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Environmental Protection Agency

P. O. Box MB 326

Ministries Post Office

Accra, Ghana

Website: <http://www.epa.gov.gh>

CA: 520/LG/PL/03

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGULATION, 1999 L.I .1652

This is to authorize

GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED

To continue operating an existing 286 hectare Natural Rubber Plantation Project located at Okurase in the Upper West Akyim District of the Eastern Region as per the attached schedule

Date Issued: August 30, 2021

Expiry Date: August 29, 2024

**EBENEZER APPAH-SAMPONG
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TECHNICAL SERVICES
FOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NB: This Permit is only valid with the Seal of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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SCHEDULE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

- 1.0 CONTACT PERSON : THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**
- 2.0 PROPONENT : GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED**
- 3.0 CONTACT TEL. : +233-0244734153**
- 4.0 REGISTRATION NO. : CA: 520/02**
- 5.0 PERMIT NUMBER : CA: 520/LG/PL/03**
- 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF AN EXISTING 286 HECTARE NATURAL RUBBER PLANTATION PROJECT LOCATED AT OKURASE IN THE UPPER WEST AKYIM DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN REGION**

In pursuance of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1994, Act 490 (Sections 2 (i) and 12 (I) and the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999, L.I. 1652 and on the basis of the information provided in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) August 2021, this Environmental Permit is issued authorising **GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED** to continue operating the existing 286-hectare Natural Rubber Plantation project located at Okurase in the Upper West Akyim District of the Eastern Region.

7.0 CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

7.1 Commitment to Project Specification

- a. Comply with all project specifications, mitigation, and monitoring and other environmental management provisions as indicated in the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- b. The project involves the following: land preparation, establishment and maintenance of nurseries, maintenance of mature and immature rubber forests, felling of over aged trees, development of new plantation and tapping of Latex.

7.2 Location and Coverage

- a. The project is located at Subri in the Wassa East District of the Western Region.
- b. Land Take: 286 hectares.
- c. Labour force of 62.

7.3 Pesticide and Chemical Usage

- a. Use only pesticides and chemicals that have been registered with the EPA in accordance with the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490).
- b. Ensure that applicators of pesticides and chemicals are trained and licensed in accordance with the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490).
- c. Comply with the requirements of the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490), Part II on Chemicals/Pesticides Management.
- d. Provide appropriate storage facilities for pesticides and other agrochemicals.
- e. Ensure adequate measures to contain accidental spillage of pesticides and chemicals to avoid contaminated of soil and water.
- f. Ensure that empty pesticides and chemical containers and packaging materials are managed and disposed off in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with EPA guidelines for disposal of waste chemical containers.
- g. Keep inventory of quantities of pesticides and agro chemical usage.
- h. Pesticides should be sprayed during periods when drifts are expected to be minimal.

7.4 Land Preparation and Water Resources Protection

- a. Undertake land preparation and cultivation in such a way to minimise disruption of soil structure and exposure of soil to erosion. Institute appropriate drainage control measures to minimise flooding.
- b. Comply with the national buffer zone policy by establishing and maintaining the appropriate buffer zone distances along the water bodies traversing the project area.
- c. Monitor the water quality parameters of the various streams quarterly and include returns in the Annual Environmental Reports. The parameters to be monitored are as indicated in Section 7.7. The preferred sampling times should be close to sunrise and sunset.
- d. GPS coordinates of the sampling stations/locations should be determined for all sampling sites and reported.

7.5 Solid Waste Management

- a. Explore conversion of solid waste from plant materials into compost for use on the farm.
- b. Provide garbage bins for solid waste generated to prevent littering.
- c. Plastic wastes from the plantation should be disposed off at approved disposal points as directed by Upper West Akyim District Assembly or transported to Cyclus Elmina for recycling.
- d. Disposal of solid waste should be done at Upper West Akyim District Assembly approved landfill sites.
- e. Consult the EPA for advice before disposing any expired chemicals.
- f. Over aged trees felled should be used for fuel or composted to be used as soil amendments.

7.6 Health and Safety

- a. Ensure good housekeeping in the office areas and residential camp where applicable.
- b. Ensure that persons applying pesticides and chemicals undergo periodic medical check-ups.
- c. Field workers handling chemical products must have adequate training on the appropriate use of products.
- d. Provide appropriate personnel protective clothing/gear such as rubber, gloves, overall, safety boots, hand gloves, etc. to workers.
- e. Provide a well-stocked first aid kit for minor injuries that might occur.
- f. Adhere to the Health and Safety Action Plan indicated in the project EMP.

- g. Ensure adequate record keeping and establish an inventory of accidents and disease outbreak and treatment on the farms.
- h. Workers must undergo medical check-up at least twice a year to assess their health status with respect to operations on the farm.

7.7 Soil and Water Quality Monitoring

- a. Establish an environmental monitoring programme in the adjacent or traversing water bodies to cover the following:
 - i. Water quality: pH, Turbidity, colour, TSS, TDS, Phosphates, Ammonia-Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrogen, Nitrite – Nitrogen, Potash, Total Coliforms, E. Coli, etc.
 - ii. Monitor the nutrient status of the soil in respect of soil organic carbon every year.
 - iii. Submit the results of the monitoring as part of Annual Environmental Reports (AER).

7.8 Social Economic Impacts

- a. Ensure that the livelihoods of adjoining communities are not impacted negatively by the project operations.
- b. Integrate social and environmental agreements/clauses in suppliers' contracts.
- c. Undertake corporative social responsibility activities in accordance with the company's policy and agreements with the relevant communities.

7.9 Compliance with Mitigation Measures

- a. Comply with all the mitigation, monitoring and environmental management commitments made in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

7.10 Compliance with the Factories Offices and Shops Act 1970 (Act 328)

- a. Comply with the requirements of the Factories, Offices and Shops Act, 1970 (Act 328). Consult with the Factories Inspectorate Department in order to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

7.11 Compliance with Fire Precaution (Premises) Regulations, 2003 (L.I. 1724)

- a. Provide appropriate fire extinguishers and other requirements as recommended by the Ghana National Fire Service.
- b. Install fire alarm system and smoke detectors at vulnerable areas to give early warning of any fire outbreak.
- c. No smoking signs should be posted at areas where flammable solvents and fuel are stored.
- d. Fire belts or boundary lines should be created to prevent fire from spreading to adjoining areas.

7.12 Comply with Water Resources Commission Act, 1996, (Act 522)

- a. Comply with the requirements of the Water Resources Commission Act, 1996, (Act 522) and obtain water abstraction Permits.

7.13 Notification of Changes

- a. Notify EPA of any changes in the planned development of the project contrary to the specification provided in the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

7.14 Annual Environmental Report

- a. Submit Annual Environmental Reports on the company's operations in accordance with Section 25 of L.I 1652. The first report should be submitted by August 29, 2022.

- b. The Annual Environmental Report Forms (AER- Agriculture Form) can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov.gh/epa/publication/forms>

7.15 Permit Awareness

- a. A copy of this Permit shall be displayed prominently on the premises at all times.
- b. All operations staff at the premises shall be familiar with the conditions of the Permit.

7.16 Renewal of Permit

- a. This Permit should be renewed by August 29 2024 upon submission of a satisfactory Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- b. The Environmental Management Plan Report Forms (EMP- Agriculture Form) can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov.gh/epa/publication/forms>

7.17 Accessibility to the Site

- a. Make all facilities available for inspection and cooperate with EPA officials during Inspections.

7.18 Other Permits

- a. Notwithstanding this Permit, the project is further subject to other relevant regulations and Permits pertaining to the sector and must be observed.

7.19 Permit Transferability and Limitation

- a. This Permit is not transferable. It covers only **GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED**'s existing 286 hectare Rubber Plantation project located at Okurase in the Upper West Akyim District of the Eastern Region.
- b. This Permit does not cover the company's processing activities. A separate Permit must be obtained for all produce processing operations.

7.20 Revocation, Suspension and Refusal of Permit

- a. The Agency shall revoke or suspend a Permit issued or shall refuse to renew a Permit where:
 - (i) The provisions and conditions of this Permit are not being satisfactorily complied with.
 - (ii) The continued operation of the project poses a risk to the environment, public health and safety.
 - (iii) The operations by the proponent have deteriorated below the required standard.
 - (iv) Different species of plant have been introduced into the farm without approval of the Agency.

7.21 Penalty for Breach of Conditions of Environmental Permit

- a. Providing false information or failure to comply with or observe any or all the Permit conditions above shall:
 - (i) Attract administrative penalties and or the necessary fines as shall be prescribed by the Agency, in line with the Fees and Charges (Amendment) Instrument 2019, (L.I. 2386).
 - (ii) Attract the necessary sanctions prescribed under Regulation 29 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations (EAR) 1999, LI 1652.
 - (iii) Render this Environmental Permit invalid.
 - (iv) Lead to the suspension or revocation of this Permit or Prosecution.



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EBENEZER APPAH – SAMPONG
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TECHNICAL
FOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 30, 2021
DATE ISSUED

August 29, 2024
EXPIRY DATE

Notification:

The Director, PPRSD, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Accra
The Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission, Accra.
The Chief Executive, Upper West Akyim District Assembly, Adieso
The Regional Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Eastern Region, Koforidua