



Forest Management Certification Reassessment of Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP), Slovakia 15.-16.07.2026

Introduction - Preferred by Nature is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification reassessments of the Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) with residence in Zvolen, Slovakia. The reassessment will be implemented from 15. to 16.07.2026.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP), using the FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Slovakia FSC-STD-SVK-01-2023 EN (FSC-STD-SVK-01-2023 EN). Standard is available at: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/1463>. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) and this reassessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. Preferred by Nature evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Juraj Tužinský from Slovakia and the second team member will be Michal Mikloš from Slovakia.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ **Assessment organization** – Preferred by Nature will start audit in Zvolen on 15.07.2026.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The team will visit office, sites managed by Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) and other sites connected with management from 15. to 16.07.2026
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) forest management in villages surrounding the forest area.
- ◆ **Final assessment briefing** – Prior to departure the team will meet with Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP).
- ◆ **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by 24.08.2026.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP) forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High



Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. 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 assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a Preferred by Nature assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Juraj Tužinský, Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email - see contact below.

Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Technická univerzita vo Zvolene - Vysokoškolský lesnícky podnik (VŠLP). The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature 's Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://preferredbynature.org/dispute-resolution-policy>

Contacting Preferred by Nature

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