



RESTART ENERGY DEMOCRACY CARBON STANDARD

Governance Document

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ABOUT US

The RED Carbon Standard, which stands for Restart Energy Democracy Carbon Standard, serves as an independent regulatory body within the voluntary carbon market, marking the first initiative of its kind originating from Romania. Our standard is dedicated to empowering individuals and recognizing the significance of their sustainable endeavours in combating climate change. In a landscape where multinational corporations often overshadow national governments, and where governments seek to consolidate power, we advocate for decentralization by fostering community involvement. By engaging with local project developers and individuals, we offer them the opportunity to benefit from tokenized carbon credits, thereby incentivizing their participation in green initiatives.

We specialize in certifying environmentally friendly projects, including those related to renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, energy efficiency, and hydrogen. Through our platform, the RED Platform Application, which utilizes blockchain technology, these projects can access tokenized carbon credits and trade them globally. By doing so, they actively contribute to the global effort towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

CORE VALUES

At RED, our core beliefs centre on the acknowledgment of God as the Creator of the Universe, Earth, and all life within it. At RED, we believe that God is the Creator of the Universe, the Earth, and its vegetation, and that God is the Source of all Life on Earth and in the Universe. We believe that we are all children of God, no matter what nationality, race, or gender. We also believe that God's Love for His children are so great that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to guide and save us.

It is, therefore, our responsibility to take care of the Earth and all living creatures on it, to preserve nature, flora, and fauna, and to act accordingly for mankind's perpetuity as we were empowered to do so: "So God created mankind in His image, in the image of God He created them, male and female....By the seventh day, God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day, He rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it He rested from all the work of Creation that he had done."

It is important to understand our role on Earth and to remember that life is a blessing and a gift from God that we received from the beginning of the Earth. We believe that all scientific evidence and the Universe's order confess to the almightiness of God and His wonderful principles of life. Our values are based on maintaining the principles of life and its continuity: love, patience, humility, compassion, and happiness. We want to preserve these principles of life, protect our Earth, which is



our home, and provide solutions for helping our neighbours using our advanced technology and science-based system.

We acknowledge that climate change affects us all, yet the rise of greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities is not the only cause of it; there are other relevant causes, such as the sun's energy intensity, which is out of humanity's control. We decided to focus on what we have the power to impact within our capabilities. We use technology to our benefit, and do not let it take control over us. We were endowed in respect of God's principles and values, and we do not consider ourselves gods who can change the well-defined path of the Earth or save the world.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we actively pursue these principles, integrating environmental protection with social and economic considerations. While we acknowledge the widespread impact of climate change, we focus on addressing what is within our power to influence, leveraging technology responsibly without succumbing to its control. We humbly accept our limitations, understanding that we cannot alter the Earth's course or single-handedly save the world.

Our aim is to provide future generations with a thriving home by aligning environmental protection with the timeless principles of life and continuity. We view sustainability not merely as a scientific concept but as a holistic approach that integrates ethical, social, and environmental considerations, in line with the objectives outlined in the SDGs.

1. INTRODUCTION

In an era marked by escalating climate concerns and the urgent need for sustainable solutions, the RED Carbon Standard emerges as a beacon of hope and innovation. Originating from Romania, the RED Carbon Standard represents a pioneering effort to reshape the landscape of the voluntary carbon market. Built upon principles of empowerment, transparency, and inclusivity, this document encapsulates the collective wisdom and vision of stakeholders across diverse sectors.

The Governance Document serves as the foundational blueprint for our commitment to driving positive environmental change through rigorous certification standards and transparent governance practices.

This document is therefore not static, but a living document that will evolve in response to emerging challenges, stakeholder feedback and evolving best practice. Together, we are forging a path to environmental resilience, social equity, and economic prosperity for future generations.

2. PURPOSE



This Governance Document serves as the cornerstone of Restart Natura's organizational structure and decision-making processes. It provides a comprehensive framework that delineates the principles, organizational structures, processes, and responsibilities governing our operations and governance practices.

By establishing clear principles and structures, this Governance Document fosters transparency and integrity in our operations. It delineates the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, providing a roadmap for effective decision-making and collaboration.

3. PRINCIPLES

As per the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), corporate governance aims to enable the establishment of a climate characterized by trust, transparency, and accountability. This environment is essential for nurturing long-term investment, ensuring financial stability, and upholding integrity in business practices.

This document elucidates key principles aimed at fortifying governance structures to enhance the effectiveness of project certification standards.

Accountability - The governing body responsible for the certification standard should be accountable to stakeholders, including those directly affected by the standard and the broader public interest. This accountability involves regular reporting, audits, and mechanisms for addressing concerns or complaints.

Effectiveness - The governance encompasses the ability to achieve desired outcomes efficiently, manage risks effectively, maintain transparency and accountability, drive continuous improvement, and actively engage stakeholders. By prioritizing these aspects, organizations can establish governance frameworks that optimize the value and impact of project certification processes.

Independence - It is imperative that the governing body maintains independence, free from any undue influence, especially from entities with vested interests in certification outcomes. This autonomy is vital for preserving the integrity and impartiality of the certification process.

Impartiality - The governance framework must rely exclusively on objective criteria and evidence, devoid of any bias or favoritism towards specific stakeholders or interest groups. Upholding impartiality is crucial for safeguarding the credibility and fairness of the certification process.

Adaptability - The governance framework should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing circumstances, emerging issues, and new knowledge. This



may involve mechanisms for periodic review and revision of the standard in response to evolving needs and challenges.

