

## **Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification Assessment of SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” of Zhytomyr regional forestry and hunting administration, Ukraine**

**January 19-22, 2016**

**Introduction** - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of SE “Korostyshiv forestry” of Zhytomyr regional forestry and hunting administration located in Ukraine. The assessment will be implemented **from January 19, 2016 to January 22, 2016.**

**Scope of the Certification Assessment** – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” of Zhytomyr regional forestry and hunting administration, located in Ukraine, using *the “NEPCon Interim Standards for Ukraine FM-32 – Ukraine, V10-13”*. To obtain a copy of the applicable Standard please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or on website listed below; standard may also be found at the link in the internet **www.nepcon.net**.

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. NEPCon evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

**Assessment Team Composition:** the assessment team will be led by LEAD AUDITOR Olesya Kaspruk (Ukraine). The team members will be: auditors Yaroslav Henyk (Ukraine), Georgiy Bondaruk (Ukraine), and auditor-in-training Igor Buksha (Ukraine).

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will gather together in Ovruch on **January 19, 2016**
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites, managed by SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” of Zhytomyr regional forestry and hunting administration **from January 19, 2016 to January 22, 2016.**
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” 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 SE “Ovruch specialized forestry”. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the managers of SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – Team will prepare a confidential assessment report that will be provided for comments to SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” and a minimum of 2 independent peer reviewers. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the representatives of State Enterprise SE “Ovruch specialized forestry” and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur **by February 25, 2016**.

**Your Input Sought** As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback of State Enterprise “Ovruch specialized forestry” 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 **January 19, 2016**, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision **February 20, 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 assessment.
2. Call and give comments to Olesya Kaspruk, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment as representative of NEPCon in Ukraine. If Olesya Kaspruk is not in the office, please give your comments to Georgiy Bondaruk.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Olesya Kaspruk. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the State Enterprise “Korostyshiv forest and hunting economy”.

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](http://www.nepcon.net)

### Contacting NEPCon

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