

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

### **Upcoming FSC recertification assessment of State Forest Management Centre (RMK) forest management activities in Estonia in November 2011**

During **7-11<sup>th</sup> of November 2011** NEPCon OÜ will conduct the **FSC forest management assessment of State Forest Management Centre (RMK)**. 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 1 085 800 ha of public lands, including over 800 000 ha of forest land. RMK has 3 forest management regions and 17 forest districts. RMK head office is located in Tallinn. SmartWood Program recertified State Forest Management Centre (RMK) on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. Forest management and chain of custody certificate with five year validity period was issued. First FSC certificate was issued to RMK on February 1, 2002.

Scope of the assessment – The forest management assessment covers the environmental, economical and social aspects of forest management activities of State Forest Management Centre (RMK). The assessment covers all forest areas managed by State Forest Management Centre (RMK).

The re-assessment will be based upon the SmartWood Interim Standards for Estonia (SW-STD-EST-2010-09, version 09-10, 1 Sep. 2010). 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). Public summaries of all audit reports conducted earlier in State Forest Management Centre (RMK) are also available in FSC database (<http://info.fsc.org/>). The SmartWood Program is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the assessment process will be conducted in accordance with the FSC requirements and SmartWood certification procedures.

The audit team of the re-assessment consists of four member team. The audit team will be led by Roman Polyachenko, NEPCon's chain of custody and forest management lead auditor and director of Estonian office.

**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, either public or confidential, 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. 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 re-assessment report preparation period.

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