Ethical Considerations - The governance framework should uphold ethical principles, including integrity, honesty, and respect for human rights and environmental sustainability. Ethical considerations should be integrated into all aspects of the certification process, from criteria development to decision-making.

Guarantee Transparency - Transparency is the bedrock of effective governance, ensuring openness, accountability, and trustworthiness in decision-making processes. In the context of governance, transparency refers to the clear and accessible disclosure of information related to policies, actions, and outcomes. By guaranteeing transparency, organizations can foster greater understanding, engagement, and confidence among stakeholders.

Continuous Improvement - Continuous improvement is a fundamental principle that drives organizational growth, innovation, and success. It entails an ongoing commitment to refining processes, enhancing products and services, and fostering a culture of learning and innovation. By embracing continuous improvement, organizations can adapt to changing circumstances, anticipate future challenges, and strive for excellence in all aspects of their operations.

Adaptability and Resilience - Adaptability and resilience have become indispensable qualities for individuals, organizations, and communities alike. These two intertwined concepts are the bedrock of survival and success in the face of constant change, adversity, and unforeseen challenges. By cultivating adaptability and resilience, individuals and organizations can navigate uncertainty, capitalize on opportunities, and emerge stronger from adversity.

Adaptability refers to the ability to adjust to new circumstances, environments, or challenges quickly and effectively. It involves being open to change, embracing innovation, and continuously learning and evolving in response to evolving conditions.

Organizations that cultivate adaptability and resilience are better equipped to sustain long-term success and growth, as they are able to navigate challenges and capitalize on opportunities with confidence and resilience.

4. GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

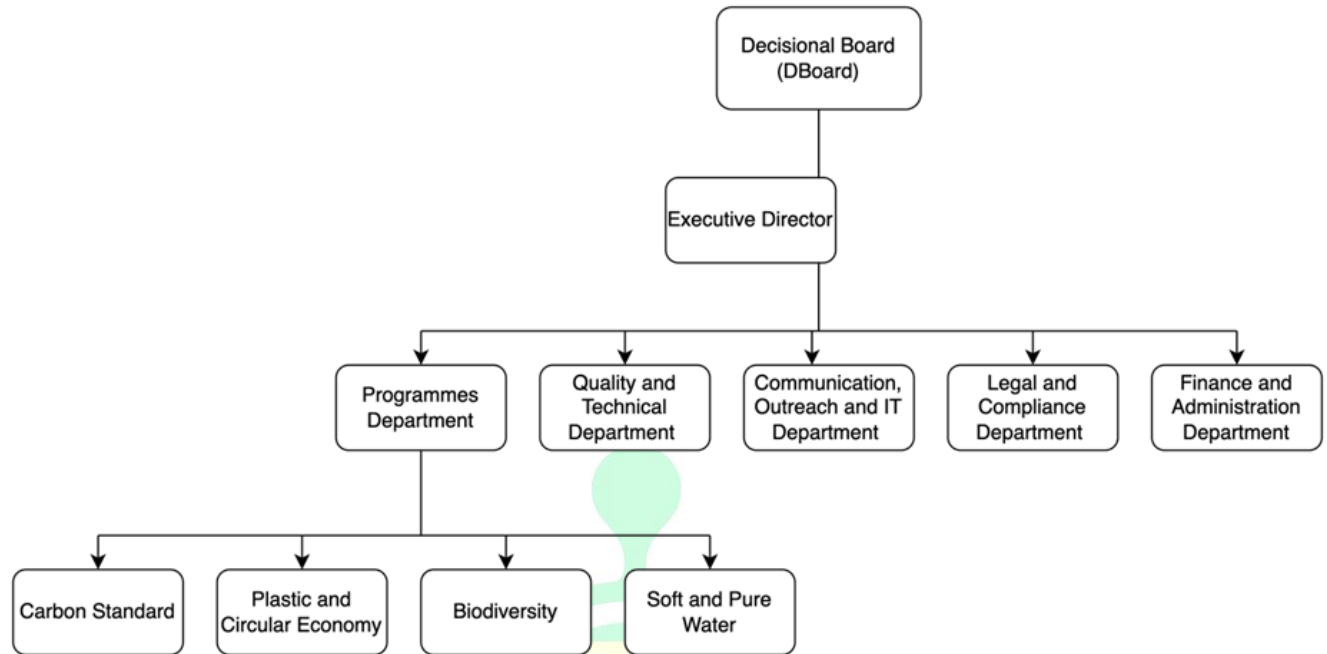


Figure 1. Governance Scheme

This document serves as the guiding framework for our organization's governance, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in all our endeavors. Grounded in principles of environmental sustainability and social responsibility, our governance structure is designed to support our mission of fostering a healthier planet and a more sustainable future. Each department plays a crucial role in advancing the mission of the Restart Natura Foundation, as described in this document.

The Restart Natura Foundation's governance structure is designed to promote collaboration, accountability, and innovation across all levels of the organization. By upholding the principles outlined in this document and leveraging the expertise of our Decisional Board, Executive Director, and departmental teams, we are committed to upholding the Foundation's values and objectives.

4.1 Decisional Board

The Decisional Board (DBoard) plays a crucial role in the governance and strategic decision-making of an organization. Composed of esteemed individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, the DBoard acts as a collective entity representing the interests of shareholders and stakeholders.

4.2 Structure and Key Characteristics of the Decisional Board



The Decisional Board consists of a group of highly qualified individuals who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization. The composition of the Board includes both executive and non-executive directors. The executive director is an individual who also holds executive positions within the company. Non-executive directors, on the other hand, do not have any executive responsibilities within the organization.

