

**Forest Management Certification Assessment of
Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului
in Bistrita, Bistrita-Nasaud County, Romania
1.09.2016**

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessments of the Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului located in Bistrita, Bistrita-Nasaud County, Romania. The assessment will be implemented from 17th October 2016 to 22th October 2016.

The FMUs included under evaluation: **Sieu and Batos (FMU Sieu Batos), Monor (FMU Monor), Mariselu (FMU IV Mariselu, FMU III Mariselu, FMU II Mariselu si FM I Mariselu), Galatii Bistritei (FMU Galatii Bistritei), Teaca (FMU Teaca), Sieut (FMU Sieut), Sieu-Magherus (FMU Sieu Magherus), Sintereag (FMU Sintereag), Lechinta (FMU Lechinta).**

Scope of the Certification Assessment - The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest managed by Ocolul Silvic Comunal Romuli RA, using the “*NEPCon Interim Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Romania*”. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, 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™ (FSC™) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

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, Juraj Tužinský, Lead Auditor (Slovakia). The team members will be: Ionut Barnoaiea, Auditor, Gabriel Duduman and Alexandru Orban, Local experts.

Assessment Steps and Schedule - Following a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization - NEPCon team will assemble in Bistrita on 17th October 2016.
- ◆ Field assessments - The team will visit sites managed by FME from 17th October to 22th October 2016
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation - Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului 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 Bistrita in a centrally located public meeting place for Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing - Prior to departure the team will meet with Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului 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 Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului and a minimum of two independent peer reviewers.
- ◆ Certification decision - Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului forest managers and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision.

Your Input Sought - As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului 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, 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 after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Alexandru Orban, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from 14/22 Eroilor, Cluj-Napoca, Cluj County, Romania. If Alexandru Orban is not in the office, please give your comments to Marcela Man.
3. Submit written comments by email to Alexandru Orban. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Ocolul Silvic Valea Sieului.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available 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 <http://www.nepcon.net/ro/politica-de-solutionare-conflictelor>

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: ao@nepcon.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website - <http://www.nepcon.org/contact/romania>
- ◆ Telephone - 0040 742 032 081

I look forward to discussing this with you

Alexandru Orban
Auditor and coordinator

