

## Proposals to develop National Risk Assessments and FSC National Standard for Republic of Belarus

### 1. This proposal is submitted by:

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Signed: 

Position: Chair of Standard Development Group of Belarus (SDGB)

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### 2. Objective including the scope of National Risk Assessment and FSC National Standard

Belarus has 5,4 mln ha of FSC certified forests. There are 57 FSC CoC certificates, part of them are group certificates (total 96 companies have FSC CoC certificates). 35 companies have CoC/CW certificates. By that area of FSC certified forests Belarus ranks 7th in the World. In the same time it is the country with the biggest area of FSC certified forests, which don't have FSC national standard and National risk assessment.

FSC certification is established in Belarus mainly to export market demand. The total cost of export was 133 Mln USD in 2010. 63% of forest export was directed to Poland, 12% to Germany, also to Latvia, Lithuania & Netherland. Belarus is not highly visible but very important part of supply chain of FSC certified products to Poland and from Poland later to EU. Belarus is also the area of major international investment projects. The examples of investors are Kronospan, VMG (major furniture manufacturer for IKEA), Egger and some others. These investors are oriented to FSC certification. The government owned two major forest product exporters Bellesbumpromexport and Bellesexport are also supportive to FSC, due to their exposure to EU market partner.

All forest in Belarus belongs to Government and managed by state FMU's, belonging to Ministry of forestry (86%), Presidential Administration (8%), The Ministry of Emergency Situations (2%) and some smaller institutions. The CH's are state FMU's, consequently they cover the costs of FSC certification. The Ministry of forestry preferred system is PEFC. Belarus has about 8 mln ha of PEFC certified forests. FSC scheme at the moment do not have enough Government support, and it is supported mainly by market driven organizations, such as forest product exporters, investors and FMU's, which sells timber to market partners, and to some extent by academic organizations and experts.

The level of forests management in Belarus is quite satisfactory, comparing Ukraine and especially Russia, due to the fact that implementation of forest legislation is ensured properly by FMU's. In the same time there are some challenges for FSC certification there. Almost 25% of forests in Belarus were affected by Chernobyl radiation. National forestry regulations are not very "favourable" to FSC Principle 6 and 9. There are few of independent stakeholders, which may address the quality of certification.

Taking into account the value of Belarus in the supply chain to Poland and EU, the area of FSC certified forests and number of CW certificates, the value for investors and the credibility issues it would be important to develop FSC National Standard for Republic of Belarus and National risk assessment.

National Risk Assessments and FSC National Standard will be developed for a whole country

### 3. Timetable:

Item	Time needed	Estimated Date
Formation of Standards Development Group		July 15, 2013
1st Draft National Risk Assessment	75 days	October 1, 2013
Stakeholder Comments Consultation report 2nd Draft Submit application for approval to FSC	60 days	November 30, 2013
Next step: Development of the FSC National Standard	2 years	2015

### 4. Funding and resources available, and/or of potential sources of funding:

Item	Resources needed	Source	Contribution	Confirmed?
Development of the National Risk Assessment	15000 USD	FSC	15000 USD	yes
Development of the FSC National Standard	looking for funding			

### 5. Working language(s) for the Standards Development Group:

Russian

### 6. Name, qualifications and contact details of the designated Coordinator:

Name: Maxim Yermokhin  
Role: Chair of Standards Development Group of Belarus  
Contact: 220072, Belarus, Minsk, Academicheskaya, 27, of. 311  
t. +375 29 578 80 68  
yemaxim@yahoo.com  
Date of birth: 25.08.1975  
Education and/or qualifications: Higher education - Belarusian State University of Technology, Department of Forestry, 1992-1997.  
Post graduate education - Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, 1997-2000

Diplomas: Diploma of Forestry and Landscape engineer, Belarusian State University of Technology (1997)  
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Biology, Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (2010) (Ecological & phytocenotic peculiarities of the spruce forests dynamics on the local stand disturbances in Belarus)

Languages: Russian, Belarusian, English

Previous job:

