



**Project Name: Gonsalves Hotel**

**Address: 14, Sheriff Street, Georgetown**

**Name of Developer: Neil Gonsalves**

**Prepared by: Melinda Lynch (Consultant)**

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# Gonsalves Hotel Project Summary

## Project Overview

Gonsalves Hotel is the brainchild of Mr. Neil Gonsalves, a Guyanese with a passion for and commitment to the development of Guyana. The sole proprietor boutique hotel, located at 14, Sheriff Street, Campbellville, Georgetown is a family-owned hotel, comprising of 40 exquisitely designed rooms, guaranteed to give guests a refreshing experience, relaxing and comfortable stay, and exceptional customer service on par with international standards. Further, it is the goal of management, to encourage a health, safety and environmental culture among its employees, guests, subcontractors and suppliers, in alignment with the Company's vision, mission and health, safety and environmental policy.

The construction of the hotel commenced in 2021 and it has been estimated that a capital investment of GY \$300,000,000 will be required, to cover costs associated with the acquisition of raw materials, construction, preparation of plans, securing permits, furnishings and associated labour costs. Gonsalves hotel, occupies a total land area of approximately 511 m<sup>2</sup>, and stands at a height of 14.6 m. The hotel is divided into 7 floors, with the reception area and parking space on the ground floor, a restaurant on the first floor, while the remaining floors will contain rooms of various kinds to cater to the requirements of the guests. Figure 1 below, shows a schematic of the hotel.



Figure 1: Schematic of the hotel

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The hotel, which is expected to be completed by the end of April 2023, will be connected to an existing 10-room occupancy building situated immediately west of newly constructed hotel. This building will provide office spaces, a laundry room, and additional rooms for guests.

## Vision Statement

To be the guests' first choice, by creating lasting impressions through unmatched personalized service and remarkable quality

## Mission Statement

To amplify leisure and vacation experiences by creating and transferring a legacy of exceptional values

## Core Values

- ✚ **Customer Service-** Providing exceptional service to the satisfaction of all guests
- ✚ **Integrity-** Each member of the team understands the importance of being completely trustworthy
- ✚ **Reliability-** Our word is highly valued, and guests can depend on us to deliver as promised
- ✚ **Teamwork-** Recognise that the team is stronger together. We aim to work collaboratively with each other since our team is only as strong as the weakest link
- ✚ **Unbiased-** provide the same exemplary service to each of our guests regardless of age, race or religion

## Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Policy

The HSE Policy of Gonsalves Hotel, has been designed to achieve the vision of the Company, as well as to ensure that current and future health, safety and environmental legislation are adhered to. This policy will pave the way towards Gonsalves Hotel, having a competitive advantage in the hospitality industry and when fully implemented, will no doubt distinguish it from others in the business. It is envisioned that implementation of the HSE Policy will achieve environmental improvement through the integration of environmental considerations into strategic planning and decision-making in a coherent manner.

It is the responsibility of every employee of Gonsalves Hotel to ensure that the HSE policy is adhered to in performance of their respective duties. This policy will be communicated to all employees, guests, suppliers and subcontractors, and will be publicly displayed in the hotel so that other parties

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may be made aware of it if they so desire. The Project Manager of Gonsalves Hotel will be responsible for the overall implementation of the HSE Policy.

As part of its HSE Policy, Gonsalves Hotel commits to:

- ✚ Fully complying with local health, safety and environmental legislation
- ✚ Implementing sound health, safety and environmental practices throughout the entire operation
- ✚ Providing a safe working environment by identifying and controlling hazards
- ✚ Supplying personal protective equipment (PPE) to all employees where necessary
- ✚ Providing requisite information, training and resources to employees on a continuous basis to enable them to meet the Company's health, safety and environmental objectives
- ✚ Encouraging resource conservation through minimisation of energy, water and materials use
- ✚ Implementing a system of waste segregation throughout the entire hotel and restaurant's operation
- ✚ Reducing, reusing and recycling the materials utilised by the hotel where possible and practical
- ✚ Ensuring that health, safety and environmental matters are discussed via a consultative process involving representatives of management and employees
- ✚ Encouraging a safety culture among all employees, through provision of mechanisms for free and honest reporting of all health, safety and environmental hazards which may exist as well as incidents or accidents which may occur
- ✚ Ensuring continuous improvement through monitoring of environmental performance on a regular basis

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## Project Description

### Site Description

Gonsalves hotel has been suitably located in a commercial zone, which comprises many businesses, including but not limited to supermarkets, restaurants, and vulcanizing shops. As demonstrated in the map attached in figure 2, the hotel is bounded to the north and south by residents (~15 m and 11 m respectively), immediately to the west by the existing hotel building and to the east by the Sheriff Street public access road, which will be the hotel's entrance and exit. While there is one main access to the compound, the restaurant and additional floors of the hotel may also be accessed by the stairs or elevator, located at the northern extreme of the premises.



