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Performed by:

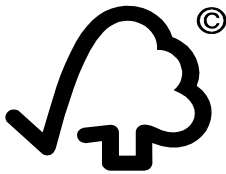
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FSC-ACC-004

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FM-30 Aug 2006



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

Public Summary Report for
Forest Management
2007 Annual audit
Report for:

Grodno Group FM
In
Grodno Oblast, Belarus

Certification code: SW-FM/CoC-1866

Audit dates: 22-24 November 2006.

1. AUDIT PROCESS

1.1. Auditors and qualifications:

Auditor's name	Qualification	Position
Andrey Laletin	<p>Andrey Laletin works in the company NEPCon from August 2004. Before this he worked in Institute of Forest of Russian Academy of Sciences (PhD In biology 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 “Friends 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 25 forest management assessments and audits (10 times as the Lead Auditor), and in 15 chain of custody assessments (8 times as the Lead Auditor).</p> <p>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).</p>	NEPCon/SmartWood lead auditor, Krasnoyarsk, Russia
Alexey Sachko	<p>Alexey Sachko graduated from Belarusian State Technical University, forestry department. He has a Master degree in forestry from Freiburg University in Germany. While studying he participated in seminars on sustainable forest management and land tenure. He passed probation on forest and woodworking enterprises in Germany and Great Britain.</p>	Assessor, Belarus

1.2. Overview of sites visited:

√	Type of site	#
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head office	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest districts	Avgustovskoe, Sopockinskoe, forest districts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest sites	19
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other sites:	Saw mill of Volkovisskij SFE

2. AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESULTS

2.1. Changes in the forest management of the FMO and/or standard and stakeholder issues

√	Issue	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in the forest management of the FMO have occurred since the last audit	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in the forest management standard used for audit have occurred since the last audit	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder comments on the forest management of the FMO were received	

2.2. Compliance with applicable corrective actions

The section below describes the activities of the certificate holder to address each applicable corrective action issued during previous evaluations.

CAR #: 20/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 2.1.1, 5.3.1; 5.3.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As a result of the audit for examination of eliminating major non-compliance CAR-FM – 01/06 it was stated that not all of the elements of this major non-compliance were implemented. It was decided to stable minor non-compliance CAR-FM- 20/06 for completion of all the aspects of CAR-FM – 01/06.
Corrective Action Request: RFB shall obtain written confirmation from a senior executive (director) of the external timber harvesting companies operating on the territory of the SFE that confirm that the company will do best effort to observe all relevant FSC requirements including inspections by relevant authorities and organizations while conducting activities on FSC certified territory.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit	
Audit findings: RFB received written confirmation from authorities of exterior logging company “Mostovdrev”, working on the territory of SFE, with confirmation that company is going to run logging activities with accordance of rules and requirements of FSC standard and for elimination of infringements of this standard organizational-technical activities are elaborated and questions concerning renewal of logging machines park are being solved.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 02/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.2.5
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Field visit showed that workers were not equipped with required equipment. None had safety boots and cut-proof trousers. All had helmets with eye and ear protection. First aid kits were available on site.
Corrective Action Request: Group manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that all workers (both own staff and staff employed by external companies) involved in logging activities are properly equipped with required health and safety equipment which includes: a) helmet with eye and ear protection, b) high visibility vest/jacket, c) safety boots, d) cut-proof trousers and e) first aid kit	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Field visit showed that all workers of Grodno SFE were equipped with required equipment, safety boots and cut-proof trousers and also first aid kits. During the audition timber industry enterprise didn't fell trees, this is why auditors didn't have an ability to check implementation of this requirement by the workers of TIE.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 03/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.2.9
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not all staff has been offered vaccination against Tick-borne Encephalitis.
Corrective Action Request: Group manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that staff working in the forest is offered vaccination against Tick-borne Encephalitis.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Grodno SFE demonstrated that offer to get vaccination against Tick-borne Encephalitis was sent. All staff of the SFE, working in the forest, is suggested to pass vaccination in spring.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 04/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFE does not have a system for enabling participation by local communities and stakeholders in the management planning process.
Corrective Action Request: Group manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish a system that ensures involvement and consultation in the management planning process by a local communities and stakeholders, such as representatives of local authorities, social and environmental NGOs, hunting associations, trade unions, schools, experts in flora and fauna, local wood industries etc.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: In Grodno RFB auditors were given documentation about coordination of SFEs with local communities. Local press publishes notices with contact telephones of SFE specialists. Besides, each SFE has a complaint and suggestion book, where anyone can leave	

