

H. THE NEW NATIONAL FORESTRY LAW

AN ACT ADOPTING THE NEW NATIONAL FORESTRY LAW

It is enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

Section 1.

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and chapter 6 of Title 24, volume II of the Liberian Code of Laws of 1956, and Chapter 6 of Title 14 of the Liberia Code of Laws Revised; and all Amendatory Acts thereto and Applicable Provisions with respect or references to, what heretofore has been called Concession to a land area, whether for purposes of logging, mining or agriculture, are hereby repealed; and there is enacted in lieu thereof, An Act Adopting A new National Forestry Law, Part II, Title 23 of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised.

PART II. NATIONAL FORESTRY LAW

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.1 Title Citation

This Act constitutes and shall be cited as, Part II of Title 23 of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised.

Section 1.2 short Title and Name

This Act may be cited and called the National Forestry Law.

Section 1.3 Definitions

Words used in the singular from in this law shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may deem necessary. For the purpose of this law, the following words construed to mean:

Afforestation: The establishment of a tree plantation on an area that has not recently carried forest.

Agro Forestry: A practice in forestry by which forest corps/trees are planted simultaneously on the same tract of land with cash/vegetables.

Annual Coupe: ... The 4% (four percent) of a concession are as required by the Authority to be logged per annum.

Authority: The Forestry Development Authority (FDA), created by an Act of Legislature on November 1, 1976 As Amended.

Authority Officer: An officer of the Authority designated as an inspector or enforcement officer.

Blind Trust: Shall mean a Trust in which the settlor or the creator of the Trust places his investment under the control of an independent trustee in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

Broad of Directors: The Board of Directors of the Authority.

Bio-diversity: The varying number and forms of living things and their interaction within habitats.

Buffer Zone: An area of land separating two Forest Resources Utilization Rights Holders.

Commercial use: Any use other than direct use for personal purposes, or infrastructure development, including uses involving barter, sale, trade or any other disposition of forest products of forest land for direct or indirect financial benefits.

Commission: The National Investment Commission, an Agency of government established by Act of Legislature on September 19, 1976.

Communal Forest: A small described forest area immediately adjacent to one or more villages to be used exclusively by the local inhabitants and shall not be used for any commercial purposes.

Conservation: The sustainable management of forest resources so as to achieve maximum social, economic, and scientific benefits for present and future generations.

Defect: Any abnormality and irregularity that lowers the commercial value of forest resource.

Degraded land: A piece of land that has been reduced in value due to the lack of quality or economic resource.

Designated Hunting Area: Any area declared by Regulation of the Authority for the hunting of animals.

Diameter: The distance measure through a tree center bark to bark.

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Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): The diameter measure at four and a half feet (4.5ft) above ground level.

Encroachment: An infringement of another's or intrusion on another's property...

Endemic: See indigenous species.

Environment: The aggregate of surrounding bio and non-bio elements conditions, interacting, influences and affecting the existence or development of organism or other specified system.

Environmental Commission: A commission established by the Republic of Liberia to monitor, regulate and protect the environment.

Environmental Conservation: The wise use of the environment from loss, decay, waste, or injury while at the same time enjoying its benefits.

Environmental Rehabilitation: The restoration of the environment to its former capacity.

Exotic Species: A species that is foreign to Liberia.

Forest Land: A tract of land consisting of flora and fauna.

Forest Product: Any material derived from forest resources.

Forest Resources Utilization Agreement: The rights granted by the Government to any Person or Persons for the extraction of forest product or utilization of forestland.

Forest Resources: An resource that exists within the forest ecology including but not limited to flora, micro organisms that may be exploited for social, economic and other benefits.

Forestry: The science, art, and practice, which deals with the sustainable management of Forest resources.

Fuel Wood: Woody material derives from the Forest ecology to provide energy.

Game Reserve: An area declared by government as a prohibited hunting area.

Government: Means the Government of the Republic of Liberia and all branches sub divisions, instrumentalities, authorities, and agencies thereof.