Figure 2: Map showing project location and surrounding land uses

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The site is drained by an underground drainage system, which channels runoff to a covered drain situated at the southern extreme of the premises. At every 19 ft of the drain, there are 6 inches pipes direct all runoff from the compound into the drain (see figure 3).



Figure 3: One of the 6 Inches pipe which channels runoff into the southern drain

Effluent accumulating in this drain, leaves the site via a pipe at the southeastern section of the premises, and is channeled into a canal which is also underground.

### **Project Design**

#### **Design / Pre-construction phase**

Prior to the commencement of construction, the management of Gonsalves met to engage in pre-construction planning, which was viewed as an essential stage in the hotel's construction and ultimately its operation. As part of this process, key roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, and stakeholders external to the management team such as suppliers, contractors and government agencies were identified.

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Further activities conducted in the pre-construction process included engineer's assessment of the site, to inform decisions such as pile depth, foundation type, and allow for the construction of a stable structure.

## **Construction Phase**

Construction of the hotel commenced in 2021, with acquisition of materials such as stone, lumber, sand, cement and steel. This was followed by building of the concrete framework for the hotel and the addition of steel to the building.

Gonsalves Hotel was made aware of the need for and Environmental Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all efforts have been directed towards having the construction and operation activities of the hotel authorised expeditiously.

Given the current trajectory, the construction of the hotel is expected to be completed by the end of April 2023. Further construction activities will entail the completion of internal designs and room separation, installation of electrical and plumbing components, capping, tiling, addition of compound and painting. Final touches will be added to the hotel by installation of carefully selected, unique furnishing.

## **Operational Phase**

Gonsalves Hotel will operate on a 24-hours basis, with check-in, estimated to commence at 15:00h and check out time at 12:00 h. A Key card system will be implemented, for guest access to rooms/suites and other public areas. For security reasons, each key card will be reprogrammed when returned by guests after checking out.

Daily house-keeping services will be provided, to ensure rooms and all areas of the hotel are safe, healthy, aesthetically pleasing, and accessible to guests, employees and visitors.

Each room will contain electrical appliances such as a microwave, coffee maker, refrigerator, iron, hair dryer, telephone, television, and an air conditioning unit. As part of the company's drive towards the promotion of energy efficiency, the company's procurement process will see the selection of affordable, energy star certified appliances.

The La Perla Restaurant, is proposed to be an open-spaced restaurant housed on the first floor of the hotel. The restaurant has been designed with a seating capacity of 66 persons. As part of the

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safety precautions necessary for operation of a restaurant, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and extractor systems will be implemented.

Apart from the washroom facilities included in each room, and the 2 washrooms present in the existing building west of the hotel under construction, 3 washrooms will be constructed in the restaurant and 1 in the hotel's office.

### **Utilities**

#### *Electricity*

The primary source of electricity for the hotel and restaurant will be supplied by the Guyana Power and Light Incorporated. However, a 350 kVA, automatic switch generator will be utilised in the event of a power outage.

#### *Water*

Water for the hotel and restaurant will be provided by the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), water supply system. There are also 2 water reservoirs (with 940- and 3100-gallons capacity); and four 450 gallons tanks, to support water supply at the hotel during periods of service interruptions. It should be noted that the reservoirs on site only serve as a water storage mechanism since they receive water from GWI's water supply system and not from a groundwater well. Further, water required for drinking will be purchased.

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## Potential Environmental Impacts & Mitigation Strategies

While the generation of contaminants is inevitable, the primary aim of the prevention and mitigation strategies is to ensure that the resultant effluent discharge, waste disposal, air and noise emissions, do not exceed allowable limits, such that it becomes a serious environmental pollution concern and constitute a nuisance.

Therefore, the sections below will present likely impacts which may result from the hotel's construction and operation; but which can be prevented or controlled due to implementation of preventive and mitigation measures.

