



Multiplying our Impacts

RA-Cert joins NEPCon

After two decades of close partnership, NEPCon and Rainforest Alliance (RA) signed the agreement for NEPCon to acquire RA's certification, assurance, and auditing division (RA-Cert).

Our combined organisation



Under the name of **NEPCon** (Nature Economy and People Connected)



+200 staff and a wide network of partners and consultants



Deliver **services** in forestry, agriculture, responsible sourcing, biomass, carbon footprinting, and tourism



Operate in **6 continents** with Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark



+20 legal entities covering service delivery all over the world



Work with **same RA-Cert partners**



Delivering services in more than **70 countries**

Integration timeline (2018)

July
Rainforest Alliance begins process for **legally assigning client agreements to NEPCon**, effective upon closing

July
Rainforest Alliance and NEPCon **sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement** for NEPCon's acquisition of RA-Cert, including staff and partners

July - September
RA-Cert and NEPCon continue to **integrate our quality and technical systems** for client and audit management to ensure we have seamless service delivery

July - September
NEPCon completes **country legal entity registrations** to have subsidiary companies in place for regional operations

Closing in October
RA-Cert staff formally **become employees of NEPCon**, and Rainforest Alliance **assigns agreements to NEPCon**, making NEPCon responsible for certification/verification agreement terms with clients

July - September
Audits and service delivery **remains the same** with RA-Cert

Planned for October
Clients receive their **new certificate/verification statement issued in the name of NEPCon**; all other information remains the same, including scope and registration code

October onwards
Audits and service delivery are provided by **the same** individuals clients know in their regions, but will be **under the name of NEPCon** with issuance of NEPCon invoices

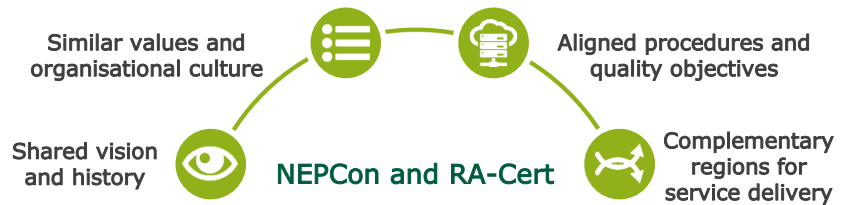


Why?

Rainforest Alliance and UTZ merged in January 2018, while at the same time, Rainforest Alliance assumed **full management** of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) certification system and standard. This positions Rainforest Alliance as a certification scheme owner for the same sustainable agriculture certification programme that RA-Cert audits. In order to ensure the impartiality of the agriculture scheme, it is necessary for Rainforest Alliance to **divest its in-house certification body (RA-Cert)**.

Our history together

It was natural selection for Rainforest Alliance to move forward with NEPCon as the new home for RA-Cert. We have had a **twenty-year history of collaboration**, working together on FSC™ services and eventually sustainable agriculture. Currently we provide the same FSC-approved lead auditor training programme, and offer our services according to the same guiding principles.



Our combined suite of services

ResponsibleSource & LegalSource™	Forestry					
Carbon Footprinting	Traceability					
Palm Oil	Agriculture	6-0044-16-100-00				
Biomass	Tourism					

Additional to our current service offering, we are listening to our clients and considering where it will be valuable to add more options for audit bundling, such as organic and RSPO Principles & Criteria.

Consistent service delivery



- Service delivery continues from **same staff, partners and auditors** known at RA-Cert (for RA-Cert clients).
- **Client audit schedule and key certification dates** remain the same.
- **Certificate/verification codes** can keep "RA" for an extended period; the transition to "NC" will begin in 2021. The same 6 digit number will remain the same.
- **Use of the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal** will remain accessible to RA Agriculture, FSC and Tourism clients.
- **Audit fees** remain in line with current fees.

Very few changes



- Rainforest Alliance certification/verification agreement obligations are **assigned to NEPCon** upon final closing of the RA-Cert acquisition
- **The certification body** name issuing the certificate/verification to client is NEPCon (previously Rainforest Alliance).
- NEPCon will issue a **new certificate (or verification statement)** in the name of NEPCon, while all other client and scope details remain the same.



Read more: www.nepcon.org/nepcon-ra-cert
www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/ra-cert-nepcon

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