



Practical conservation through certified forestry

Public Briefing Paper for FSC forest management group certification assessment of Zapkarelles ZAO in Republic of Karelia, Russia

Introduction – The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting FSC forest management and chain of custody group certification assessment of Zapkarelles ZAO located in Republic of Karelia, Russia within concession sites of the total area of 813 791 ha on the territory of Suoyarvskiy and Porosozerskiy Leskhoz. 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 on September 24-29, 2007. The office of Zapkarelles ZAO is located in Suoyarvi, Republic of Karelia.

The list of assessed sites and their area, ha:

1.	Concession agreement dated of 23.12.2003 49 years with Suoyarvskiy Leskhoz: Suoyarvskoye, Tolvoyarskoye, Naistenyarvskoye, Vegarusskoye, Loimolskoye, Suitamskoye, Suoyokskoye, Raikonkosskoye, Khaitavaarskoye, Paperskoye, Piytsiyokskoye, Uksinskoye, Kyasnyaselskoye and Veshkelskoye forest districts.	600 331
2.	Concession agreement dated of 23.12.2003 49 years with Porosozerskiy Leskhoz: Salmiyarvskoye, Kuolismskoye, Lakhkolambinskoye, Kostomukskoye and Kaidozerskoye forest districts.	213 460
Total:		813 791

Scope of the assessment – The group forest management certification assessment covers environmental, economic and social aspects of the forest management in the forest area managed by defined Leskhoz. The assessment will be based upon the SmartWood Interim Forest Management Evaluation Standard for Republic of Karelia, Russia, version 1.0, December 15, 2005. 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:

- ◆ September 24-29, 2007 – 6-day audit of Zapkarelles ZAO.
 - ◆ The meeting of the NEPCon/SmartWood team (two auditors) with companies' staff and documents review.

- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites for harvesting operations evaluation.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – During the assessment the team will contact people interested in FSC certification of companies.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with companies' staff 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 Zapkarelles ZAO.
- ◆ 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 Zapkarelles ZAO 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 or Alexey Klochikhin.
2. Send written comments by mail, fax or email to Nikolai Tochilov or Alexey Klochikhin. Unless you specifically indicate so, your comments will remain confidential and shall only be used to evaluate forest management by Zapkarelles ZAO.

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