Figure 4 provides a synopsis of the categories and sources of environmental impacts which may potentially result from the hotel's operation.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Air Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Use of fuel for heating and other equipment such as generator;</li><li>⇒ Fugitive dust from construction activities and stockpiling materials</li><li>⇒ Emissions from exhaust of vehicles used for transportation of goods and hotel personnel</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Water Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Grey water from bathrooms, hand washing sinks and kitchen sinks</li><li>⇒ Black water from use of toilets</li><li>⇒ Runoff contaminated with cleaning materials/detergents</li><li>⇒ Increased turbidity in drains due to sediment deposition during construction</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Waste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Concrete, wood, steel from construction activities</li><li>⇒ Plastic, cardboard and paper waste from packaging material and use as office products</li><li>⇒ Plastic and glass bottle wastes from beverage use, waste shampoo, conditioner and detergent containers</li><li>⇒ Aluminium cans from beverage use</li><li>⇒ Electronic waste from end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment</li><li>⇒ Hazardous wastes such as waste oil and used lead acid batteries from servicing of generator and vehicles</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Noise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Construction, renovation and maintenance activities</li><li>⇒ Operation of equipment such as generators, ACs, compressors</li><li>⇒ Music from entertainment events</li></ul>

Figure 4: Categories and Sources of Potential Environmental Impacts

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## **Air Quality (Indoor and Outdoor)**

In keeping with the objective of ensuring the hotel's operation does not result in undue distress and discomfort to guests and surrounding businesses and residents, it is essential that management is cognizant of the indoor and outdoor air quality risks which may arise from the hotel.

It is anticipated that residents of the hotel are more likely to be impacted by indoor air quality since most of their time will be spent inside the hotel rather than outside the hotel. Therefore, this often-overlooked aspect of air quality will be addressed.

Indoor air quality concerns may arise from materials used for example in carpeting and soft furnishings, use of cleaning chemicals, elevated moisture levels in the indoor environment and the exchange between outdoor and indoor air.

As it relates to outdoor air quality, of primary concern is the presence of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions. Fugitive dust emissions will result from construction activities and the stockpiling and use of construction materials, especially those which are light weight and have the smaller aerodynamic diameter such as sand and cement. Due to the nature of this project's activities, the release of fugitive dust is unavoidable; however, this occurrence will be short term and is expected to last only for the duration of construction and in cases where major hotel renovations may be conducted.

The release of exhaust emissions will result from the use of the generator and vehicles entering and leaving the hotel's compound. Since these are fuel burning equipment, the emission of oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide (in instances of incomplete combustion of fuel) will result.

Finally, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) may be present in indoor and outdoor air from activities such as use of aerosols, solvents, paints and refueling of the generator.

## **Potential Impacts**

The severity of health impacts, associated with poor indoor and outdoor air quality will depend on the type of air contaminant in question, the dose (concentration of air contaminant a person is exposed to), the duration and frequency of exposure.

While the health impacts associated with poor indoor air quality among hotel staff may be as a result of prolonged exposure, guests are likely to be impacted by acute exposures resulting in headaches, irritation of the ears, nose and eyes, allergic reactions and respiratory system discomfort. In addition

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to the impacts, more serious illnesses such as cancer of the lungs and toxic poisoning have been linked to prolonged exposure to poor indoor air quality.

Particulate matter and exhaust emissions released during combustion of fossil fuels have been known to result in health problems primarily associated with the respiratory system in humans. Further, physical impacts such as the presence of wind-blown dust on buildings, is a common impact from the construction phase. During the early phases of construction, one complained about the presence dust from the activity on parts of their property. The company cleaned affected parts of the building and no further complaints were received.

Since mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the severity of air quality impacts associated with the hotel's activities, and the fact that the emissions are expected to be short term, the overall impact of the hotel's construction and operation is expected to be low.

