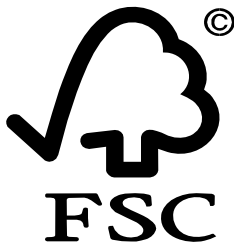


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SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

Forest Management Certification Assessment Report for:

**Brest Regional Forest Board,
Republic of Belarus**

Report Finalized: 19.04.2006

Assessment Date: 03-07.10.2005

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Certificate issue date: May 8, 2006

Certificate code: SW-FM/COC-1875

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Acronyms

CAR	- Corrective Action Request
CoC	- Chain of Custody
FSC	- Forest Stewardship Council
SFE	- State Forest Enterprise

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent certification assessment conducted by a team of specialists representing the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social sustainability of Brest Regional Forest Boards' forest management as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

This report contains four main sections of information and findings and several appendixes. The whole report plus appendixes I and II will become public information about the forest enterprise that may be distributed by SmartWood or FSC to stakeholders. The remainder of the appendixes is confidential, and only authorized staff of SmartWood and FSC have access to them as well as peer reviewers with whom agreement on confidentiality is placed.

The purpose of the SmartWood program is to recognize conscientious land stewardship through independent evaluation and certification of forestry practices. Forest enterprises that receive SmartWood certificate may use the SmartWood and FSC labels in future for marketing and advertising purposes

Brest Regional Forest Board (hereinafter 'Forest Board') arranges group certification (group 1) under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system for 5 state forest enterprises that manage forest lands of the Republic of Belarus. State forest enterprises are the property of the state, and registered in the Republic of Belarus. Besides, 4 sawmills, which belong to these 5 state forest enterprises, declared there wish to receive FSC certification.

Main assessment of the forest enterprises was carried out by the company NEPCon in to identify if forest management on the territory of 447,2 thousand hectares meet requirements of FSC system certification standard. In the process of main assessment temporary standards for the Republic of Belarus were used.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

1.1. Scope of the certificate

Certification was carried out for the group of state forest enterprises of Brest region in accordance with the requirements of SmartWood and FSC rules. Currently the group includes 5 members; all of them are state forest enterprises registered pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Brest Regional Forest Board is the manger of the group (Forest Board).

Certificate includes area of all the 5 state forest enterprises and sale of forest products from this territory and from 4 sawmills, which belong to these forest enterprises (see table below).

Group number, members	Juridical address	Area of state forest enterprise, '000 ha		Amount of sawmills
		Total	wood covered	
Group 1				
Telehanskij SFE	225275, Brest region, Ivacevitchskij district, village Telehany	102,7	88,8	1
Ivacevitchskij SFE	225295, Brest region, city Ivacevitchy, Lesnaya str., 5	104,7	87,1	0
Baranovitchskij SFE	220409, Brest region, city Baranovitchy, Mayakovski str., 7	90,9	81,1	1
Pruzhanskij SFE	225140, Brest region, city Pruzhany, Gorina-Kolyady str., 9	72,6	66,9	1
Brestskij SFE	224022, city Brest, Kobrinskaya str, 53	76,3	69,0	1
Total		447,2	392,9	4

More detailed information about SFE and areas covered by the scope of certificate is given in the Appendixes II and III. .

1.2. Exclusion of areas from the scope of certificate

X	Applicability of FSC partial certification and excision policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	All forest land owned or managed by the FME is included in the scope of this evaluation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FME owns and/or has management involvement in other forest land/properties (forest management units) not being evaluated. Provide description of other forests below:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is any portion of the forest management unit (s) under evaluation for certification being excluded? If yes, complete all sections below.
Comments /	Brest Regional forest board is coordinating forestry related activities in Brest

Explanation for exclusion:	region including both certified and non certified Forest Management Enterprises of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus. The assessment only covers enterprises which have decided to participate in the first round of FSC certification in Belarus.	
Control measures	Seperate certificate is issued to each Forest Management Enterprise within the group including a specific sub code and the name of the group member.	
	Other Forest area	Location
		Size (ha)

All the area managed by the five above stated SFE is included into this certificate. Other state forest enterprises of Brest Region are not yet included, but they can be included later on pursuant to the rules and procedures established by FSC and SmartWood. Luninetsk SFE of Brest region was certified on the individual bases. The Regional Forest Board decided to start the certification process with the current group members, but have expressed plans for later to certified other state forest enterprises.

The following state forest enterprises of Brest Regional Forest Board do not participate in the certification now:

Gantsevichskij (total area is 105800 ha),
Drogichinskij (55000 ha),
Kobriniskij (72700 ha),
Lyahovichskij (52900 ha),
Maloritskij (76300),
Pinskij (100800 ha),
Stolinskij (87600 ha) ,

In Certification procedures under FSC international certification system of group of forest enterprises, which were elaborated by Brest Regional forest Board, it is stated that a member can be excluded from the certified amount upon the following:

1. Upon expiration of validity of awarded certificate, provided regional representative of SmartWood is notified on amendment in the amount of group members 30 days before the exclusion.
2. Before date of expiration of certificate:
 - if forest management requirements defined in the SmartWood standard are not met,
 - in case of submission of application on the voluntary basis with indication of reasons of exclusion,
 - when the activities were completed or because of the lack of activities,
 - in case of incompetent utilization of FSC logo.

2. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Certification Standard Used

Before pre-assessment the company NEPCon prepared draft temporary standard for Belarus on the basis of SmartWood Generic Standard and draft standards developed on the basis of contiguous region.

In the process of pre-assessment this standard was tested by assessment team and appropriate comments on it were received. Further development of the standard was continued before and after main assessment on the basis of comments of stakeholder and results of its practical utilization.

2.2. Assessment team and qualifications

Head of the team, leading auditor Andrei P.Laletin (NEPCon, Russia).

A.Laletin works in the company NEPCon from August 2004. Before this he worked in Institute of Forest of Russian Academy of Sciences (degree of Candidate of biological sciences under specialty «03.00.16 – Ecology»), coordinated Russian national forest program of International Nature Conservation Unit, and was a teacher in Krasnoyarsk State University and Siberian Technological University. He is also a member of management bodies of a number of non-governmental organizations such as “Friend of Siberian Forest”, International Taiga Rescue Network”, Global Forest Coalition, etc. Participant of FSC organizational conference (Toronto, Canada, 1993). Has a considerable experience in FSC certification, participated in 14 forest management assessments (2 times as the Head of the group), and in 15 chain of custody assessments (also 2 times as the Head of the group).

He participated and administered numerous international projects, and he was an auditor in the process of FSC certification of Kosihinskij forest enterprise of Altai region (first certificate in Russia) and Smorgon forest enterprise of Grodno region (first certificate in Belarus).

Auditor Alexander V.Pugachevskij (Institute of Experimental Botany named in honor of Kuprevich of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus).

