



Practical conservation through certified forestry

**Public Briefing Paper for
FSC forest management comprehensive group certification assessment
of
Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU in Komi
Republic, Russia**

Introduction – The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting FSC forest management and chain of custody comprehensive certification assessment of Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU located in Komi Republic, Russia, which are managers of forest resources on state's behalf at the area of 613 301 and 408 776 ha respectively. Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU (group manager) has an FSC joint FM/COC certificate SW-FM/COC-1860 valid till 19.04.2011. Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU wants to be a member of the group of Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU after the completion of the comprehensive group certification assessment. This assessment will be carried out by NEPCon - a regional partner and the official representative of the SmartWood Program in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. The forest management certification assessment is scheduled to be carried out in July 2-6, 2007. The office of Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU is located in Koidin settlement and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU in Kazhim settlement in Koigorodskiy district of Komi Republic.

In case of successful comprehensive group assessment the joint FM/COC certificate of the group Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU will cover the whole area of Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU without any exceptions (613 301 ha) and a part of area of Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU (390 540 ha). Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU excluded from scope of the assessment some compartments of Turuninskoye forest district (272-285, 304-317, 336-349, 368-382, 394-405, 416-425) at the area of 18 236 ha.

Scope of the assessment – The comprehensive group forest management certification assessment covers environmental, economic and social aspects of the forest management in the forest area managed by defined Leskhozes. The assessment will be based upon the SmartWood Interim Forest Management Evaluation Standard for Komi Republic, Russia, version 1.1, February 26, 2006. To get a copy of the standards, please contact NEPCon on the address given at the end of the announcement. 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.

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

- ◆ July 2-6, 2007 – 5-day audit of Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU.
 - ◆ The meeting of the NEPCon/SmartWood team (two auditors) with Leskhozes staff and documents review.

- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites for activities evaluation on the territories of Leskhoz.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – During the assessment the team will contact people interested in FSC certification of Leskhoz.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Leskhoz managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – Within two weeks after the field visit the assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU.
- ◆ Public summary of the comprehensive group certification assessment report will be published on the web-site www.smartwood.org.

Your input – As a part of forest management certification assessment we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU 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 assessment process. We would, however, appreciate receiving your comments as soon as possible so we can consider these during the re-assessment. You can submit your comments in one of the following ways:

1. Call and tell your comments to Nikolai Tochilov.
2. Send written comments by mail, fax or email to Nikolai Tochilov. Unless you specifically indicate so, your comments will remain confidential and shall only be used to evaluate forest management by the Koigorodskiy Leskhoz GU and Kazhimskiy Leskhoz GU.

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