



ROCKSTONE LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT SUMMARY



Developer: Executive Body (Rockstone Loggers Association)

Completed : January 2024



Project Summary/Site Description

Rockstone Loggers Association is a registered organization under the Friendly Societies Act Chapter 36:04, operating in the small fishing community of Rockstone, Essequibo River, Region 10.

The Association comprises of 26 members, consisting of six (6) executive members all of whom are active loggers and owners of independent small scale logging enterprises. The current President of the Association is Ismay Williams.

The lumber concession to be mined consist of 10 acres of virgin forest territory located on the left side of the Rockstone Thoroughfare proceeding to the Essequibo River.

The concession will strictly be used for felling of raw lumber will be transported for market to saw mills and lumber yards. The typographical area mainly consists of virgin forest and other natural habitat and minimal manmade structures currently used for operation and dwelling. Its vegetation consists of lumber trees; it has a generally flat topography with a predominant soil type of red earth.

The Guyana Forestry Commission is the current custodian of the land which has been issued to the above mentioned registered association under the Friendly Society Act listed as the Rockstone Loggers Association, Region 10.

Located at the coordinial boundaries is thick virgin forest and other flora. There are however, no sensitive eco-systems or river/sea defence mechanisms in close proximity to the location. In addition to the Concession from the Guyana Forestry Commission, other requirements for occupancy include an environmental permit from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The water source for the construction and the operation of the venture will be from a nearby natural water source (creeks). This type of project will not require a discharge for liquid waste during operation and human waste will be discharged through an environmentally approved local sewage system. Solid waste will be burnt.

See attached map of the location which further represents the aforementioned information.

Project design

Rockstone Loggers Association is a Friendly Society Cooperation which was registered in April 2014 but commenced operations in 2012. Since then to now, the members are given individual portions to fell logs and do so independently but under the auspices of the Association. The area of land currently being minded is approximately 10 acres of land. Royalty is being made by members to the custodian of the land and the Rockstone community.

In addition to lumber mining on a medium scale, the members will incorporate a sustainable and renewable agricultural operation which forms part of its reforestation and restoration obligation to the territory being mined. The first phase of the venture will commence with the clearing of the demarcated area from all vegetation, none listed as threatened or endangered to establish a resident camp for workers and a base for transporting the lumber to target markets.

The larger demarcated territory will be used for felling logs, predominantly wallaba and green heart which is sold raw to nearby sawmills and lumber

yards. Simultaneously, as the natural habitat is destroyed to facilitate these operations, aggressive efforts to restore the environment will be pursued with through an agricultural project to produce permanent crops such as coconut and ground provision and the rearing of livestock.

*Please find attached Table 1 further representing the construction process

Activity	Developmental stage	Projected timeline
Environment Approval for the Environmental Protection Agency for environment use granted	Stage 1	February 2024
Issuance of forest tags from the Guyana Forestry Commission	Stage 1	February 2024
Establishment of better living quarters and operational amenities	Stage 2	March 2024
Hiring of more workers	Stage 3	March 2024
Mining and Preparation of land for coal mining expansion	Stage 4	April 2024

Mining of demarcated area for lumber	Stage 5	April 2024
Agricultural production expansion	Stage 6	May 2024

Rockstone Loggers Association will source water from nearby natural water sources such as creeks and lakes. Water for consumption will be purchased. For this type of operation, solid waste will be burnt Sewage will be disposed through and environmentally friendly sewage system.

Project synopsis

Rockstone Loggers Association is an existing forestry organization seeking continuity of operation with an approximated capital investment for the continuity project being \$1 M GYD. This figure is estimated to cover all stages of the commencement including construction and operation which will create employment for more than 10 youths across three major industries: agriculture,

forestry and mining. Primarily manual labour will be used for these operations which will further promote the use of environmentally friendly mechanisms for operation.

Production	Stage of Production	Employees required for each stage of production	Rate of Production
Clearing of land	Stage 1	10	
Preparations of structures and acquisition of amenities needed for construction	Stage 2	10	
Preparation of land for commencement of construction	Stage 2	10	
Commencement of first phase of operation	Stage 3	10	
Operation executed by phases	Stage 3	10	

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Environmental impact

Diversification of the forest industry is paramount, given the need for environmental restoration agendas in an effort to sustain the environment after use, the Rockstone Loggers Association will ensure all of the below mentioned restoration and reforestation efforts are established within the company's mission to sustain the environment.

Agricultural restoration of logged areas can have several environmental, social, and economic benefits. Logging, if done unsustainably, can lead to deforestation and the degradation of ecosystems. Agricultural restoration aims to rehabilitate these areas, bringing back ecological balance and providing various advantages:

1. **Ecosystem Rehabilitation:**
 - **Biodiversity Conservation:** Logging can result in the loss of biodiversity as habitats are disrupted. Agricultural restoration involves replanting native vegetation, which helps restore ecosystems and supports the return of diverse plant and animal species.
2. **Soil Health Improvement:**
 - **Prevention of Erosion:** Logging can leave the soil exposed and vulnerable to erosion. Agricultural restoration methods such as cover cropping and reforestation can help stabilize the soil, prevent erosion, and improve its overall health.
3. **Carbon Sequestration:**

- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Trees play a crucial role in absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. By replanting trees in logged areas, agricultural restoration contributes to carbon sequestration, helping mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 4. **Water Quality and Regulation:**
 - **Watershed Protection:** Forests play a crucial role in regulating water flow, preventing floods, and maintaining water quality. Agricultural restoration helps in protecting watersheds, ensuring a sustainable supply of clean water.
- 5. **Economic Opportunities:**
 - **Sustainable Agriculture:** Restoring logged areas for agriculture can provide opportunities for sustainable farming practices. This includes agroforestry systems that integrate tree planting with crop cultivation, promoting long-term productivity and environmental sustainability.
- 6. **Community Engagement:**
 - **Local Involvement:** Agricultural restoration projects often involve local communities, providing employment opportunities and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for the restored areas. This can contribute to community well-being and empowerment.
- 7. **Regulatory Compliance:**
 - **Compliance with Environmental Standards:** Many countries have regulations and standards in place to ensure sustainable logging and reforestation. Agricultural restoration helps companies and governments comply with these standards, fostering responsible resource management.
- 8. **Enhanced Resilience to Climate Change:**
 - **Adaptation to Climate Variability:** Restored ecosystems are often more resilient to climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events. The diverse plantings in restored areas can help buffer against the effects of changing climate patterns.

It's important to note that the success of agricultural restoration efforts depends on careful planning, monitoring, and a commitment to sustainable practices. Additionally, involving local communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes is crucial for the long-term success of such initiatives.