Alexander V.Pugachevskij is Deputy Director of the Institute of Experimental Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, responsible for scientific work (degree of Candidate of biological science under specialty «03.00.05 – Botany»). He is also a member of a number of non-governmental organizations: Belarus Botanical Society (member of presidium), Belarus Society of Foresters, Society “Birdlife Belarus”, international organization «Forest Task Force», etc. He has a considerable experience in development of management plans for specially protected territories, ecologically oriented forest management methods, methods for organization and implementation of forest monitoring and vegetable world in whole. A.Pugachevskij is one of the developers of national forest certification system and he is official national expert and auditor (certificate № BY / 112 07.4.2.003). Participant and manager of a lot of international projects in the field of sustainable forest management and forest ecology. Gives a course of lectures on forest certification in the Republican training center for improvement of skills of forestry

manpower. He was a consultant in the process of FSC certification of Smorgon forest enterprise of Grodno region, which was carried out by the company Woodmark.

Auditor Gediminas Brasajtis (Lithuanian agricultural university, Kaunas, Lithuania).

Gediminas Brasajtis is forest ecologist with an experience in the field of biodiversity protection. He graduated from forestry faculty of Lithuanian agricultural university. In his Master work he studied management of hunting activities, and in Doctor Dissertation he studied a broad range of questions related to impact of fellings on birds (Title of the work is “Impact of clear cuttings on bird societies of leaved forest”. Currently Gediminas Brasajtis works at the chair of forest management and applied ecology of Lithuanian agricultural university. Now he works like an assistant professor and gives lectures on biology of forest animals, ecology and nature protection. Gediminas Brasajtis actively analyses interaction between people and forest biodiversity in order to find harmonization and compromise between interest of human society in the field of nature protection and forest utilization. Gediminas Brasajtis participated in FSC forest management assessments and in annual audits in Lithuania starting from 2004.

Auditor Peter Sprang (NEPCon, Germany).

Peter Sprang has a scientific degree of Master on silviculture of Freiburg University, Germany, and he is a leading auditor. In 1995 Peter participated in tour of students of forest universities of Germany to the Republic of Belarus. Peter Sprang works in the field of forest certification from 1999. He gained experience in the forest certification project GTZ. He worked in the following companies: Pi Environmental Consulting, secretariat FSC International, Forwood International и Ecologic. From 2001 Peter Sprang works part time in the company SmartWood and in partner organization NEPCon, participates in certification assessments and audits in North America, Eastern Europe and South and East Asia. Currently Peter Sprang is working on the Doctor work on forest certification.

2.3. Peer reviewers

Peer reviewer No. 1 is an expert in the field of nature protection and sustainable nature utilization in Belarus, Russian and other countries of Eastern Europe. He was educated in Belarus, Norway, Italy and USA. Currently peer reviewer coordinates program on Russian and Eastern European forest in well-known non-governmental organization.

Peer reviewer No. 2 joins work in non-governmental ecological organization with scientific work (he prepares Ph D dissertation). He is one of the largest specialists in the Republic of Belarus in the field of high conservation value forest.

2.4. Assessment schedule (including pre-assessment and stakeholder consultation)

Date	General location (main	Main activities
------	------------------------	-----------------

	sites)	
	Pre-assessment	
14.06.2005	Baranovitchskij SFE	Interview in the office of enterprise, field visit and visit to the sawmill of the enterprise. Internal team meeting.
	Main assessment	
03.10.2005	Brest Regional Forest Board	Interview in the office of enterprise. Internal team meeting.
03.10.2005	Brest SFE	Interview in the office of enterprise and stakeholder consultations. Internal team meeting.
04.10.2005	Brest SFE	Field visit and visit to the sawmill of the forest enterprise. Internal team meeting.
05.10.2005 (half a day)	Brest SFE	Internal team meeting. Interview in the office of enterprise, stakeholder consultations, and preliminary debriefing meeting.
05.10.2005 (half a day)	Pruzhanskij SFE	Interview in the office of enterprise and stakeholder consultations. Internal team meeting.
06.10.2005	Pruzhanskij SFE	Field visit and visit to the sawmill of the enterprise. Internal team meeting.
07.10.2005	Pruzhanskij SFE	Internal team meeting. Interview in the office of enterprise, consultations with stakeholders, preliminary debriefing.
Totally number of person-days: 24 = number of assessors participated (4), multiplied by the amount of working days for the audit (including pre-assessment) (6) * Detailed information on sites visited is given in Appendix 3.		

2.5. Evaluation strategy

Main assessment began on October 3 in the office of Group manager – Brest regional Forest Board. At the regional level we checked concordance to FSC group certification rules. At the first day of main assessment after visit to the Board we came to the office of Brest SFE which is situated near the office of Regional Board. Pursuant to FSC rules it is necessary to visit at least one third of group members. Out of five state forest enterprise at the random basis it was decided to assess Brestskij and Pruzhanskij state forest enterprise.

Initially in Brest SFE we interviews responsible specialists of the enterprise and selected routes for visit of objects for next day. On October 4 assessment team divided into two, A.P.Laletin and Peter Sprang checked chain of custody of the sawmill of enterprise which is situated not far from the office. After that they visited sites selected by them, in the Northern part of the forest enterprise.

A.V.Pugachevskij and G.Brasajtis concentrated on visits to the maximum amount of sites selected by them, in southern forest units, which reflect different aspects of SFE's activity. On the third day interview with SFE's specialists who was not interview on the first day was continued, and also with the stakeholders. Upon results of the work in Brest SFE a meeting with the staff of the SFE

responsible for different forest certification aspects was organized. On the second half of the day of October 5 we went to Pruzhanskij SFE. This day we interviewed specialists of the SFE and selected routes for field visit for the next day. Next day tem divided into two. A.P.Laletin and Peter Sprang checked chain of custody of the sawmill of Pruzhanskij SFE and on the way visited sites selected by them. A.V.Pugachevskij and G.Brasajtis concentrated on visit to the maximum amount of sites selected by them, which reflect different aspects of SFE's activity. In the morning on October 7 interview with stakeholders was organized. Upon results of the whole work in Brest Regional Forest Board a Collegium of Brest Regional Forest Board was organized on the basis of Pruzhanskij SFE with participation of directors of all the state forest enterprises of the region (including enterprises of the group), at the meeting preliminary results of forest management and chain of custody group certification were defined.

List of visited sites reflecting aspects of enterprise's activity:

Type of site	Amount	Type of site	Amount
Repair workshop	1	Bridges /passage over stream	1
Nursery	2	Wetland	2
Planned harvest site	2	Steep slope/erosion	1
Ongoing harvest site	4	Offshore zone	2
Soil scarification	2	Local population	2
Forest planting site	9	Weed management	2
Completed harvest	7	Natural reproduction	4
Manual harvest	3	Ecotopes of rare endangered species	2
	3	Regulation of live nature resources (bioengineering)	3
Skidding/forwarding			
Clear fellings	7	Nature reserve / reserve	5
Step-by-step fellings	5	Key biotope	3
Selected fellings	2	Special management site	1
Sanitary fellings	5	Historically valuable site	1
Intermediate fellings	12	Place for rest and entertainment	3
Entrance fellings	5	Buffer zone	1
Checking of documentation in the forest units	5	Sawmills	2
Planting of forest on the arable field	3	Fire fighting gaps	2

2.6. Stakeholder consultation process

In this case stakeholder consultation strategy aimed at the achievement of the following three objectives:

- To ensure that public is aware of and was informed on the assessment process and its tasks;
- To assist assessment team in discovery of potential arguable issues;
- To give public a possibility to participate in discussions and to have an influence on the audit results.

