

2025

Project Summary

Name of Developer: Bethany Amerindian Village

Project address: Bethany Mission, Supenaam Creek, Essequibo

Type of project: Sawmill and logging

Capital Investment: Community-led initiative

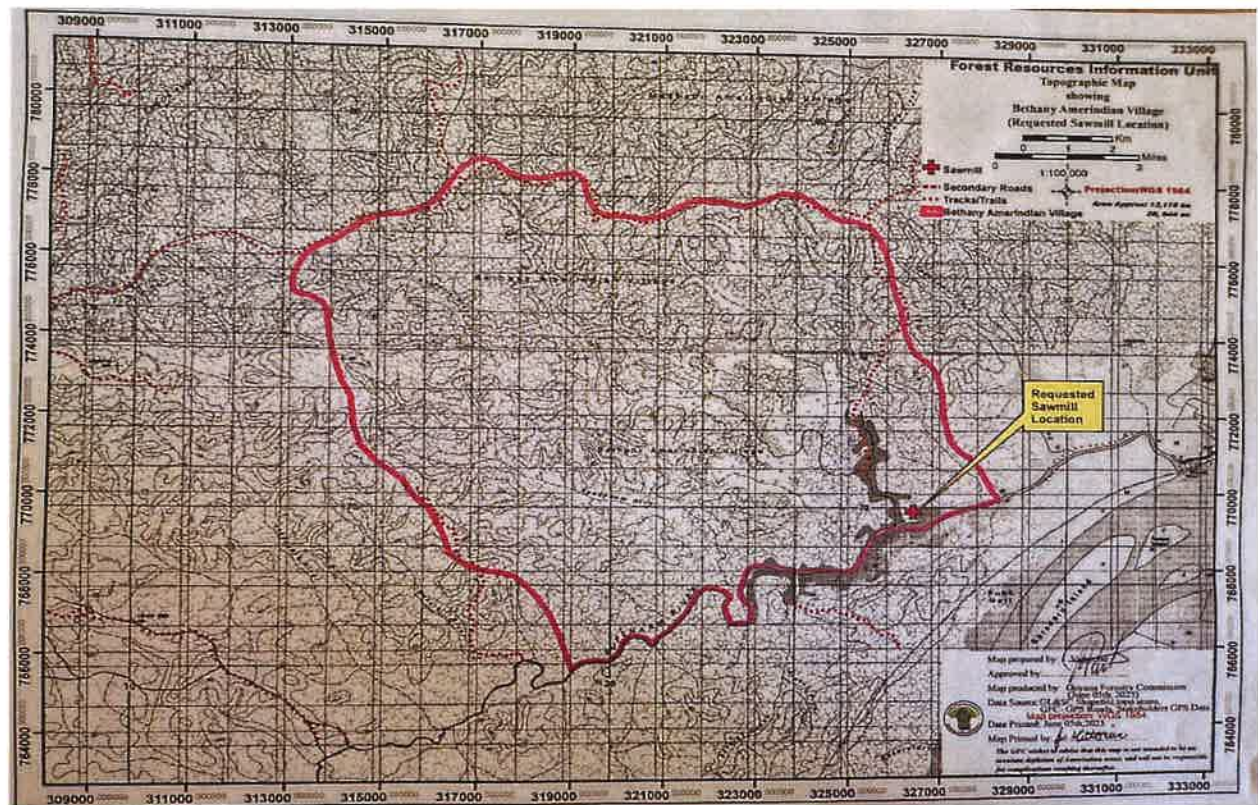
Annual turnover: To be determined based on community contributions and market demand

Contact details: 6225691

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Project Description

The Bethany Village Council has recently introduced a community-driven sawmill initiative aimed at processing timber into boards to support local development and entrepreneurship. This project uses logs supplied by residents of the village, with timber sourced exclusively from forests located within the Bethany Village Reservation-lands held and managed by the village under traditional rights and governance.



The figure above shows the map of the concession

Operational Phase

The sawmill is strategically located alongside the river, making transportation of logs more efficient. Logs are delivered using tractors and boat; and are processed onsite. The lumber produced will serve both internal community development and external sales.

There are no residents living in close proximity to the sawmill, and while noise is generated from machinery during operation, it is not expected to cause disruption to the village population.

Current Equipment Includes:

One (1) Woodmizer

Two (2) Chainsaws

One (1) Tractor

One (1) Solar Panel system

Onsite Safety Measures:

All workers will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): boots, helmets, earmuffs, dust masks, and safety vests.

Fire extinguishers, sand buckets, and "No Smoking" signs are placed strategically.

A First Aid kit and snake bite kit are available at all times.

Utilities

Water & Power:

Drinking water is transported as needed. Domestic water is sourced from creeks within the village boundary. Electricity is supplied through solar panels.

Operation of furniture workshop

The furniture workshop will be located in the western direction of the sawmill in a wooden shop dimension (unknown). This operation will provide employees for at least ten (10) employees who will be responsible for making small amount furniture's such as Doors and cupboards etc. The following Machines that will be used at the operation are as follows:

- Lathe- A lathe machine is a stationary cutting tool used primarily for shaping wood and metal
- Jointer - A Jointer is used to create a square surface on the edge of a board.
- Sharper - Shapers can cut much larger profiles than routers - such as for crown molding and raised-panel doors - and readily drive custom-made bits fabricated with unique profiles.
- Surfacer- This machine is used to prepare wood by creating flat faces and square edges.
- Bandsaw- This saw is used to cut intricate shapes, curves, and joints for creating custom furniture.

Environmental Considerations & Mitigation Measures

Noise Emissions:

While the mill produces noise during operation, no nearby residents are impacted due to its remote riverside location. Equipment is maintained regularly, and workers are protected with hearing PPE.

Particulate Matter (Dust):

Dust may arise during dry weather or when chainsaws are in use. PPE such as dust masks are issued. Logging practices follow selective cutting to minimize disturbance.

Hazardous Waste:

Fuel (gasoline and diesel) is stored in clearly marked containers at secure, designated sites away from water sources. Waste oil is reused and properly stored.

Fire Risk:

Fire safety briefings are routine. Fire extinguishers and sand buckets are always on site. "No Smoking" signs are prominently displayed near fuel storage.

Water Quality:

Buffer zones along creeks and rivers are maintained. Logging activities avoid direct disturbance to waterways to prevent sedimentation.

Biodiversity and Habitat:

Only selective logging techniques are used. This helps retain forest cover, preserve biodiversity, and sustain ecosystem health.

Soil Erosion:

Careful trail management and maintaining vegetative buffers help reduce soil degradation. Logging is done in accordance with forestry best practices.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Impact:

Selective logging practices help maintain carbon sequestration. Only mature trees are harvested, leaving younger trees to continue carbon absorption.

Cumulative Impacts:

Given the scale of operations and sustainable practices, no significant cumulative environmental impacts are expected. The Bethany Village Council oversees adherence to local environmental standards.

Waste Management

Domestic Waste: Separated and placed in waste pits located away from water sources. Pits are covered when full.

Wood Waste:

Sawdust and off-cuts are repurposed for landfills or used in community gardening and construction.

Prepared by:

Bethany Village Council

For internal and regulatory use