Grade I A: A timber that has a theoretical yield of 100%; perfectly cylindrical with maximum 3% conicity and knots less than 10mm in diameter.

Grade I/II or AB: A timber that has a theoretical of 87.5%; perfectly cylindrical with maximum 3% conicity having knots of 10mm in diameter.

Grade II or B: A timber that has a theoretical yield of 75%; perfectly cylindrical with a conicity of more than 3%; and splits extending outside of the log not exceeding 10% of the length of a log.

Grade II/III or B/C: A timber that has a theoretical yield of 62.5%; a conicity of 3%; and above; bend or curved 2 to 5% a hump not exceeding 60% of the overall surface, knots and thorns not exceeding 10%; split outside up to 30% in length and twisted and entangled grains with slope not exceeding 10%.

Grade III or C: A timber that has a theoretical yield of 50%; conicity over 3% admitted; flattened section up to 30%; buttress over 60% of length; hump over 60% of entire surface of the log split outside over 30%.

Grade IV or D: A timber that has theoretical yields of 20% to 35% and not qualified for export.

Timber Grades: Grades that are used in the African Export Markets and their units that shall be as follows:

Granted Area: Any forestland area covered by a Forest Resource Utilization or Agriculture Agreement or an Operation Permit between the Government and any Person or Persons.

Highly Disturbed Broken Forest: A piece of forest land the canopy of which does not exceed 45% (forty-five percent) in which there are human settlement, and previous or present farming activities of intense magnitude, thereby rendering such forest non-Suitable under the Forest Product Utilization Agreement.

Holder: The holder of a Forest Resources Utilization Agreement or a holder of an Operation Permit.

Hunter: A person certified and licensed by the Authority to hunt.

Hunt or Hunting: The act to kill, capture, take, trap, injure, shoot at lie in wait for willfully disturb or molest wildlife.

Indigenous species: A plant or animal that is native to Liberia.

Inventor/Enumeration: A 100% counting of all trees within a given granted Area which have attained the diameter of 45 centimeter at Breast Height (DBH).

Landowner: A person who owns land by legal title.

Managing Director: The Managing Director of the Authority.

Mineral Rights: The rights subject to the Minerals and Mining Laws of Liberia.

Minimum Diameter Cut Limit: Specified minimum size prescribed by the Authority at which a tree can be felled in a granted Area.

National Forests or Forest Reserves. Are those Forests Reserves gazetted by the Government and fall within the boundaries of publicly owned forests.

National Park: An area set aside by the Government to protect outstanding natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational economic, environmental and recreational purposes.

Nature Reserve: An area of interesting bio-diversity and scenic beauty that could be upgraded into a national park but needs to be protected.

Occupant of Land: A person who is in lawful possession of a piece of property.

Operator: The holder of a forest Resource Utilization Right.

Operation: Any activity or process carried out pursuant to a Forest Resource Utilization Right.

Person: Any individual, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, trust, estate, un-incorporated entity, government or state, and branch, division, political sub-division, instrumentality, authority or agency.

Professional Hunter: A person certificated and licensed by the Authority to guide clients for hunting.

Protected Area-: Any area set aside to be upgraded to a Nature Reserve, National Park, or National Forest.

Prospect ion-: Include all investigations for purposes of discovering the existence, location, quantity, quality, characteristics or commercial value of forest resources.

Reforestation –: The establishment of tree plantation in a previously forested area that has been affected by cutting, fire or some other act of tree removal.

Republic-: Shall mean the Republic of Liberia.

Stock Map -: Map of the forest area granted under forest Resources Utilization Agreement, indicating the block, species, topography and size of each tree.

Survey Permit -: The right granted to a Person by the Authority to carry out prospection in an area of forest land for the purpose of pinpointing at random economic tree species for the acquisition of a Forest Resource Utilization Right and or Operation Permit.

Timber-: Cut wood or log.

Trade -: To sell, buy barter, exchange, offer, or expose for sale of forest products.

Tree Number & Number -: A number marked on the stump of a felled tree and on the two faces of the logs.

Tershed -: A land that delivers run-off water, sediment, and dissolved substances to a major, river and its tributaries.