This process is not jut stakeholder notification, but wherever possible, detailed and meaningful stakeholder interaction. The process of stakeholder consultations does not stop after field visits, or for that matter, after decision on certification is made. SmartWood appreciates comments on

enterprises certified in any time; very often such comments make the basis of field work. In the case with Brest Regional Forest Board a public document on stakeholder consultation was prepared prior the assessment process, and it was distributed through e-mail, post and by fax. On the basis of data received from Brest Regional Forest Board a preliminary list of stakeholders was made, on the basis of which public document was distributed. This list also made the basis for selection of candidates for interview (personal meeting, through telephone or e-mail). In the process of stakeholder consultations meeting we also organized and questionnaire in written form was organized.

Stakeholder type (NGO, governmental organizations, local population, sub-contractors, etc.)	Stakeholders informed (number)	Consultations organized of information received (amount)
News list in English	232	3
New list in Danish	26	0
List of Russian stakeholders	43	1
List of Belarus stakeholders, including:	30	12
NGO and local population	25	9
Governmental institutions	5	3

3. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1. Stakeholder comments received

Stakeholder consultations were organized in such manner that all the participants had possibility to express their comments and observations on the common groups of interest on the basis of evaluation criteria. The below table summarizes received by the assessment team questions and also discussions of each questions on the basis of concrete interview and/or opinion expressed in the process of public meetings.

FSC Principle	Stakeholder comments	SmartWood response
P 1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance	1. It was confirmed that state forest enterprises of Brest regional Forest Board adhere to legislation in the field of environment protection, conservation of flora and fauna, specially protected nature territories.	1. No comments are required.
P 2: Tenure & Use Rights& Responsibilities	1. No comments received.	1. No comments are required.
P 3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Not applicable in the Republic of Belarus	
P4: Community Relations & Workers' Rights	1. Active and broad interaction between state forest enterprises and local population, schools (including work in the school forest units), participation in development of labor force market was admitted as well as provision of bodies in social sector, pensioners, workers of SFE, etc., with firewood and construction wood on the basis of reduced price. 2. Broad explanatory work of SFE's workers with local population in the field of fire fighting propaganda, prophylactic of forest damage, interview in mass media, etc. was admitted.	1. No comments are required. 2. No comments are required.
P 5: Benefits from the Forest	1. It was stated that in general forestry activities are effective, and there is a progress in the field of utilization of more nature protection technologies.	1. No comments are required.
P 6: Environmental impact	1. It was stated that state forest enterprises do a lot for improvement of ecological situation in the region: creation of forest on the taken agricultural lands, fire fighting, forest pest management and forest disease management, more forest	1. No comments are required.

	<p>cultures with participation of deciduous species are created.</p> <p>2. It was stated that there is an experience of biotechnical activities on improvement of population of rare animals and birds in Tomashevskoe forest unit of Brest SFE organized together by the SFE and students and teachers of Brest university; this experience should be widely distributed.</p> <p>3. At the same time in the process of forestry management out of the bodies of specially protected territories the following protection aspects are not taken into account: a) protection over mature forest; б) protection of rare protected species .</p>	<p>2. It is important that all the state forest enterprises of the group are acquainted with positive experience of Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE, and if available to disseminate it.</p> <p>3. Auditors agree with this comment and raised appropriate CAR (CAR FM-04/06 and CAR FM-05/06).</p>
P 7: Management Plan	<p>1. It was stated that in general planning and projection of forestry activities is in accordance with tasks and objectives of the forestry sector.</p> <p>2. Permanent forest inventory doesn't take into account social and ecological aspects of forestry management.</p> <p>3. From the other side high quality of planning of hunting management was stated.</p>	<p>1. No comments are required.</p> <p>2. Auditors agree with this comment and raised appropriate CAR (CAR FM-08/06)</p> <p>3. Comments are not required.</p>
P 8: Monitoring and Assessment	<p>1 It was stated that a lot of control bodies take part in the evaluation of SFE's activities, including external bodies and also developed system of internal control. There is also a definite system of ecological monitoring, in particular assessment of forest conditions under the system ICP-Forest.</p> <p>2. There is a well developed control system over condition of populations of hunting animals, and poaching management.</p> <p>3. At the same time there is no system to supervise over conditions of the main biodiversity values (populations of rare protected animals and plants, forest of high conservation value, etc.) in the process of forestry productions.</p>	<p>1. No comments are required.</p> <p>2. No comments are required.</p> <p>3. Auditors agree with this comment and raised appropriate CAR (CAR FM-09/06).</p>

P 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	<p>1. Non-sufficient degree of inventory of high conservation value forest was stated, and also the fact that necessity of their protection is not fully considered in the process of forest management.</p> <p>2. From the other side it was confirmed that a large job was done on maintenance of protection regimes and ecologization of forestry activities on the territories of nature reserves «Buslovka», «Mihalino-Berezovskij» in Pruzhanskij SFE and «Pribuzhskoe Polesje» in Brest SFE.</p>	<p>1. Auditors agree with this comment and raised appropriate CAR (CAR FM-12/06).</p> <p>2. No comments are required.</p>
P 10: Plantations	Not applicable in the Republic of Belarus.	

3.2. Strengths and weaknesses

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
P 1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good compliance with legislation. • Well developed protection against illegal fellings and other forest damage. • FSC public commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not found.
P 2: Tenure & Use Rights & Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents for land utilization. • Borders are clearly defined. 	Not found.
P 3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Not applicable in Belarus.	Not applicable in Belarus.
P 4: Community Relations & Workers' Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important employer in local communities. • Support of infrastructure, supply of firewood and construction wood. • Good system of prevention of accidents. • High qualified specialists. • Good relationships with local population. • Active interaction with local authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor protection rules are not always fulfilled, insufficient availability of protection clothes and fire extinguishers (CAR FM-01/06). • Stakeholders are not sufficiently involved into the planning of forestry activities (CAR FM-02/06).
P 5: Benefits from the Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed financial information. • Large range of timber and secondary forest products. • Consideration of local needs. • Fellings concord to the allowable cut. • Good conditions for recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites playing multi-functional role are not sufficiently documented: recreation, water resources, secondary products (fishing, mushrooms, biodiversity protection) (CAR FM -03/06).
P 6: Environmental Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of natural reforestation. • Considerable area of specially protected territories and conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of identification, registration and protection of rare and endangered species and

