

Forest Management Annual Surveillance Audit of RDLP w Katowicach located at ul. sw. Huberta 43/45, 40-543 Katowice, Poland March 12th, 2018

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody Annual Surveillance Audit of the RDLP w Katowicach located in ul. św. Huberta 43/45, 40-543 Katowice, Poland. The audit will be carried out on April 23-25, 2018.

Scope of the Annual Surveillance Audit – The forest management annual audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by RDLP w Katowicach, using the FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013. 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 and this evaluation process must follow procedures which have been approved. The standard mentioned above may be downloaded from FSC Poland website <https://pl.fsc.org/pl/dokumenty> or FSC IC website <https://ic.fsc.org/en/document-center/id/217>.

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.

Evaluation Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Jacek Slizowski (Poland). Other auditors: Piotr Nowak (Poland), Pawel Synowiec (Poland), Michal Wajnberger (Poland). Observer: Aliaksandr Zubkevich (Belarus).

Evaluation Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the audit process and a tentative agenda:

- Evaluation organization – NEPCon team will assemble in RDLP w Katowicach on the first date of the audit.
- Field evaluation – The team will visit sites managed by RDLP w Katowicach during the audit.
- Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding RDLP w Katowicach 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 the office of NEPCon Sp. z o.o., ul. Emaus 7/11, 30-201 Krakow, Poland on April 16th, 2018.
- Final evaluation briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with RDLP w Katowicach 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 RDLP w Katowicach. This should occur 28 days after completion of the assessment.
- Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from RDLP w Katowicach forest managers and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur not later than in the middle of June 2018.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification evaluation process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on RDLP w Katowicach 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 evaluation process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either

prior to the on-site evaluation during the evaluation 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 before the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to NEPCon staff.
3. Submit written comments by mail, fax or email to NEPCon staff. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the RDLP w Katowicach.
4. During the meeting held in NEPCon office on April 16th, 2018.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available only to FSC, ASI 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 <https://www.nepcon.org/library/policy/dispute-resolution-policy-polish>

Contacting NEPCon

- Email: poland@nepcon.org
- Worldwide Website – www.nepcon.org
- Telephone – +48 12 427 00 93
- FAX – +48 12 376 79 79

I look forward to discussing this with you,

Michał Wajnberger
FM Task Manager, Lead Auditor
SBP Coordinator