

Project Summary – Logging Activities Within State Forest Authorization AVEMD DIAL

BCE 03/22

Name of Developer: Avmed Dial

Developer's Address: 5034 Phase 2 Amelia's Ward Linden, Upper Demerara River

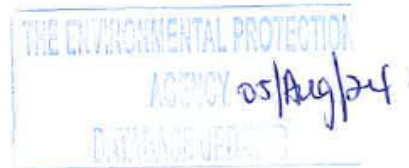
Contact: 592-644-2648.

Project Type: Forestry / Logging

Project Location: WITHIN SFA BCE 03/22, Left Bank Abary River, Right Bank Taurakulli River

Submitted by: Avmed Dial

Date: 12th July, 2024



Project size and duration:

Approximately four (4) persons are employed to carry out various operational activities as they related to the logging activities and these include chainsaw operators, helper, tractor driver etc. The expected lifetime of the logging operation is dependent on the renewal of the SFA Agreement with the Guyana Forestry Commission.

This SFA expires 31st December, 2026 and I am currently logging within the above mentioned area.

Site Description:

The logging operations being carried within State Forest Authorisation BCE 03/22 and is located at the aforementioned project address. According to the SFA agreement issued by the Guyana Forestry Commission, the total area size is 5,732 ha (14,164 ac). Save and except all lands legally held and description is subjected to change upon verification. There are similar sizes, small, logging concessions and these include Mary Joseph Bce 11/19, Anil Manickchand Dem 09/02 and Arthur De Nobrega Bce 30/95 etc.

See surrounding map for more information. The concession can be accessed through Linden Soesdyke Highway, thence via a trail named Miley's Hideout leading to Moraikabai Village Mahaicony River with, boat by river and road using Pick – Ups, trucks and or tractors.

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Project Operation:

This project activity is to undertake logging operations within SFA Bce 03/22 and operations have commenced since the year 2022. Forest products are being harvested based on stipulated measures as set out in Code Of Practice for Logging Operations – Small Concession 2018, State Forest Authorisation Contract, Forest Act 2009 and other relevant laws.

Trees are selected by tree spotters (chainsaw operator and his helper) based on diameter sizes and species requirements for markets. There is opne chainsaw operator and a tractor driver with their helpers.

Trees are selected and logs produced based on GFC quota system and tags are issued per tree to be felled. However, the stipulated basic quota (true volume) for my concession agreement is 4,642.92 M3 for 36 months. However, converted volume for log being produced is 2,785.75 M3 or 928.58 m3 annually. See SFA Contract – Second Schedule, Quota of Forest Produce for which Authorisation is Granted.

Some species harvested are tauroniro, dukuria, darina and other to be harvested based on future markets demands etc.

A tarpaulin and wooden of 20 ft length by 15 ft width by 10 ft height in dimension was established within my concession area to house four (4) workers where a combination of kerosene lamp and solar lights are used at nights.

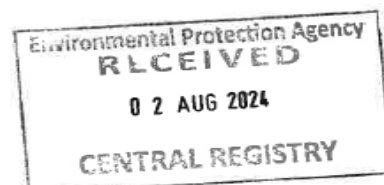
The toilet facility entails one (1) pit latrine situated more than (100) metres from any water way and approximately ninety (90) metres from camp. It is well shaded, clear path and empty drums wielded one on the other for depth and containment in the ground.

Working hours are general between 08:00 and 16:00 h daily Monday to Friday. Weekend are for maintenance of machines and domestic chores.

Water for drinking and domestic purposes is sourced from nearby creek within concession and drinking water is collected in containers covered and stored.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to all employees which includes steel toed long boots, helmets and high visibility vest. First aid and snake bite kit are present on site at all time.

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Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The following environmental impact may be generated from the logging operations and these impacts are not likely to be significant:

Environmental Impacts:

The noise emissions' emanated from the tractor and chainsaw.

Particulate Matter (dust):

Sawdust is emitted during felling and bucking activities, as well as dust generated when vehicles travel along the trail during the dry weather. Sediment during travelling on wet roads during the rainy season.

Hazardous Material / Waste:

If these materials or waste are not properly stored, it can result in an accidental spills or discharge may occur, resulting in soil pollution.

