



**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.

Reference No.:	20131206-VWGHs
Fees:	Large (C1) - US\$1500 (per year)
Fees Paid:	US\$3000 (2 years: September 2024 to August 2026)

Addressee(s): Mr Rommel Niamatali
Executive Director
Variety Woods & Greenheart Limited
99, Laluni Street
Queenstown
Georgetown.

Activity: Variety Woods & Greenheart Limited: Sawmilling

Mr Rommel Niamatali, trading and operating under the name Variety Woods & Greenheart Limited, herein after 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 (Authorisations) Protection Regulations, 2000 to operate a Sawmill located at Bamboo Landing, Left Bank Upper Berbice River, Region 10, herein referred to as "the Project", in a manner indicated in Application for renewal dated February 12, 2024, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any existing and forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection Act and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

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

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:

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- 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 Ensure all firefighting equipment is maintained and serviced regularly and provide training on the use of the equipment.
- 1.3 Maintain suitable storage facilities (racks and shelves) for all items. These facilities must be so organised that free and adequate passage is maintained. At all times ensure that there is no over-crowding of the Sawmill and over-stacking of lumber.
- 1.4 Maintain all active trail (s) leading to the Sawmill. Fill in ruts and holes that develop during road use. Use a suitable material (such as compacted fill), and fill as soon as possible to reduce the potential for erosion.
- 1.5 Ensure that a mechanism is in place for the discharge of logs safely through the use of appropriate equipment i.e., log extractor at the sawmill site. Further, ensure that logs do not free fall from log haulers to the ground to aid in the attenuation of vibrations and reduce the incidence of accidents.
- 1.6 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary reflecting signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks with logs on the public thoroughfare.

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 the Environmental Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental

management practices. A training report shall be kept and submitted upon Officers' request during a Compliance Inspection.

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 aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 3.3 Construct waste pits at least 100 m away from any water course or water body. The pit should be at least 1 m above the water table. On closure, cover to a level surface with at least 1 m of soil.
- 3.4 Open burning of sawdust and wood ends are prohibited. Any burning of wood waste shall be done away from forested area in a controlled manner within a pit, and the quantities, dates, time and location reported in the Annual Report.
- 3.5 For mills that are not equipped to be attached to an extractor system, collect/bag and remove sawdust from the mill floor in a timely manner. Sawdust should not be allowed accumulate to more than 15 cm (6 inches) on the mill floor at any given time.

4.0 NOISE AND DUST MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 **Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 4.2 Implement all possible measures to mitigate adverse noise impacts from heavy machinery and generators on the environment. Silencers, mufflers, enclosures or other appropriate sound attenuation measures/devices should be used. Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment* at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.
 - Industrial Limits: **100dB** (Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h))
80dB (Night-time (18:00 h-06:00 h))
- 4.3 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment is serviced and operated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications at all times. Additionally, ensure that mechanical equipment work at their optimal levels to minimize atmospheric emissions.

- 4.4 Ensure all equipment and machinery is placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 4.5 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.
- 4.6 Maintain vegetative buffers at the perimeter of the sawmill site, to aid with the attenuation of fugitive noise and dust and to improve the aesthetic quality of the surroundings.

5.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTES MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000, as follows:
 - 5.1.1 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 should be recorded and be reported within 24 hrs to the Agency for further investigation.
 - 5.1.2 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the Sawmill. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the Sawmill.

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, 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 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 6.5 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.

- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Environmental Permit as follows:
- 6.7.1 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.
 - 6.7.2 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.
 - 6.7.3 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, 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 6.1 and 6.2 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.5 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.

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- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 The EPA reserves the right to enter at any time the permitted facility and 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.
- 7.9 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.10 This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 7.11 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **September, 2024 to August, 2026.**
- 7.12 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **August 31, 2026**, 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.
- 7.13 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 **February 28, 2026.**
- 7.14 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the 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.
- 7.15 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

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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 *Shanifah Logach* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Date *2024.08.29*

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, Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any existing and forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices and standards made under this Act.

NAME	<i>Kommel Niamtali</i>
DESIGNATION	<i>Director</i>
SIGNATURE	<i>Kommel</i>
DATE	<i>30.08.2024</i>



