



# Rainforest Alliance

## *SmartWood Program*

### **Public Briefing Paper for Forest Management Certification Re-Assessments of Birzai and Panevezys State Forest Enterprises in Lithuania**

**7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

**Introduction** - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance and NEPCo is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification re-assessments of 2 State Forest Enterprises (SFEs) in Lithuania. Re-assessments will be implemented from August to December, 2011. The re-assessments will be held for the following SFEs:

- Birzai 30185 ha
- Panevezys 39148 ha

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<b>Total area</b>	<b>69333 ha</b>
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**Scope of the Certification Re-assessment** – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest managed by the SFEs, using the “*SmartWood Interim Standard for Lithuania SW-STD-FM-LIT-18MAR08, version 2.3*”. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact SmartWood by telephone, email or website listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Re-assessment Team Composition** – The re-assessment team will be led by Justinas Janulaitis, M. Sc. Economics and B. Sc Biology. The team members will be: Sigitas Girdziusas, Gediminas Brazaitis, Evaldas BlazeVICIUS.

**Re-assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The SmartWood team will assemble in each SFE on the date provided in Annex 1.

- ◆ Field re-assessments – The team will visit sites managed by each SFEs during the audit.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding SFE 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 a centrally located public meeting place for SFE. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with SFE managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The re-assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to SFE. This should occur 30 days after completion of the re-assessment.
- ◆ Re-certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from SFE forest managers and other general stakeholder comments, SmartWood will reach a re-certification decision.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on each SFE 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. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment or during the re-assessment 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 SmartWood re-assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Justinas Janulaitis, the SmartWood staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment from NEPCON. If Justinas Janulaitis is not in the office, please give your comments to Evaldas Blaževičius.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Justinas Janulaitis. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing each SFE.

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 SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at [http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry.cfm?id=dispute\\_resolution](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry.cfm?id=dispute_resolution) .

### **Contacting SmartWood**

- ◆ Email: [jj@nepcon.net](mailto:jj@nepcon.net) for Justinas Janulaitis or [eb@nepcon.net](mailto:eb@nepcon.net) for Evaldas Blaževičius

- ◆ Worldwide Website – [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org) or [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net).
- ◆ Telephone – +370 684 78729 – Justinas Janulaitis or +370 66351545 – Evaldas Blaževičius
- ◆ Mail address – SmartWood/NEPCon, Giruliu str. 20-81, Vilnius, LT-12112, Lithuania.

**Annex 1**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Lithuanian State Forest Enterprise</b>	<b>Current FSC FM/COC certificate code</b>	<b>Certificate expiry date</b>	<b>Planned re-assessment audit date</b>
1.	Birzai	SW-FM/COC-002011	14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011	24-26 <sup>th</sup> August, 2011
2.	Panevezys	SW-FM/COC-002191	5 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012	14-16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011