

Natural Forest Standard Public Consultation

The NFS is inviting stakeholder consultation on the initial published versions of the Natural Forest Standard and Guidance documents. This initial consultation period is open until 12th October 2012. The objective of this consultation period is to generate input and contributions from industry stakeholders to help the Natural Forest Standard evolve into a credible and accepted carbon standard within the voluntary market.

Consultation period: 8th August – 12th October 2012

Documents for Public Consultation

Natural Forest Standard V1.0

Natural Forest Standard with Brief Guidance V1.0

Natural Forest Standard Guidance V1.0

These documents are published and available on our websites:

<http://www.naturalforeststandard.com/projects/downloads/>, or
<http://ecosystemcertification.org/developers>

Objective of the Natural Forest Standard

The main objective of establishing the Natural Forest Standard is to provide a carbon standard that is robust, credible and complementary amongst the currently available standards and forest initiatives, with the specific focus of certifying the integrated social, carbon and biodiversity benefits that result from the conservation and restoration of natural forest projects at risk from deforestation and degradation.

Features of the Natural Forest Standard

The NFS aims to provide real, measureable, additional and permanent emissions reductions from avoided deforestation and forest degradation project areas through an efficient and effective mechanism for the certification of carbon and ecosystem benefits for use by developers of medium and large scale projects over 20,000 hectares.

The NFS is designed to ensure livelihood benefits are integral to the project design, by way of a benefits distribution mechanism that includes enhancements for the benefit of the local and indigenous communities and society as a whole.

The NFS also includes a quantification tool to assess and ensure the ecologically significant biodiversity present within the project areas is protected; this is quantified using the Normative Biodiversity Metric (NBM).

The NFS incorporates a specific risk-based methodology for providing baseline calculations, and provides a normative process for setting conservative values for the loss of biocarbon from forests by categorising the risk to the project area into 5 broad risk categories, to realistically and conservatively reflect the varying risk of deforestation within a project area, rather than a blanket approach to the project area as a whole.

The Standard also sets out the requirements for evidence-based assessment of increases in carbon sequestration, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that result from natural forest management (conservation and restoration). The requirements for quantification and certification of the carbon benefits are designed to produce Natural Forest Certificates (NFC's) that can be used as carbon offsets.

These core characteristics are synchronised into a comprehensive set of Standard requirements, which has been built to envelop these key elements into one all-encompassing, independently verifiable Standard for the development of carbon offsets.

Development of the Natural Forest Standard

The Natural Forest Standard has been developed by the UK-based not for profit organisation Ecosystem Certification Organisation, in conjunction with Ecometrica, an independent Edinburgh-based company providing scientific analytical services. The standard has been developed following an initial reviewing of existing standards and identifying where there were opportunities to provide a set of recommendations that could address the multi-faceted characteristics of REDD+ projects, whilst providing a credible and scientifically-robust framework.

The Standard is built on the fundamental principles for quantifying and generating GHG emission reductions for issuing credits that are real, measureable, additional, permanent, conservatively estimated and independently verified. It has also been developed to be compatible with the framework for project certification provided by the ISO 14064-3 specification.

Invitation to participate

Ecosystem Certification Organisation (ECO) would like to invite you to participate in the development of the Natural Forest Standard by contributing your comments and suggestions on the initial published versions of the Natural Forest Standard and Guidance documents, to assist us in achieving our goal of creating a robust, transparent and responsive Standard and supporting Guidance documents that are clear and user-friendly.

Consultation Process

The Natural Forest Standard's initial public consultation phase is open for 60 days and will close on 12th October 2012.

Upon completion of this consultation period, all comments regarding the Standard will be reviewed and considered by the ECO Board with appropriate amendments being made by the end of December 2012. The Technical Panel will review all comments regarding the Guidance documentation and advise the ECO Board of any appropriate improvements or clarifications to be made.

Following this process, the updated version of the all documentation will be published on the Natural Forest Standard and Ecosystem Certification Organisation websites and the results of the consultation process, including measures taken to incorporate comments, will be made available to stakeholders in summary form.

ECO hopes that by following this process will create acceptance in the market and allow the Natural Forest Standard to provide the voluntary carbon market with a framework that is accessible and stakeholder-led to ensure it is practicable for effective implementation by project developers and independent certifiers alike.

How to submit comments:

Please submit your comments using our [online feedback form](#). You can also send your feedback via email to feedback@naturalforeststandard.com.

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