

Forest Management Certification Reassessment of Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand in Invercargill, New Zealand January 19, 2019

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification reassessments of the Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand, located in Invercargill, New Zealand. The reassessment will be implemented from 4 to 7 March 2019.

Scope of the Certification Reassessment – The forest management certification reassessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the plantations managed by Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand, using National Standard for Certification of Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand FSCSTD-NZL-01-2012 and FM-35: Rainforest Alliance Chain-of-Custody Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FMEs) (19 Aug 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™1 (FSC®) and this reassessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Reassessment Team Composition – The Reassessment team will be led by Graeme Gillies. The team members will be Addis Tsehaye.

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

- ◆ Reassessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Invercargill on March 3, 2019.
- ◆ Field reassessments – The team will visit sites managed by Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand from 4 to 7 March 2019.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand 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 a centrally located public meeting place for Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final Reassessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The Reassessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand and a minimum of one reviewer. This should occur 30 days after completion of the reassessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand forest managers and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by May 2019.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification reassessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand 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 reassessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to March 23, 2019 so that we

can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by May 2019. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon Reassessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Pratama Bagus Kurniaji, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification Reassessment from Asia Pacific Regional Office. If Pratama Bagus Kurniaji is not in the office, please give your comments to either Indu Bikal Sapkota.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Pratama Bagus Kurniaji. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Southland Plantation Forest Company of New Zealand.

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.org

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: pkurniaji@nepcon.org for Pratama Bagus Kurniaji or isapkota@nepcon.org for Indu Bikal Sapkota
- ◆ Worldwide Website – www.nepcon.org.
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- ◆ Mail address – Rainforest Alliance - Asia Pacific Regional Office
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