In addition to the executive and non-executive directors, the DBoard also includes independent directors. Independent directors are individuals who are not affiliated with the organization, its management, or its shareholders in any material way. They provide an unbiased perspective and act as a safeguard for the interests of all stakeholders.

The DBoard of the non-profit organization is composed of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) members, who are exclusively neutral persons. The composition of the DBoard can be changed through a vote by the Restart Natura Community. The vote is mandatory for new candidates and for members who have served on the Decisional Board for five (5) consecutive years (one term). However, members who fall into this category can only be re-voted once.

For a candidate to be accepted as a member, a minimum of 51% from the total votes of the Restart Natura Community is required. For the vote to be declared valid at least 51% of the number of people in the Restart Natura Community are required to vote.

The Restart Natura Community is an inclusive group comprising all stakeholders engaged in the Foundation's activities, including project developers, franchisees, validators, verifiers, consultants, traders, and buyers of carbon credits, as well as individuals with expertise in the relevant field and RED Platform Community.

The RED Platform Community consists of all registered users on the RED Platform who have staked a certain amount of MWAT in their e-wallets. Members of the RED Platform Community have the privilege of participating in the decision-making process by electing a representative to serve on the board through voting.

The DBoard consists of a minimum of 50% independent members. Independent members are those who do not have any direct or indirect relationships with the organization's operations or staff. This composition helps maintain objectivity and impartiality in the decision-making process of the DBoard.

In the composition of the DBoard, the Restart Natura Community has the authority to elect the members and from the members to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The elected Chair will serve as the primary leader of the Board, while the Vice-Chair will assume the role in the absence of the Chair. This ensures continuity and effective leadership within the DBoard.



When there is a vacancy on the DBoard, candidates interested in joining will be required to apply by email to the RESTART NATURA Foundation. The application period will be specified, and candidates must submit their applications in that period to be considered. After 30 days of this period, a vote will be conducted to select the new member(s) of the Board. This process ensures that interested candidates have an opportunity to apply and that the selection of new Board members is conducted in a timely manner. To be accepted as a member the candidate must have at least 51% of total votes of the Restart Natura Community. For the vote to be declared valid at least 51% of the number of people in the Restart Natura Community are required to vote.

- **Expertise and Composition:** The members of the Decisional Board have relevant expertise in environmental sustainability, carbon markets, project management, and governance. Their diverse backgrounds and skills can contribute to informed decision-making and effective oversight.
- **Strategic Direction:** The Board plays a crucial role in defining the organization's strategic direction in the voluntary carbon market. They establish clear goals and objectives aligned with the organization's mission and values. The Board ensures that carbon offset projects undertaken by the organization are consistent with its purpose and contribute to environmental and social sustainability.
- **Project Evaluation and Approval:** The Board is responsible for evaluating and approving carbon offset projects. They review project proposals, assess their environmental integrity and additionality, and consider potential risks and benefits. The Board ensures that projects adhere to recognized standards and methodologies to maintain credibility in the voluntary carbon market.
- **Financial Oversight:** The Board provides financial oversight, ensuring that the organization's activities in the voluntary carbon market are financially sustainable. They review budgets, financial statements, and monitor the allocation of funds to carbon offset projects. Financial transparency and accountability are essential to maintain stakeholder trust.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** The Board oversees the monitoring and reporting of carbon offset projects. They ensure that appropriate measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems are in place to accurately assess the environmental impact and outcomes of the projects. The Board reviews regular reports on project performance and uses this information to guide decision-making and improve project effectiveness.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Board engages with stakeholders, including project beneficiaries, local communities, investors, and partners, to foster transparency and accountability. They consider stakeholder input and feedback when making decisions related to the voluntary carbon market. Engaging with stakeholders can also help the Board identify emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the market.
- **Continuous Learning and Improvement:** The Board promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the organization. They stay updated on evolving standards, methodologies, and best practices in the voluntary carbon market. The Board participates in training programs or seeks external expertise to enhance their



knowledge

and

capabilities.

4.3 Roles and Functions of the Decisional Board

The Decisional Board plays a pivotal role in governing and guiding organizations. Comprising accomplished individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, the Board fulfils various faculties and functions that are crucial for effective corporate leadership.

Non-delegable functions of the Decisional Board refer to the specific responsibilities and decisions that cannot be transferred or delegated to other individuals or committees within the organization.

- **Strategic Direction and Mission Alignment:** The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization within the voluntary carbon market. They establish and maintain alignment between the organization's mission and goals and the initiatives undertaken in the carbon market. The Board ensures that the organization's carbon offset projects and activities are consistent with its overall purpose and vision.
- **Project Evaluation and Approval:** The Board has the non-delegable function of evaluating and approving carbon offset projects in line with recognized standards and methodologies within the voluntary carbon market. They assess the environmental integrity, additionality, and sustainability of proposed projects, considering factors such as emissions reduction potential, project location, and stakeholder engagement. The Board makes the final decision on whether to proceed with specific projects.
- **Financial Oversight and Accountability:** The Board exercises non-delegable financial oversight to ensure the organization's fiscal health and accountability in the voluntary carbon market. They review and approve budgets, financial statements, and major financial decisions related to carbon offset projects. The Board ensures that the organization's financial resources are appropriately managed and allocated to support the organization's mission and carbon offset initiatives.
- **Compliance with Standards and Reporting:** The Board is responsible for ensuring the organization's compliance with recognized standards, methodologies, and reporting requirements in the voluntary carbon market. They oversee the implementation of rigorous measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to accurately assess and report the environmental impact of carbon offset projects. The Board ensures transparency and credibility in the organization's reporting and adherence to the principles of the voluntary carbon market.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Accountability:** The Board has the non-delegable function of engaging with stakeholders in the voluntary carbon market. They establish mechanisms for stakeholder consultation, address concerns, and foster transparency and accountability. The Board ensures that the organization's carbon offset projects consider the interests of relevant stakeholders, such as project beneficiaries, local communities, and environmental organizations.



