



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Renewed)

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

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| Reference No.: | 20201221-HLSBE |
| Fees: | Small (C1) US\$100 (1 year) |
| Fee Paid: | US \$100 (July, 2022 to June, 2023) |

Addressee(s): **Mr. Shoghi Benjamin**
Secretary
Sustainable Forest Management Co-Operative Society
Limited
Lot 22, Suddie
New Housing Scheme
Essequibo Coast.

Activity: **To Undertake Logging Activities Within CFMA-Ess:**
55/13

Sustainable Forest Management Co-Operative Society, herein referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to undertake logging activities within CFMA Ess 55/13, at Left Bank Kairuni River, Right Bank Oko River, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Renewal Application submitted on June 10, 2022, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any existing or forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection Act and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions:

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1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit (Renewed) in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- i. Change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
 - ii. Change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
 - iii. Change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
 - iv. Affect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Construct camps, roads, log markets, plumbed toilets/pit latrines and trail(s) in the manner specified in the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018.
- 1.3 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the Project site.
- 1.4 Where the land surface has been disturbed during/after construction, expansion, modification or repair of the operation or any portion of the operation, the Permit Holder shall reclaim/rehabilitate the surface of the land to its former state; except where it is not possible, the Permit Holder may reclaim and/or rehabilitate unused land to an equivalent standard.
- 1.5 Discharge logs safely through the use of appropriate equipment i.e., log extractor at log market/s to ensure logs do not free fall from haulers to the ground, resulting in vibration and excessive damage to soils and/ or vegetation.
- 1.6 Prohibit the hunting, trapping and trading of endangered and locally protected wildlife species, in keeping with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016. Further, prohibit the capture, trading and removal of wildlife by employees and/or all third party contractors.

2.0 EMPLOYEES

- 2.1 Comply with the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**
- 2.1.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to fit their job specification.

- 2.1.2 Provide first aid kit/s equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards which shall include a snake bite kit.
- 2.1.3 Provide communication and transportation systems to respond to emergencies.
- 2.2 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which should be available upon Officers' request during Compliance Inspections.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 **Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 3.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the good aesthetic quality of your surroundings.
- 3.3 Promote proper solid waste management practices at Project site. Provide covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations around Concession. All solid waste collected in these receptacles must be appropriately store, until such time, for disposal in solid waste pits. Reuse, recycle and compost waste materials as far as practicable. Waste shall not be disposed of in or near the waterways.
- 3.4 A Solid Waste Pit should be constructed at least 100 metres away from waterways, above the water table and lined with at least 1.5 metres of clay/loam material to avoid leachate entering the ground water.
 - 3.4.1 Storm water should be diverted from the waste pits. Pits should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to avoid fly and rodent infestations, as well as, mal-odours from leachate.
 - 3.4.2 When the maximum capacity is reached, the solid waste pit should be covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil and a suitable site determined for another.

4.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 **Comply with the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000, and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**

- 4.2 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for noise emission into the environment, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

- **Industrial Limits: 100dB** (Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h))

- 4.3 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 4.4 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment is serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.
- 4.5 Ensure that mechanical equipment and vehicles are regularly maintained and work at their optimal levels to minimise atmospheric emissions.

5.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- 5.1 **Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.**

- 5.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. Accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water must be recorded and reported **within 24 hrs** to the Agency for further investigation.

- 5.3 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the concession. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the concession.


- 5.4 Store fuel and waste oil in tightly covered plastic drums/pails to avoid spillage. Where possible, ensure it is stored on an impervious surface. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.

- 5.5 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example lubrication of equipment, where practical.

- 5.6 Label and store before being reused or sold to an authorised dealer; waste oil, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers, in a designated area with an impervious surface.

6.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 Comply with any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 6.2 Monitor the implementation of the Conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed), insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 6.3 Submit to the EPA, the **Environmental Annual Reports** on the status of the project, progress of the implementation of the monitoring activities and compliance with the conditions contained herein by **March 31** every year.
- 6.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) is granted and the Permit Holder shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the Permit Holder's activities or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.
- 6.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 6.6 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 6.7 Notify the EPA **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies such as a sudden onset disaster, accident, natural, technological or human induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood.
- 6.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Environmental Permit (Renewed) as follows:
 - 6.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Permit Holder becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
 - 6.8.2 Within **seventy-two (72) hours**, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause and the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time.


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6.8.3 Submit a report to the Agency indicating the reasons and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance has not been corrected.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 7.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.2 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution of the environment unless all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.3 The Permit Holder shall be liable for discharging, causing or permitting the entry into the environment, of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.2 and 7.3 of this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.5 The Permit Holder shall not be indemnified by the Agency for any activity ~~that causes or is likely to cause pollution to the environment, resulting~~ from adverse effects through the discharge, any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultra hazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.
- 7.6 The Permit Holder shall be liable of any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents, to the environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 7.7 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 7.8 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose a serious threat to natural resources or the environment, or a risk of serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may order him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.9 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.10 The Permit Holder, His Servants and/or Agents shall at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorised person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 7.11 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.12 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 7.13 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **July, 2022 to June, 2023.**
- 7.14 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **June 30, 2023**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.15 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **January 31, 2023.**

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No.: 20201221-HLSBE

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- 7.16 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, the Agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2000.00) per day for every business day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 7.17 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Shanfah Razack* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date 2022.08.23

I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap.20:05, Laws of Guyana, the ~~Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, the~~ Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.

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| NAME: | SHOGHI BENJAMIN |
| DESIGNATION: | Secretary. Secretary. |
| SIGNATURE: | <i>Shoghi Benjamin</i> |
| DATE: | 01/09/2022 |