note with his suggestions. However RFBs and SFEs did not demonstrate how this suggestions are going to be used in planning of forestry activities. Auditors counted that steps were made on this question and that it is necessary to continue that way. Auditors decided to close this CAR, but placed another requirement on eliminating of minor non-compliance.

Status: Closed

Follow-up Action (if applicable): Prior to second annual audit Grodno RFB and certified SFEs elaborate procedures of taking into account opinions and suggestions of local population and stakeholders in the process of planning of forestry activities. CAR – 01/07.

CAR #: 05/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.1.1; 6.1.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The inventory and the technologic map does not include environmental considerations such as protection of micro sites of ecological importance, protection of standing and lying dead wood and trees left on logging site for biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, significant soil damage was observed at several sites where heavy machinery had been driving outside skidding trails. In general the network of trails included on the technological maps was not observed in practice.
<p>Corrective Action Request:</p> <p>Group Manager and all SFE's included in the group shall establish a system for evaluating assessment of environmental aspects in connection with planning of harvesting operation to ensure that aspects such as biodiversity trees (see 6.3), dead wood, micro habitats of special conservation values are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that only machinery appropriate to the site is used and that use of machinery is limited to established skidding/extraction trails.</p> <p>Finally, Group Manager and all SFEs shall ensure establish a monitoring system to ensure that these aspect are considered and followed in practice.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
<p>Audit findings: System for evaluation of ecological aspects in planning of forestry activities is not elaborated. Though living trees are left 10 per ha for saving of biodiversity, deadwood is often burnt, and micro areas of high conservation value are not marked.</p> <p>During the audit timber industry enterprise didn't make cuts and there was no chance to check the work of machines. There were no reproves concerning the cuts of the SFE.</p> <p>Monitoring system which allows to take into account all these aspects is no elaborated.</p>	
Status: Open, see CAR 05/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 05/06	

CAR #: 07/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.2.5; 9.1.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conservation zones are not always mapped.
<p>Corrective Action Request:</p> <p>Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that all protected areas as well as know habitats of rare and endangered species are marked on maps available for the staff.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	

Audit findings: In Grodno SFE all protected areas and the majority of habitats of rare and endangered species are mapped and easy accessible for the workers. At the same time some habitats of rare species of animals and plants are not mapped. Auditors counted that steps were made on this question and that it is necessary to continue that way. Auditors decided to close this CAR, but placed another requirement on eliminating of minor non-compliance.
Status: Closed
Follow-up Action (if applicable): Prior to second annual audit Gdrono RFB shall ensure that all identified habitats of rare and endangered species are mapped and passed to the forest inventory organization. CAR-FM – 02/07.

CAR #: 08/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.3.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Selective felling or regeneration in small groups is not preferred by the SFEs at special management areas such as wet soil types.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall prepare a strategy for increased use of selective felling or regeneration in small groups on wet soil types.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Grodno SFE didn't elaborate and didn't demonstrate the strategy for increasing the use of selective cuts and forest recreation in small groups on wet soil types. At the same time statistical data for the last years shows the rise in number of non-entire cuts of main use, including Grodno SFE, what was demonstrated in documents and in practice. In 2003 area of non-entire cuts all in all in the SFE was 205 ha (11% of the whole area of cuts of main use), in 2004 – 218 ha (12%), in 2005 – 329 ha (18%).	
Status: Open, see CAR 08/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 08/06	

CAR #: 09/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.3.6
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFE has no procedure and tradition for leaving standing and laying dead wood after logging operations. On logging sites inspected no standing dead wood were left.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish and implement procedures that ensure that old and hollow trees as well as standing deadwood and snags are left standing forever, unless their removal is justified by safety reasons or negative implications on forest health.	