	<p>forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of impact of processing enterprises on environment. • Pesticides and fertilizers are not used in the forest. • Step-by-step increase of wood covered area and share of non-clean commercial fellings. 	<p>ecosystems with protected economic activities (minimum 5% of the territory) is not high (CAR FM-06/06).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing dry trees and dead fallen trees are taken away of the sites of commercial fellings in larger extent than it is necessary (CAR FM-04/06). • There no written procedures on leaving of 10 trees per 1 ha (large wind-fast, important for biodiversity) after commercial fellings (CAR FM-04/06). • Utilization of introduced species in the forest (Rec-FM- 02/06).
P 7: Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed materials of forest inventory which include: • procedures of calculation of allowable cut; • fire fighting, forest protection and other necessary measures; • forest inventory which regularly renews materials; • good cartographic materials, including electronic; • Staff is good acquainted with the majority aspects of management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest inventory projects don't contain full social and ecological information, and badly consider necessity of protection of high conservation value forest and protected species (CAR FM-08/06). • In spite of availability of electronic cartographic materials they are used not sufficiently and reined on the rare basis.
P 8: Monitoring & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive and clearly stated monitoring and control system. • Good documented sale system. • Excellent monitoring and control over hunting management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring over environment conditions, especially over rare species of plants and animals and high conservation value forest is weakly organized (CAR- FM-09/06). • There no written procedures on prevention of sale of confiscated timber as certified (CAR FM-10/06).
P 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information of definite sites of high conservation value forest (nature reserves and some others) is documented. • Restrictions in economic activities on protected areas are clearly defined. • Regular monitoring of protected territories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High conservation value forest is not fully identified and mapped (CAR FM-11/06). • There no consultations wit all the stakeholders concerning issues of allocation and protection of high conservation value forest (CAR FM-12/06 and Rec-FM-04/06). •
P 10: Plantations	Principle is not applicable in Belarus.	
Chain of Custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products are simple. • Sawmills use only own timber. • There are Orders of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient understanding of standard by the staff for SFEs (CAR COC-01/06). - Insufficient knowledge on

	Directors on keeping of documentation for 5 years period, and on appointment of responsible persons for different chain of custody procedures.	utilization of FSC logo (CAR COC-02/06). - Training of staff on compliance with FSC requirements is not organized to full extent (CAR COC-03/06).
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3.3. Identified non-compliances and corrective actions

A non-compliance is a discrepancy or gap identified during the assessment between some aspect of the FMO's management system and one or more of the requirements of the forest stewardship standard. Depending on the severity of the non-compliance the assessment team differentiates between major and minor non-compliances.

- **Major non-compliance** results where there is a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant FSC criterion. A number of minor non-compliances against one requirement may be considered to have a cumulative effect, and therefore be considered a major non-compliance.
- **Minor non-compliance** is a temporary, unusual or non-systematic non-compliance, for which the effects are limited.

Major non compliances must be corrected **before** the certificate can be issued. While minor non-compliances do not prevent issuing the certificate, they must be addressed within the given timeframe to maintain the certificate.

Each non-compliance is addressed by the audit team by issuing a **corrective action request (CAR)**. CARs are requirements that candidate operations must agree to, and which must be addressed within the given timeframe of a maximum of one year period.

CAR –FM-01/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.2.5 and 4.2.10
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not all the fellers of Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE had cut-proof trousers and special shoes. No useful life of fire extinguishers.
Corrective Action Request: All the state forest enterprises included in the group shall ensure that all the staff working with dangerous equipment and/or working harmful conditions have protection means. Personnel working with chain saws should have individual protection means and use them, including: a) cut-proof shoes b) cut-proof trousers. All the fire extinguishers shall have indication of useful life.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
CAR-FM- 02/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE did not demonstrate a system which allows local population and stakeholders to participate in the process of planning of forestry activities.
Corrective Action Request:	

Regional Forest Board and certified SFEs must elaborate and introduce system allowing local population and stakeholders to participate in the process of planning of forestry activities.
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.

CAR-FM- 03/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 5.5.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of impact of forestry activities on multiple forest functions (recreation, water collection properties), non-timber products (fishing, hunting, berries, and mushrooms), protection of cultural and natural values is not documented in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE.
Corrective Action Request: Regional Forest Board and certified state forest enterprises must elaborate and carry out documented evaluation of impact of forestry activities on multiple forest functions (recreation, water collection properties), non-timber products (fishing, hunting, berries, mushrooms), protection of cultural and natural values.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-FM- 04/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.1.1, 6.3.6 and 6.3.7
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of ecological aspects of management plan was not done in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE, although ecological activities are often used in practice (skidding is done over drawing rings which are strengthened by brushes, etc.). There is small amount of trees with hollows left on the sites. Dry trees and dead fallen wood, as a rule, are taken away. Seed trees are left in insufficient amount.
Corrective Action Request: New plans for organization and implementation of forest management of state forest enterprises included in the group must have evaluation of impact on environment, and in management plans should include activities on reduction of negative impact of harvesting operations before, in time and after operations. State forest enterprises must agree safety instructions with nature protection policy. To reduce negative ecological circumstances after fellings the following elements (or their parts) of forest ecosystem must be left standing (or on the site) in case if felling and transportation of these elements are not justified from the safety point of view and because of sanitary condition of stands: a) old trees and trees with hollows; б) dry trees and dead fallen wood (not less than 20 m3 per ha); в) seed trees of economically valuable species. State forest enterprises must elaborate and follow procedures on leaving at least 10 (5 in the case of broad-leaved) large live trees per hectare.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-FM- 05/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C : 6.2.1, 6.2.2 and 6.2.3
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooperation between Brestskij FE and Pruzhanskij SFE and NGOs and other stakeholders is not sufficient. Procedures on collection of information about rare species of flora ad fauna are not sufficiently elaborated. Activities on mapping of flora and fauna species are done, but not for all the rare species.
Corrective Action Request: State forest enterprises included in the group together with experts and nature protection organizations	

<p>should elaborate procedures of identification and mapping of ecotopes of all the rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, which live on the territories of the enterprises, using landscape approach. Identified ecotopes must be considered in the process of forestry activities.</p>
<p>Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.</p>

<p>CAR-FM-06/06</p> <p>Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Reference Standard: FSC P&C 6.4.1, 6.4.2 and 6.4.4.</p> <p>There were no consultations on allocation of representative sites of existing ecosystems in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE, the sites are not yet identified, not put on the maps and on the field. State forest enterprises don't have yet juridical formed nature reserves; in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Belarus sanitary fellings can be made on all the sites including nature reserves, but in practice the fellings are not carried out in the reserves.</p>
<p>Corrective Action Request: In all the state forest enterprises included in the group representative sites of existing ecosystems must be identified in the process of consultation with state authorities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Identified sites must be put on the maps and defined on the field and be kept in their natural conditions. Certified SFEs must juridical form and conserve defined representative sites of existing ecosystems on at least 5% of forest area. No felling can be made on the conserved representative sites.</p>	
<p>Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.</p>	