### **Mitigation Measures**

The primary reasons for the implementation of mitigation measures are:

1. To ensure that healthy indoor and outdoor air quality are maintained
2. To prevent, as far as possible, the emission of hazardous liquid, solid or gaseous materials into the atmosphere
3. To ensure that the health and well-being of guests, employees and visitors are protected in cases where the emission of hazardous substances into the atmosphere is unavoidable

As it relates to indoor air quality, it is imperative that a comfortable indoor temperature, devoid of irritants, mold, mildew and other contaminants is maintained. Therefore, to achieve healthy indoor air quality, the following will be implemented:

- Regular maintenance and cleaning of all air conditioning units to ensure adequate air circulation and ventilation
- Maintenance on building and equipment as well as cleaning and flushing of shower heads to discourage the growth of microbes, mold, or mildew
- As far as possible, more environmentally friendly paints and cleaning products, containing little to no solvents will be utilised. When not in use, these will be tightly covered, and stored in a well-ventilated storage room, to avoid the release of VOC emissions
- The company will procure carpeting which, based on manufacturer's information, does not contain irritants. Further, all carpeting will be unrolled and aired in a well-ventilated area

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prior to installation. Rooms in which carpeting has been installed will be aired for at least 24-hours.

- All soft furnishings and carpeting will be dusted and/or vacuumed daily, with particular concentration on the most used areas
- Designation of smoking and non-smoking rooms and sections of the hotel and restaurant

Mitigation of fugitive dust will include wet suppression of stockpiles during construction where practical. Further, since cement particles are easily dispersed by wind, that open mixing of concrete will be avoided.

Emissions resulting from the use of generators will be mitigated through measures designed to minimise emissions and the associated impacts. This includes regular preventive maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the construction of the exhaust emission stack in accordance with good engineering practice stack height.

Additionally, emission resulting from vehicles entering and leaving the hotel's premises will be mitigated by limiting the duration of idling of a vehicle.

VOC emissions will be minimised by taking caution during refueling of the generator and ensuring that there is no leakage in the apparatus used for this. Ensuring adequate ventilation when using solvents, aerosols and paints will minimise the impacts associated with VOC emissions.

### **Water Quality**

Effluent will be discharged from regular day to day activities including the use of washroom, kitchen and laundry facilities, as well as general compound maintenance during which effluent will be discharged from washing the building, or yard. The direct discharge of effluent into the environment is known to cause pollution of waterways through the addition of contaminants such as phosphates, chlorine and some heavy metals. However, to prevent such an occurrence, all process/activity-related effluent will undergo some form of pretreatment prior to its release.

### **Potential Impacts**

The discharge of untreated effluent into the environment, can result in contamination of waterways, especially those containing phosphate-based cleaning agents and fuel. In extreme cases, especially in stagnant water, the discharge of effluent with high phosphate content can result in severe cases of eutrophication. This, along with the discharge of fuel-contaminated effluent can result in disruption to aquatic life, denoted in some cases by fish kills and increased mal odour.

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## Mitigation Measures

The best approach to decreasing the release of effluent into the environment is to minimise its generation. Gonsalves Hotel aims to balance the need for reliable water supply, while simultaneously avoiding wastage of water. Therefore, as the first option, a series of water conservation strategies will be implemented. This includes regular inspection of faucets, showers, toilets, pipes etc., for any signs of leakage and repairing them immediately when detected. In addition, management will explore the feasibility of installing water saving mechanisms such as self-closing taps, low flow shower heads, low flush toilets and toilets with dual flush options.

The effluent that is generated will be prevented from coming into direct contact with the internal drains and waterways external to the facility as far as possible. Effluent from the bathroom and laundry rooms will be channeled to the underground septic tank (9 ft X 6ft). Effluent generated from washing the compound will be channeled to an oil water separator which will ensure the removal of residual fuel or lubricants which may enter the water from washing near generator room. All pipes from kitchen areas in the hotel and restaurant will be connected to the grease trap. The effluent will first be channeled to the grease trap to remove fats and oils, then to the oil water separator to remove any residual oil and grease prior to its discharge into the external drain. The septic tank and grease trap will be designed in accordance with the GNBS and EPA guidelines respectively.

## Waste Management

A hotel generates an average of approximately 1kg of waste per guest per night; however, the quantity of waste generated is proportional to guest occupancy. Therefore, management is cognizant that during peak seasons, waste generation will increase. As part of the efforts to ensure proper waste management in the company, the 3Rs strategy will be implemented where, as far as possible, waste will be reduced, reused or recycled. This strategy allows for environmental and benefits to be maximised, while ensuring that the hotel functions in an efficient manner.