CAR #: 10/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.3.7
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFE has not procedure and tradition for leaving at least ten (5 in case of noble hardwoods) larger than average living trees per hectare, with consideration of their biological value that shall be left uncut forever on final felling sites.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish procedures that ensure that at least ten (5 in case of noble hardwoods) larger than average living trees per hectare, with consideration of their biological value will be left uncut forever on final felling sites.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Field visit showed that in Grodno SFE after entire cuts 10 living trees per ha are left forever.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 11/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.4.3; 6.4.4; 9.1.1; 9.1.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFEs had not documented that 5 pct of the forest area is without timber harvesting (unless required to maintain or increase the conservation values and specified by written protection rules for the protected area).
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall protect representative samples of existing ecosystems on a minimum of 5% of their total forest area. The protected area shall be without any timber harvesting (unless required to maintain or increase the conservation values and specified by written protection rules for the protected area). The protected area shall be based assessment of habitats of rare and endangered species and other high conservation values (see also CAR 06/06)	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to second annual audit.	
Audit findings: In Grodno SFE 5% of the territory is not marked where all types of cuts are forbidden. Monitoring of habitats of rare and endangered species and other areas of high conservation value is not carried out on the protected territories.	
Status: Open, see CAR 11/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 11/06	

CAR #: 12/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.7.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oil spill kit were lacking in forest tractors and other machines.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that all forest machinery is equipped with a proper kit for collection of oil spill.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: All checked-up forest machines in Grodno SFE were completed with means for removing oil leakages. On 16.01.2006 the order of Grodno SFE director (T.Z. Cherneckij) was issued about completion with primary means for deactivation of the area from leaked oil of all the machines forced to work in the forest.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 13/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.9.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One SFE had planted American oak replacing natural species.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure stands of native species are not converted into plantations of exotic species such as American red oak.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: In Grodno SFE red oak and other exotic species are not cultivated. This was checked with the help of documents in the SFE office and during field visit.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 14/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.1.1; 8.2.2
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFE has no description for monitoring of high conservation values.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that monitoring of rare and endangered species takes place.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Grodno SFE didn't demonstrate description of monitoring of the high conservation value objects.	
Status: Open, see CAR 14/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 14/06	

CAR #: 15/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.3.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFEs has a comprehensive training program including many different aspects. Two to three persons have been on a special training course in connection with certification. However, the team found that some staff members lacked knowledge on the certification requirements especially regarding ecological issues, rules for group management and chain of custody requirements.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that all relevant staff are properly trained in implementing the FSC requirements. Special focus shall be on ecological issues such as biodiversity protection, values of dead wood, leaving of biodiversity trees and identification and registration of rare and endangered species as well as rules for group management and chain of custody requirements	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Staff of Grodno RFB, who were interviewed during the audit, showed good and satisfactory knowledge of the FSC requirements. Staff of Grodno SFE, who were interviewed during the audit, showed good and satisfactory knowledge of the FSC requirements, including ecological aspects. Staff of saw mill of Volkovisskij SFE, who were interviewed during the audit, showed good and satisfactory knowledge of the FSC requirements, including chain of custody requirements.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 16/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A public summary of the management plan covering the elements of criterion 7.1 does not exist.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall produce a public summary of the management plan covering the elements of criterion 7.1	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Brief information about plans of Grodno SFE management doesn't show the following elements of criteria 7.1.: ecological safety measures, based on the results of conducted evaluation of impact on the environment; plan about identifying and taking under protection rare and endangered species.	
Status: Open, see CAR 16/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 16/06	

CAR #: 17/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.3.1; 8.3.3; SmartWood COC 5
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFEs do not have procedures for ensuring the FSC certification code and information that the forest products are certified as “FSC Pure” is included on invoices and waybills.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish written procedures that ensure that waybills and invoices include information on certified status of the products (“FSC Pure”) and the Smartwood Certification Code (will be included on the certificate).	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Written procedures are elaborated by Grodno RFB. But FSC-certificate codes of Grodno group are not showed on the elaborated stamp for putting it down on invoices and motor waybills. Also stamp doesn't show that production is certified as “FSC-pure”.	
Status: Open, see CAR 17/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 17/06	