<p>CAR-FM-07/06</p> <p>Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.7.1 and 6.7.3.</p> <p>In Brestskij SFE chemical waste are piled in common container. Absorbents to remove oil leakage are not in all the tractors, and not all the tractor operators are instructed how to use absorbent. Worked out oil is not always utilized in Pruzhanskij SFE. Field inspection showed small oil spots near several tractors in both visited forest enterprises.</p>
<p>Corrective Action Request: In all the state forest enterprises included in the group utilization of all the waste must be utilized, including combustive-lubricating materials. Equipment which works in the forest must have a set of absorbents for remove oil leakage, and operators must use is for these purposes. It is necessary to develop and to follow procedures of daily inspection of equipment in order to prevent oil and fuel leakage.</p>	
<p>Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.</p>	

<p>CAR-FM-08/06</p> <p>Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.1.1, 7.2.1. and 7.2.2.</p> <p>In Brestskij SFE and in Pruzhanskij SFE management plans are renewed on annual basis in the process of permanent forest inventory, but it doesn't include social and ecological aspects.</p>
<p>Corrective Action Request: In all the state forest enterprises included in the group management plans must be regularly revised with due regard to ecological (including data on landscape planning, analysis of accumulative effects and high conservation value) and social and economical amendments. SFEs shall include monitoring information into the forestry management planning process.</p>	
<p>Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.</p>	

CAR-FM-09/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.2.2..
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Collection of information regarding some ecological indicators is not organized in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE.
Corrective Action Request: In the process of forestry activities state forest enterprises included in the group have to collect information on the following indicators: environment changes influencing on flora, fauna, soil and water resources; habitats of rare and endangered species, area of buffer zones.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR –FM-10/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.3.6.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no written procedures on prevention of sale of confiscated timber as certified in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE.
Corrective Action Request: State forest enterprises included in the group should elaborate and follow written procedures on prevention of sale of confiscated timber as certified.	
Timeline for Compliance: Immediately. It will be checked in the time of the next annual audit.	

CAR-FM-11/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 9.1.1. and 9.1.2.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Procedures of evaluation of amount of high conservation value forest on the territories of the enterprises are not sufficiently elaborated in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE. There is no system of data renewal and inclusion of newly identified habitats of rare species and high conservation value forest.
Corrective Action Request: In all the state forest enterprises included in the group it is necessary to develop procedures and to evaluate amount of high conservation value forest on the territories of enterprises. Information on discovered high conservation value forest and habitats of rare and endangered species should be included into the management plans and production plans. These sites must be put on the map.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-FM-12/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 9.3.1 and 9.3.2.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With a lot of stakeholders there were no consultations related to protection of high conservation values of forest in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE. In management plan there are no action plans on maintenance and protection of forest of high conservation value.
Corrective Action Request: In the process of consultations with stakeholders state forest enterprises included in the group shall identify protection level needed to preserve appropriate conservation values of forest. Action plans on maintenance and protection of forest of high conservation value shall be included into the management plans and into other public available documents.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-COC-01/06	Reference Standard #: FSC-Pure COC # 1.3; 3.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not all the responsible specialists of Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE were duly informed and could demonstrate understanding of duties to fulfill all the requirements of the standard.
<p>Corrective Action Request:</p> <p>Brest Regional Forest Board and all the state forest enterprises included in the group shall elaborate regular monitoring procedures confirming that appropriate specialists follow and implement all the necessary FSC requirements.</p> <p>This includes in particular following procedures:</p> <p>Monitoring procedures on implementation of chain of custody requirements of FSC standard by appropriate staff. Special attention will be given to the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That each sawmill will have written procedures covering all corresponding aspect of chain of custody standard. - That all the appropriate staff is duly instructed. Understand and follow FSC chain of custody requirements and rules. <p>Procedures for issuing corrective action request in case non-compliances are identified, including procedures to follow up identified non-compliances.</p> <p>Procedures for keeping monitoring records and results.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-COC-02/06	Reference Standard: FSC-Pure COC #: 9.1; 9.7; 9.8
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE did not include all the necessary requirements into the written FSC logo use procedures
<p>Corrective Action Request:</p> <p>Brest Regional Forest Board and state forest enterprises included in the group shall prepare and follow procedures ensuring use of FSC and SmartWood logo and trade marks, and also public information related to certification. These procedures shall be in compliance with FSC requirements. These procedures must be sent to SmartWood/NEPCo for review and approval. These procedures must state that FSC logo is not used with other logos or requirements of other forest certification systems.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

CAR-COC-03/06	Reference Standard #: FSC-Pure COC # 2.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not all the training requirements for key staff responsible for ensuring compliance with FSC standard were established in Brestskij SFE and Pruzhanskij SFE.
<p>Corrective Action Request:</p> <p>Brest regional Forest Board and state forest enterprises included in the group shall prepare specific training requirements for key staff to ensure compliance with FSC requirements. Special attention shall be given to the specialists responsible for the following aspects: preparation of sale documents, product labeling and promotion of certified products.</p> <p>SFEs shall demonstrate that all the key specialists are trained in accordance with specific training requirements.</p> <p>SFEs shall demonstrate that all the training activities are documented.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

3.4. Follow-up actions by client to meet certification

This report will be sent two independent peer reviewers. If they won't also identify major non-compliances a decision on awarding of certificate to Brest Regional Forest Board will be made. All the raised minor non-compliances shall be addressed prior the first annual audit which will take place in the second half 2006.

3.5. Observations

Observations are actions suggested by the assessment team which are voluntary (not obligatory) for the enterprise.

Observations (recommendations)	Reference Standard #
Rec-FM- 01/06. In state forest enterprises included in the group as hydraulic oil for forest equipment and for motor chainsaws biodegradable oil shall be used.	6.7.5.
Rec-FM- 02/06. State forest enterprises included in the group shall elaborate and follow written procedures on avoiding of panting of introduced species in the forest.	6.9.2
Rec-FM-03/06. In the process of identification of high conservation value forest state forest enterprises included in the group shall consult with stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations dealing with environment protection.	9.2.1.
Rec-FM-04/06. State forest enterprises included in the group shall elaborate independent monitoring system over conditions of high conservation value forest for other stakeholders.	9.4.2

3.6. Certification Recommendation

Thorough field review, analysis and compilation of findings by this SmartWood assessment team showed that management system demonstrated by the enterprises is being implemented consistently over the whole forest areas covered by the scope of the evaluation. SmartWood concludes that SFE's management system, if implemented as described, is capable to ensure that all the requirements of the certification standards are met. A FSC/SmartWood Forest Management and Chain of Custody (FM/COC) Certificate will be issued upon agreement of SFE to fulfil Corrective Action requests.

In order to maintain certificate the SFE will be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with FSC principles and criteria on the basis of regional standards of SmartWood or Forest Stewardship Council. The SFE will also be required to fulfil the corrective action requests. SmartWood experts will review forest management system and compliance with corrective action requests described in this report on the annual basis in time of scheduled and extraordinary audits.

4. CLIENT SPECIFIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1. Ownership and land tenure description

State forest enterprises have certificates on state registration in the Common state register of legal entities and businessmen.