- Risk Management and Mitigation: The Board retains the non-delegable responsibility of overseeing risk management and mitigation strategies in the voluntary carbon market. They identify and assess risks associated with carbon offset projects, such as project performance, market volatility, and reputational risks. The Board establishes risk management frameworks and ensures that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate and address risks effectively.

4.4 Decision Making Process

Identification of Decision Items

The decision-making process begins with the identification of items requiring deliberation and decision within the scope of the DBoard's responsibilities. These items may include strategic directions, project evaluations, financial matters, compliance issues, stakeholder engagement strategies, and risk management initiatives.

Agenda Setting

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of the DBoard, sets the agenda for the upcoming meetings. The agenda includes the topics to be discussed, relevant background information, and any supporting documents required for informed decision-making.

Meeting Convening

At periodic intervals, meetings of the DBoard are scheduled, with the option for additional meetings upon the request of the Executive Director or a minimum of three DBoard members. The meetings can be conducted either in person or online, providing flexibility and inclusivity for all members.

Quorum and Attendance

For a meeting to be considered valid, a minimum of three DBoard members must be in attendance. Among the required attendees, either the Chair or Vice-Chair must be present to preside over the proceedings. Additionally, the number of board members present must be an odd number to prevent tied votes in decision-making processes.

Discussion and Deliberation

During the meeting, DBoard members engage in thorough discussions and deliberations regarding the agenda items. Each member is encouraged to contribute insights, perspectives, and expertise relevant to the decision at hand. The Executive Director may provide necessary context and recommendations to facilitate informed deliberations.



Voting Process

Resolutions within the DBoard are determined by an affirmative vote from a majority of its members who are not involved in matters directly affecting or related to their individual performance or change of status. To pass, a resolution must achieve a minimum of 66% of the total votes. Members cast their votes either in favor, against, or abstain from the decision under consideration.

Documentation and Record-Keeping

Decisions taken during the meeting, along with the rationale behind them, are documented in meeting minutes. The minutes capture key discussions, decisions made, action items assigned, and any follow-up tasks identified. These records serve as a reference for future meetings and ensure accountability and transparency in decision-making processes.

Implementation and Follow-Up

Following the decision-making process, the Executive Director, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, oversees the implementation of approved decisions. Action items are assigned, progress is monitored, and any necessary adjustments are made to ensure the effective execution of decisions made by the DBoard. Furthermore, follow-up on decisions occurs during the monthly organizational meetings, where the progress and evolution of each decision are thoroughly reviewed and discussed.

Review and Evaluation

Periodic reviews and evaluations are conducted to assess the outcomes and impacts of decisions made by the DBoard. Feedback from stakeholders, performance metrics, and other relevant indicators are analyzed to determine the effectiveness of governance processes and inform future decision-making.

By adhering to this structured decision-making process, the DBoard of the Restart Natura Foundation ensures that decisions are made in a systematic, transparent, and accountable manner, ultimately contributing to the achievement of the organization's mission and objectives.

4.5 Organizational Meetings

The meetings will take place once a month, with the possibility of convening the Decisional Board at the request of the Executive Director or at the request of a minimum of three (3) members of the Decisional Board.

For a meeting to be considered valid, a minimum of three (3) board members must be in attendance. Among the required attendees, either the Chair or Vice-Chair must be present. Additionally, for a decision to be taken, the number of board members present must be an odd number. This requirement ensures a sufficient level of



participation and leadership representation, as well as preventing the possibility of tied votes in decision-making processes.

Members have the option to participate in meetings either in person at the office or online. The organization accommodates both physical attendance and remote participation to ensure flexibility and inclusivity for all members of the Decisional Board.

Resolutions of the Decisional Board will be determined by an affirmative vote from a majority of its members who are not involved in matters directly affecting or related to their individual performance or change of status. This requirement ensures objectivity and impartiality in decision-making, promoting fair and unbiased resolutions within the Decisional Board. For a vote to be considered affirmative, it must achieve a minimum of 66% of the total votes.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Executive Director

The Executive Director (EDirector) is a key leadership position responsible for overall strategic direction, organizational management, and achievement of the organization's mission and goals.

- **Strategic Leadership:** The EDirector provides visionary leadership and sets the strategic direction of the organization in line with the VCM standard's objectives. Collaborating with the DBoard and other stakeholders, the EDirector develops long-term strategies, goals, and action plans.
- **Organizational Management:** The EDirector oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization, ensuring effective management and coordination of all departments and staff. They establish organizational policies, procedures, and systems to support efficient functioning and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Serving as the primary spokesperson and representative of the organization, the Executive Director engages with project developers, verifiers, buyers, policymakers, and other industry stakeholders. Building and maintaining relationships with key partners, the EDirector advocates for the organization's mission and promotes collaboration and engagement within the VCM community.

