

**Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification
Assessment of State Enterprise “Ostrog forestry” Rivne regional
forestry and hunting administration,
Ukraine**

April 17-20, 2018

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of SE “Ostrog forestry” of Rivne regional forestry and hunting administration located in Ukraine. The assessment will be implemented from **April 17-20, 2018**

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of SE “Ostrog forestry” of Rivne regional forestry and hunting administration, located in Ukraine, using *the “NEPCon Interim Standards for Ukraine FM-32 – Ukraine, V12-14”*. To obtain a copy of the applicable Standard please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or on website listed below; standard may also be found at the link in the internet www.nepcon.net.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. NEPCon evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

Assessment Team Composition: the assessment team will be led by LEAD AUDITOR Georgiy Bondaruk (Ukraine). The team members will be: auditors Yaroslav Henyk (Ukraine), Ruslan Vytsega (Ukraine).

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will gather together in Ostrog on **April 17, 2018**
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites, managed by SE “Ostrog forestry” of Rivne regional forestry and hunting administration **April 17-20, 2018**
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding SE “Ostrog forestry” forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Public stakeholder meetings – A public stakeholder meeting will be held in SE “Ostrog forestry”. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the SE “Ostrog forestry” of Rivne and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – Team will prepare a confidential assessment report that will be provided for comments to SE “Ostrog forestry” and a minimum of 2 independent peer reviewers. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the representatives of SE “Ostrog forestry” and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur **by June 10, 2018**.

Your Input Sought As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback of SE “Ostrog forestry” in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above [as well as comments on the FME’s management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to **April 17, 2018**, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision 10 **June, 2018**. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the assessment.
2. Call and give comments to Olesya Kaspruk, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment as representative of NEPCon in Ukraine. If Olesya Kaspruk is not in the office, please give your comments to Georgiy Bondaruk.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Olesya Kaspruk. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the SE “Ostrog forestry” .

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon’s Dispute Resolution Policy at www.nepcon.net

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: ok@nepcon.org (Olesya Kaspruk)
- ◆ Telephone: +380503703104 (Olesya Kaspruk)
- ◆ +380501942534 (Georgiy Bondaruk)
- ◆ Website - www.nepcon.net
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