



Rainforest Alliance

SmartWood Program

**Public Briefing Paper for
Group Forest Management Certification Assessment of
Skogkonsult A/S group in Norway
9 October 2009**

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance and NEPCo is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of Skogkonsult A/S FSC forest management group located in Norway. The assessment will be implemented from 10 to 12 November 2009.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by SkogKonsult A/S, using the “*SmartWood Interim Standards for Vest Agder, Aust Agder, Rogaland, Vestfold, Oppland og Buskerud fylker (counties) of Norway*”. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact SmartWood by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Michael K. Jakobsen, M.Sc. in forestry, Denmark. The other team member will be Christian Pedersen, PhD in Biology, Norway.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – The SmartWood team will assemble in Kristiansand on 10th of November 2009.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by Skogkonsult A/S from the 10th of November to 12th of November.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The team will contact local and national stakeholders regarding the management of the forests included in the group. This will include private interviews and discussions.

- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the managers of Skogkonsult A/S and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Skogkonsult A/S and a minimum of two 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 forest managers of Skogkonsult A/S and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments through mid-November, SmartWood will reach a certification decision.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on the management practiced by the group members of Skogkonsult A/S in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. 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 10 November so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon/SmartWood assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Anne-Sofie Forfang, phone + 45 9866 6132, who is responsible for carrying out the stakeholder consultation related to this assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Anne-Sofie Forfang using the contact info below. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Skogkonsult A/S.

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

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's dispute resolution procedures at www.nepcon.net.

Contacting NEPCon/SmartWood

- ◆ Email: as@nepcon.net
- ◆ Worldwide Website: NEPCon - www.nepcon.net ; the SmartWood Program – www.smartwood.org
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