Wetland-: A trace of land that remains flooded all or part of the year with fresh or salt water.

Wild Animal -: Any animal, (vertebrate or invertebrate) and insects of every description, but does not include domestic animals.

Wildlife-: All fauna and microorganism existing in their natural state within of the forest ecology.

CHAPTER 2. OWNERSHIP OF FOEST RESOURCES

Section 2.1 Ownership of Forest Resources

All forest resources in Liberia are the property of the Republic, except communal and forest resources privately owned which have been developed through artificial regeneration. However, anything pertaining to their prospection, utilization, and export shall be governed by this Law.

Section 2.2 Right Ownership to Forest Resources

The rights of Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Rights, or Hunting Permits shall be governed by the provisions of this Law.

Section 2.3 Lease of Forest Land

The Authority, in collaboration with other relevant agencies of Government, shall be the representative of the Government to negotiate or enter into agreements with any applicant or Holder, to lease, Utilize or operate public forestland for the harvesting of Forest Products or agriculture purposes.

Section 2.4 Application and Enforcement

This law shall hereinafter apply to all agreements relating to forestland, forest management, conservation, utilization and protection of the environment.

Section 2.5 Non-Interference

It shall be illegal for any official of Government, Tribal Authority or any group of citizens to interfere with any rights granted under this Law to Holders of Forests Resources Utilization Agreements. A violation of this section shall be punishable under the Economic Sabotage provision of the Penal Law.

CHAPTER 3. ADMINISTRATION OF THIS LAW

Section 3.1 Oversight Responsibility

Subject to, and keeping with the provisions of this Law, the Authority shall be responsible to administer this Law and the Regulations promulgated under it, so as to promote the policies set forth herein.

Section 3.2 Authority to Investigate

The Authority shall have the authority to conduct such investigations as may be necessary, appropriate and in keeping with this Law and Regulations in order to ensure compliance with this Law by all persons.

Section 3.3 Land Grant or Forest Resource Utilization Rights

All investment agreements with respect to Forest Resources Utilization Right or Forest Land Grant for the purposes of Logging, Mining or Agriculture, shall become effective and binding on the Republic of Liberia pursuant to its Government, such as: (1) the National Investment Commission; the Forestry Development Authority; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Agriculture, when the land is used for agriculture purposes; the Ministry of Lands Mines & Energy, when the land is used for mining purposes; (2) attested to by Minister of Justice, or by his or her successor in office or function; and (3) approved by the President of the Republic of Liberia.

CHAPTER 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR FOREST RESOURCES UTILIZATION RIGHTS:

Section 4.1 Right to Conduct Forest Operations

No Person shall conduct prospection and forest operation, except under and in accordance with a forest Resources Utilization Agreement.

Section 4.2 Basic Requirement

Any person possessing the requisite legal, technical and financial capabilities and wishing to engage in forestry activities in Liberia shall submit a written application to the Authority.

Section 4.3 Non-Eligibility for Forest Resources Utilization Rights

The below listed individuals shall not be eligible to obtain Forest Resources Utilization Rights.

an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years old;

a person who has been adjudged insolvent or bankrupt during the prior seven years under the laws of Liberia, or any other country, except under a plan of reorganization approved by the courts of Liberia, or of such other country and permitted under the laws of Liberia, and with respect to which such Person is in compliances;

a Person who is not duly and lawfully qualified, by registration or other wise, to conduct business in the Republic;

An Individual who has been convicted of a felony in Liberia, or that has been convicted of, or pleaded contendere to a crime, the elements of which would constitute a felony in Liberia.

a Person or Individual whose application does not meet the requirements of this Law; the President of Liberia; the Vice President of Liberia, any member of the National Legislature, Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of subordinate courts of record, Cabinet Ministers, Managing Directors of Public Corporations during their tenure in office. However, in the event that any of the categories of persons of individuals referred to and described in this sub-section 4.3(f) are already in position of the Rights prior to assuming the functions of their aforesaid offices, said person shall be required to have these Rights assigned to a Blind Trust.

