

Initial Project Summary

Project Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Name of Applicant: James Steele and Chris Jorgensen

Name of Downstream Investor: Buchanan Renewables Fuel, Inc.

Project Description: The Project involves the expansion of a rubber wood harvesting and wood chip supply business in Liberia. The Project will harvest unproductive rubber trees from established plantations in Liberia, process the harvested trees into wood chips for both export and consumption by a new power plant in Liberia, and replace the trees with rubber tree seedlings from the company's nursery. The harvesting and replanting operations will occur throughout Liberia on existing rubber plantations. The projected harvesting capacity following the expansion is 2 million green metric tons of biomass chips per year.

Environmental and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project is screened as Category A because the area of influence of the Project encompasses a broad geographic area including 7 or more counties within the country. The major environmental and social concerns associated with timber harvesting and replanting include the potential for habitat alteration and loss of biodiversity, adverse impacts on surface water quality, soil erosion, loss of soil productivity, occupational health and safety issues associated with timber harvesting and community health and safety.

Environmental and Social Standards: The International Finance Corporation's (IFC) (April 2006) Performance Standards 1 (Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems), 2 (Labor and Working Conditions), 3 (Pollution Prevention and Abatement), 4 (Community Health, Safety and Security), 6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management) and 8 (Cultural Heritage) are applicable to the Project. The Project does not involve land acquisition or impacts on indigenous people.

Environmental guidelines applicable to the Project include the IFC's General Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (April 2007) and Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Forest Harvesting Operations (April 2007).

Location of Local Access to Project Information: A copy of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment may be found at the following locations: Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia, Liberia; Buchanan House, Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor, Monrovia Liberia.