



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY SIERRA LEONE**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LICENCE

It is Hereby Certified That

The Institution/Business **SIERRA TROPICAL LIMITED**
Has fulfilled the requirements for obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment License:

The EIA License is valid for Twelve months from **15/10/2018** to **15/10/2019**

FOR THEIR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN LUGBU CHIEFDOM BO, DISTRICT

Under the Terms and Conditions approved by the Board of the
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

Prof. Foday M. Jaward (PhD)
Executive Chairperson

EPA-SL 181





GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Environment Protection Agency - Sierra Leone
Office of the President
21 Old Railway Line, Brookfields, Freetown

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LICENCE TO SIERRA TROPICAL LIMITED FOR THE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN LUGBU CHIEFDOM, BO DISTRICTS, SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SIERRA LEONE.

1.0 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In pursuance of the Environment Protection Agency Act, 2008 (Sections 24(1), 29 and 30) and the Environmental Impact Assessment License Regulations, 2010 and on the basis of the submitted Environmental Management Plan in the Environmental Impact Statement of the Agricultural Project, an Environmental Impact Assessment Licence Certificate is issued authorizing the Sierra Tropical Limited to undertake its agricultural project within the concession area of 15,000 hectares in Lugbu chiefdom, Bo District starting from 15th October 2018 to 15th October 2019.

2.0 COMPANY DETAILS

- 2.1 Company Address : 4th Floor UMC Building, 31 Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown
- 2.2 Contact Person : Patrick Blake
Vice President and General Manager
- 2.3 Contact Number : +232 78 851 354
- 2.4 Email-address : Patrick.Blake@doleintl.com

3.0 CERTIFICATE DETAILS

3.1 DATE AND PLACE OF ISSUE 15/10/2018, Freetown	3.2 FILE NO: EPA-SL/HA/414/648
	3.3 CERTIFICATE NUMBER: EPA-SL 181
	3.4 ISSUE DATE: 15/10/2018
	3.5 EXPIRY DATE: 14/10/2019
	3.6 RENEWAL DATE: 15/10/2019

37 Validity of EIA Licence Certificate

This certificate shall be valid for a period of one year effective from the date of issuance.

3.8 Renewal Clause

Application for renewal shall be submitted to the Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) Head Office in accordance with Section 31 of the Environment Protection Agency Act, 2008 as amended in 2010 and also three (3) months before the expiry of the certificate.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF SITE:

- 4.1 Name of Chiefdom and District where the project is located: Lugbu Chiefdom, Bo District
- 4.2 Location of the Agricultural Project Site : Sumbuya, Moforay, Lower Saama, Baoma, Gendema, garinga
- 4.3 Geographical Coordinates : (See ESHIA report)
- 4.4 Name(s) of nearest Human Settlement(s): Sumbuya, Moforay, Upper Saama

5.0 CONDITIONS OF EIA LICENCE CERTIFICATE

5.1 Notification of Alteration/Changes to Project designs

Notify EPA-SL of any major changes in the existing operation contrary to the information provided in the Environmental impact statement and EMP and seek approval before implementation. These shall include but not limited to the following;

- a) Changes to spatial requirement,
- b) Construction and operation of any new facility, such as processing plant etc.;
- c) Decommissioning of any facility or equipment;
- d) Upgrade of processing plant capacity;
- e) Changes in environmental monitoring point; and

- f) Any other activity other than highlighted in the ESIA submitted and approved by EPA-SL.

5.2 Display of Certificate

The certificate issued shall be displayed conspicuously in a prominent place at the project site.

5.3 Revocation, Suspension as well as the Refusal to Renew Certificate

The Agency may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the certificate issued where:

- (a) The provisions/conditions of this certificate are not being satisfactorily complied with.
- (b) The continued agricultural and agro- processing operations pose a serious risk to the environment, public health and safety.
- (c) The agro- processing operations have deteriorated below environmentally acceptable standards and best practice.

5.4 Reporting

An environmental monitoring programme should be implemented to address all project operations that have been identified to have potentially significant impacts on the environment and to track the occupational health and safety performance.