- **Fundraising and Resource Development:** Playing a crucial role in fundraising efforts and resource development, the EDirector identifies funding opportunities, cultivates relationships with donors, writes grant proposals, and ensures sustainable financial resources to support the organization's activities.
- **Financial Oversight:** The EDirector provides financial oversight and ensures the organization's fiscal health. Working closely with the Finance and Administration Department, they develop budgets, monitor financial performance, and ensure responsible financial management and accountability.
- **Board Governance:** Collaborating closely with the board of directors, the EDirector provides guidance and support in their governance roles. The EDirector facilitate board meetings, provide timely and accurate information, and collaborate with the board to ensure effective governance and decision-making.
- **External Representation:** Representing the organization at external events, conferences, and industry forums, the EDirector leverages these opportunities to raise awareness about the organization's work, build partnerships, and advocate for the importance and impact of the VCM standard.
- **Staff Management and Development:** Leading and managing the organization's staff, the EDirector fosters a positive and collaborative work environment. The EDirector provide mentorship, guidance, and professional development opportunities to staff members, ensuring a motivated and high-performing team.
- **Impact Assessment and Reporting:** Overseeing the organization's impact assessment and reporting processes, the EDirector ensures the collection of relevant data, measurement of outcomes, and reporting on the organization's achievements and impact aligned with the goals of the VCM standard.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Fostering collaboration and partnerships with other organizations, industry initiatives, and stakeholders involved in the VCM, the EDirector seeks opportunities for synergy, knowledge sharing, and collective action to advance the implementation of the standard and influence broader industry practices.
- **Advocacy and Policy Engagement:** The EDirector plays a role in advocating for supportive policies and regulations related to the VCM. They engage in policy discussions, represent the organization's interests, and collaborate with other stakeholders to shape a favourable policy environment for the VCM.

5.2 Programmes Department

The Programme Department would be responsible for overseeing and managing the implementation of the standard.



- **Standard Development:** The Programme Department takes the lead in developing the standards. This involves conducting research, engaging with stakeholders, and formulating the criteria, requirements, and guidelines that projects must meet to generate or trade carbon credits, plastic credits, biodiversity credits in the form of tokens.
- **Accreditation and Approval:** The Programme Department establishes the accreditation process for project developers, verifiers, and other entities involved in the Voluntary Carbon Market. They set criteria for eligibility and quality assurance, review applications, and grant approvals to entities that meet the standard's requirements.
- **Project Evaluation and Approval:** The Programme Department evaluates project proposals submitted by project developers seeking certification or approval under the standards. They assess the projects based on their environmental integrity, additionality, quantification methodologies, and other relevant criteria. Once approved, the department ensures compliance with ongoing project requirements.
- **Certification and Verification:** The Programme Department oversees the certification and verification process for credits generated by projects under the standards. They establish procedures for the issuance and tracking of carbon credits, work with accredited verifiers to validate project outcomes, and issue certificates or labels to verified projects.
- **Compliance and Auditing:** The Programme Department ensures that projects and market participants adhere to the requirements and guidelines of the standard. They establish monitoring and auditing mechanisms to verify ongoing compliance and address any instances of non-compliance or fraud. This involves conducting regular audits or inspections of projects and market participants.
- **Market Promotion and Education:** The Programme Department plays a role in promoting the standards and raising awareness about the benefits and credibility of projects certified under the standards. They develop marketing strategies, engage with stakeholders, participate in industry events, and provide educational materials to inform market participants and potential buyers about the standard's requirements and benefits.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The Programme Department is responsible for continuously reviewing and improving the standard based on feedback, evolving market conditions, and emerging best practices. They monitor industry developments, engage with stakeholders for feedback and input, and revise the standard as needed to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and credibility.
- **Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:** The Programme Department engages with various stakeholders, including project developers, verifiers, buyers, NGOs, and policymakers. They establish partnerships, seek input from



stakeholders during the standard development process, and collaborate with other industry initiatives to align practices and promote harmonization in the Voluntary Carbon Market.

- Reporting and Transparency: The Programme Department maintains transparency and accountability by providing regular reports on the standard's implementation, projects certified, and credits issued. They publish information on the standard's website or through other platforms to ensure stakeholders can access and verify the information.

5.3 Quality and Technical

The Quality and Technical Department is responsible for ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and technical soundness of the standard's implementation.

- Standard Development: The Quality and Technical Department contributes to the development of the standards by providing technical expertise and guidance. They work closely with other departments to ensure that the standards requirements are scientifically robust, technically feasible, and aligned with best practices accounting and verification.
- Technical Review: The department conducts technical reviews of project proposals submitted for certification or approval under the standards. They assess the methodologies used for carbon accounting, emission reductions quantification, and additionality assessment to ensure they comply with the standards requirements and reflect scientific rigor.
- Methodology Development: The Quality and Technical Department plays a key role in developing and updating methodologies used for quantifying emission reductions or removals. They conduct research, analyze data, and engage with experts to establish methodologies that accurately measure and verify carbon benefits. This includes considering factors such as project types, geographical locations, baseline calculations, and additionality assessments.
- Technical Guidance: The department provides technical guidance to project developers, franchisees, verifiers, and other stakeholders involved in the certification process. They offer clarifications on the standards requirements, methodologies, and best practices related to carbon accounting, monitoring, reporting, and verification.
- Training and Capacity Building: The Quality and Technical Department conducts training programs and capacity-building initiatives to enhance understanding and implementation of the standard. They develop educational materials, organize workshops, webinars, and other training events to ensure project developers,



verifiers, and other stakeholders have the necessary knowledge and skills to comply with the standard.