An employee of the Authority or of the Commission.

CHAPTER 5. FOREST RESOURCE UTILIZATION RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Section 5.1 Rights to carry out Forest Operations

The right to carry out Forest Operations shall be acquired under an Operation Permit or Forest Resources Utilization Agreement entered into with the Government for the sustainable development of forest resources and environmental protection for the common good of the people of Liberia as provided for in this Law.

Section 5.2 General Execution Requirements

All applicants for Forest Resources Utilization Agreements shall be required to:
Conduct a prospection/survey and submit a comprehensive work plan to the Authority in keeping with Regulations;
File in favor of the Government a Performance Bond issued by a reputable local commercial bank or financial institution, as shall be stipulated in the Regulations;
Adhere to all Regulations promulgated by the Authority from time to time.

Section 5.3 Categories and Obligations Under Forest Resources Utilization Agreements

Categories of Agreements: Rights under Forest Resources Utilization Agreements shall be classified into the following categories:

Class A Agreement: A Class A Agreement Holder shall be entitled to a minimum of two million (2,000,000) acres of forest lands.

Class B Agreement: A Class B Agreement Holder shall be entitled to a minimum of one million (1,000,000) acres up to a maximum of one million nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand (1,999,000) acres of forest lands.

Class C Agreements: A Class C Agreement Holder shall be entitled to a minimum of three hundred thousand (300,000) up to a maximum of nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand (999,000) acres of forest lands. Only Liberian citizens shall be eligible to hold a class C forest Resource Utilization Agreement. The Rights granted herein to Liberians shall be transferable or assignable only to other Liberia citizens.

OBLIGATIONS:

Class A Agreement: The Holder of a class A Agreement shall be required to develop and install a large scale integrated wood processing industry comprising of a sawmill and/or, a veneer, a plywood, or a particle board long with kiln drying facilities, preservation plants and disposable sawdust/waste facilities.

Class B Agreement: The Holder of a Class B Agreement shall be require to develop a medium scale wood processing industry comprising of a saw milling and/or, kiln drying and wood treatment facilities.

Class C Agreement: The Holder of a class C Agreement shall be required to develop a small scale wood processing industry comprising of a saw milling and/or kiln drying facilities.

Duration and Renewal of Agreement. An Agreement shall be valid for a period of twenty-five (25) years to coincide with the four percent (4) Annual Coupe rate; and may be renewed upon expiration, which renewal shall not be unreasonably denied.

Section 5.4 Holder's Obligations to Liberians

Not later than one hundred and eighty (180) days after the effective date of a Forest Utilization Agreement, Holder of Class A or Class B Forest Resources Utilization Agreements shall offer upon reasonable terms, that number of shares of its stock equivalent to twenty five percent (25) of equity share issued or authorized, or Liberian citizens, for purchase at fair market value, or going market rate. This offer shall thereafter remain open for one hundred and twenty (120) days.

Section 5.5 Environmental Impact Assessment Study

The Authority shall require each applicant for a Forest Resource Utilization Right to submit, as a condition precedent to the granting of such Right, an Environmental Impact Assessment Study in keeping with the policies of the National Environmental Commission of Liberia

Section 5.6 Periodic Environmental Assessment

for each ongoing operation, the Authority shall, in collaboration with the Holder and the National Environmental Commission of Liberia conduct periodic Environmental assessment, as shall be defined in the Regulations.

Section 5.7 Community Development

Community development projects to be undertaken by the Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Agreements shall be as prescribed in the standard Forest Resources Utilization Agreements.

CHAPTER 6. REVOCATION/CANCELLATION FOREST RESOURCES UTILIZATION AGREEMENTS.

Section 6.1 Revocation of Forest Resources Utilization Agreement

Forest Resources Utilization Rights under this Law may be terminated by Government on any of the following grounds:

Failure to commence operations with twelve (12) months as of the effective date of this Agreement.