All the forests of the Republic of Belarus are the property of the state. Forests of the SFEs visited are represented mainly with large forest areas situated equally over the territory of the districts. In Brestskij SFE part of the forest is strongly fragmented.

4.2. Legislative and government regulatory context

Forest management and forest utilization in the Republic of Belarus is based on the existing forest legislation, and also state standards on sustainable forest management and forest utilization which are elaborated mostly by the Institute 'Belgiproles' in cooperation with other scientific and training institutions.

Sustainable forest management and forest utilization is carried out by legal entities and individuals dealing with forestry activities on the voluntary basis in cooperation with state specially authorized body in the field of utilization, reproduction, protection and conservation of forest – Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus. Ministry includes Departments which are responsible for separate directions of forestry operations (for example responsible for forest and hunting management, science and manpower policy, timber processing, marketing of forest products, etc.) in national scale.

In each of six territorial regions there is Regional Forest Board which is responsible for forestry management in appropriate region. Each Regional Forest Board unites state forest enterprises that are situated in this territory. Commercial fellings of mature forest are strictly restricted by annual allowable cut.

Control over compliance with rules for felling operations is carried out by state forest enterprises, Regional Forest Boards, and also nature protection bodies of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus and Inspection on Protection of Animal and Plant World of the President of the Republic of Belarus and their regional branches. Work on the felling site is carried out in accordance with technological maps on the basis of forest felling licenses.

To organize hunting forest lands are being rented. Utilization of non-timber forest resources (mushrooms, berries, fruits, timber juices, medicinal plants) for the needs of local population is free of charge and it is free for the public. Harvesting of procurement for commercial purposes is done on the chargeable basis in accordance with permissive documents.

4.3. Environmental Context

Forest is dominant (zonal) vegetation type on the territory of Belarus. Forest covers more than 78,5 thousand km² that is about 37,8 % of the whole territory of the country (as of 1.01.2001). Forest of Brest region, to which belong SFEs included in the group, is about 11,2 thousand km² or 34,1% of the total area.

Forest vegetation had the following features: in the North of the country boreal species play a considerable role; and in the South their amount and ecological importance is reduced, and they are gradually replaced with nemoral, atlantic and pontic (steppe) species.

According to geobotanical peculiarities Belarus forest belongs to the following three sub-zones:

- sub-zone of oak-dark coniferous, southern taiga (broad-leaved spruce) forest;
- sub-zone of hornbeam-oak-dark coniferous sub-taiga (spruce-hornbeam) forest;
- sub-zone of broad-leaved pine (hornbeam-oak-pine) forest.

SFEs of the group are situated in the two last sub-zones: hornbeam-oak-dark coniferous sub-taiga forest (Baranovitchskij, northern part of Pruzhanskij and Ivacevitchskij state forest enterprises) and broad-leaved pine forest (Brestskij, Telehanskij and southern part of Pruzhanskij and Ivacevitchskij state forest enterprises).

Pine forest in Belarus occupies about 39,4 thousand km², it is dominant forest formation in the country. In Brest region it also dominates and takes the area of 6,14 thousand km², which is 54,9% of all the wood covered area of the region. Most of pine forests of the country have the age from 50 up to 55 years. Based on the ecological peculiarities pine forest of Belarus is divided into the following three groups:

- 1) pine forests occupying territories which are made by starved, fluvio-glacial and old alluvial sands;
- 2) sub-pine forests developed on the relatively reach sub-sandy and loamy rocks;
- 3) pine forests on transitional and up-river swamps.

The following species can be found in pine forests as admixtures: white birch (*Betula pubescens*), common birch (*Betula verrucosa*), common spruce (*Picea excelsa*), and in the south English oak (*Quercus robur*). Pine forests of northern Belarus differ from the pine forest of Polesje. For example, in Poozerje in undergrowth of pine forests such species as common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is broadly represented, and in Polesje there are hazel (*Corylus*), buckthorn (*Frangula*), broom (*Cytisus*), base broom (*Genista tinctoria*).

Spruce forest occupy area of about 7,9 thousand km² which is about 10,0 % of wood covered area of the country. Most of all spruce forests can be found in the north of Belarus (approximately 70 % of all the spruce forests of the country). From north to south spruce forests are changed a lot. For example, dark coniferous spruce forests in northern part of Belarus have in the first and second layers such species as birch and aspen, and in undergrowth juniper can be found. In more southern districts of the country in the first and second layers of spruce forests there are oak-trees, ash-trees, hornbeam, and in undergrowth there are hazel and broom.

On the outskirts of lowland and transitional swamps there are original grass and sedge, and grass and sphagnum spruce forests which play important water regulating function facilitating sustainable transference of superficial water into ground water. In the undergrowth and in the land cover of these forests hygrophytes dominate.

Broad-leaved pine forest is spread everywhere. In the north of the country most of all broad-

leaved oak and spruce forest can be found, in the middle part broad-leaved pine and spruce forests, and in the southern part there are broad-leaved pine forests.

Broad-leaved forest on the territory of Belarus doesn't occupy large areas, but they are situated as separate fragments among forest of other formations. The largest areas of broad-leaved forests are situated in Belovezhskaya pushcha and Nalibokskaya pushcha, and also at the Novogrudskaya and Minskaya heights and in the east of Gomel region. The basic broad-leaved species are English oak (*Quercus robur*), European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), lime (*Tilia cordata*), and mountain elm (*Ulmus scabra*) and *Ulmus laevis*. In Poozerje there is no hornbeam, but instead there is common spruce (*Picea excelsa*). In broad-leaved forests of Belarus there are also often black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), common birch (*Betula verrucosa*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*). Among all the broad-leaved forests oak forest occupies the largest area of 2,6 thousand km² or 3,3 % of all the wood covered territory of the country. In Brest region share of broad-leaved species is high and makes 0,48 thousand km² or 4,3 % of all the wood covered area.

Small-leaved forest includes such species as birch, aspen, alder and other. In Belarus small-leaved forest are situated usually on the place of former pine and broad-leaved pine forests. Thus, most of small-leaved forests belong to the second formations. Native small-leaved forests are black alder forests and downy-birch forests on the transitional and lowland swamps. Among small-leaved forests birch forests occupy the largest area of about 16,3 thousand km² (20,8 % of wood covered area of the country). The average age of these forests is 35-40 years. Total area of aspen forests is about 1,7 thousand km² (2,1 % of the wood covered area of Belarus). Black alder forests cover about 6,5 thousand km² or 8,2% of all forests of the Republic. In Brest region share of small-leaved species is 35,4% of all the forests; out of this amount birch forests occupy 2,16 thousand km² (or 19,4 % of wood covered area), black alder forests cover 1,60 thousand km² and 14,3% correspondingly, and aspen forests occupy 0,09 thousand km² and 0,8%.