- **Quality Assurance:** The department establishes quality assurance processes to ensure consistent and accurate application of the standard. They develop procedures for internal and external quality control and review, conduct audits of verifiers and certification bodies, and address any instances of non-compliance or deviations from the standards requirements.
- **Technical Collaboration:** The Quality and Technical Department collaborates with external technical experts, research institutions, and other standard organizations to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and align methodologies across the Voluntary Carbon Market. This collaboration helps maintain technical credibility, harmonization, and continuous improvement of the standard.
- **Technical Documentation:** The department is responsible for documenting technical specifications, guidelines, and methodologies related to the standard. They prepare technical manuals, guidance documents, and technical annexes that provide detailed instructions for project developers and verifiers to ensure consistent implementation of the standard's requirements.
- **Technical Review of Verification Reports:** The Quality and Technical Department reviews verification reports submitted by accredited verifiers to assess their compliance with the standard's requirements. They verify the accuracy of reported emission reductions, the robustness of data collection and analysis, and adherence to the standard's methodologies and protocols.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The department engages with stakeholders, including project developers, verifiers, regulators, and NGOs, to gather feedback, address technical concerns, and promote transparency in the implementation of the standards. They participate in technical working groups, industry forums, and consultations to ensure that technical expertise and diverse perspectives are considered in the standards evolution.

5.4 Communication, Outreach, and IT Department

The Communications, Outreach, and IT Department plays a vital role in managing communications, outreach efforts, and IT infrastructure related to the standard.

Communications Department:

- **Branding and Messaging:** The Communications Department develops and maintains the brand identity of the standard. They create compelling messaging and communication strategies to effectively convey the value, purpose, and benefits of the standard to various stakeholders.



- **Public Relations:** They manage media relations, press releases, and organize press events to generate awareness and positive coverage of the standard. They also handle inquiries from the media and act as a spokesperson for the organization.
- **Website and Content Management:** The department maintains and updates the Standard's website, ensuring that it provides accurate and up-to-date information. They create and publish relevant content, such as news articles, blog posts, case studies, and educational resources.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Communications Department engages with stakeholders, including project developers, verifiers, buyers, policymakers, NGOs, and the public. They establish effective communication channels, facilitate dialogue, and address inquiries or concerns to build trust and foster collaboration.
- **Internal Communications:** They facilitate internal communications within the organization, ensuring that staff members are informed about updates, initiatives, and important announcements related to the standard.

Outreach Department:

- **Stakeholder Outreach:** The Outreach Department identifies and engages with relevant stakeholders in the Restart Natura community. They conduct outreach campaigns, participate in industry conferences, workshops, and events, and establish partnerships with organizations to promote the standard's adoption and implementation.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** The department develops and delivers training programs, workshops, webinars, and other educational initiatives to raise awareness and build capacity among stakeholders. They provide guidance on how to comply with the standard, leverage its benefits, and contribute to the integrity of the VCM.
- **Collaboration and Networking:** The Outreach Department collaborates with other standard organizations, industry associations, and international initiatives to align efforts, share best practices, and promote harmonization in the VCM. They actively participate in working groups and forums to contribute to the development of industry-wide standards and guidelines.

IT Department:

- **Infrastructure Management:** The IT Department manages the technical infrastructure required for Standard's operations. This includes servers, databases, networks, and other hardware and software systems needed to support the standard's online platforms, databases, and information management.
- **Website and Online Platforms:** They develop, maintain, and secure the standard's website and online platforms, such as certification portals, databases, and communication tools. This ensures smooth user experiences, secure data management, and effective communication channels for stakeholders.
- **Data Management:** The department oversees data management processes, including data collection, storage, and security protocols. They ensure compliance with data protection regulations and establish procedures to safeguard sensitive information.
- **Technical Support:** The IT Department provides technical support to stakeholders who interact with the Standard's online platforms or encounter technical issues. They offer assistance, troubleshooting, and resolve technical problems to ensure uninterrupted access and usability of the Standard's systems.

5.5 Legal and Compliance Department

The Legal and Compliance Department is responsible for ensuring legal compliance and managing regulatory matters related to the standard.

- **Legal Compliance:** The department ensures that the standard and its implementation are in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and industry guidelines. They monitor legal developments, assess their impact on the VCM, Plastic markets, Biodiversity markets, Circular Economy markets and provide guidance to stakeholders on compliance requirements.
- **Regulatory Analysis:** The Legal and Compliance Department analyzes regulatory frameworks and policies related to carbon markets, climate change, and environmental sustainability. They stay informed about new regulations or changes that may affect the markets and advise the organization and stakeholders accordingly.
- **Contract and Agreement Management:** The department manages contracts, agreements, and legal documents related to the standard. They develop templates, review and negotiate agreements with stakeholders, and ensure compliance with legal and contractual obligations.



- **Intellectual Property Protection:** The Legal and Compliance Department handles the protection of intellectual property rights associated with the standard. They conduct trademark registrations, monitor and address infringements, and manage licensing or sublicensing agreements to protect the integrity and exclusivity of the standard.
- **Risk Management:** The department identifies and manages legal and compliance risks associated with the standard. They develop risk assessment frameworks, establish internal controls, and implement risk mitigation strategies to minimize legal liabilities and ensure adherence to ethical and governance standards.
- **Dispute Resolution:** In cases of disputes or conflicts related to the standard, the Legal and Compliance Department facilitates resolution processes. They engage in negotiation, mediation, or, if necessary, coordinate legal proceedings to protect the interests of the organization and stakeholders.
- **Policy Advocacy:** The department engages in policy advocacy efforts to influence relevant regulations, legislation, and market mechanisms that impact the VCM or the other markets. They collaborate with industry associations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to shape policies that promote transparency, credibility, and effectiveness in the VCM and the other markets.
- **Compliance Monitoring and Auditing:** The Legal and Compliance Department establishes compliance monitoring and auditing processes to ensure that stakeholders adhere to the standard's requirements. They conduct audits, inspections, and reviews of projects, verifiers, and other market participants to verify compliance and identify any non-compliance or irregularities.
- **Privacy and Data Protection:** The department ensures compliance with data protection regulations and privacy laws. They establish policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal and sensitive data collected or managed by the standard organization.
- **Legal Advisory:** The Legal and Compliance Department provides legal advice and guidance to the organization's leadership, management, and stakeholders on legal matters related to the standard. They assess legal implications, draft legal opinions, and provide guidance on legal risks and strategies to support decision-making processes.

