

Certificate for Responsible Forest Management

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“North-Eastern State Enterprise” SE – Shumen (NESE SE – Shumen), which manages state forest territories in four administrative regions – Shumen, Varna, Dobrich and Targovishte, has received a Certificate for Responsible Forest Management for 100% of its territory. Forest Stewardship Council is an international organization that supports responsible forest management worldwide.

The North-Eastern State Enterprise NESE has received a Certificate for Responsible Forest Management for its entire territory. The document covers the forests managed by the enterprise on the territory of four regions – Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte and Shumen and is issued by the first global independent system for sustainable forests – the **Forest Stewardship Council**. The certificate is a benchmark for the efficient use of the full range of products and services from forests and proves that NESE carries out its activities in compliance with all internationally accepted norms

and criteria. Forest enterprises that hold such a document guarantee the quality of the timber they offer, maintain high conservation values in the forests and possess data on the final consumer.

With its issuance, the enterprise gains a significant business advantage, as many international companies work only with certified timber.

Forest Stewardship Council is an international organization that supports responsible forest management worldwide.

The international non-governmental organization was founded in 1993, with the aim of responsible forest management through the use of eco-labels.

FSC certification is regarded as a system of standards and has a wide range of commitments in the field of forest management. The FSC logo and labels create a strong link between well-managed forests and the final consumer, thereby providing a market advantage to certified forestry and wood-processing enterprises. FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification additionally controls the flow of timber from certified forests to the market.

“North-Eastern State Enterprise” SE – Shumen

was registered in the Commercial Register on 8 July 2011. The total area of the state forest territories included in the scope of activity of NESE SE – Shumen is 287,892 ha, of which afforested forest territories account for 94% with an area of 271,222 ha. The growing stock amounts to 36 million m³, while the average annual use of timber from the state forest territories is 520 thousand m³. The enterprise also has 9 forest nurseries, 2 of which are of national importance. The number of seedlings produced amounts to 2.5 million.

The state forestry enterprise encompasses a great variety of protected territories and sites, among which are two nature parks – “Golden Sands” Nature Park and “Shumen Plateau” Nature Park, three reserves – “Kamchia”, “Kaliakra” and “Bukaka”, eight maintained reserves, as well as numerous protected areas, natural landmarks and sites. The route of the seasonal bird migration *Via Pontica* passes through the territory of NESE SE, which is of national, pan-European and global importance and is an object of increased scientific interest and international legal protection.

The forests with the largest share in the afforested area are those of Turkey oak, sessile oak, common hornbeam, eastern beech, lime, black locust, black pine and ash. Scots pine and black pine have been introduced artificially through afforestation and occupy 9.6% of the area, **black locust – 10%** and red oak – 2.5%. Protective forest belts located on the territory of Dobrich and Shumen regions also play an important role.