Failure to meet all financial obligations under the law within the specified period, except when such failure is caused by Force Majeure;

Default in the payment of rent, stumpage fees or income tax payable by the Holder under the Agreement for a period of six (6) consecutive months;

Assign to a third party the whole or part of the rights held by it under the agreement without the consent of the Government;

Any material misrepresentation knowingly submitted to the Authority by Holder of execution of this Agreement;

Intentionally extracting any natural resource and/or forest products not provided for in the Agreements without the expressed prior permission, authorization and/or approval of the Government;

Willful and intentional de-classification of forest Products by any Individual and or Holder(s) for any purpose including financial gain.

Failure to comply with any other provisions of this Law or any Regulations promulgated thereunder.

Section 6.2 Assignment and Transfer of Forest Resources Utilization Rights

Forest Resources Utilization Rights may be assigned only upon approval of the Government. Any purported assignment in contravention of this section shall be null and void, and shall constitute a material violation of this law.

Section 6.3 Force Majeure

In the event of a Holder of a Forest Resources Utilization Right being rendered unable, in whole or in part, by Force Majeure to carry out any obligation thereunder, other than an obligation to make payments of money that accrued prior to the commencement of Force Majeure, such Person shall give notice and the particulars of such Force Majeure in writing to Government as soon as practicable after the occurrence of the cause relied on, and the obligation of the Person giving such notice, insofar as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of any such inability. However, any such inability shall, as far as practicable, be remedied with all reasonable dispatch. All time periods specified for the performance or obligations or the enjoyment of rights, granted by a Forest Resources Utilization Rights which are affected by Force Majeure, except in connection with an obligation to make payments of money that accrued prior to the commencement of Force Majeure, shall be extended by the period of time the inability caused by such force Majeure exist.

Section 6.4 Force Majeure Defined

As used in section 6.3 herein above, the term force majeure shall mean acts of Acts of God, accidents, wars, (whether declared or not), invasions, acts of public enemies, hostilities, restrictions on trade or other activities of the Holder imposed by any sovereign, embargoes, blockades revolutions, riots, civil commotion, sabotage, strikes

and/or other industrial, labor or employer-employee disputes (if not cured for a period or more than two (2) months), fires, explosions, earthquakes or any other natural disasters, expropriation of facilities or goods, epidemics, and any similar cause, provided such cause is beyond the reasonable control of the Party(s).

CHAPTER 7. RELATIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBORING FOREST AREAS.

Section 7.1 Works of Common Interest

The Authority shall by Regulation, determine access routes between neighboring forest holdings and no Holder may deny or impede any adjoining Holder, the use of such routes.

Section 7.2 Encroachment

The encroachment by one Holder upon the forest area of another shall be strictly prohibited. A violation of this law shall subject the violator to appropriate fines by the Authority and reimbursement to the aggrieved Holder for the value of the damage caused by such encroachment.

Section 7.3 Exception

The transfer or transiting of Timber Products from the forest area of one Holder through or across that of another Holder shall not be construed as an encroachment entitling the latter to reimbursement as provided for in Section 7.2 above.

Section 7.4 Establishment of Buffer Zones

The Authority may establish Buffer Zones in which activities of Holders are forbidden in order to protect the activities of the neighboring forest area, which is or may be in operation.

Section 7.5 No Compensation

No Holder shall be entitled to compensation on account of the establishment of such Buffer Zones by the Authority.

CHAPTER 8: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 8.1 Environment Requirements

All Holders shall carry out their operations and activities in accordance with environmentally sound Forest Resource Utilization harvesting practices and in accordance with internationally acceptable principles and practices applicable to Timber and Forestry Operations and Processing. All Forestry Operations and activities shall be conducted so as to avoid waste and loss of natural resources and to protect natural resources against damage, as well as to prevent pollution and contamination of the environment.

Section 8.2 Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Resources

Monitoring Forest Operation. The Authority shall monitor Forest Operations to ensure that the annual coupe of 4% permitted for felling be adhered to, with the aim of ensuring sustainable supply of commercial size Timber in accordance with the 25-year cutting cycle.

Mining of Mineral in National Forest. No Class B or Class C Mineral Right shall be granted in respect of areas, which have been designated as Protected Areas.

