

Exh 29 Workshop Borovets Bulgaria 21-23JUL10

Output D4.6 National workshop

Public

This information is part of the CeFCo project, with the purpose to develop a model for certification of forest contractors in Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria and Portugal respectively. The project will be carried out in a cooperation between NEPCon, The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and national organisations. The project is supported by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Fundación Biodiversidad and the European Union CIP Eco-Innovation initiative (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm) which is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, CIP (<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>).



CeFCo – Certification of Forestry Contractors

Notes from a Workshop held in Borovets, Bulgaria

on 21.-23, July 2010

Participants:

Antony Stefanov, Bulprofor, hosting the meeting

Edgar Kastenholz, ENFE

Zhivko Bogdanov, FSC Bulgaria

Shoana Humphries, FSC International Office

Vassil Stiptzov, University Sofia

Martin Borisov, University Sofia

Jordan Terziiski, Forest Owner Samokov

K. Gueorgiev, manager “Royal Bistrica”

Boreana Chilewa, Velico Tasnova

This workshop was held by invitation of Antony Stefanov, Chairman of Bulprofor (the Bulgarian Forestry Contractors Association, member of the ENFE) to present and discuss the recent activities related to the CeFCo project in Bulgaria.

The workshop was attended by members of Bulprofor, facilitators from Sofia University, FSC Bulgaria and International and ENFE. With this attendance except Nepcon the most important actors in the CeFCo project Bulgaria were present.

The workshop was structured in three parts:

- 1) Work progress discussed in the core group, i.e. Bulprofor, FSC and ENFE
- 2) Plans for testing and implementation with forest owners and contractors
- 3) Forest visit.

1) State of the arts in the CeFCo Project in Bulgaria

A.Stefanov and Z.Bogdanov presented the work carried out to date in Bulgaria. For standard development the Danish adaptation of the SmartLogging was used for extracting contractors' and forest owners' tasks in certified forests. The process of standards definition was at this stage still in progress. A time schedule for the forthcoming steps was discussed. Result of the presentation and subsequent discussion was that the standard needs to be finalized, at least in a draft format to be tested for applicability under Bulgarian conditions.

2) Plans for testing and implementation of standards

For initiating the process of testing the Bulgarian standard A. Stefanov invited 3 representatives of forest owners and contractors to this workshop.

They represent

- A group of 6 very small properties which own a total of 30 ha and a large enterprise with 1653 ha (the Royal Bistrice District)
- A Service Enterprise in central Bulgaria which offers management services to various owners
- A group of 127 owners who are associated in an entity with 85 ha

The session started with a short introduction of the objectives and work plan of the CeFCo project and oral descriptions of the three different owner/contractors line-ups,

This was followed by an in depth discussion of whether and how the 3 represented groups could act as test cases for a Bulgarian Contractor Standard. The participating managers of the 3 groups offered to act as group managers for the prospective standard testing.

The discussion of organisational details regarding the composition of groups, the expected commitment of members and the scope of activities led to the assumption that the two outlined test cases (the group under leadership of Royal Bistrice, and the group managed by the service enterprise in Central Bulgaria) look promising for a co-operation in CeFCo, since they 1) are two very different models and 2) provide an organisational structure which fits into the layout of the CeFCo concept.

However, to start with testing in these two cases it would seem necessary to identify the actors in the groups more detailed (i.e. the contractors in the first, and the forest owners in the second case). This was deemed necessary to plan the testing phases which should take place in mid 2011.

3) Forest visit

To illustrate activities in Bulgarian forest operations two forest sites were visited. In a very small micro forest property it could be illustrated how thinnings were carried out recently. Here, the processes of planning, harvesting and monitoring were explained. In the larger forest enterprise (Royal Bistrica District) silvicultural practices could be illustrated which are based on selective harvesting and natural regeneration. The provided examples clearly showed the high potential of Bulgarian forests for responsible forest management. The very high level of control by State authorities in the case of the micro owner can be considered as a hindrance for self dependent management activities, but it also provides one crucial condition for certification which is a management plan.

However, the forest visit also showed considerable problems for management in Bulgarian forests: The road conditions both for access to the sites and for timber extractions from forest stands are very bad. Also, the micro size of forest properties was vividly demonstrated in the visited site.