- 2007- present Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Laboratory of Productivity & Stability of Plant Communities, senior researcher
- 2006-2007 UNDP, forest monitoring expert
- 2005-2006 APB-BirdLife Belarus, forest conservation officer
- 2002-2005 «MobileTeleSystems», engineer
- 1997-2002 Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, PhD student, junior scientific worker

Areas of work: inventory and management of high conservation value forests, forest vegetation monitoring, forest certification, ecologically focused forestry, estimation of ecological damage

Scientific interests: dendrochronology, forest ecology, sustainable forestry, influence of climatic and anthropogenic factors on forest/trees, climate and forest reconstruction. Author of more than 80 science or popular science articles

Summary of relevant work experience:

- May, 2013 ASI consultant for ASI auditor related to the annual forest management surveillance audit of SmartWood at Vitebsk Regional Forest Board in Belarus
- 2013 Expert of the project "Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus", EU/UNDP
- 2011-2012 Expert of the project "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices in Belarus", GEF/UNDP
- November, 2011 ASI consultant for ASI auditor related to the annual forest management surveillance audit of SGS QUALIFOR at Gomel Regional Forest Board in Belarus
- 2008-2010 One of the main author of the National Strategy of Forestry Adaptation to Climate Change
- 2008-2010 Manager of the project «Ensuring long-term conservation and biodiversity friendly management of High Conservation Value Forests by incorporating HCVF principles into standard forest management practice (Pilot projects on the territory of Pruzhany, Dzisna and Hlybokaye forest enterprises), APB-BirdLife Belarus, Ameco (Netherlands), Institute of Experimental Botany
- July, 2007 ASI consultant for ASI auditor related to the annual forest management surveillance audit of SmartWood at Mogilev Regional Forest Board in Belarus
- 2005-2007 coordinator of High Conservation Value Forest Mapping project in Belarus, APB-BirdLife Belarus
- 1999-2013 completed more than 40 projects for designation of new reserves and national parks or their reorganization

## **7. Name, qualifications and contact of the members of Standard Development Group**

*Environmental chamber*

### **Mr. Vladimir Usenia**

E-mail: usenyaforinst@gmail.com

Was born in 1958 in the Starodorozhsky Area (Minsk Region, the Republic of Belarus). Graduated from the Kirov Byelorussian Technological Institute in 1980. Speciality: forest engineer. Is deputy director of research at the Forest Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and head of the Laboratory of Forest Regeneration and Protection. An author of more than 200 scientific works (including five monographs and a manual "Forest Pyrology" intended for lecturers and students of institutions of higher education) dedicated to problems of sylvics, silviculture, regeneration, reforestation and forest fire protection. Doctor of Agriculture, Professor.

### **Mr. Viktor Fenchuk**

E-mail: fenchuk@tut.by

Born in 1975 in Brest, Belarus. Conservationist, director of the largest Belarusian nature conservation organization - APB-BirdLife Belarus. Despite long-term engagement with BirdLife, Viktor Fenchuk started his professional career as forest researcher at Belavezhskaja pushcha national park, the most renowned protected area in Belarus. Later he moved to the National academy of sciences, and then - worked for APB in different positions, becoming the director in 2006. His current conservation interests include restoration of degraded peatlands (bogs and mires) and the support of wilderness, especially in forest ecosystems. Viktor is a member of a number of governmental and parastatal committees working groups in Belarus.

*Economic chamber*

### **Mr. Bui Andrei**

E-mail: forestry@gplho.by

Born in 1971 in Ostovets, Belarus. Head of Forestry Department of the Grodno Region Forestry Board, Belarus. Speciality: forest engineer (Diploma Engineer of Forestry, 1993). Mr. Bui is Ph.D. in Forestry (1997). Basic scientific interests and activities: Forest and timber measurement; forest inventory and forest management; simulation and optimization models development; software development (Microsoft Windows PC and Pocket PC platforms). He is author of lecture and practical courses "Forest measurement and inventory" for teaching skilled workman in college. Developing courses "Guide for planning forest cutting" for training foresters and forest masters (2009-2010). Taking part in preliminary study timber and residue material classification and accounting as part of business plan development for joint Sweden-Belarus enterprise in Volcovysk (Forest harvesting and wooden chips production, 2007-2008). Developing proposal for improvement national forest measurement regulations, including issues for biodiversity conservation and adoption to international forest certification schemes (2004-2010). Taking part like contact person of Grodno Region Forestry Board in Baltic Sea Region Program 2007-2013 for promoting bio-energy (GRFB and Volcovysk take part in Bio-energy Promotion Project like partners along with 33 participants). Forestry expert from Ministry of Forestry Republic Belarus in Forest Europe process and legally binding agreement development for European forests (since 2010). Expert work in Belarus FLEG. It was proposed analyze of existing timber accounting systems in neighbors countries, North America, Belarus and proposals for improvement national timber accounting system. Result of work was published in report "Ways for improving timber accounting system in Belarus in the base of international experience" (2011). Contact person and expert work with World Bank for developing

