration sector, is committed to conserve biodiversity, green cover and building climate resilience through afforestation. To this end, it is working towards deploying resilient models for thriving afforestation and habitat restoration. HCLFoundation expresses the interest from eligible NGOs / CSR and agencies working towards environment conservation through community engagement in the state of Karnataka and Telangana-.

1. **Scope of Work** (SOW)

The response towards afforestation and habitat restoration by HCLFoundation, has been envisioned as under,

* Identifying suitable partnerships with line departments as appropriate.
* Developing and implementing Afforestation & Habitat Restoration plan in accordance with overall Harit by HCLFoundation vision and relevant Government policies, UN SDGs, etc.
* Developing a baseline, mapping of relevant stakeholders, etc.
* Building awareness amongst key stakeholders.
* Ensuring that the Afforestation & Habitat Restoration is sustainable.
* Strategizing for the phase-out
1. **Geography**

Bengaluru, Karnataka and Hyderabad, Telangana

1. **Expected Outcomes**
* Heightened Public Awareness towards afforestation and habitat restoration
* Sustainable Partnerships
* Restoration of barren or degraded land with creation of positive impact to ecosystem services
1. **Assessment:**
* All the applicants are expected to submit details of similar activities done in last three years, an illustration of proposed methodology and project plan in accordance with the above SOW; which will be used for the assessment.
* Please note that only the shortlisted NGOs/NPOs/Agencies will be contacted for the submission of a detailed proposal.
1. **Eligibility criteria:**

Organizations with experience in following parameters are invited to submit their EOI:

* Proven track record and experience in managing multiple stakeholders and complex situations on ground.
* Familiarity with relevant Government Policies, UN SDGs, National Indicators Framework, NDC, etc.
* Adherence to all relevant CSR rules and regulations.
* Ability to submit all the relevant documents and registration certificates when requested.
1. **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 |

1. **How to apply:**

Applications should have the following attachments

* All proposals must be submitted as per the prescribed **format** mentioned in the **Annexure**
* Send your application with subject line **HCLF/HARIT/EOI/KA-TS/A&HR/19122024**
* ssanthosh.kumar@hcltech.com marking, sugandha.s@hcltech.com and modala.rakesh@hcltech.com in cc, latest by 10th January 2025.
* All enquries regarding this EoI should be made by January 5th 2025, via email to ssanthosh.kumar@hcltech.com.
1. **Terms & Conditions**
* **Deadline:** EoI received after the designated deadline may be subject to rejection by HCLFoundation.
* **Validity:** The EoI must remain valid for a minimum of four (4) months from the date of receipt by HCLFoundation.
* **Negotiations:** The most competitive EoI is requested. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded on the basis of merit of EoI. However, HCLFoundation reserves the right to request responses to questions and conduct negotiations with any individual consultant prior to awarding a contract.
* **Child Safeguarding:** We hold ourselves accountable to children. Adherence to comply with HCLFoundation’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 HCLFoundation's Child Protection Policy.

**Annexure: EOI Format**

**A. Concept Note:**

## 1. Methodology used in the past for afforestation & habitat restoration *(Mention any innovative approach taken up)*

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## 2. Proposed list of activities for community led afforestation project including volunteer engagement plan

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