- 5.4.1 Submission of an Annual Environmental Report on the Company's operations by the end of every year.
- 5.4.2 Submission of Quarterly Environmental Monitoring Report on monitoring results of surface water, groundwater and boreholes, noise, dust and air quality before the end of each quarter, and the report must provide data on the approved monitoring locations and parameters.
- 5.4.3 Submit report on the implementation of the Community Development Action Plan and the Environmental monitoring action plan.

5.5 Compliance with Provisions of the Environmental Management Plan

The company shall comply with all the provisions outlined in the final Project EMP and any other additional provision(s) that will be prescribed by the Agency within the period of certification. The company shall also comply with the principles of environmental sustainability and energy cleaner technology to ensure a quality environment for the citizens of Sierra Leone.

5.6 Hazardous Chemical/Reagent Management

- (a) The company shall segregate potentially reactive chemicals, institute and maintain precautions to minimize the risk of spillage and groundwater contamination where hazardous materials such as oils, grease, solvents and other chemicals are stored.
- (b) The company shall only reuse containers when no environmental and/or safety hazard would occur from their reuse. All other containers shall be disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner.
- (c) All chemicals should be stored in a bonded shed and handled according to their Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS of each chemical/reagent shall be conspicuously displayed.

5.7 General and Hazardous Waste Management

- (a) The company shall construct and operate its own landfill site other than the use of a refuse dump site.
- (b) The company shall adopt the appropriate and best management/treatment practices for handling of oily contaminated waste within three months from the date of this certificate.

5.8 Occupational health and safety management

The company shall comply with the provisions prescribed by the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

The company shall ensure that:

- a) Personal protective equipment(PPE) are procured and supplied to employees for their respective work and they are required by regulations to wear the PPE or face sanctions;
- b) Employees are supplied with the appropriate tools meant for the work assigned to them such as goggles for welders etc.
- c) Appropriate notices and warnings are written and placed on notice boards and vantage places for the attention of all employees working in dangerous work environments;
- d) Procedures and standard practices are documented for use by workers engaged in dangerous assignments, and
- e) Well trained supervisors oversee the work of employees engaged in any form of risky work;
- f) Training on the transport of Dangerous Goods for all staff handling hazardous materials is provided;
- g) Upon recruitment, every staff must be given an orientation on occupational health and safety management;
- a) Appropriate notices and warnings are written and placed on notice boards and vantage places for the attention of all employees working in dangerous work environments;
- b) Procedures and standard practices are documented for use by workers engaged in dangerous assignments;
- c) Refresher trainings on occupational health and safety must be conducted at least twice annually;
- d) The company must put in place public emergency response mechanisms to cater for accidents (such as road accident, electrical or fire). Equipment and trained staff must be catered for as part of the emergency response;
- e) To minimize health and safety risks, the company must ensure existing or new road alignment is designed to suit all vehicle types that will be using the road;
- f) Roads design must be done in such a way to minimize truck haulage on-road hazards;
- g) For road safety, the company must ensure road safety management procedures are upheld through the installations of safety signs to warn drivers of hazardous driving conditions;
- h) There should be adequate maintenance of crossing signals, speed controls signage and pedestrian path etc.
- i) Ensure road signage or roadside vegetation does not limit sight distance along the roads.

5.9 Other Regulatory Requirements

- 5.8.1 Compliance with the Forestry Act, 1988 and its Regulations of 1989.
- 5.8.2 Fisheries Act, 2017
- 5.8.3 Wildlife Conservation amendment Act (1990)
- 5.8.4 Factories Act 1794
- 5.8.5 Water Resources Regulatory Agency Act 2016
- 5.8.6 Compliance with the Public Health Act, 2004.
- 5.8.7 Compliance with the Local Content Agency Act (2016)
- 5.8.8 Sierra Leone Roads Authority Act 1992
- 5.8.9 The Sierra Leone Roads Authority (Amendment) Act 2010.
- 5.8.10 Local Government Act 2004.