5.6 Finance and Administration Department

The Finance and Administration Department is responsible for managing financial operations, budgeting, administrative functions, and overall organizational efficiency.

- **Financial Management:** The department manages the financial resources of the organization, including budgeting, financial planning, and reporting. They work



closely with program managers to allocate funds effectively and ensure financial sustainability.

- **Accounting and Bookkeeping:** The Finance and Administration Department maintains accurate and transparent financial records for the organization. They handle bookkeeping, financial transactions, and ensure compliance with accounting standards specific to non-profit organizations.
- **Financial Reporting:** The department prepares financial reports that comply with regulatory requirements for non-profit organizations. These reports include statements of activities, statements of financial position, and cash flow statements. Transparent financial reporting is crucial to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders, including donors and grant-making organizations.
- **Grant and Funding Management:** Non-profit organizations heavily rely on grants and funding from various sources. The Finance and Administration Department manages grant applications, monitors compliance with funding requirements, and ensures proper financial reporting to funding agencies or donors.
- **Budgeting and Resource Allocation:** The department collaborates with program managers and stakeholders to develop annual budgets aligned with the organization's strategic goals. They allocate resources to different programs and activities, ensuring effective utilization while maintaining financial sustainability.
- **Compliance and Governance:** The Finance and Administration Department ensures compliance with legal and regulatory requirements applicable to non-profit organizations. They manage corporate filings, maintain proper governance documentation, and ensure adherence to relevant policies and procedures.
- **Risk Management:** The department identifies and manages financial and operational risks that could impact on the organization's ability to achieve its mission. They develop risk mitigation strategies, establish internal controls, and implement measures to protect the organization's assets and reputation.
- **Donor Relations:** The Finance and Administration Department play a role in managing relationships with donors and funding partners. They provide financial reports, communicate impact metrics, and maintain open lines of communication to foster transparency and donor confidence.
- **Administrative Support:** The department provides administrative support services to the organization, including managing office operations, overseeing logistics for meetings and events, and maintaining office supplies and equipment.
- **Human Resources:** The Finance and Administration Department handle human resources functions, such as recruitment, benefits administration, payroll processing, and compliance with labor laws specific to non-profit organizations.



- IT Infrastructure: In some cases, the Finance and Administration Department oversees IT infrastructure and systems to support financial operations, data management, and organizational efficiency.

6. DOCUMENTATION INTEGRITY AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

6.1 Review and Update Process for Documents

Continuous improvement is a cornerstone of the RED Carbon Standard, ensuring its relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving environmental goals. Through a structured process of review and updating, the standard remains dynamic and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities in the realm of carbon reduction and sustainable practices.

Process for Reviewing and Updating the RED Carbon Standard:

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Regular consultations with stakeholders including environmental experts, industry representatives, policymakers, and community groups.
- Gathering feedback on the effectiveness and practicality of the current standards.
- Identifying emerging trends, technological advancements, and regulatory changes impacting carbon reduction efforts.

Data Analysis and Research:

- Continuous monitoring of scientific research and data related to carbon emissions, sequestration, and climate change.
- Analysis of industry-specific data to identify areas for improvement and innovation.
- Collaboration with research institutions and think tanks to stay abreast of the latest findings in sustainable practices.

Innovation and Technology Integration:

- Encouraging innovation in carbon measurement, reporting, and mitigation strategies.
- Incorporating new technologies such as blockchain for transparent carbon accounting and remote sensing for monitoring forest carbon stocks.
- Supporting research and development initiatives that have the potential to enhance the standard's effectiveness.



Transparent Governance:

- Maintaining transparent and inclusive governance structures for overseeing the review and updating process.
- Publishing regular reports on the outcomes of reviews and revisions.
- Soliciting public input and feedback on proposed changes to the standard.

Through this iterative process of review and updating, the RED Carbon Standard remains a robust and relevant tool for promoting sustainable land use practices, protecting biodiversity, and mitigating climate change. Continuous improvement ensures that the standard continues to deliver measurable environmental and social benefits while adapting to an ever-changing landscape of challenges and opportunities.

6.2 Stakeholder Input: Effective Feedback Mechanisms

Effective feedback mechanisms are essential for fostering meaningful dialogue, capturing diverse perspectives, and ensuring inclusive decision-making processes. In the context of sustainability initiatives like the RED Carbon Standard, soliciting input from stakeholders is critical for improving transparency, accountability, and the overall effectiveness of the standards. Here are some key feedback mechanisms utilized to gather input from stakeholders:

Public Consultations:

- Organizing public consultations and workshops to provide a forum for stakeholders to express their views, concerns, and suggestions regarding the RED Carbon Standard.
- Hosting meetings in various locations to ensure accessibility for stakeholders from different geographic areas.
- Facilitating discussions on specific topics or proposed changes to the standard, allowing stakeholders to provide input directly to decision-makers.