Fire:

Flammable substances such as gas, diesel and kerosene are stored onsite and if not managed properly, can be ignited if a worker who smokes discards a burning cigarette butt. Once these issues are managed properly, will not be hazardous to human lives nor the forest and the ecosystem. However, who may need to smoke are asked to disposed cigarette butts' info water containers or ashtrays and ensures those butts are extinguished.

Water Quality Impacts:

The removal of trees and disturbance of the forest soils can cause increase sedimentations in creeks, rivers and streams, which can have detrimental effect to water quality and the aquatic ecosystem.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation:

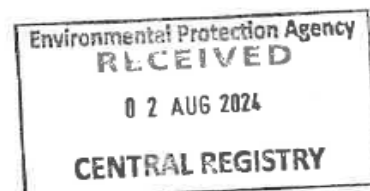
Logging and its associated activities can destroy and fragment habitats for a wide range of species, including animals, birds, fungi, insects and other organisms. This can lead to a decrease in biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Soil Erosion and Degradation:

Logging and all its activities can disturb the natural structure of the forest soils, casing erosion and reduced soil fertility and making it more difficult for new trees to grow. Also, this can have an adverse effect on water quality during the rainy weather conditions.

Carbon Dioxide Emission and Climate Change:

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Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere so, logging increases carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to climate change. In addition, trees play a critical role in managing local, regional and international climates by cycling water and moderating temperatures.

Solid Waste:

- Domestic waste, inclusive of plastic bottles, food scraps, etc. is generated by the workers.
- Sawdust and wood ends and damaged woods created during the felling and bucking activities will be removed using the chainsaw and any other environmentally friendly means.

Cumulative Impacts:

There are several other active, small-scale logging concessions surrounding this concession which can also impact air, water and land cumulatively.

Mitigation Measures:

Noise Emission:

The noise level generated are expected to be insignificant since tractors and chainsaws are equipped with an exhaust stack and noise-reducing apparatus. They are cleaned, serviced and well-maintained every day, week and month so as to reduce emissions into the environment and downtime.

Chainsaw chains and bars are checked and replaced with sharp ones to improve efficiency.

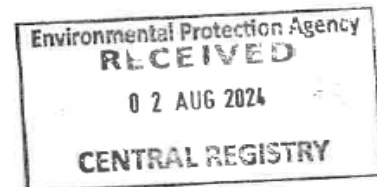
Workers are provided with appropriate PPEs, including hearing protection. A 2400-watt diesel generator is used from time to time for welding works in the concession and at the most times, may be switched on for not more than two (2) hours.

Particulate Matter (dust)

During dry weather conditions, the speed limit of 35 km/hr is adhered to. Chainsaw operators are provided with the appropriate PPEs, dust mask to protect them from dust, long boots, high-visibility vest, hard hats (helmet) and specialised gloves for the specific duties being undertaken.

The techniques utilized are selective logging, thus leaving the majority of the forest intact and adequate forest cover, hence, minimizing the dust emissions within the concession.

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Hazardous Waste

Limited fuel is stored onsite, including 1 – 2 45 gallon drums of diesel and approximately 20 gallons of gasoline (in 5 – gallons seal plastic bottles – reusable) and are kept in designated areas located at camp site and under strict supervision. This area is at least 100 metres away from waterways. The drums and gas containers are tightly covered to avoid and accidental spillage and are placed on dunnage.

Waste oil is generated 6 – 8 gallons and are reused on chainsaw as chain oil/lubricant. All waste oils are stored in 5 - gallons containers tightly closed plastic pails in an approved designated at campsite.

Fire

Workers are brief verbally and on a weekly basis on the importance of fire safety and “No Smoking” signs are erected in placed at the fuel storage area. A sand bucket and fire extinguisher are in place at the camp site and can be easily accessed should there be an emergency. The two operator trained to use the fire extinguisher.

Water Quality Impacts

Buffer zones along water ways such are creeks, rivers, streams and lakes etc. are maintained to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality and aquatic habitats. In fact, buffer zones harvesting are strictly prohibited by GFC’ regulations and penalties are instituted for any such breaches.

Habit Loss and Fragmentation

Trees are selected for harvesting, felled using directional Felling techniques and logs extracted based on Reduced Impact Logging Techniques. This will result in the conservation ecosystems and biodiversity. Logging is done in a sustainable manner where residual and future crop trees are protected.

Armed Div 2024/08/02

