



# Building capacity for the future

## Supporting the growth of sustainability

Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCon) has more than 15-year track record of developing training programmes and providing capacity building within areas of expertise. We have organised and delivered training for thousands of public and corporate sector stakeholders within the scope of our own training programmes, in the framework of projects, and on request.

### Our experts

As an organisation delivering certification services under some of the world's most stringent sustainability schemes, we focus on quality and have built an extensive training programme for our staff, conducted by our own trainers and senior experts.

Our experts are also regularly involved in training events and workshops organised by other organisations and as speakers at international conferences and meetings. Topics covered include responsible timber sourcing, public procurement of timber products, timber legality and certification.



Competence is a crucial factor in securing the quality and impact of sustainability efforts including certification schemes. That is why we have built a comprehensive training programme covering our core expertise areas.

– Peter Fellberg, Preferred by Nature Executive Director



### Core areas of expertise

We offer classroom and remote/virtual training and information in conjunction with most of our auditing services, including the following topics:

- FSC™ certification (Forest Management, Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood)
- Timber legality and due diligence (LegalSource)
- Ecosystem Services
- Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture certification (Farms and Chain of Custody Certification)

### Contact us

If you wish to tap into our expertise, please contact us. Whether you need a project partner, expert input for your organisation or project, or are looking for seasoned speakers for your event, we would be pleased to help you.



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Training on timber legality in Malaysia, Ghana and Vietnam



# Our training experience

## Selected references

### Forest certification and timber legality

- ✓ **2020:** To meet the training demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the travel and safety restrictions, and without reducing the quality of our regular in-person auditor trainings held worldwide, we successfully launched our 1st editions of remote FSC Expert courses.
- ✓ **2019:** We gained local presence worldwide and hosted training events also in Africa, North and South America. Altogether 27 courses in 20 locations for 273 stakeholders.
- ✓ **2018:** We conducted 20 Expert Courses in Europe, Asia and Russia – 171 stakeholders from 33 countries participated.
- ✓ **2017:** In July, we became the first FSC training provider endorsed by ASI (Assurance Services International) to fulfil the FSC's new, stricter requirements for auditor training. Our FSC Training Programme is now separated into a five-day FSC Forest Management course and a three-day FSC Chain of Custody course, combined with online modules. [Training Hub](#) was also launched in 2017.
- ✓ **2012-2017:** We provided FSC Expert training for over 200 participants from many countries. The trainings were regularly conducted in English and Russian and attracted participants of all nationalities, representing the private and public sector as well as NGOs. Our intensive five-day course was endorsed as fulfilling the formal requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council™.
- ✓ **2012 onwards:** We have organised business seminars including corporate training on topics such as the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and forestry certification requirements for participants in Europe and Asia.
- ✓ **2014 onwards:** We have organised training on timber legality to hundreds of organisations and timber companies in Europe, Asia and Africa, under the scope of international donor-funded projects. Such training courses aim at helping companies better comply with applicable legislations such as the EUTR and FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) requirements.
- ✓ **2012:** Contracted by the European Forest Institute and in collaboration with IDL Group and the Rainforest Alliance, Preferred by Nature provided training on FLEGT, REDD, the EU Timber

Regulation and other legality policies, and public and private purchasing policies related to legal timber, for 31 public sector professionals from 5 African countries.

- ✓ **2011-2012:** Contracted by FSC to provide capacity building for FSC National Offices on the conduct of national Controlled Wood Risk Assessments to identify the risk of unacceptable forest management at country or sub-national level.
- ✓ **2009-2012:** Training of 700 forest contractors and forest owners in the framework of the CEFCO project jointly implemented by Preferred by Nature, European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs and FSC. Supported by the EU Eco-Innovation Fund.
- ✓ **2007:** Vocational training on sustainable forestry delivered to over 430 private forest owners and forestry professionals as a core part of two EU-financed projects.

### Awareness raising

- ✓ **2009:** Training for about 40 public sector professionals on awareness raising and stakeholder inclusion to support Natura 2000 protection of unique nature at Northern part of Cyprus.

### Nature conservation

- ✓ **2001-2007:** Training needs analyses, planning, execution and facilitation of numerous workshops and training events covering many topics, with the overall aim of implementing the EU Habitats and Water Framework Directives, including mapping and designating Natura 2000 protected areas. Delivered in the framework of projects financed by the Danish Ministry of Environment.

### Civil society

- ✓ **2008:** Organisation of NGO capacity building for Belarusian NGOs. In collaboration with the Environmental Information Center, Lithuania. Funded by Nordic Council of Ministers.

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