

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

### **Upcoming FSC forest management annual audit of State Forest Management Centre (RMK) in Estonia**

Surveillance Audit of State forest management centre (RMK) located in Estonia will be carried out by NEPCon during December 3.-6., 2007. NEPCon is a regional partner and the official representative of the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood Program in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia.

State forest management centre (RMK) is managing 1 082 600 ha of public lands, including 816 500 ha of forest land. RMK has 5 forest management regions and 64 forest districts. RMK head office is located in Tallinn. SmartWood Program issued forest management and chain of custody certificate with five year validity period to RMK on February 1, 2002, which was renewed for further five years on 1 of February 2007 after conducting a re-assessment. During the period of 2002-2007 surveillance audits were conducted in RMK twice a year. After recertification the duration of surveillance audits was prolonged and it was decided to conduct one surveillance audit per year.

Scope of the audit – The forest management certification audit covers environmental, economic and social aspects of the forest management activities in RMK. The surveillance audit covers all area managed by RMK. During the upcoming audit RMK head office and the regions in South-East and South-West of Estonia will be visited. In both regions, two forest districts will be visited.

The audit will be based upon the SmartWood Interim Standards for Estonia (SW-STD-EST-2005-06, version 2.1, 29 Nov. 2005). Standard mentioned above is public and the contents are subject to opinions of stakeholders. Considering this we kindly ask all interested stakeholders to give comments and suggestions about standard indicators and/or standard wording. The standard is freely available for download on [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net). Additionally the public summaries of the reports from all conducted audit and assessment are available on SmartWood homepage. Direct link to the public summaries is: [http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/forestry/smartwood/public\\_documents\\_country.cfm?country=17](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/forestry/smartwood/public_documents_country.cfm?country=17).

The audit team consists of two members. The audit team will be led by Hando Hain, NEPCon's chain of custody and forest management lead auditor and manager of Estonian office. Aliaksandr Zubkevich is chain of custody and forest management lead auditor and NEPCon representative in Belarus.

**Your input** – As a part of forest management certification assessment we invite stakeholders to offer comments and feedback on State Forest Management Centre (RMK) forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you (e-mail, post, phone). You are welcome to meet auditors for giving your comments and suggestions. The source of any information provided will be kept confidential upon your request. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process. We would, however, appreciate receiving your comments as soon as possible so we can consider these during the field visits and the surveillance audit report preparation period.

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