

## **Forest Management Certification Assessment of “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” in forest district Möggelinsee, forest district Drei Grenzen, forest district Heidehof, state Brandenburg, Germany 23rd of March**

**Introduction** - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” located in Brandenburg, Germany. The assessment will be implemented from May 15 to 16, 2018.

**Scope of the Certification Assessment** – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest district Möggelinsee, forest district Drei Grenzen, forest district Heidehof managed by “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH”, using FSC Standard 2.3 for Germany. 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 Forest Stewardship Council™ and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved. [NOTE: IF THE STANDARD USED IS AN FSC ACCREDITED STANDARD, INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A COPY OF THE STANDARD NEED TO BE PROVIDED].

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 **Michal Wajnberger** (qualified forester). The team members will be: **Michael Kutschke** (forester dipl.) and **Ulrich Karl Müller** (auditor and consultant).

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

- ♦ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Neu Zauche, at the restaurant „ZUM OBERSPREEWALD“ 15th of May 2018.
- ♦ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” from May 15 to 16, 2018
- ♦ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding the forest management of the forest district Möggelinsee, forest district Drei Grenzen, forest district Heidehof in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ♦ Public stakeholder meetings – A public stakeholder meeting can be held in a centrally located public meeting point if necessary.
- ♦ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” 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 “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” and a minimum of 1 independent peer reviewers. This should occur soon after completion of the assessment.
- ♦ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” forest managers and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by August 30, 2018].

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH” managers FME 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 assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to April 23, 2018 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by June 30, 2018. 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 Michael Kutschke, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from Berlin. If Michael Kutschke is not in the office, please give your comments via mail.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Michael Kutschke. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the “Wald und Grundbesitz GmbH”.

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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