








Fostering sustainable land use and responsible trade in forest commodities through innovation projects and sustainability services.

COMPANY IDENTITY

	NEPCon	Name of the company
	Spain	Country
	www.nepcon.org	Web site

COMPANY BY NUMBER

	4,900,000€	Last year annual revenue
	2	Year of activity
	1,600	Nr. of clients
	100	Nr. of staff
	13	Nr. of countries served

BUSINESS SECTORS



- Sustainable forestry & trade
- Timber legality
- Sustainable biomass
- Climate change
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable land use

VISION AND MISSION



Vision: A world where human choices ensure a sustainable future.

Mission: To build capacity and commitment for mainstreaming sustainability.

MAIN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODEL ASPECT



There are strong synergies between these two broad activity areas of our work, namely assurance services and non-profit projects. For example, the quality of our projects often benefits from insights that we have gained from our certification work. We are able to design our projects to match gaps or needs that we have become aware of through our work with the industry. In this context, understanding how sustainability schemes work in practice is a major strength. Conversely, our projects often help to improve and support the schemes that we work with.

A self-managing division - NEPCon Assurance promotes and delivers our certification services. Surplus from NEPCon Assurance's activities supports the development on NEPCon's non-profit activities. Our work with certification systems extends far beyond service delivery. We are constantly engaged in improving certification schemes to support their credibility and impact on the ground whilst enhancing access to certification for small enterprises.

HIGHLIGHT WORK/PROJECT



NEPCon works on a project funded by the Nordic Climate Facility focusing on improving livelihoods and fighting climate change in Kenya. The cornerstones of this project are to raise the livelihoods of marginalised communities and, at the same time, contribute to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale. In the work towards improving the living standard for the residents in Laikipia, where 55% live below the poverty level, the project will secure an annual harvesting of 1,000,000 litres of rainwater. This, together with a focus on less water-intensive crops and varieties and the scaling-up of water efficient technologies, will ensure that farming systems become more resilient. This will lead to enhanced food security, thus helping to securing livelihoods. The ecological restoration of degraded wild lands will result in conserving more soil and water and stabilising river flows. This, together with innovation for mitigating human-wildlife conflict, will sustain functioning ecosystems. It will also help to sustain the unique and often endangered biodiversity that make the foundation for the nature-based tourism that the area is famous for - an important economic pillar for the county.

COMPANY HISTORY



After two years of preparatory work, NEPCon was formed in 1994 by a small group of people from a non-governmental organization (NGO). The focus was on sustainable forest management, and NEPCon was founded largely in response to the inefficiency of intergovernmental processes in changing forestry practices around the world. Engaging directly with the forestry sector, NEPCon set out to harness the industry's own power to facilitate the major shift that was needed. Initially, NEPCon worked mainly with donor-financed projects that explored ways of doing this. However, teaming up with the Rainforest Alliance, NEPCon soon engaged with the FSC® scheme, which had evolved in parallel, and for the same reasons. This happened in 1996, when NEPCon participated in the first FSC General Assembly in Oaxaca, Mexico. Since then, NEPCon has been deeply engaged in the development of the FSC scheme and other sustainability assurance schemes.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



NEPCon's management group consists of an Executive Director, a Financial Director, an Operation Director and a Programme Director who together assume the overall responsibility for the management of the Association. Branch organisations are organised as Regional Offices with their own managers, who refer to the Operations Director. The Head Office functions now consist of the management group as well as 8 support managers and 5 programme managers.

SHORT BUSINESS STRATEGY



NEPCon's strategy builds on The NEPCon Way and aims to the following main goals:

1. Increased uptake of sustainable practices
 2. Extended impact and influence
 3. Enhanced recognition of NEPCon
 4. Build a highly competent organisation
- Each goal is further defined through specific objectives.

MAIN CLIENTS & PARTNERS



- Wood industry and forest owners and/or managers
- Public administrations, private companies, NGOs, Associations, etc.

SERVICES



- Assurance services, including certification and non-certification services
- Projects on conservation, natural resources management, legality risk evaluation, capacity building for timber and forestry sector on legality compliance, sustainable biomass sourcing and responsible agricultural supply chains
- Capacity building through training
- Pro-bono work such as NEPCon's engagement with certification schemes to further improve the credibility of these systems

ENTREPRENEURS' PROFILE



NEPCon is big, constantly changing and has evolved a lot since its beginnings. By implementing a variety of successful programs over the years, they have learnt that problems are there to be solved, that the forces of change are powerful, and that it takes hard work, patience and perseverance to cause and sustain change. This learning from the past informs their strategy, and set of their guiding principles ("The NEPCon Way"), which embody key-features characterizing innovation in NEPCon's staff and management

- Work: services and projects with high potential or change
- Research and impact: expanding consciously into mission-critical areas
- Brand and networks: innovative leadership in mainstreaming sustainability
- The organization: passionate people in supportive organizational framework



"Our vision of a world where sustainability is mainstream may be ambitious, but it is visionary thinking that gives rise to innovation"

(Peter Feilberg, Executive Director)