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# Natural Forest Standard

## Program Governance



**Version 1.0**  
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## Natural Forest Standard Program Governance

### About Natural Forest Standard (NFS)



Natural Forest Standard is an independent, voluntary carbon market crediting program for Jurisdictional REDD+ carbon projects, in operation since 2011.

The NFS provides a standardised approach for baseline-setting and carbon credit calculation, applying a risk-based methodology and utilizing national and sub-national datasets. It provides an efficient, transparent, and robust crediting system, using data, technology, and enhanced approaches to streamline and enable project processes.

Reference levels are set independently from the project using regional assessments of forests at risk derived from historic satellite data and other geospatial data allowing for a systematic and highly credible approach.

### About Ecosystem Certification Organisation (ECO)



The NFS is managed by Ecosystem Certification Organisation (ECO) through the support of the ECO Secretariat, ECO Governance Panel, Technical Advisory Panel, and stakeholders.

Ecosystem Certification Organisation (ECO) is a UK-based not-for-profit limited company, registered with company number 7669379, established in 2011.

ECO is the governing body of the Natural Forest Standard (NFS) providing the operational and implementational functions. ECO also provides the secretariat administration for the Standard and the NFS Registry. The Technical governance of the NFS is provided by the independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).

The role of ECO is to help align the NFS with best practices within the voluntary carbon market (VCM) whilst upholding the core principles and integrity of the NFS approach. ECO is also responsible for making policy decisions on the direction of the NFS within the market, and for ensuring its recognition within the market.

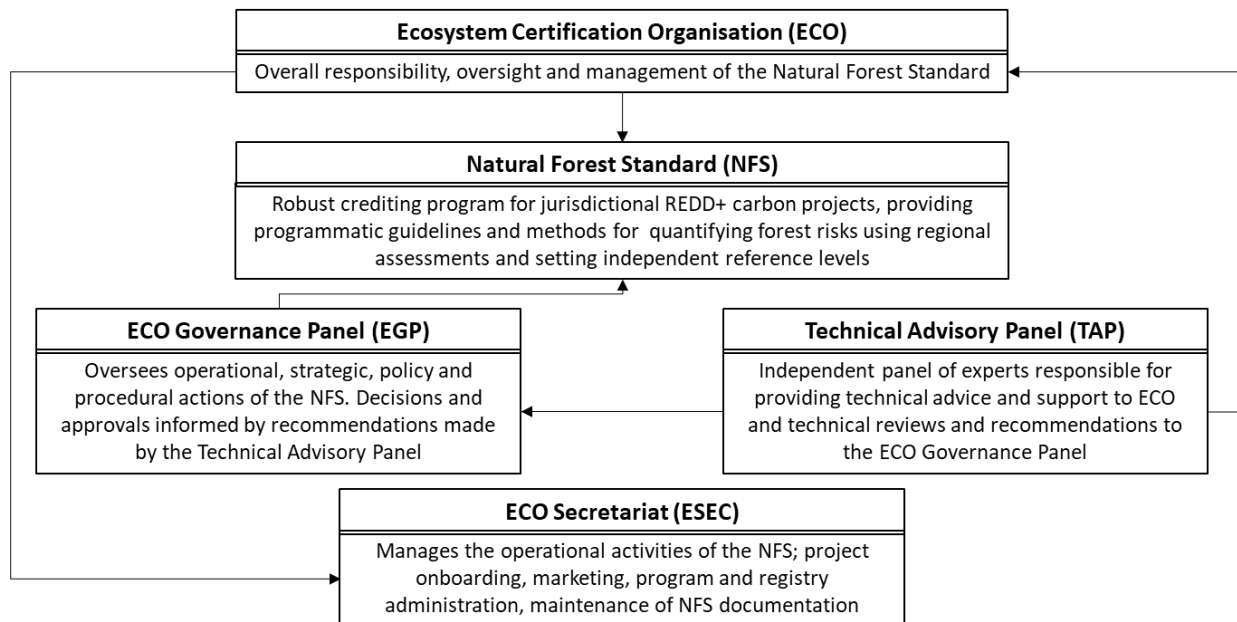
### Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)

The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) is an independent panel of experts, convened and chaired by Resilience Constellation (RC). The TAP is responsible for providing the necessary technical advice and support to the EGP. They provide the appropriate range of experts to carry out technical reviews, development, and assessments to inform their recommendations to the EGP. They provide the technical input, reviews and recommendations for the EGP to formally ratify and operationalise.

The working language of ECO and the NFS is English.

## **NFS Governance Structure**

ECO is responsible for operational and procedural actions of the NFS. This includes the oversight and of the NFS Registry. There are divisions of responsibility for the Governance of the NFS. The following chart details the overall structure of the NFS:



### **1. ECO Governance Panel (EGP)**

ECO is responsible for operational and procedural actions of the NFS. The ECO Governance Panel (EGP) oversees the operational, strategic and procedural governance of the NFS.

The EGP relies on and follows the advice and input of the TAP to inform its operational decisions and approvals. All ratifications and approvals by the EGP are only implemented following the independent review and recommendations from the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).

EGP functions include:

- overseeing the continued development of the NFS. The EGP approves methods, maps, data, standard and guidance updates, and other technical elements based on recommendations from the TAP;
- approval and implementation of appropriate procedural actions;
- formal approval of NFS projects throughout the project process (validation, verification, credit issuance). These approvals are only made following an independent, third-party validation and verification process of the project and subsequent independent review, approval, and recommendation from the TAP.

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The EGP shall be convened by ECO, and the Chair of the TAP shall also be a member of the EGP.

## **2. Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)**

The TAP provides advice, support, and guidance on technical matters, providing recommendations on the technical aspects of the NFS, as well as reviewing data sources and methods relevant to the NFS and individual projects. The TAP provides the technical input, oversight and approval of the validation, verification and credit issuance processes of NFS projects, to recommend approval by the EGP for each of these project stages.

TAP functions include:

- Reviews of impacts of changes to definitions, methods, and external standards;
- Assessment of data and methods used to quantify carbon emissions;
- Reviews of methods and data sources used to ensure biodiversity benefits and the permanence of carbon stocks;
- Review and approval of completed project validation, verification, assurance and credit issuance documentation;
- Development of good practices for aspects of forest management and conservation plans.

## **3. ECO Secretariat (ESEC)**

The ECO Secretariat manages the operational activities of the NFS. Activities include onboarding projects, marketing & communications, and program and registry administration as well as the maintenance of the NFS rules and procedures.

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<https://ecosystemcertification.org/>

<https://www.naturalforeststandard.com/>