5.10 Soil Erosion Management

The company shall restrict vegetation clearance to areas required for operational activities, The company shall undertake the following to address soil erosion:

- a) Use of erosion control techniques such as diversion channels, sediment trap, rock barriers etc. to limit the impact;
- b) Early re-establishment of vegetation on recently cleared areas;

6 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITMENTS

6.1 Air Quality Management

The company shall

- (a) Suppress dust by water sprays on access roads including residential areas and the adjoining communities;
- (b) Restrict the clearing of vegetation activities to only areas expressly needed for operations in order to limit footprints of wind – blown surfaces;
- (c) Provide and Ensure wearing of personal protective gear by laboratory personnel to reduce their exposure to occupational risks;
- (d) Implement regular maintenance of fleet of all equipment/machinery and light vehicles and the use of unleaded fuel;
- (e) Implement vehicular speed limits and ramps on access roads (Access roads: <40km/hr, Residential roads: <30km/hr;
- (f) Use fume extraction fans to suck away welding and vanishing fumes as rapidly as they are produced at the workshops;

6.2 Noise and Vibrations Management

The company shall undertake the following to address potential significant impacts of noise and vibration:

- (a) Equipping plant and machinery systems that generate noise with noise attenuators
- (b) Regular maintenance for all mobile and stationary plant, equipment and machinery;

- (c) Installation of natural barriers at facility boundaries such as vegetation curtains or soil barns.

6.3 Water Resource Management

The company shall undertake the following to address potential significant impacts on water quality:

- (a) Water pollution shall be controlled by carefully separating the runoffs from undisturbed areas from water which contains sediments or chemicals from agricultural fields;
- (b) Construct and operate sediment traps/settling ponds to clarify sediment loaded run offs;
- (c) Ensuring that water supplies for downstream users are protected and maintained;
- (d) Avoidance of potential groundwater resource depletion in nearby wells caused by draw-down effects from pumping operation.
- (e) The company shall install a water treatment facility to treat excess process water for discharge thereby eliminating the need to discharge untreated process water to the environment.

6.4 Water Resource Management

- a. The company shall maintain a 100m or more buffer zone along riparian environments in order to preserve the water bodies from evaporation and siltation except where permission has been granted by EPA under strict Terms and Conditions.
- b. Drainages on roadsides should be controlled to avoid sediment transport into running streams and rivers;
- c. The company must take measures to minimize or control the risk of sediment discharge into streams and rivers;
- d. The company shall continually monitor all streams along the access roads and submit quarterly report unless otherwise advised by the Agency;
- e. The company should not divert waterways for the purpose of this project;
- f. Culverts/bridges must be constructed in such a way to allow free flow of water and to avert the risk of flooding;

6.5 Hydrocarbon Spill Management

The company shall continue to undertake the following in hydrocarbon spill management:

- (a) Personnel are required to wear protective equipment such as boots, gloves, when handling chemical spills etc.;
- (b) Provide and train workers on use of spill clean-up kit
- (c) Train personnel on oil spill clean-up methodology
- (d) Oil separator drains must be constructed, and oil contaminated water must be recovered and disposed of accordingly;
- (e) Floor is required to be mopped using saw dust and appropriate rags;
- (f) Where necessary, floor should be washed with a detergent; and
- (g) Any sawdust-laden with oil is required to be incinerated.

6.6 Waste Oil/Hydrocarbon Management

The company shall continue to undertake the following in waste oil management:

- (a) Special oil containers are clearly marked "Waste Oil" to indicate they contain used oil;
- (b) Oil recovered from machinery are stored in these drums in oil stores or in the special containers in clearly demarcated and bounded areas;
- (c) All oil drums are collected in a designated area on surface that is clearly demarcated or bounded;

6.7 Energy Management

The company shall ensure that handling and fuelling procedures comply with international Standard Maintenance Operating Procedure and any additional requirements put forth by the regulating authorities such as EPA-SL in order to limit potential contamination of soil or water. The company shall adopt the following strategies for efficient management of electricity and diesel consumption on the mine:

