**Request for Proposal**

**HCLFoundation, under its Environment flagship programme Harit by HCLFoundation, invites EOI from NGOs /CSR organizations/agencies working on Aquifer Mapping, Analyzing Water Quality, and Assessing Groundwater Discharge Interactions with Rejuvenated Waterbody etc.**

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| **RFP released by** | HCLFoundation |
| **RFP Code** | HCLF/Harit/WC\_Aquifer mapping |
| **Program Name** | Harit By HCLFoundation  |
| **Date of Posting** | 17 April, 2025 |
| **Last Date for submission of Proposal** | 10 May, 2025 |
| **Location** | Gautam Buddh Nagar District  |

**ABOUT HCLFOUNDATION**

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

HCLFoundation aims to alleviate poverty and achieve inclusive growth and development. Active community engagement ensures optimal long-term gains and upward accountability. It works through Life Cycle Based, Integrated Community Development Approach with a thematic focus 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 of HCLFoundation, thus ensuring comprehensive development. At present, HCLFoundation is implementing five flagship programmes, Samuday and HCLTech Grant – Rural Development programmes; Uday and My Clean City – Urban Development programmes; Harit - Environment Action programme and 4 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.

**Link**

HCLFoundation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMgq4fHTwAA>

Harit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvFZLkkNaTw

**Harit by HCLFoundation– The Green Initiative**

HCLFoundation launched Harit – The Green Initiative a distinct flagship programme for Environment Action; with the vision ‘to conserve, restore and enhance indigenous environmental systems and respond to climate change in a sustainable manner through community engagement’. Throughout the process, Harit ensures at building scalable and replicable models that are economically viable, socially acceptable, environmentally sustainable, holistic, and inclusive. All these interventions follow ‘Participatory and Convergent Approach’ in attaining the desired results towards UN SDG goals aligned to the National Indicator Framework for SDG. Operational in eleven States - Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Harit 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 ecosystem by habitat restoration 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.

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 Animal Welfare vertical. Through our outreach and environment education programme we have been able to reach out to 17,900+ people pan India.

**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 by HCLFoundation 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 at 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.

# Description of EOI

The EOI aims to understand the intricate relationships between waterbody and groundwater systems, particularly in the context of a rejuvenated waterbody.

1. **Scope of Work for Rejuvenation of water structure**
2. **Mapping the Aquifer and Its Connection to the Rejuvenated Waterbody:**
	1. Hydrogeological surveys to determine the size, depth, and flow characteristics of the aquifer.
	2. Identification of recharge zones where water from the rejuvenated waterbody can infiltrate into the aquifer.
	3. Identification of monitoring wells and other data collection tools to track aquifer levels and flow dynamics.
3. **Water Quality Status from Aquifer and Rejuvenated Waterbody:**
	1. Groundwater and surface water testing and comparison analysis for key quality parameters, including pH, turbidity, TDS, nitrate, phosphate levels, heavy metals, and microbial contamination etc.
	2. Periodic water quality analysis to assess the impact of the rejuvenated waterbody on groundwater quality and vice versa.
4. **Amount of Surface water Discharge to Ground Water:**
5. Measurement of Surface waterbody contribution to the groundwater.
6. Analysis of hydraulic conductivity and recharge rates to quantify surface water discharge into the groundwater.
7. Advanced hydrological models are used to estimate the volume of surface water feeding into the ground water and its impact on the aquifer.
8. **Analysis of Interaction Between the Restored Waterbody and Aquifer:**
	1. Evaluation of how restoration has altered the waterbody’s capacity to recharge the aquifer.
	2. Seasonal variations in the interaction between the waterbody and aquifer and their implications on local water availability.
	3. Assessment of the restored waterbody's overall sustainability in terms of its ability to maintain groundwater levels.
9. **Project Duration**

Ideal project duration can be conceptualized for 3-6 Months.

1. **Expected Outcomes**
* Detailed Aquifer Mapping Report with spatial and volumetric data on groundwater systems.
* Water Quality Status Report comparing parameters from both the aquifer and surface waterbody.
* Groundwater Discharge Report quantifying the volume of surface water contributing to groundwater.
* Analysis/Maps of Interaction between the rejuvenated waterbody and the aquifer, including seasonal changes and long-term sustainability.
* Recommendations for Water Management/water conservation initiatives to ensure the continued sustainability and health of the waterbody and aquifer system.

# How to Apply

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 |

# 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/Agency will be contacted for the submission of a detailed proposal.
* Weightage will be given to organizations with Experience in Hydrological surveys and groundwater modelling, Water quality testing and analysis, Advanced geospatial and hydrological mapping tools, Experience in working on similar environmental restoration projects, Knowledge of sustainable water management practices, especially in regions where surface and groundwater systems are intricately connected.

# Eligibility criteria:

NGOs/NPOs/Agency with experience in following parameters are invited to submit their EOI:

* Demonstrable experience in working on water conservation projects.
* 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.
* Clear track record and no legal issues.
* Adherence to all relevant CSR rules and regulations.
* Ability to submit all the relevant documents and registration certificates when requested.

# 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 **Technical Proposal** with the Subject Line: HCLF/Harit/WC\_Aquifer mapping\_tech/ Name of Organization> latest by May 10, 2025, to shreya\_sharma@hcltech.com, marking in cc Ankit.kuma@hcltech.com.
* Send your **Commercial Proposal** with the Subject Line: HCLF/Harit/WC\_Aquifer mapping\_Fin/ Name of Organization> latest by May 10, 2025, to amendranath.pandey@hcltech.com
* All enquiries regarding this EOI should be made by May 5, 2025 via email to Ankit.kuma@hcltech.comand shreya\_sharma@hcltech.com

# Terms & Conditions

* **Deadline:** EoI received after the designated deadline may be subject to rejection by HCLFoundation.
* **Validity:** Your EoI must remain valid for a minimum of three (3) 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.
* **Rejection of EoI:** This document is an expression of interest only, and in no way binds HCLFoundation to make an award. HCLFoundation reserves the right to reject any and all offers received and/or to cancel the EoI. HCLFoundation will not be obliged to either inform or provide a justification for rejection of proposals.
* **Incurring costs:** HCLFoundation 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. HCLFoundation 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**: HCLFoundation has set brand guidelines that should be incorporated and followed while demonstrating the Foundation’s brand.
* **Copyright and Patents**: HCLFoundation 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 HCLFoundation and shall be treated as confidential. All confidential documents should be delivered to the relevant people within HCLFoundation during the project duration and upon completion.
* **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.