



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Interim Environmental Permit

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.:	20220926- GMSIL
Fees:	Extra Large (C2) US\$3100 (1 year)
Fees Paid:	US \$3100 (February, 2024 to January, 2025)

Addressee(s) **Mr. Ganshyam Mahase**
 Chief Executive Officer
 Ganshyam Mahase Sawmilling Inc.
 171 Yarrowkabra Agriculture Layout
 Eastern Side Linden Soesdyke Highway, Guyana.

Activity: **To Undertake Logging Within SFEP 01/2019**

Mr. Ganshyam Mahase, trading and operating under the name, Ganshyam Mahase Sawmilling Inc., herein referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to undertake logging within SFEP 01/2019, at Left Bank Kuribrong, Right Bank Semang River, Left Bank Issano River, hereinafter referred to as "the Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on September 26, 2022, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act and/or any other applicable Laws of Guyana, 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 Interim Environmental Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- Change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;

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- 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 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 Permit Holder will comply with all applicable laws and regulations including but not limited to, the Guyana Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20: 05.
- 1.7 The utilisation of the best available techniques, both in the use of technology and facility design, construction, maintenance and operation, as far as is reasonably practicable to ensuring the prevention or minimisation of emissions and impact or pollution of the environment, which may be imputable to any aspect of the operation whether or not it is expressly regulated by this Permit.
- 1.8 The Permit Holder shall use an effective Environmental Management System with policies and procedures for environmental compliance and improvements, and shall perform internal audits on at least an annual basis. Permit Holder shall share summary results of the internal audits with the Agency. The Agency may require other independent environmental audits during the course of this Permit as may be necessary.
- 1.9 Be obligated to restore or rehabilitate the Environment due to impacts resulting from any breach of the conditions of this Permit.
- 1.10 Implement measures to prevent forest fires, including no burning of vegetation or other materials, provisions of fire containment measures such as fire extinguishers, sand buckets etc., and training in the use of the same.
- 1.11 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.



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2.0 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure that rare and endangered species are monitored and sustainably managed.
- 2.2 The Permit Holder shall ensure all persons/researchers entering the area to undertake inventories and other studies/research, with the exception of timber inventories, obtain a valid Biodiversity Research Permit from the Agency prior to commencing research.
- 2.3 Maintain the integrity of the biodiversity reserve, monitor and report all activities inclusive of mining within same.
- 2.4 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.
 - 2.4.1 Report to the EPA & Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission all occurrences of illegal wildlife trapping & trading. The Permit Holder shall discourage hunting of wildlife by staff.

3.0 EMPLOYEES

- 3.1 Comply with the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**
 - 3.1.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to fit their job specification.
 - 3.1.2 Provide first aid kit/s equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards which shall include a snake bite kit.
 - 3.1.3 Provide communication and transportation systems to respond to emergencies.
- 3.2 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of this Interim Environmental Permit 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.
- 3.3 Facilitate regular training sessions for employees on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and Best Practice Approaches for Logging particularly but not limited to directional felling and choker-man training.
- 3.4 Employ an Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Officer who would be responsible for the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan and the terms and conditions of this Permit.

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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 Maintain all equipment, machinery and vehicles in accordance with manufacturer's instructions to maintain optimal performance and reduce emissions.
- 4.3 Monitor noise emissions from noise producing equipment onsite to determine compliance 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.

- **Industrial Limits 100dB** (Daytime Limits 06:00 h - 18:00 h)
80 dB (Nighttime Limits 18:00 h - 06:00 h)

- 4.4 Maintain an inventory of all sound making devices/ equipment and sources of air emissions. Inventory shall be made available to the Agency upon request.
- 4.5 Enclose all sound-making devices, e.g., generators, etc. in structures constructed with materials of good noise insulation properties (e.g., concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks) and equip with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level.
- 4.6 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.

