

Project Summary- Logging Activities within SFA ESS 33/12

Name of Developer: Neville Williams

Company Name: Neville Williams & Sons Sawmill

Developer's Address: Lower Bonasika Creek, East Bank Essequibo

Contact details: 602 1159

Project Type: Logging and Chainsaw milling

Project Location: SFA ESS 33/12, Right Bank Essequibo River, Right Bank  
Bonasika River, Right Bank Urakkabra Creek

Sector of Operation: Forestry

Annual Turn over: 1 MIL

Working Hours: 7:30AM to 3:30PM - Mon - Sat.

Submitted by: Neville Williams

Date : 2024-01-15

## Project Size and Duration

The project employs approximately four (4) workers for various operational tasks related to logging and chain sawmilling. Personnel include chainsaw operators, choker-men and tractor drivers. The longevity of the operations is tied to the renewal of the State Forest Authorization (SFA) Agreement by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). The current agreement for SFA No. ESS 33/12 will expire on December 31, 2025. Renewal of the agreement is essential for the continuation of activities, and subsequent updates will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for compliance verification.

## Site Description

Operations are conducted within SFA No. ESS 33/12, which spans 1632 hectares (4032 acres). The concession is situated within the Essequibo District and is accessible via the Bonasika Rive leading from the nearest population. Surrounding the concession are several other small-scale logging concessions and one Amerindian Village, contributing to the regional forestry economy. Access to water and other logistical needs is supported by a nearby creek and rainwater collection systems.

## Project Operations

### Operational Overview

The project commenced in October 2012 and involves the logging of commercial timber species within the concession. These operations strictly follow the *Guidelines for Forest Operations (2018)* established by the GFC. The annual harvesting quota is 881.28 m<sup>3</sup> over a 24-month period, targeting species such as Purpleheart, Greenheart, wallaba, Kabukalli, Shibidan, and Kerati.

### Workforce and Roles

- Chainsaw Operators (2): Responsible for spotting and felling trees.

- **Choker-men (1):** Assist chainsaw operators and prepare logs for extraction.
- **Tractor Driver (1):** Transport logs to staging areas.

### **Camp Facilities**

Two (2) tarpaulin camps, each measuring 20 ft (L) x 18 ft (W) x 9 ft (H), accommodate the workers. Solar lights provide nighttime illumination, supplemented by a small generator. Sanitation facilities include a single pit latrine, and water for domestic and drinking purposes is sourced from a nearby creek, with rainwater collected and treated for consumption.

### **Work Schedule**

- Operations run from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.
- Additional weekend hours are scheduled as needed to meet order requirements.

### **Health and Safety Measures**

All workers are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including helmets, gloves, visibility vests, long boots, and dust masks. On-site safety resources include a first aid kit, a snake bite kit, and fire extinguishers.

### **Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

#### **Identified Environmental Impacts**

1. **Noise Emissions:** Generated by chainsaws and tractor
2. **Dust and Particulate Matter:** Emitted from chain sawmilling, vehicle movement, and felling activities.
3. **Hazardous Materials/Waste:** Risk of fuel spills and improper disposal of waste oil.
4. **Fire Risk:** Flammable materials like fuel stored on-site.
5. **Water Quality Impacts:** Sedimentation and potential pollution from logging activities near waterways.

6. **Habitat Loss:** Removal of trees leading to habitat fragmentation.
7. **Soil Erosion:** Disruption of soil stability from logging operations.
8. **Carbon Emissions:** Logging reduces carbon sequestration and contributes to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
9. **Solid Waste:** Accumulation of domestic waste, sawdust, and wood byproducts.
10. **Cumulative Impacts:** Ecosystem strain due to adjacent concessions.

## Mitigation Measures

### Noise and Dust Control

- Regular maintenance of equipment to minimize noise and emissions.
- Workers provided with hearing protection and dust masks.
- Speed limits of 30 km/hr enforced on access roads to reduce dust.

### Hazardous Material Management

- only 3- 45 gallon drum diesel and 1-45 gallon drum gasoline will be onsite. Fuel stored in designated, secure areas in sealed containers.
- 5-10 gallon waste oil - Waste oil reused for equipment lubrication and stored properly to prevent leaks in 5 gallon containers.

### Fire Prevention

- Weekly fire safety training and visible "No Smoking" signage near fuel storage.
- Fire extinguishers and sand buckets placed in strategic locations.

### Water Quality Protection

- Buffer zones (minimum 50 meters) maintained along rivers and streams.

- Soil erosion control measures implemented, including sediment traps and vegetative barriers.

### Habitat Conservation

- Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques employed to minimize biodiversity loss.
- Retention of non-commercial and younger trees to preserve ecosystem balance.

### Erosion Control

- Construction of access trails with vegetative buffers.
- Harvesting restricted in steep or erosion-prone areas.

### Carbon Mitigation

- Logging activities restricted to quotas outlined by the GFC, preserving forest carbon reserves.
- Young and mid-aged trees retained to ensure ongoing carbon absorption.

### Waste Management

- Domestic waste collected and disposed of in a dedicated pit located at least 300 meters from water sources.
- Organic wood waste, such as sawdust and offcuts, left on-site for natural decomposition.

### Cumulative Impact Mitigation

- Adherence to GFC's Code of Practices to promote sustainable forestry.
- Collaboration with neighboring concessionaires to minimize regional environmental impacts.