4.4. Socioeconomic Context

Forest are actively used by local population as places of rest, for collection of non-timber forest products, for hunting, and forest water basins are used for fishing. Hunting lands on the territory of forest fund of the Republic of Belarus are not controlled by the bodies of forestry sector. District and regional bodies of Belarus society of hunters and fishers, nature protection authorities, state nature protection authorities (nature reserves and national parks), hunting management units are the stakeholders of forest management. Also key stakeholders include trade unions, rural and district authorities, Council of deputies and different public organizations such as Society of Veterans, Society of Foresters, Society of Nature Protection, etc. Most of them work at local or regional levels. Rare non-governmental organizations (including "Birdlife Belarus") have sustainable international relationships. Among stakeholders there are also scientific institutions of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus such as Forest Institute, Institute for Experimental Botany, I Institute of Zoology, etc., as well as training institutions (Belarus State Technological University, Belarus State University, Brest and Baranovichy State Universities, etc). The list of stakeholders also includes private wood harvesting and wood processing enterprises as well as the enterprises included into the structure of Belarus production and trade Concern of forest, wood processing and pulp and paper industry "Bellesbumprom". Private wood harvesting company «ProfitSystem» is included into this group of enterprises; and this company is the only one in Belarus that have received FSC certificate (was certified by Polish branch of the company SGS), and it specializes in thinning operations and in the field of production of turned products and pallets for export.

The main products produced in the process of commercial felling assortments are saw logs, construction logs, veneer blocks, sleeper wood, etc. Most of the SFEs have 1-2 sawmills to process harvested wood. Sawmill equipment is mainly old. Often it is not only out of order, but it produces a lot of residues which are often burnt for production of heat or sold to local organizations or population for fuel, and in some cases waste is taken to the dump. Sawmills process only wood harvested in the own forests of the state forest enterprises, thus there is no necessity to divide flows of timber. Sawn products, and also round wood are sold not only in the local country but are exported (mainly to European countries).

APPENDIX I: FSC Reporting Form: Detailed SFE information

(NOTE: The Form is to be filled up by the Client prior to assessment. Information is checked by assessment team)

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE

Certificate Type:			
«SLIMF» status:		No «SLIMF»	
Number of group members (if applicable): 5 Total amount of Forest Management Units (FMU): 5 (if applicable, describe each of them below):			
Division of FMUs:			
	Number of FMU	total forest area in the group	
	< 100 ha		
	100 – 1000 ha		
	1000 – 10 000 ha		
	> 10 000 ha	5	447,200 ha
	«SLIMF» FMU		
List of all the FMUs in the group covered by the scope of certificate:			
State forest enterprise	Owner	Area, ha	Forest Type
Telehanskij SFE	state	102,700	Semi natural
Ivacevitchskij SFE	state	104,700	Semi natural
Baranovitchskij SFE	state	90,900	Semi natural
Pruzhanskij SFE	state	72,600	Semi natural
Brestskij SFE	state	76,300	Semi natural
Product categories included covered by the scope of certificate (note: FSC product category classification system is used):			
Product type:	Description:		
High quality logs			
Low quality logs			
Sawn timber			
Firewood			
Honey			
Berries			
Mushrooms			
Other			

SFE INFORMATION

Location of certified forest	Latitude: 52 degrees .06 minutes – 53 degrees 19 minutes of North latitude Longitude: 23 degrees 11 minutes - 27 degrees 47 minutes Eastern longitude
Forest zone:	Coniferous and broad-leaved forest
Ownership conditions:	public ownership
Number of SFE's employees:	approximately 2300 in all
Number of forest workers (including sub-contractors) working in certified forest:	Approximately 1600 in all

SFEs and allowable cut

SFE	Type of ownership	Allowable cut ('000 m3)	Actual harvest in the last year ('000 m3)	Expected harvest next year ('000 m3)
Telehanskij SFE	Public	64,3	58,9	64,3
Ivacevitchskij SFE	Public	90,2	68,2	90,2
Baranovitchskij SFE	Public	49,8	46,9	49,8
Pruzhanskij SFE	Public	58,2	38,6	58,2
Brestskij SFE	Public	59,7	48,0	59,7
Total		322,2	260,6	322,2
Annual harvest:			260 600 m3	
Annual harvest of non-timber forest products: (please indicate all the types of non-timber forest products)			Нет данных	

FOREST AREA CLASSIFICATION

Total certified area	447200 ha	
Total wood covered area	392900 ha	
Forest area that is:		
Privately managed	ha	
State managed	392900 ha	
Community managed	ha	
Area of production forest (territory where harvesting is carried out)	392900 ha	
Territory where no harvesting neither other economic activities are carried out (nature reserves)	0 ha	
Territory where harvesting is not carried out, and which is used only for non-timber products production	0 ha	
Plantations ¹	0 ha	
Area or percentage thereof for natural reforestation	400 ha	
Area of percentage thereof with artificial reforestation – planting or sowing	280 ha of planting and 200 ha of sowing	
Area of percentage thereof with several methods of reproduction	100 %	
Existing conservation forest values (high conservation value forest) (HCVF) and appropriate territories		
Attributes of HCVF	Description, allocation on the territory	Are (ha)
Forest areas having high level of biodiversity at the global, regional or national level (including endemic or endangered species, their habitats)	No	0

¹ According to FSC definition “plantations” in this context should be understood as forest areas lacking most of principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems as defined by FSC-approved national and regional standards, which result from the human activities of planting, sowing or intensive silviculture.

Large forest areas of global, regional or national importance which are characterized with availability of viable population of most or all the naturally occurring species of the region (in view of distribution, quantity)	Not	0
Forest areas included into unique rare or endangered ecosystems or which have such ecosystems within their bodies	No data available	-
Forest areas having basic conservation functions in vulnerable landscapes (for example, water protection, erosion control, etc.)	Water protection zones are allocated along rivers in accordance with national legislation	27200
Forest areas which are especially important for the basic needs of local population (for instance live, heath) and/or important from the point of view of cultural originality of local population (places of cultural, ecological, economical or religious importance identified in cooperation with local population)	All the forest area is important for local population and is used for collection of berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, etc.	392900

APPENDIX II: Public summary of the management plan

Main objectives of the forest management: forestry management on the basis of non-exhaustible utilization of forest resources, protection of biodiversity, improvement of species and age structure of the forest.

Key priority: non-exhaustible utilization of forest resources.

Second priority: protection of biodiversity, improvement of species and age structure of forest.

Other priorities: to control and regulate scope of work in view of small forest units, quality of activities organized, reliability of reported data.

