

## **Forest Management Certification Assessment of SEVEROIZTOCHNO DARZHAVNO PREDPRIYATIE DP in Shumen, Bulgaria 7 October 2015**

**Introduction** - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of the Severoiztochno darzhavno predpriyatie DP located in Shumen, Bulgaria. The assessment will be implemented from 23 to 27 November 2015.

**Scope of the Certification Assessment** – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Severoiztochno darzhavno predpriyatie DP, using the NEPCon interim regional FM; NEPCon CoC Standard for FME 19Dec14. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. Please note that the standard may be modified to take account of stakeholder comments. NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Assessment Team Composition** – The assessment team will be led by Ivaylo Velichkov (Bulgaria). The team members will be: Dobromira Petrova, Martin Borisov, Pencho Dermendzhiev, Zoya Markova, Teodor Todorov.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Severoiztochno darzhavno predpriyatie DP, Shumen on 23 Nov 2015.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by Severoiztochno darzhavno predpriyatie DP from 23 to 27 November 2015.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding SIDP 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 SIDP a centrally located public meeting place for SIDP. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with SIDP 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 SIDP and a minimum of 2 independent peer reviewers. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on SIDP forest management in relation to conformance with 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, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to 27 November 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 NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Iliya Kolev, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from Regional office Bulgaria. If Iliya Kolev is not in the office, please give your comments to either present staff.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Iliya Kolev. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the SIDP.

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

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net)

### **Contacting NEPCon**

- ◆ Email: [ik@nepcon.net](mailto:ik@nepcon.net) for Iliya Kolev, [zb@nepcon.net](mailto:zb@nepcon.net) for Zhivko Bogdanov
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