CAR #: 18/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.3.6
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SFEs do not have procedures for ensuring the illegal harvested and confiscated wood is not sold as certified.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish procedures that ensure that illegal harvested and confiscated wood are not sold as certified.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Grodno RFB elaborated procedures which would guarantee that illegally cut and confiscated timber can not be sold as certified. This data can also be found in the saw mill of Volkovisskij SFE where chain of custody for SFE groups was checked-up. Auditors checked documentation of the saw mill and made sure that unlawful cut and confiscated timber for the last year have not come to it.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR #: 19/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.5.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A public summary of the monitoring results covering the elements of criterion 8.2 does not exist.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall produce a public summary of the monitoring results covering the elements of criterion 8.2	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Auditors were demonstrated with annual reports "ECOLOGICAL MONITORING OF BELARUS REPUBLIC FORESTS CONDITION" made by Ministry of nature conservation. The last demonstrated report was for 2002 year and it, as well as previous ones, didn't contain many indicators enumerated in 8.2. criteria of the standard.	
Status: Open, see CAR 19/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR – 19/06	

CAR #: COC 02/06	Reference Standard #: SmartWood IV.C.1.c and IV.C.1.d
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Group Manager's procedures for adding new members and excluding members from the scope of the certificate are not sufficient.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager shall prepare procedures for including new SFE in the group. These procedures shall ensure that Group Manager verifies all relevant FSC Chain of Custody requirement are met by SFE that wish to join the group. The verification shall include requirement for written instructions, training, sales of certified products and the use of the FSC logo. Group Manager shall furthermore prepare procedures for excluding SFEs from the group in case major non compliances with the certification requirements are identified.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: Grodno RFB prepared procedures for including new SFEs in the group, and also for excluding SFEs from the scope of the certificate are not sufficient.	
Status: Closed	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR-COC-03/06	Reference Standard #: SmartWood FSC Pure 9
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Group Manager has not established and implemented a system ensuring that all use of the FSC and SW trademarks, as well as public information related to certification are in compliance with the FSC requirements and that layouts are submitted to SmartWood for review and approval.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager shall prepare and implement procedures that ensure that all use of the FSC and SmartWood trademarks and Logo, as well as public information related to certification are in compliance with the FSC requirements and is submitted to SmartWood/NEPCon for review and approval. The procedures shall ensure the "FSC 100%" label are used on product and that the FSC logo is not used together with other on-product logo's or claim from other forest certification	

schemes.
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to any use of the FSC and SmartWood Trademark and not later than first annual audit.
Audit findings: Grodno RFB elaborated the procedures and the label, but they are not in the whole compliance with the FSC requirements.
Status: Open, see CAR-CoC - 03/06
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR-CoC – 03/06

CAR-COC-04/06	Reference Standard #: SmartWood FSC Pure 2.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specific training requirement for keys staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC standards have not been established and training have not been conducted.
<p>Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and group members shall prepare specific training requirements for key staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC requirements. Special attention shall be given to staff responsible for monitoring of group members compliance with the requirements, staff responsible for preparing sales document, staff responsible for labeling of products and staff responsible for promotion of certified products.</p> <p>Group manager shall ensure that all key staff is trained according to the specific training requirements.</p> <p>Group manager shall ensure that all certification training activities are documented.</p>	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to first annual audit.	
Audit findings: In Grodno RFB and Volkovisskij SFE Specific training requirement for keys staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC standards have not been established. In Volkovisskij SFE not all keys staff passed the training and not all trainings for certifying were documented.	
Status: Open, see CAR-CoC - 04/06	
Follow-up Action (if applicable): This CAR-FM is upgraded to major CAR-CoC – 04/06	

2.3. New corrective actions issued as a result of this audit

Major non-compliance (results where there is a fundamental failure to achieve the objective in three months since approval of the report).