Gonsalves Hotel will generate both non-hazardous and hazardous waste during the construction and operation phases of the project. Non-hazardous solid waste anticipated includes waste from construction activities (concrete, wood, steel); packaging materials and office products such as plastic, cardboard and paper waste; plastic and glass bottles from the consumption of beverages and empty detergent, shampoo and conditioner containers; aluminum cans from beverage

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consumption; and organic material from kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings and left-over food.

Liquid non-hazardous waste, in the form of used cooking-oil will also be generated, primarily from the restaurant's operation.

Solid and liquid hazardous waste will also be produced from the hotel's construction and operation. These include end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment, used lead acid batteries and waste oil (fuel and lubricants) produced from servicing and maintenance of the generator or company vehicles.

### **Potential Impacts**

Waste generation is a common product of any development activity; and is influenced by consumption rates and patterns. However, concerns about waste arise from its poor management. Poorly managed waste poses a threat to human health, environmental quality, and places a burden on businesses.

The resulting environmental impacts of improper waste disposal can be experienced in various media such as water, soil and air. For example, in cases where hazardous wastes are dumped on land, the contamination of soil results which affects the growth and productivity of plants and soil microorganisms. Soil contaminants can also leach into ground water and affect drinking water supply and increasing the cost of water treatment. In some cases, the direct disposal of waste can occur in waterways, which may deplete oxygen supply, disrupt aquatic life and negatively affect the beauty of the surrounding environment.

One of the more common impacts of improper disposal of waste (particularly solid waste) is that it encourages the breeding of rodents and other pathogens, resulting in mal odour and poor aesthetic.

Apart from the indiscriminate dumping of waste on land and in water, attempts to dispose waste by burning can result in the release of toxic emissions which can cause severe respiratory distress. Waste streams may contain substances such as plastics, which release toxins such as dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls when burnt. The impacts resulting from burning waste is especially exacerbated in instances where persons exposed to toxic emissions, already have pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma.

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## Mitigation Measures

The waste hierarchy identifies waste avoidance as the preferred option for sustainably managing waste; however, since waste production is unavoidable, Gonsalves Hotel plans to implement a system of waste reduction, reuse and recycling where possible.

The company recognises that waste segregation and separation is the first stage in diverting waste of useful value from the landfill. Therefore, Gonsalves Hotel, in the first instance will implement a system of waste segregation throughout the hotel and sensitise guests and employees about the importance of waste separation. For this reason, all rooms will be equipped with multiple bins, containing colour-coded bags based on the type of waste to be disposed. Waste throughout the hotel will be placed into a large skip, via a garbage shoot connected to the second floor at the southern section of the hotel. This mechanism will ensure that waste is not transported through commonly used areas of the hotel prior to disposal.

All **non-hazardous** solid waste will be stored in a covered skip, which will be removed for disposal, at least twice weekly by Cevons Waste Management. Daily waste disposal is also possible; however, this will only be necessary during periods of high hotel occupancy, during which waste production is expected to increase.

Organic waste from the kitchen, including fruit and vegetable peelings, and left-over food will be collected separately and composted. The Company will examine the possibility of donating compost bins to nearby schools, to which organic waste can be added to produce nutrient-rich soils for schools' agricultural programmes.

Due to the operation of the restaurant and kitchen facilities, it is expected that used cooking oil, will be generated. This will be stored in 5 gallons containers, pending collection and disposal by Cevons Waste Management. It should be noted that Cevons Waste Management exports used cooking oil for reprocessing.

It is anticipated that only small volumes of **hazardous waste** will be generated during the hotel's construction and operation. Nevertheless, each category of hazardous waste will be appropriately managed to minimise the impacts which would result from its poor management.

It is estimated that approximately 4 gallons of waste oil will be generated monthly from servicing the generator during routine maintenance. This will be stored in 5- gallons or 45-gallons containers and safely transported to the interior in sealed containers, where there is a demand for waste oil as

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a lubricant for chainsaws. This closed loop system of waste oil management discourages the indiscriminate disposal of waste oil.

Used lead acid batteries (ULABs), generated periodically from the maintenance of vehicles and the generator; and electronic waste generated from end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment will be sent to scrap metal operators, authorised by the EPA for export of hazardous waste for recovery.

### Noise

Noise refers to any sound that is undesirable, disturbing, or annoying to an individual; however, the threshold at which sound becomes noise, is dependent on the sensitivity of the recipient. Threshold values for noise emissions into the environment, have been set by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), which specifies the allowable daytime and nighttime sound levels for specific zones (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial).

