

Forest Management Certification Assessment of Invest-plus LLC in Vologda region region, Russia 26/08/2016

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessment of the **Invest-plus LLC** located in Vologda region, Russia. The assessment will be implemented from 10/10/2016 to 15/010/2016.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by **Invest-plus LLC**, using the standard FSC-STD-RUS-V6-1-2012 Russia Natural and Plantations EN. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or website listed below. NEPCon is accredited by FSC and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Alexander Gorbunov (Vologda, Russia). The team members will be named later.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in pgt. Kaduy on 10/10/2016.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit the forest management units from 10/10/2016 to 15/10/2016.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with **Invest-plus LLC** managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to **Invest-plus LLC**. This should occur within 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from **Invest-plus LLC** forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by December 1, 2016.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on 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, or prior to 10/11/2016 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by 01/12/2016. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Alexander Gorbunov, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from NEPCon Russia. If Alexander Gorbunov is not in the office, please give your comments to Nikolay Tochilov.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Nikolai Tochilov. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the **Invest-plus LLC**.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Dispute Resolution Policy at www.nepcon.net

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: nt@nepcon.net for Nikolai Tochilov and ag@nepcon.net for Alexander Gorbunov
- ◆ Worldwide Website – www.nepcon.net.
- ◆ Telephone: + 79115572080 (Nikolai Tochilov) and +79115736949 (Alexander Gorbunov)
- ◆ Mail address: Russia, 163017, Arkhangelsk, Timme street 17, korp. 2

List of forest management units being included into the scope of certification assessment:

Lease agreement	Forestry	Forest district	Compartments	Total area, (ha)
02-02-16/179-2011	Kaduyskoye	Zayatskoye	9-11, 22, 23, 30-33, 43, 44, 54-56	20607,0
		Angorskoye	6, 7, 13-15, 17-27, 36-38, 48-59, 66-70, 72-78, 89-91, 95-99, 110-113, 115-118, 127, 141-144, 163, 164, 166, 167, 169-174, 179-181, 185-188, 190-193	
02-02-16/447-2011	Kaduyskoye	Severnoye sovkhov «Andronovskiy»	1-27, 32, 34, 35, 37-39, 42, 45, 47, 48, 50-53	14515,0
		Severnoye sovkhov «Severyanin»	1-3, 9-17, 19, 21-38	