

Project Summary

Name of Developer: Mahadeo Seegobind (Chairman)

Developer's Address: 58 Miles, Mabura Road

Business Name: 58 Miles Mabura Road Logging Association

Contact details: 687-7820

Project Type: Logging & Chainsaw Milling

Project Location: SFA Dem 18/15, Right Bank Essequibo River.

Sector of Operation: Forestry

Projected Capital Investment: approximately GY\$2.5 million

Annual Turnover: Projected GY\$1.6 million

Project Duration: Two (2) years

Project Location and Description

The project is located within State Forest Authorizations (SFA) No: Dem 18/15, at the aforementioned project address. The concession can be accessed from 58 Miles Mabura Road then onto Ormai Road. There are similar small scale logging concessions surrounding this concession. According to the SFA Agreement issued by GFC, the total land area is 1648 hectares (4072 acres). This agreement expired on December 31, 2023, and is currently being renewed by GFC. Once this process is completed, the renewed SFA will be submitted to the EPA.

The project activity is to undertake logging operations within SFA Dem 18/15. Logs are harvested based on the stipulated measures set out in the Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018 by GFC. The Association has twelve members and each member is responsible for hiring their workers to work in the concession. The logs are selected by a tree spotter, which is the chainsaw operator(s). The logs are harvested based on the tags issued by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). However, the stipulated quota in the SFA Agreement is 889.92 m³ for two (2) years and some of the species harvested are mixed hard wood, Baromalli, Mora, piling, etc.

Persons would travel in and out of the concession, no one stays in the concession. Working hours will be from 7:00 hrs. to 4:00 hrs. from Monday to Saturday. A tractor is hired to bring out the logs from the concession.



Water for drinking is sourced from a nearby creek within the concession. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to all employees, including long boots, helmets, gloves, and visibility vests. Additionally, a first aid and snake bite kit are present on site at all times.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The following environmental impacts may be generated from the logging operations, and these impacts are likely to be insignificant:

Environmental Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures
<p>Habitat Loss and Fragmentation - logging activities can result in the destruction and fragmentation of habitats for many species including mammals, birds, insects, and fungi. This can lead to declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health.</p>	<p>Logs are harvested based on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques, which result in the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Soil erosion and degradation - logging can disrupt the natural structure of forest soils, leading to erosion and decreased soil fertility. This can have negative impacts on water quality and make it more difficult for new trees to grow.</p>	<p>Logs are harvested in accordance with Condition 5.1(a)(b) of the State Forest Authorizations (SFA) Agreement as well as GFC's Guidelines for Forest Operations, 2018. Also, vegetative cover is maintained on the edges of the trail to reduce the displacement of soil particles. Buffer zones are maintained, and the harvesting of logs is not done within the buffer zones.</p>
<p>Carbon dioxide emissions and Climate Change - trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so logging can result in increased carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to climate change. Additionally, forests are important in regulating local and regional climate through their role in water cycling and temperature regulation.</p>	<p>Logs are not cleared-fell but are selectively harvested based on a breast height of 1.3 m and a diameter above 35 m. However, if there are more than one (1) tree within an 8-metre radius, only trees over 40cm at breast height will be harvested based on the GFC guidelines. This practice leaves the majority of the forest intact and helps preserve the carbon stored in the trees and soil, thus reducing the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere and also allowing saplings to continue absorbing CO₂ through photosynthesis. Also, it minimizes soil disturbances during logging activities, thus maintaining the integrity of the forest floor and preventing the release of stored carbon from the soil.</p>

<p>Water quality impacts - the removal of trees and disturbance of forest soils can lead to increased sedimentation in rivers and streams, which can have negative impacts on aquatic ecosystems and water quality.</p>	<p>Buffer zones along water bodies such as rivers, streams, etc. are maintained to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality and aquatic habitats.</p>
<p>Hazardous materials/waste - If these materials/wastes are not stored effectively, can result in accidental spill/release leading to soil contamination.</p>	<p>Fuel is not stored on site. Approximately 5 gallons of gasoline is taken into the concession to work the chainsaws. Waste oil is generated from the servicing of the chainsaws every three (3). The quantity of waste oil generated is 2-3 gallons and is reused on the chainsaws. The waste oil is stored in the 5-gallon tightly closed plastic pail in a designated area at the campsite.</p>
<p>Noise Emissions - The source of noise is from the operation of the chainsaws and tractor when they are operational.</p>	<p>The noise levels generated are expected to be insignificant since the machinery is equipped with an exhaust stack and is serviced every three (3) months to reduce emissions into the environment and downtime. Chainsaw blades will be checked and replaced with sharp ones. Workers will be provided with appropriate PPE, including hearing protection.</p>
<p>Particulate Matter (dust) - sawdust is emitted during the harvesting of the logs, and during the dry weather, dust is generated when vehicles traverse the trail.</p>	<p>During dry weather, the speed limit of 30 km/hr. is adhered to. The chainsaw operators are given the appropriate PPE to protect them from dust.</p>
<p>Fire - flammable substances such as gas and diesel are stored onsite and if not managed properly, can be ignited if a worker who may smoke discards a lit cigarette butt.</p>	<p>Workers are briefed verbally on the importance of fire safety almost every week, and a 'No Smoking' sign is placed at the fuel storage area. A sand bucket and a fire extinguisher are placed at the camp site and can be easily accessed should there be a fire emergency.</p>

<p>Solid Waste:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic waste, inclusive of plastic bottles, food scraps, etc. is generated by the workers. 2. Sawdust and wood ends during the felling process, and damaged ends, will be removed using the chainsaw(s). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The garbage is collected in a garbage receptacle and emptied in a solid waste pit located approximately three hundred (300) meters away from the creek that flows within the concession. 2. Small quantities of sawdust and wood ends are expected to be generated and will be left at the tree stumps to decompose. However, some of the wooden boards will be reused as meat boards, stools, etc.
<p>Cumulative Impacts - there are several other active small-scale logging concessions surrounding this concession, which can impact air, water, and land cumulatively.</p>	<p>Cumulatively, the impacts on air, land and water will not be significant since the concessionaires have to adhere to the Code of Practices and regulations established by GFC to ensure that logging is done in a sustainable manner and the Environmental Protection Act and its associated regulations for environmental protection.</p>

Prepared by: *Mahadoo Seegster d*

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Date: *22/01/24*