During the construction phase of the project, sound levels are expected to increase above ambient conditions due to the use of construction equipment and tools and activities such as hammering, drilling and sawing. Increased sound levels are also expected during refurbishing/renovation of the hotel.

Noise will also be emitted from the operation of a single 350 Kva generator which the company intends to procure. As previously mentioned, the generator will only be operated during periods of power outages.

Finally, during special entertainment events, sound levels may be increased if music is played through an amplifier and loudspeakers at these events. Conversation among patrons present at entertainment events will also contribute to increased sound levels, depending on the number of persons present.

The hotel has been situated in a commercial zone, near a busy public road (Sheriff Street). An average sound level of 67.9 decibels (dB) was recorded (maximum-81.1dB; minimum-59.9 dB), outside of rush hour traffic times. Therefore, although construction activities, operation of generator and music from entertainment events can contribute to increased sound levels, it is not expected that the aforementioned localised and short-term activities will result in sound levels exceeding the limits set by the GNBS for a commercial zone or construction activity (table 1). Despite this assumption, noise mitigation strategies will be implemented during the construction and operation of the hotel.

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Table 1: Limits for Noise Emissions into the Environment (Source: GNBS *Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment*)

Categories	Daytime Limits in dB (A)	Nighttime Limits in dB (A)
Commercial	80	65
Construction	90	75

## Potential Impacts

An individual's sensitivity to sound, and the resulting impacts may vary according to one's age, existing health conditions, stress level and time of day. In general, excessive noise can reduce a person's quality of life and in some cases, cause physiological effects (e.g., sleep disturbances and decreased concentration) and damage to health. Noise is also known to affect other living species, resulting in their migration from the area. In the context of a hotel's operation, excessive noise levels have the potential to decrease property value and guest satisfaction. Additionally, employee productivity may also be diminished.

While the hotel's presence (mainly due to the construction phase), is expected to contribute to the noise levels in the area, it is not expected that it will result in any of the aforementioned impacts beyond what is currently experienced by receptors or what will be experienced in the hotel's absence, since the location is already a busy commercial zone with many contributors to noise (restaurants, bars, road traffic).

## Mitigation Measures

The emission of noise from construction activities, is expected; however, to ensure that the construction of the hotel does not result in undue disturbance, this activity will be limited within the daytime as defined by GNBS Guidelines for Noise Emissions into the Environment (i.e., 06:00 h to 18:00h). As such, construction activity will commence at 07:00h and conclude on or before 17:00 h from Monday to Friday and up to 15:00 h on Saturday. Further, no construction activity will occur on Sundays.

One of the major sources of noise emission during the hotel's lifetime will be the generator. However, to minimise the sound levels resulting from its operation, the generator will be sound attenuated with silencers and mufflers, housed in a soundproof enclosure and placed on a rubberized surface.

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The generator will also be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specification to ensure that poor servicing and maintenance does not result in unusual noise generation. Finally, personnel designated to enter the generator room, will always be attired with appropriate ear muffers.

In an effort to minimise noise disturbances during entertainment events, management will implement, as part of their policy, specific schedules and maximum sound levels for music entertainment in the hotel's function rooms.

One of the main objectives of any hotel is to provide a peaceful and relaxing environment for their guests. A relatively low sound level in areas utilised by guests is therefore crucial. In addition, there is need for some degree of privacy which can be achieved through a low level of sound transmission between adjoining rooms. Therefore, as far as possible, all rooms will be soundproofed to ensure hotel guests and staff are not affected during noise generating activities. Soundproofing of areas of the hotel, where staff may spend most of their time (e.g., offices) will ensure that staff are not occupationally exposed to high sound levels from entertainment events, the operation of the generator, renovation activities, or any other activity from which noise may be generated.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The aforementioned concerns related to waste, noise, water and air quality resulting from the hotel's construction and operation, may add to existing environmental impacts in the commercial zone of Sheriff Street Campbellville. As depicted in table below, existing businesses and activities in the area, already contribute to waste generation, effluent discharges and air and noise emissions.

In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction and operation of the hotel, can significantly exacerbate the environmental impacts existing in the vicinity of the hotel. However, Gonsalves Hotel's contribution to these is expected to be negligible due to the robust mitigation measures which will be implemented.

