



Forest Management Certification Reassessment of Ondrej Barto in Klenovec, Slovakia 19.7.2023

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification reassessments of the Ondrej Barto with residence in Klenovec, Slovakia. Scope of this certificate include also organization Ostra s.r.o. as group member. Evaluated forests are located in the cadastral area of municipality Klenovec. The reassessment will be implemented from 05. to 06.09.2023.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification reassessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Ondrej Barto, using the FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Slovakia FSC-STD-SVK-01-2023 EN (FSC-STD-SVK-01-2023 EN). Standard is available at: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/1463>. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) and this reassessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. Preferred by Nature evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

Assessment Team Composition – The reassessment will be led by Juraj Tužinský from Slovakia.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – The reassessment start in Klenovec on 05.09.2023.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditor will visit sites managed by Ondrej Barto from 05. to 06.09.2023
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Ondrej Barto 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 on 05. 09. 2023 at 17:00 in Klenovec. For more information contact Juraj Tužinský.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure auditor will meet with Ondrej Barto and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The auditor will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Ondrej Barto. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Ondrej Barto and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by 13.10.2023.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Ondrej Barto forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. 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, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the 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 Preferred by Nature auditor during the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Juraj Tužinský, Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment.



3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Juraj Tužinský.

Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Ondrej Barto. The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Dispute Resolution Policy at

<https://www.preferredbynature.org/library/policy/dispute-resolution-policy-slovak-0>

Contacting Preferred by Nature

- ◆ Email: Juraj Tužinský, jtuzinsky@preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website - www.preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Telephone - Juraj Tužinský, +421 907 696 091
- ◆ Mail address - NEPCon Group s.r.o., Údolní 33, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic