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Environmental Protection Agency

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SCHEDULE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

1.0 ENTITY PROFILE

NAME OF ENTITY	: GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED
ADDRESS	: P. O. BOX TD 228, TAKORADI
EMAIL ADDRESS	: aboakye@grel-siph.com
CONTACT NO.	: +233312002600
CONTACT PERSON	: THIERRY CAUCHY
DESIGNATION	: MANAGING DIRECTOR
TIN	: C0004925246
TYPE OF UNDERTAKING	: OIL PALM PLANTATION

2.0 PERMIT IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

FILE NO.	: CA: 520/3
PERMIT NO.	: EPA/NR/EMP/ER/HQ/CA520.3/24/0000/04
DATE OF ISSUE	: DECEMBER 19, 2024
DATE OF EXPIRY	: NOVEMBER 27, 2027
EFFECTIVE DATE	: NOVEMBER 28, 2024
PLACE OF ISSUE	: HEAD OFFICE

3.0 LEGAL BASIS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

In pursuance of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) {Sections 2(f)(i) and 12 (1)} and the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI 1652) and on the basis of the information provided in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) November 2024, this Environmental Permit is issued authorizing **GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED** to continue the operation of an existing 724.34 hectares Natural Rubber Plantation Project located at Asikasu and Okurase in the Upper West Akim District of the Eastern Region.

4.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project involves nursing, planting and maintenance of rubber trees for the production of latex for the local and international markets.

4.1 Activities

The project involves the following:

- Land preparation
- Nursery maintenance
- Transplanting and Plantation maintenance
- Tapping of latex from mature trees

4.2 Facilities

The Natural Rubber Plantation Project comprises the following facilities:

- a. Administrative Block
- b. Workshop

4.3 Location and Land Take

- a. The project is located at Asikasu and Okurase in the Upper West Akim District of the Eastern Region.
- b. Geographical Coordinates:
Latitude: 50⁰ 47'25.1" N and Longitude: 0⁰ 32'32.4" W
- c. Land take: 724.34 hectares

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND MANAGEMENT

Comply with all project specifications, prevention, minimization, mitigation and commitments made in the EMP and other conditions prescribed by the Agency.

5.1 Specific Impacts and Management

Comply also with the following management measures.

No	Impact	Source	Management	Remarks/ Timeline
1.	Air & Water Quality & Land	a) Chemical & Pesticide use	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Comply with the requirements of the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490), Part II on Chemicals/Pesticides Management.ii. Use only pesticides and chemicals that have been registered with the EPA in accordance with the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490).iii. Ensure that applicators of pesticides and chemicals are trained and licensed in accordance with the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490).iv. Provide appropriate storage facilities for pesticides and other agrochemicals.v. Ensure adequate measures to contain accidental spillage of pesticides and chemicals to avoid contamination of soil and water resources.vi. Ensure that empty pesticides and chemical containers and packaging materials are managed and disposed in accordance with the Agency's guidelines for disposal of used chemical containers.	At all times At all times At all times At all times At all times

No	Impact	Source	Management	Remarks/ Timeline
			vii. Pesticides should be sprayed during periods when drifts are expected to be minimal. viii. Keep an inventory of the quantities of pesticides and agro-chemicals used and communicate in the Annual Environmental Report to the Agency.	At all times At all times
2.	Water Resources	a) Storm water runoffs	i. Comply with the National Buffer Zone Policy by establishing and maintaining the appropriate buffer zone distances along the water bodies traversing the project area. ii. GPS coordinates of the sampling stations/locations should be determined for all sampling sites and reported.	At all times At all times
		b) Application of chemicals	i. Ensure chemicals are applied during early mornings or late afternoons when wind speeds are low, temperatures are not extreme and there is less chance of rainfall.	When required
3.	Land	a) Solid Waste generation from the plantation and nursery	i. Explore conversion of solid waste from plant materials into compost for use on the plantation ii. Provide colour coded garbage bins for the segregation of solid waste generated to prevent littering. iii. Plastic wastes from the plantation and nursery should be reused or appropriately recycled. iv. Dispose solid waste at approved Upper West Akim district landfill sites. v. Consult the Chemicals Control and Management Centre (CCMC) of the Agency for advice before disposing all expired chemicals and pesticides in line with standard operation procedures. vi. Classify waste generated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Hazardous and Electronic and other Wastes (Classification), Control and	At all times At all times At all times At all times At all times

No	Impact	Source	Management	Remarks/ Timeline
			Management Regulations, 2016 (LI 2250).	
		b) Liquid waste from operations	i. Ensure that liquid waste generated meets the Ghana Standard for Environmental Protection-Requirements for Effluent Discharges (GS 1212:2019) before discharge	At all times
		c) Oil waste from maintenance works	i. Concrete the exposed surface of the mechanical workshop to prevent oil pollution and soil contamination. ii. Waste oil generated shall be collected in appropriate containers, stored under a shed in a bunded area and sold to the Agency's permitted companies with the capacity to manage it.	During the entire project life span At all times
		d) Machinery	i. Undertake land preparation and cultivation in such a way to minimize disruption of soil structure and exposure of soil to erosion. ii. Institute appropriate drainage control measures to minimize flooding.	At all times At all times
4.	Occupational Health and Safety	Housekeeping, pesticides application, planting and harvesting	i. Develop and implement an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Plan. ii. Train all workers on the OHS Plan. iii. Ensure good housekeeping in the office areas and residential camps. iv. Train Field workers that handle chemical products on the appropriate use of the products and access to material safety data sheets. v. Provide appropriate personnel protective clothing/gears such as gloves, overall, safety boots, hand gloves, etc. to workers and ensure their use. vi. Provide a well-stocked first aid kit for minor injuries that might occur. vii. Keep records and establish an inventory of accidents and disease	By January 31, 2025 Bi-annual At all times Bi-annual At all times At all times At all times

No	Impact	Source	Management	Remarks/ Timeline
			<p>outbreak and treatment on the farms.</p> <p>viii. Workers must undergo medical check-up to assess their health status with respect to operations on the farm.</p>	Bi annually
5.	Socio-economic	Community suppliers and	<p>i. Ensure that the livelihoods of adjoining communities are not impacted negatively by the project operations.</p> <p>ii. Integrate environmental and social safeguard clauses in suppliers' contracts.</p> <p>iii. Undertake corporate social responsibility activities in accordance with the company's policy and agreements with the relevant communities.</p>	<p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>As and when</p>
6.	Land and Property	Fire generated from Administrative Block, Workshop & Plantation	<p>i. Provide appropriate fire prevention and fighting equipment and other requirements as recommended by the Ghana National Fire Service.</p> <p>ii. Install fire alarm systems and smoke detectors at vulnerable areas to give early warning of any fire outbreak.</p> <p>iii. Post No Smoking signs at areas where flammable solvents and fuel are stored.</p> <p>iv. Fire belts or boundary lines shall be created to prevent fire from spreading to adjoining areas.</p>	<p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p>

6.0 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

6.1 EPA LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Comply with the relevant provisions in the following:

6.1.1 Laws

- i. Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)
- ii. Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI 1652)
- iii. Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917)
- iv. Hazardous, Electronic and Other Wastes (Classification) Control and Management Regulations, 2016 (LI 2250)
- v. Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 2022 (Act 1080)

6.1.2 Standards

- i. Ghana Standard for Environment and Health Protection – Requirements for Ambient Air Quality and Point Source Control/Stack Emission (GS 1236: 2019).
- ii. Ghana Standard for Health Protection – Requirements for Ambient Noise Control (GS 1222: 2018).
- iii. Ghana Standard for Environmental Protection – Requirements for Effluent Discharges (GS 1212: 2019).

6.1.3 Guidelines

Comply with the Agency’s Environmental Assessment Guidelines for the Agriculture sector.

6.2 OTHER RELEVANT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding this permit, **the Entity** is further subject to other relevant regulations and permits pertaining to the sector and must be observed. These include the following amongst others:

6.2.1 Acts of Parliament

- i. Factories, Offices and Shops Act, 1970 (Act 328)
- ii. Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851)
- iii. Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715)
- iv. Water Resources Commission Act, 1996, Act 522
- v. Forestry Commission Act, 1996 (Act 571)

6.2.2 Regulations

- i. Fire Precaution (Premises) Regulations 2003, (LI 1724)
- ii. Water use Regulation, 2001(LI 1692)

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Monitor the following indicators and parameters at the frequencies indicated and submit reports to the Agency.

No.	INDICATOR	PARAMETER	FREQUENCY
1.	Water Quality of the Nii Bu	pH, Turbidity, colour, TSS, TDS, Phosphates, Ammonia-Nitrogen, Nitrite-Nitrogen, Potassium Total Coliforms, E.coli, Faecal coliform	Quarterly
2.	Soil/Land (Monitor the nutrient status of the soil)	Soil organic carbon	Annually
3.	Occupational Health and Safety	Nature and number of incidents/accidents	As and When
4.	Solid Waste (hazardous and non-hazardous)	i. Components of waste generated ii. Quantity of each component generated (kg) iii. Quantity disposed (kg) iv. Quantity reused (kg) v. Quantity recycled (kg)	Monthly
5.	Fire Outbreaks	No. of incidents	As and When

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

8.1 Annual Environmental Report

- Submit an Annual Environmental Report on the operations in accordance with Section 25 of L.I 1652 before **November 28, 2025** and thereafter every year.
- The report should include environmental monitoring reports from condition 7.0
- The Annual Environmental Report Forms (AER- Agriculture Form) can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov.gh/epa/publication/forms>

8.2 Environmental Management Plan

- Submit an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the renewal of your permit by **August 28, 2027**.
- The Environmental Management Plan Report Forms (EMP- Agriculture Form) can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov.gh/epa/publication/forms>

9.0 RIGHT OF ENTRY

The entity shall allow authorised representatives of the Agency to enter the premises at all times to:

- Access and verify records that must be kept under this permit.
- Inspect any facilities, equipment, practices and/or operations regulated or required under this permit.
- Monitor substances and/or parameters for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this permit, the *EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490)*, and the *Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI 1652)*.

10.0 NOTIFICATION

10.1 Changes to Project

- a) Notify The Agency in writing prior to any changes in the planned undertaking/activity contrary to the information provided in the EMP.
- b) The Agency may make changes to the project and notify the entity in writing in the event that the continuous operations pose danger to public safety and have or are likely to have adverse impacts on the environment.

11.0 MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Validity Period

- a. This permit is valid for a period of 36 months effective **November 28, 2024** and shall expire by **November 27, 2027**
- b. Failure to commence this undertaking within thirty (36) months shall render this permit invalid.

11.2 Renewal of Environmental Permit

The process for renewal of this Environmental Permit shall commence at least *three (3) months* before the expiry date (**November 27, 2027**) by submitting an EMP to the Agency and this permit *may* be renewed upon the entity's satisfactory performance and compliance with relevant Permit conditions, in accordance with Regulations 22 and 24 of LI 1652.

11.3 Permit Display

A copy of this permit shall be displayed prominently on the premises at all times.

11.4 Permit Schedule Awareness

- a) All workers at the premises shall be familiar with the conditions of this permit and shall be provided with adequate training to enable them assist with the implementation of the conditions of this permit.
- b) Provide evidence on sensitization and training programmes implemented in the Annual Environmental Report

11.5 Permit Limitation

- a. This permit is **NOT** transferable.
- b. This permit **CANNOT** be used to operate any other facility not listed in section 4.2 of this permit.

11.6 Complaint Management Mechanism

- a. Develop and implement an effective grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to handle all grievances and complaints that may arise.
- b. Clearly outline grievance redress procedures and make them available to all stakeholders.
- c. Ensure that **ALL** concerns raised by neighbours and other stakeholders are adequately addressed to ensure sustainability of the project.

12.0 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION AND CANCELLATION OF PERMIT

The Agency shall revoke or suspend or cancel a permit issued where **the entity**:

- a. fails to obtain any other authorisation required by law in relation to this undertaking before commencement of operations.
- b. is in breach of any provision of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 LI (1652) or any other enactment relating to environmental assessment.
- c. fails to make any payments required under the Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous provisions) Act, 2022 (Act 1080) on the due date.
- d. acts in breach of any of the conditions to which this permit is issued; or
- e. fails to comply with mitigation commitments in the submitted Environmental Management Plan.

13.0 PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

Provision of false information or failure to comply with or observe any or all the permit conditions shall:

- a. Attract administrative penalties and/or fines prescribed in the Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2022 (Act 1080).
- b. Attract the necessary sanctions as prescribed under Regulation 29 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations 1999, (LI 1652).
- c. Render this Environmental Permit invalid.

14.0 INTERPRETATIONS

In this permit, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

“Agency”- means Environmental Protection Agency established by the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)

“Entity” – GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED

“Application” - means application for this permit together with any response to a notice served and any other information formally accepted by the Agency as being part of the application for an Environmental Permit by GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED to continue the operation of an existing 724.34 hectares Natural Rubber Plantation Project located at Asikasu and Okurase in the Upper West Akim District of the Eastern Region.

“EMP” – means Environmental Management Plan.

“Undertaking”- means any enterprise, activity scheme of development, construction, project, structure, building, work, investment, plan, programme and any modification, extension, abandonment, demolition, rehabilitation or decommissioning of such undertaking, the implementation of which may have a significant impact.

15.0



Date of Issue: 19th December, 2024

Ing. Esi Nana Nerquaye-Tetteh

Ag. Deputy Executive Director /Technical Services

For: Executive Director

16.0 NOTIFICATION

The Director, PPRSD, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Accra

The Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission, Accra

The District Chief Executive, Upper West Akim District Assembly, Adeiso

The Regional Director, EPA Eastern Region, Koforidua



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Environmental Permit

EPA/NR/EMP/ER/HQ/CA520.3/24/0000/04

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACT, 1994 (ACT 490)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 1999 (LI 1652)

This is to Certify that

Authorisation has been given to

GHANA RUBBER ESTATES LIMITED

To continue the operation of an existing 724.34 hectares Natural Rubber Plantation Project located at Asikasu and Okurase in the Upper West Akim District of the Eastern Region as per the attached schedule.

From November 28, 2024 to November 27, 2027

Enegetetteh

**Ing. Esi Nana Nerquaye-Tetteh
Ag. Deputy Executive Director /Technical Services
For: Executive Director**

*NB: This Permit is only valid with the seal
of the Environmental Protection Agency and
the schedule to the permit*

19/12/2024

Date of Issue



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Pollution Prevention Pays