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Table 2: Existing Contributors to Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impact	Existing Contributors to Impact
Air Emissions	Construction Activity, 4 buildings N of Gonsalves Hotel; Exhaust emissions from vehicles on Sheriff Street and generators used at other businesses and residences
Effluent Discharge	Hotels and Guest houses; Aagman Restaurant; Residences
Noise Emissions	Traffic on Sheriff Street, Audio Installation Business 2 buildings N of Gonsalves Hotel (where sound testing is conducted); other construction activities; businesses and residents with generator, compressors, and other noise-producing equipment
Waste Generation	All residences and businesses

## **Fire Safety & Emergency Response**

The safety of guests, staff and visitors is a top priority for Gonsalves Hotel. The company has already engaged with the Guyana Fire Service to receive the necessary directives on the appropriate fire safety and prevention strategies for the hotel during its operation. Basic firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers, fire alarms and fire hoses will be strategically located throughout the hotel. Further, an assessment will be done to determine the type of fire most likely to occur in each location to ensure that the most appropriate fire extinguisher is situated in that vicinity. A chart, like the one outlined in figure 5, will be consulted to aid in the decision-making process.

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FIRE EXTINGUISHER SELECTION CHART								
Class & Type of Fire	Colours	A	B	C	D	(E)	F	 <small>WWW.INTEGRALFIREPROTECTION.COM.AU</small>
Type of Extinguisher		Wood, Paper, Plastic	Flammable & Combustible Liquids	Flammable Gases	Combustible Metals	Electrically Energised Equipment	Cooking Oils and Fats	
Dry Chemical Powder (ABE/BE)		✓ ✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗ ✓	Be careful to select the correct extinguisher, ABE and BE fire extinguishers are different.
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)		LIMITED ✓	LIMITED ✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	Not ideal for use outdoors or large class A fires.
Foam		✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	LIMITED ✓	DO NOT USE on energised electrical equipment.
Water		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	DO NOT USE on energised electrical equipment, flammable liquids & cooking oil/fat fires
Wet Chemical		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	DO NOT USE on energised electrical equipment.
Fire Blanket		LIMITED ✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Effective on small oil/fat fires within kitchens. Also used to extinguish clothing fires (replace a fire blanket after use).

Figure 5: Fire Extinguisher Selection Chart (Source: <https://integralfireprotection.com.au/fire-and-safety-education/>)

As far as possible, at least 2 persons who have received first aid training will be present for each shift schedule so in the event of an emergency, a first responder will be present. It is the intention to hire persons already trained in first aid, and in cases where this is not possible, management is committed to securing this training for all its employees using a phased approach.

An emergency evacuation plan will be placed behind the door of each room, office, and other frequently utilised areas. As part of their induction training, employees will be made aware of the evacuation plan, and be sensitized on how to respond in case of an emergency. A fire escape will also be situated to the western extreme of the building and assembly/muster points will be clearly identified. All guests will receive an information package, regarding emergency response procedures at the hotel.

Further, due to their proximity to the Hotel and emergency response capabilities, the Campbellville Health Centre, located ~ 211 m from the hotel will be used for minor emergencies, while the Sheriff Medical Centre and Ambulance Service, located ~860 m from the hotel will be used for more serious emergencies such as falls, broken limbs or deep lacerations.

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Other areas of emergency response will be required in instances of fuel spills during refilling of diesel tank in generator. However, the company will procure the appropriate spill kit which will be located close to the generator since this is the area where fuel spill is most likely to occur.

### **Socio-economic Impacts**

The tourism sector plays an important role in Guyana's development. The establishment of Gonsalves Hotel and La Perla Restaurant will undoubtedly contribute to Guyana's development through creation of employment during the project's construction and operation phases. It is estimated that approximately 15 jobs will be created during the construction phase, while operation will see the employment of approximately 35 persons.

While job creation is a direct socioeconomic impact from the construction and operation of Gonsalves Hotel, indirect impacts include jobs and business created by subcontractors and suppliers of goods and services to the hotel.

Fiscal impacts will also result from the collection of various forms of taxes resulting from the hotel's construction and operation. Further, as part of the company's corporate and social responsibility (CSR), appropriate community development projects will be conducted annually.

Gonsalves Hotel intends to achieve all social and economic business objectives, while remaining environmentally compliant. It is envisioned, that the hotel will be a legacy in the Gonsalves family and in Guyana's tourism sector.