Forest composition (on the examples of Brestskij SFE and Telehanskij SFE):

Brestskij SFE:

**Age class (10 years) for small-leaved species,
(20 years) for coniferous and hard-leaved species**

Predominant species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Pine	3177	13965	26546	4147	811				48646
Spruce	215	59	321	162	30				787
Oak	176	248	1997	373	241				3035
Hornbeam	-	1	156	2	4				163
Ash-tree	7	69	65	20	1				162
Maple	-	1	1	-	-				2
Elm	-	-	1	-	-				1
Locust	-	4	47	1	1				52
Birch	752	953	5998	617	101				8421
Aspen	43	59	233	225	155				715
Black elder	508	863	3185	11096	1273				6925
Poplar				1					2
willow	8	11	14	37	-				70
									68981

Telehanskij SFE:

**Age class (10 years) for small-leaved species,
(20 years) for coniferous and hard-leaved species**

Predominant species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Pine	3270	10471	22888	15136	1688				53453
Spruce	497	915	821	1092	95				3420
Oak	160	332	969	212	44	8			1725
Hornbeam		16	91	2					109
Ash-tree	11	7	70	15					103
Birch	1628	1736	97754	3807	444				17390
Aspen	7	18	19	30	64	6			144
Black alder	245	887	6007	3882	1353	12			12386

Description of silviculture system used:

Commercial fellings of mature forest is strictly restricted by annual allowable cut. Control over compliance with felling rules is carried out by state forest enterprises, regional forest board and also by nature protection service.

Fellings on the site are carried out on the basis of technological maps. Felling age in the production forest (2 group) is as follows: for pine and spruce – 81 year and more; for oak, ash and maple – 101 years and more; for birch and black alder – 61 years and more, and for aspen and poplar – 41 years and more.

In the forest of 1st group felling age is 1 class (20 years for coniferous and hard-leaved and 10 years for small-leaved) higher in comparison with the forest of the 2nd group.

Regulating document “Rules of fellings in the forest of the Republic of Belarus” was put into operation 26.12.2003. A lot of recommendations of biologists and ecologists are included into this document. In particular, article 5.3.10 says: “In process of lean cuttings trees are left to create conditions for protection of biological diversity: with nests of birds of prey, nectariferous, with hollows, especially large (diameter at 1/3 v is more than 40 cm) from the wind-fast species – with total amount up to 10 pieces per 1 hectare”.

Scope of intermediate fellings is based on the annually approved scope of intermediate fellings. Intermediate fellings include thinning operations, removable sanitary fellings, reconstruction fellings, renewal fellings and re-forming fellings, pruning and operations with undergrowth. Other fellings include clean sanitary fellings, cleaning of forest sites for construction purposes, cutting of site openings, cutting of fire fighting breaks, and also waste management.

All forestry operations are implemented on the basis of forest inventory materials in which different types of activities are foreseen (fellings, planting of forest cultures, forest fire protection, pest management and disease management, etc.). All the felling sites are being regularly examined. Based on the results examination documents are prepared with identification of violations discovered. In the process of felling operations maple, lime, elm and oak are left in the undergrowth. If the other species were identified as wind-fast they are also left.

Silviculture system	% of the area
Clean forest fellings (area of the site up to 10 ha)	90
Step-by-step fellings	10

Harvest technology and equipment used:

In most cases sites are selected for felling purposes in accordance with forest inventory sheets. Usually harvesting operations are carried out by small complex screw consisting of 3-5 persons.

All the operations are mechanized with except of pruning and cleaning of felling sites. Usually the trees are cut with chain saws. Pruning is made with axes, chain saws and rarely with choppers.

More often assortment technology is used for intermediate cuts. As a rule skidding is carried out in logs with utilization of wheeled tractors. Rarely during commercial fellings enterprises of the Concern 'Bellesbumprom' use caterpillar equipment, and units of 'ProfitSystem' use harvesters "Valtra" and forwarders in the process of passing fellings and thinning operations on the territory of Baranovitchskij SFE and Ivacevitchskij SFE.

Transportation is made by trucks equipped with self-loaders. The points of transportation are low warehouses or railway station for loading in the vans.

One of the main conditions of intensive forestry production is sufficient network of transport ways. In the Republic of Belarus network of roads and railroads is very dense. All the settlements are connected with each other with roads of republican or local level, and all of them are also used for transportation of forest loads.

Besides common roads in all the state forest enterprises of the Republic there are rather dense networks of earth roads for forestry and fire fighting purposes which connect forest sites with common roads.

Approximate maximum annual increment for the main commercial forest species:

in accordance with the data of State forest cadastre, which belongs to the state forest enterprises of the region, annual increment for the main commercial forest species (total average amendment of stock) is ('000 m3):

Pine - 1807,5; Spruce - 112,0; Oak - 88,8; Birch - 665,4; Aspen - 596,0; Black alder - 30,2.

**basis for increment evaluation and reference to the source of information (for example inventory data, permanent pilot sites, increment tables):
data of forest assessment and forest inventory, forest cadastre.**

reference to the source of information:

inventory data, permanent pilot sites, increment tables.

Organizational structure of forest management and sharing of responsibility starting from upper management and up to executor's level (how management is organized, who is responsible for control and decision-making, etc.):

87% of the forest of the Republic of Belarus are controlled by the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus (nature reserves and national parks are controlled by the President Administration, military forest enterprises belong to the structure of the Ministry of Defense, training and pilot forest enterprises are controlled by the Ministry of Education, experimental forest basis and the Forest Institute are controlled by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Polesskij radiation and ecological nature reserve is controlled by the Ministry of Emergency).

Ministry of Forestry includes Departments and Units responsible for definite directions of forestry management (for examples, for science, wood processing, forest products trade,

etc.) in national scale.

In each of the six administrative regions there is Regional Forest Board responsible for forestry management in appropriate region. In the process of group certification Chief foresters of the Regional Boards are group managers responsible for forest management, and chief engineers are group managers responsible for chain of custody.

Forest management structure (division of forest area into management units):

Each Regional Forest Board unites state forest enterprises on the appropriate territory. The head of each SFE is director who responsible for the whole work of his SFE including forest certification issues. In the process of group certification Chief foresters for SFEs included in the group are responsible for forest management, and chief engineers of the SFEs are group managers of chain of custodies in their SFEs. SFE are further divided into small forest units; forestry officer is responsible for activities of each forest unit; small forest units are divided into master sites (headed by forest masters), and the latter are divided into divisions for which foresters are responsible.

Monitoring procedures (including increase of all the harvested forest products, coefficients of increase, reproduction, growing conditions, composition and amendments in flora and fauna, impact of forestry operations on the environment and social conditions, productivity and efficiency of forestry operations)

There is forest reproduction monitoring, forest pathological monitoring (over forest pests and forest diseases), economic monitoring (expenditures and efficiency of forestry operations), forest fire monitoring, ecological monitoring under European system ICP-Forest, etc.

Nature protection activities (water protection zones along streams, in coastal zones, etc., activities on conservation of rare and endangered species and their habitats): water protection zones are identified, specially protected sites, protective lines along highways and roads, sanitary and hygienic and recreation forests, forests of Va-Vb productivity classes (on the swamps) are excluded out of production; activities are restricted, because of protection of some rare species and their habitats, in Tomashevskoe small forest unit of Brestskij SFE; in cooperation with the specialists of Brest university large scale biotechnical activities are organized for rare and protected species of animals (birds, Cheiroptera). Numerous rest places are established along roads and waterk objects.