CAR #. 05/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.1.1; 6.1.2
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>System for evaluation of ecological aspects in planning of forestry activities is not elaborated. Though living trees are left 10 per ha for saving of biodiversity, deadwood is often burnt, and micro areas of high conservation value are not marked.</p> <p>During the audit timber industry enterprise didn't make cuts and there was no chance to check the work of machines. There were no reproves concerning the cuts of the SFE.</p> <p>Monitoring system which allows to take into account all these aspects is no elaborated.</p>
<p>Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFE's included in the group shall establish a system for evaluating assessment of environmental aspects in connection with planning of harvesting operation to</p>	

ensure that aspects such as biodiversity trees (see 6.3), dead wood, micro habitats of special conservation values are considered.

Furthermore, Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that only machinery appropriate to the site is used and that use of machinery is limited to established skidding/extraction trails.

Finally, Group Manager and all SFEs shall ensure establish a monitoring system to ensure that these aspect are considered and followed in practice.

Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.

CAR #. 08/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.3.1
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Grodno SFE didn't demonstrate the strategy for increasing the use of selective cuts and forest recreation in small groups on wet soil types.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall prepare a strategy for increased use of selective felling or regeneration in small groups on wet soil types.	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR #. 09/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.3.6
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Procedures which would guarantee the leaving forever of old and hollow trees, and also deadwood and fallen trees (except cases when their moving away can be explained by reasons of safety measures or negative impact on healthy sanitary state of the forest) are not elaborated. Auditors were shown the order of the Department of forestry vice-minister of Belarus Republic - Yu.V. Nazarov, which says that the Department can't agree with the reprove of international experts in forest certification concerning the leaving of deadwood after cuts and that forest certification shall be carried out in compliance with standard lawful acts of Belarus Republic. In the rules for protection and safety of labour in forest, woodworking industry and forestry approved on 30.01.1997 it is said about the necessity of moving away the dangerous trees; all deadwood belong to dangerous. During the Field visit it was marked that in Grodno SFE after entire cuts a small number of old and hollow trees and also deadwood and fallen trees is left.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish and implement procedures that ensure that old and hollow trees as well as standing deadwood and snags are left standing forever, unless their removal is justified by safety reasons or negative implications on forest health.	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR #. 11/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.4.3; 6.4.4; 9.1.1; 9.1.2
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	In Grodno SFE 5% of the territory is not marked where all types of cuts are forbidden. Monitoring of habitats of rare and endangered species and other areas of high conservation value is not carried out on the protected territories.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall protect representative samples of existing ecosystems on a minimum of 5% of their total forest area. The protected area shall be without any timber harvesting (unless required to maintain or increase the conservation values	

and specified by written protection rules for the protected area). The protected area shall be based assessment of habitats of rare and endangered species and other high conservation values.	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR #. 14/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.1.1
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Grodno SFE didn't demonstrate description of monitoring of the high conservation value objects.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall ensure that monitoring of rare and endangered species takes place.	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	
CAR #. 16/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 7.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Brief information about plans of Grodno SFE management doesn't show the following elements of criteria 7.1.: ecological safety measures, based on the results of conducted evaluation of impact on the environment; plan about identifying and taking under protection rare and endangered species.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall produce a public summary of the management plan covering the elements of criterion 7.1	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR #.17/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.3.1; 8.3.3; SmartWood COC 5
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Written procedures are elaborated by Grodno RFB. But FSC-certificate codes of Grodno group are not showed on the elaborated stamp for putting it down on invoices and motor waybills. Also stamp doesn't show that production is certified as "FSC-pure".
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall establish written procedures that ensure that waybills and invoices include information on certified status of the products ("FSC Pure") and the Smartwood Certification Code (will be included on the certificate).	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR #. 19/06	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 8.5.1
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Auditors were demonstrated with annual reports "ECOLOGICAL MONITORING OF BELARUS REPUBLIC FORESTS CONDITION" made by Ministry of nature conservation. The last demonstrated report was for 2002 year and it, as well as previous ones, didn't contain many indicators enumerated in 8.2. criteria of the standard.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and all SFEs included in the group shall produce a public summary of the monitoring results covering the elements of criterion 8.2	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

CAR-CoC - 03/06	Reference Standard #: SmartWood FSC Pure 9
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	Grodno RFB elaborated the procedures and the label, but they are not in the whole compliance with the FSC requirements.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager shall prepare and implement procedures that ensure that all use of the FSC	

and SmartWood trademarks and Logo, as well as public information related to certification are in compliance with the FSC requirements and is submitted to SmartWood/NEPCon for review and approval.