5.0 WATER QUALITY

- 5.1 **Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 Implement measures to prevent erosion, sedimentation, and pollution of the nearby rivers, streams, and natural waterways.
- 5.3 Implement suitable precautions to protect fragile land on steep slopes.
- 5.4 Install a filter treatment system at domestic wastewater discharge points for further treatment before discharge. Discharging domestic wastewater directly into watercourses is strictly prohibited.
- 5.5 All effluent discharged from the project site during all operational phases shall not compromise the integrity of the waterways and shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment and the *Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) Code of Practice*. For receiving water bodies, the following allowable limits shall not be exceeded:

- pH 5.0-9.0;

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- Temperature <40 °C;
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) < 50 mg/L;
- Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) < 250 mg/L;
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) <50 mg/L;
- Turbidity <30NTU; and
- Oil and Grease <10 mg/L.

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 6.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 6.3 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices on site.
 - 6.3.1 Place covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations both in and outside of camps;
 - 6.3.2 All solid waste collected shall be appropriately stored until such time for disposal in solid waste pits; and
 - 6.3.3 Reuse, recycle and compost waste material as much as practicable.
 - 6.3.4 At all times, the environs for receptacles should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis, to prevent the fall or flow of garbage in the surrounding environment and/or attraction of rodents and other vermin.
- 6.4 Solid waste disposal 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 material or impermeable material such as woven slits or geo-textile to avoid leachate entering the ground water.
 - 6.4.1 Storm water should be diverted from the waste pit. Pits should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to avoid fly and rodent infestations as well as mal-odour from leachate.
 - 6.4.2 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.
- 6.5 Construct and maintain a septic system on site at all times. The septic tank should not be located within 1.5 m of a building or property boundary and should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the Septic tanks must be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems.

7.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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



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- 7.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.
- 7.2.1 An incident spill report shall document **EVERY** occurrence of spills during collection and/or transportation of hazardous waste. A copy of the spill report shall be submitted to the Agency **within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident**.
- 7.3 Use leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuels to the logging concession and take precautions during handling and use of all hazardous waste.
- 7.4 Construct a fuel containment bund for the fuel storage tank. The containment bund must have the capacity to store 110 percent of the volume of fuel stored in the tank.
- 7.5 Store all fuel away from ignition sources and have ‘**No Smoking**’ signs posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 7.6 Waste oils, used batteries, oily rags, and oil containers shall be appropriately labelled and stored in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.
- 7.7 Emergency spill clean-up kit(s) shall be maintained at the Facility for response to potential spills. Kits must contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Kit(s) must be readily available and clearly identified at the Project.
- 7.8 Where applicable, prepare and submit to the Agency no later than **forty-five (45) days** after the end of the operating year, a report relating to the activities for the previous year. The report shall include:
- a) The identification information of the facility.
 - b) Type and quantities of hazardous waste generated.
 - c) Data concerning off-site shipments of waste.
 - d) Any applied treatment standards.
 - e) A summary of any accidents that may have occurred and any action taken.
 - f) Any waste minimisation efforts undertaken by the generator.
 - g) Any other matter the Agency may require.

The Agency considers all materials listed in **Schedules I and II of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**, to be hazardous. Please see attached list of Hazardous Wastes to be controlled.

8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Monitor the implementation of the Conditions of this Interim Environmental Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 8.3 Submit to the EPA, the **Environmental Annual Report** 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.
- 8.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Interim Environmental Permit 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.
- 8.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Interim Environmental Permit as follows:
 - 8.8.1 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.
 - 8.8.2 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.
 - 8.8.3 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.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 9.1 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.

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- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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 Interim Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 9.2 and 9.3 of this Interim Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 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.
- 9.9 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.10 **This Interim Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.11 This Interim Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **February, 2024 to January, 2025.**
- 9.12 This Interim Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **January 31, 2025**, unless otherwise suspended, canceled, modified or varied, in accordance with the

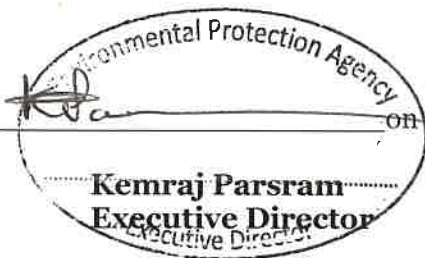
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provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

- 9.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Interim Environmental 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
Agency.



on behalf of the Environmental Protection

Date 26.2.2024

I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Interim Environmental Permit 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.

NAME:	GANSHYAM MAHA SE
DESIGNATION:	CEO
SIGNATURE:	G Mahase
DATE:	04 / 10 / 2024