draft "Strategic National Forestry Development Plan for Belarus" (section National Policy and Legislation, 2012).

**Mr. Andrey Shakuro**

E-mail: andrey.w-craft@mail.ru

Director General of Co Ltd "Woodcraft". He graduated from the Belarusian State University, "Physics". He worked at the Belarusian State University after that managed a number of commercial structures. He took part in the development of programs for forest inventory in Belarus. Mr. Andrey Shakuro is representative of the company "Haglof" in Belarus. Co Ltd "Woodcraft" specializes in the supply and sale of seedlings of coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs and, large trees. At the same time Co Ltd "Woodcraft" sells forest inventory equipment from "Haglof" and "Suunto" companies.

*Social chamber*

**Ms. Yulia Tolkach**

E-mail: mikhailova-y@mail.ru

Senior legal inspector of labor of the National Committee of the Belarusian Trade Union of Workers of the forest (from 2011). She graduated from the Belarusian State University in 2002 with a degree in law. In 2006, she graduated from the Master of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (MAUP), Kyiv, specialty International Business and Marketing. In 2002-2005 she worked in educational institutions, "The Institute for Parliamentary and entrepreneurship" as a senior lecturer of law. In 2005-2011 she worked in the manufacturing Minsk State Forestry Association in the position of leading Counsel. Expert in existing legislation governing the social and economic issues in the forestry and wood industries.

**Ms. Tatjana Slobodnik**

E-mail: tatjana-slobodnik@rambler.ru

Head of Department of Forest Certification company "Belgiproles." Speciality: forest engineer (Diploma Engineer of Forestry, 1986). Participated:

In the development of standards for sustainable forest management, regulating reproduction, protection and conservation of forests, timber harvesting and other forest resources, taking into account the requirements of the international criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

In the pilot forest FSC certification project (financed by WWF) in Smorgon forestry enterprise. Audit was conducted by Woodmark Soil Association.

In the preparation of 45 forestry enterprises to audit by the FSC scheme by Woodmark Soil Association and SGS (2001-2008).

As a technical expert in the conduct of the audit firm SGS "Poland" work for forest FSC certification 20 forest enterprises under the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus (2008-2010).

It is freely versed in the all issues of forest management related to social, economic and ecological features.

**8. Name, qualifications and contact of technical experts**

**Mr. Siarhei Minkevich**

E-mail: minkevich@mail.by

Docent of the Forestry Faculty, Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) (from 2008). Speciality: forest engineer. PhD Degree (Candidate of Agricultural Sciences) in Specialty Forest Mensuration and Forest Management Planning (2003). Docent degree (Ass. Prof.) in Specialty "Forestry" (2010). In 1999 – 2001 – part-time lecturer (assistant) of Forest Management Planning Department, Forestry Faculty, BSTU. In 2001 – 2008 – a senior lecturer of the Forest Management Planning Department, BSTU.

In 2011-2013 participated in preparation of Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for a) state enterprises belonging to wood-processing and furniture sector of «Bellesbumprom Concern» (i.e. Joint-stock company FanDok, Gomeldrev, Borisovdrev, etc), and b) for some small enterprises (logging and primary processing of wood raw materials and elements for furniture and instruction industries (windows, doors, sections, wallboards, etc.)).

In 2010-2013 participated in Controlled Wood Verification field audits as well as Forest Management and Chain of Custody audits (as an expert).