The procedures shall ensure the “FSC 100%” label are used on product and that the FSC logo is not used together with other on-product logo’s or claim from other forest certification schemes.

Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.

CAR-CoC - 04/06	Reference Standard #: SmartWood FSC Pure 2
Non-compliance: Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/>	In Grodno RFB and Volkovisskij SFE Specific training requirement for keys staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC standards have not been established. In Volkovisskij SFE not all keys staff passed the training and not all trainings for certifying were documented.
Corrective Action Request: Group Manager and group members shall prepare specific training requirements for key staff responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC requirements. Special attention shall be given to staff responsible for monitoring of group members compliance with the requirements, staff responsible for preparing sales document, staff responsible for labeling of products and staff responsible for promotion of certified products. Group manager shall ensure that all key staff is trained according to the specific training requirements. Group manager shall ensure that all certification training activities are documented.	
Timeline for Compliance: Within three months after the report finalization, i.e. 5 June 2007.	

Minor non-compliance (is a temporary, unusual or non-systematic non-compliance, for which the effects are limited).

CAR-FM - 01/07	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 4.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Grodno RFB auditors were presented with documentation about cooperation between SFEs with local communities. Besides, each SFE has a complaint and suggestion book, where anyone can leave a note with his suggestions. However RFBs and SFEs did not demonstrate how this system allows local population and stakeholders to participate in the process of planning of forestry activities.
Corrective Action Request: Grodno RFB and certified SFEs shall elaborate procedures of taking into consideration opinions and suggestions of local population and stakeholders in the process of planning of forestry activities.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to the next annual audit	

CAR-FM - 02/07	Reference Standard #: FSC P&C 6.2.5
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Grodno SFE all protected areas and the majority of habitats of rare and endangered species are mapped and easy accessible for the workers. At the same time some habitats of rare species of animals and plants are not mapped.
Corrective Action Request: Gdrono RFB and certified SFEs shall ensure that all identified habitats of rare and endangered species are mapped and passed to the forest inventory organization.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to the next annual audit	

CAR-FM - 03/07	Reference Standard #: 1.4.1
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grodno RFB and certified SFEs do not have a list of potential contradictions between national laws and FSC requirements. These contradictions are not solved on the RFB and SFE levels, as they shall be solved on the level of Ministry of forestry of Belarus.
Corrective Action Request: Grodno RFB and certified SFEs shall make a list of potential contradictions between national laws and FSC requirements.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to the next annual audit	

CAR-GC - 01/07	Reference Standard #: GC 5.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grodno RFB doesn't have detailed procedures and rules for entry and leaving the certified multitude.
Corrective Action Request: Grodno RFB shall elaborate detailed procedures and rules for entry and leaving the certified multitude.	
Timeline for Compliance: Prior to the next annual audit	

2.4. Recommendations

Recommendations are voluntary actions suggested by the assessment team, but are not mandated or required.

Recommendations	Reference Standard #
REC 01/07: On some logging sites the SFEs were marking borders on logging sites by axe on border trees. The bark is cut away, which might damage the wood. The SFE is recommended to mark border trees without damaging the wood.	FSC P&C 5.3.1

2.5. Audit decision

Auditors estimated implementation of mentioned above CARs and also evaluated work of Grodno RFB and Grodno SFE, whether it corresponds with principles 1 and 2 of SmartWood standards for evaluation of forest management in Belarus Republic.

Auditors counted that 10 out of 20 CARs on forest management are implemented and 2 out of 4 CARs on CoC. 8 CARs on forest management and 2 CARs on CoC were upgraded to major which should be implemented within 3 months. Thus, 10 requests are still opened as requests for eliminating of major non-compliance. To maintain the certificate they must be implemented by Grodno RFB and certified SFEs within 3 months since date of approval of the report.

Auditors introduced 5 more CARs which has minor non-compliance character with timeline for compliance prior to second annual audit.