



## Forest Management Certification Assessment of Harthills, Kemnay.

### Introduction

RTS Ltd is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification of Harthills, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The assessment will be implemented in September/ October 2016. Certification is provided by Control Union Certifications, accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – certificate number CUC-FM/COC-829328.

### Scope of the Certification assessment

The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socio-economic aspects of Harthills using the FSC-endorsed *UK Woodland Assurance Standard*. To obtain a copy of the applicable standard please contact UKWAS or refer to the websites listed below.

A fundamental aspect of the audit and certification process is that adverse social and environmental implications should be identified by the managers, consulted upon and minimized. We ask that you contact us as set out here – if you have any concerns regarding the management of this forest in this respect.

**Your Input Sought** – *As a part of the assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Harthills forest management in relation to the requirements of the UKWAS Standard. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments prior to the assessment in September/October so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follow:*

- 1. Meet with an RTS Ltd team member during or shortly after the assessment. (contact James Reid for the precise dates and to make an appointment).*
- 2. Call and give comments to Harry Wilson, the RTS staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment.*
- 3. Submit written comments by mail, or email to Harry Wilson. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Harthills. The source of any information provided will be kept confidential and made available only to RTS and CUC.*
- 4. You can also submit any comments directly to CUC who are responsible for auditing the estate's compliance with the standard.*

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access CUC's dispute resolution procedures.

**The consultation period will be open from 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 to 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2016**

### Contact Addresses

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FSC Forest Certification to UKWAS should address ten key 10 principles and Criteria:

**PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES**

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

**PRINCIPLE #2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

**PRINCIPLE #3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

**PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS**

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

**PRINCIPLE # 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST**

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

**PRINCIPLE #6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

**PRINCIPLE #7: MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

**PRINCIPLE #8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

**PRINCIPLE # 9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS**

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

**PRINCIPLE # 10: PLANTATIONS**

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.