Stakeholder Working Groups:

- Establishing stakeholder working groups comprised of representatives from different stakeholder categories to provide ongoing input and expertise.
- Working groups may focus on specific areas of the RED Carbon Standard, such as forestry practices, carbon accounting methodologies, or community engagement strategies.
- Encouraging collaboration and consensus-building among working group members to develop recommendations for improving the standard.

Online Platforms and Forums:



- Creating dedicated online platforms or forums where stakeholders can submit feedback, engage in discussions, and stay updated on the latest developments related to the RED Carbon Standard.
- Providing user-friendly interfaces and multilingual support to facilitate participation from diverse stakeholders.
- Moderating online discussions to ensure respectful dialogue and constructive contributions from participants.

Feedback Mechanisms in Certification Process:

- Integrating feedback mechanisms into the certification process for projects seeking RED Carbon Standard certification.
- Allowing project developers and stakeholders to provide feedback on the certification process, documentation requirements, and assessment criteria.
- Incorporating feedback from certification audits and verification processes to identify areas for improvement in the implementation of the standard.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- Partnering with civil society organizations, research institutions, and other stakeholders to leverage their networks and expertise in soliciting feedback.
- Collaborating with industry associations, trade unions, and advocacy groups to reach specific stakeholder groups and ensure their voices are heard.
- Building long-term partnerships based on trust, transparency, and mutual respect to facilitate ongoing dialogue and engagement.

By implementing these feedback mechanisms, the RED Carbon Standard can harness the collective wisdom and experience of stakeholders to strengthen its impact, relevance, and credibility as a leading sustainability initiative. Continuous engagement with stakeholders ensures that their perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes, leading to more informed and effective outcomes in the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

7. CODE OF ETHICS

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to ensure that each member involved in the Governance structure acts with integrity and a firm dedication to transparency.

Our Code of Ethics embodies our collective commitment to the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of our governance. A central component of our ethics is the recognition that effective enterprise risk management is conditioned by a foundation built on ethical practices.



The Code of Ethics also addresses issues related to conflicts of interest. Conflict of interest may arise if a member of the governance or any of their family members have a financial interest, investment, or fiduciary relationship with individuals, entities, or organizations actively involved in promoting, selling, or trading offset credits under consideration. Transparency and open communication are essential for managing conflicts of interest.

In the event of disagreements or conflicts regarding this standard, the Legal and Compliance Department oversees resolution procedures. They participate in negotiation, mediation or, if necessary, coordinate legal actions to protect both the interests of the organization and those of stakeholders. Therefore, to avoid conflicts of interest, governance members should disclose and steer clear of any situation where they might have a personal interest or potential conflict of interest with the organization's interests.

During the evaluation, the involved person's activity will be suspended. This may involve abstaining from voting or decision-making on certain matters or avoiding participation in discussions where a conflict of interest may arise.

Following the evaluation conducted, the Legal and Compliance Department will determine whether such a conflict of interest exists.

8. PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with articles 13 and 14 of the European Regulation 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), hereinafter referred to as "**GDPR**", this Privacy Policy aims to explain in a simple and transparent way what type of personal data we collect about you and how we process it.

The processing of personal data will be done in a legal, fair, and transparent manner. Collection of personal data will only be done for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and data will not be further processed in a manner incompatible with those purposes. The processing of personal data will be appropriate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the purposes for which they are processed.

Personal data will be accurate and, where necessary, updated; All necessary steps shall be taken to ensure that incorrect data is erased or corrected without delay. Personal data will be stored for a period no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which they are processed, except for specific cases.



Personal data will be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organizational measures.

Type of personal data processed:

We may process the following types of personal data:

- Contact details (name, surname, e-mail address, phone number, postal address, postal code, address)
- Professional information (the company you work for, your position or title, your power of attorney)
- Demographics (date of birth, age) and personal identity information such as civil status, gender, personal identification number, ID number and series, date of issue and date of expiry of the ID, issuer, domicile address, residence address, picture and other data included in identity documents.
- Other personal information provided to us or obtained by us from public sources.

Purposes of processing:

Our primary goal in collecting personal information is to provide you with a safe, efficient, and personalized experience. We use personal information to create, develop, operate, deliver, and improve our services.

Legal basis for processing:

The legal basis for processing your personal information will depend on the purposes for which we process your information.

Mainly, we will process your personal information based on the legal basis of fulfilling the contract we have with you or other contractual agreements we may have in. Additionally, in some situations, we have a legitimate interest in processing your personal data, such as:

- continuously managing our relationship with you and maintaining contact with you;
- our internal business objectives, which can include keeping / storing documents, management of the correspondence and archives, continuity of IT services (for example, backups);
- to ensure the quality of the services we offer you;
- marketing analyses, including marketing campaign optimization and web analytics to enable us to develop and target the marketing of our products and services;



- keeping our updates and studying how our customers use our products / services;
- portfolio analysis to enable us to improve the products and services we offer to our customers;
- minimizing the relations with natural persons or legal entities that can pose high legal, financial or reputational risks;
- exercising our legal and contractual rights and defending them before the relevant courts and authorities, including, if the case, through receivable recovery activities or the preservation of potential means of evidence;
- cooperating or interacting with specialized third-party entities in relation to any aspect of relevance for the interests above, including in relation to the IT infrastructure, accounting, or the legislation of other jurisdictions, to the extent relevant and to develop partnerships.

If we make changes to the way we handle your personal information, we will update this Privacy Policy. We reserve the right to make changes to our practices and policies at any time. Please check our site regularly to see any updates or changes to our Privacy Policy.



9. DOCUMENT UPDATE

Version	Date Update	Comments or additional information
1	07.07.2024	Initial version of the document.