This workshop was held as an activity in the CeFCo project. CeFCo aims at developing a model for certification of forest contractors in Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria and Portugal. The project is carried out in a co-operation between NEPCon, The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and national organizations. The project is supported by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Fundación Biodiversidad and the European Union CIP Eco-Innovation initiative (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm) which is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, CIP (<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>).

CeFCo – Certification of Forestry Contractors

Co-funded by the European Commission, represented by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness, and Innovation (EACI) in the Programme “EcoInnovation”
Project Number ECO/08/238998/SI2.532252



ENFE & FSC & NEPCON pilot project "CeFCo" for FSC certification of family forests together with the Certification of forestry contractors

**Estimated program for the Joint work of ENFE & FSC experts,
Bulgaria, Borovets 21-23.07.2010**

Time & Place	Activities	Participants
21.07.2010 / Wednesday		
13.05	Arrival of Edgar	Antony Stefanov
13.30 – 14.30 Sofia Airport	Conversations ENFE-BULPROFOR about relationships, ENFE working and development strategy, EU projects, Bulprofor membership contributions ...New BG Forestry Low ...	Edgar Kastenholz /ENFE, Antony Stefanov & Jordan Terziiski
14.30	Arrival of Shoana /FSC	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov
16.00	Arrival in Borovets / 70 km from Sofia / Accommodation /in a Hotel	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana
17.00 – 19.00 Borovets Hotel or Privat "Royal Bistrica" Forestry Haus	Joint work for the CeFCo Project: 1. Work already done from ENFE / FSC / NEPCON 2. Clarification of some conceptual issues about CeFCo ... 3. Work done so far by BULPROFOR & BG_FSC / how to understand and how it will be tested in Bulgaria our Draft Scheme	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana
19.00 –	Leisure / tour and dinner	
22.07.2010 / Thursday		
	Breakfast	
9.00 – 13.00 Borovets Privat "Royal Bistrica" Forestry Haus	Joint work for the CeFCo Project: 1. Discussion about BG Draft for a certificate made based on the Agreed Bulgarian FSC / SMARTWOOD SW-STD-BUL-2007-05 + SmartLogging / check list 2. Introduction and discussion of the three test sites for certification (characteristics, problems, recommendations, planning activities for certification of these 3 sites)	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana + System managers for the 3 test sites: G.Gueorgiev – Sevlievo; J.Terziiski – Samokov; V. Vasilevski - Slaveino + V.Stiptzov & M.Borisov
13.0 – 13.30	Lunch	
14.00 – 17.00 Field trip/work	Visit of the (2-3) sites in the region of Borovets, which works (worked) and will be subject to certification by the project. - Discussion of the mechanism according to Bulgarian entrepreneurs with the requirements of Smart Logging. Opportunities and tolerances for application / interpretations and other issues concerning the practical certification. - Discuss the checklist / applicability of the Danish model for BG certification / in terms of BG forestry practices	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana J.Terziiski – Samokov; K.Gueorgiev "Royal Bistrica" manager
17.00 – 19.00... Hotel or Privat "Royal Bistrica" Forestry Haus	Joint work for the CeFCo Project: - Continuation of discussion of the field tour in conjunction with our 3 test model (practices) to be certified - Reflecting the recommendations and observations in the Bulgarian 2 Draft certification schemes ...	A.Стефанов /Ж.Богданов Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana + V.Stiptzov & M.Borisov + ?? 3 Sistem managers
19.00 –	Leisure / tour and dinner	
23.07.2010 / Friday		
	Breakfast	
9.00 – 11.30/12.00 Privat "Royal Bistrica" Forestry Haus	Joint work for the CeFCo Project: - Final discussions..... - Arrangement of future steps and commitments for the certification of the 3 test sites in Bulgaria. - Arrangement an approximate program for the NEPCON certification activities in the 3 test sites (during 2010-11). - Discuss about the possible future commitments for the establishment of national (BG) certification body to participate in / be accredited by EFESC. Recommendations - Other issues	A.Stefanov /Zh. Bogdanov Edgar Kastenholz / Shoana + V.Stiptzov & M.Borisov
12.00 – 13.00 ...	Travel: Borovets - Airport / Lunch on the way	
13.00 – 13.30 Sofia Airport	Send / departure of Edgar Kastenholz / 15.30 / & Shoana / 15.00 /	Antony Stefanov

Of course, the small changes in the schedule and topics are possible on the proposal of the participants.