- (a) Routine maintenance of electrical appliances and equipment;
- (b) Replace high-consumption gadgets with more economical and efficient ones;
- (c) Routine monitoring of energy consumption needs are meant to track trends for managing deviations and predicting future demand;

7 Environmental Incident Reporting

The company shall ensure that:

- (a) All personnel within the Company shall bring environmental incidents to the attention of their Heads of Department or Environmental Manager;
- (b) Heads of Department who are informed on Environmental Incidents shall complete all relevant, preventive and corrective action Forms and submit these forms to the Environmental Manager for further investigation;
- (c) The Environmental Manager shall evaluate all replies and documented on incidents report, and where necessary obtain assistance from various personnel to perform this activity e.g. Technical Expertise, Financial Expertise, etc;
- (d) On obtaining a result of such an Evaluation the Environmental Manager will decide on the appropriate action applicable to the circumstances and will make sure that these actions are initiated; and
- (e) The Environmental Manager shall make sure the area is demarcated and a clear sign posted erected where an environmental incident occurred.
- (f) All incidences are reported to the Agency immediately.

8 Community Development and Action Plan(CDAP)

- a. The company shall ensure that CDAP is implemented within the given timelines
- b. The company shall be committed to fulfil its corporate social responsibility.

8.1 Public Grievances and Complaints

- a) For the effective management of public grievances, the company shall put in place a complaint logging system and grievance resolution mechanisms.
- b) The company should maintain records of all complaints, accidents and other incidents that may occur;
- c) All unresolved complaints must be brought to the attention of the Agency.
- d) The status of all complaints must be included in in quarterly reports.

9 Closure Certification

The Sierra Tropical Limited shall obtain a closure certificate from the Agency before abandonment of the project site.

10.0 Closure Documentations

The Company shall submit the following documentations two months after closure and/or any period to be prescribed by the Agency.

- Updated Closure Plan.
- Closure Construction and Designs.
- Post-Closure Monitoring Plan.
- Post Closure Emergency Management Plan.

11.0 Compensation

- a. The Company shall pay adequate and prompt compensation for damage to land users and for properties according to relevant statutory instrument or rates agreed between the Company and the project affected person(s) and or communities.
- b. The Company shall provide potable and adequate alternative water sources for the downstream communities in the event that the operations impacts water resources.
- c. The company shall pay compensation for damage to fishing nets and related implements;
- d. Any discharge of agro chemicals or their constituents in rivers or streams shall attract fine, compensation and the company shall bear the responsibility to conduct thorough clean-up.
- e. Land acquisition and compensation of property owners should be done in accordance with national laws;
- f. Any onshore spillages of fuel, diesel, used oil resulting to damage of properties shall attract adequate compensation to property owners.

12.0 EIA Licence Exceptions

- (a) This EIA Licence Certificate shall not be used to operate similar facilities outside the concession area of the project activities. It covers the concession area only where the project shall carry out its agricultural operations.
- (b) This Certificate is **NOT** transferable in accordance with section 35 of the Environment Protection Agency Act, 2008 as amended in 2010.

- (c) Any extension or modification in the project design shall require an addendum to the original ESHIA and the licensing terms and conditions shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Agency Act 2008.

13.0 Review of Terms and Conditions

The above terms and conditions for the issuance of the EIA Licence are subject to review as and when it is deemed necessary by the Agency. Any review shall be in conformity with all provisions of the EPA Act of 2008 as amended in 2010.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Providing false information or failure to comply with or observe all the conditions for the issuance of the certificate above would attract the necessary penalties prescribed under the Environment Protection Agency Act of 2008 as amended in 2010 and will lead to the suspension, cancellation or revocation of Environmental Permit or to prosecution.
2. The Terms and Condition provided herein will form the basis for the evaluation of your compliance status for this license year. You are therefore advised to carefully review it and make sure that these Terms and Conditions are fully complied with.
3. The Agency reserves the right to visit your project site or facilities for spot checks, monitoring and Audit as and when necessary.


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Prof. Foday M. Jaward (PhD.)
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, EPA-SL

Date Issued: 15th October 2018