Exception. As a precondition for the granting of Class A Mineral Rights in protected Areas, the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy and the National Environmental Commission shall consult and collaborate with the Authority and they shall jointly establish appropriate guidelines for the maximum protection of the environment and the sustainable management of the forest.

Section 8.3 Environmental Rehabilitation, Reforestation and Afforestation

The Authority shall contract the services of an internationally recognized conservation and environment organization to carry out the following duties.

Reforest degraded and/or denuded forest lands for improvement of the natural environment. A minimum of five thousand (5,000) acres shall be replanted annually in each of the areas so denuded.

Protect and conserve the wetlands ecosystem for the benefit of the people.

Identify and proclaim sites for the establishment of reforestation and afforestation plantations.

Promote the planting of indigenous species, such that every single plantation shall contain at least 50% of indigenous species.

Establish a central seed bank and other seed storages, where necessary.

Section 8.4 Authority to Monitor Contract

All such contracts shall be monitored, supervised and evaluated by the Authority.

Section 8.5 Urban Forestry

The Authority shall collaborate with the appropriate agencies in carrying the following:

The Authority in collaboration with municipal authorities and estate holders shall plant trees and/or encourage the planting of trees in urban settlements for recreational, aesthetic, and pollution control purposes.

The planting of trees shall be in consonance with city ordinances.

A tree within such location shall be trimmed, pruned, or felled with a permit and consent of the Authority.

Section 8.6 National Tree Planting Day. To concretize the people of Liberia about their environment and to galvanize awareness support and action in this respect, the second Friday in May of every year shall be declared as a National Holiday to be known and styled "National Tree Planting Day" as follow

The Authority shall be empowered to plan and execute appropriate programs benefiting the day.

CHAPTER 9 PROTECTED ZONE

Section 9.1 Game Reserves, controlled Hunting and Other Protected Areas

Establishment of Game Reserves and Control Hunting Areas: The Authority shall by Regulations, establish Game Reserves, Controlled Hunting and Other Protected Areas.

Survey Research and Regulations: The Authority shall promote the undertake research on the distribution, habitat and population of wildlife in such Protected Areas in Liberia with the objective of achieving sustainable production.

Advisory Committee: The Authority shall appoint an advisory committee of scientists and other professionals to assist in undertaking survey, scientific research for the promulgation of appropriate Regulations.

Section 9.2 Protected Areas

Game Reserves: Areas set aside for the protection, breeding and sustainable development of Wildlife. No Person shall hunt or capture any animal or enter into, settle, camp, cultivate, cut or burn trees or other vegetables or disturb wildlife in any way in such Game Reserve.

Heritage Sites: Areas designated pursuant to International Conventions.

Controlled hunting Areas: Areas set aside in which hunting is permitted under conditions as laid down in this Law and Regulations. The Authority shall, in respect of any Controlled Hunting Area, by Regulations:

- (i) Establish maximum annual quotas for the hunting and capture each wildlife species;
- (ii) Restrict the number of persons permitted to hunt at any one time or during any one season;
- (iii) Regulate the means by which any animal may be hunted including the type of ammunition, the type of firearm, type of net, or other means;
- (iv) Prohibit the use of traps, snares and any other environmentally unsafe chemicals or artifacts.

Hunting License: No Person shall hunt in any Controlled Area except licensed to do so in keeping with Regulations. Closed Seasons: The Authority may declare any period of the year to be a closed season during which hunting or capture of a certain species or number or species shall be prohibited.

Night Hunting: Hunting by night shall be strictly prohibited. Animals prohibited from being hunted: No person shall hunt or capture any animal that is pregnant, immature or is a female accompanied by its young.

Prohibited Hunting Method: No person shall employ, or possess for the purpose of employing, any of the following for the purpose of hunting or capture any animal:

- (i) Any drug, poison, poisoned weapons or poisoned bait;
- (ii) Any explosive or any missile containing a detonator;
- (iii) Any deadfall, pit or set gun;
- (iv) Any electronic device or recording to attract animals;
- (v) Any tension light, including flashlight or other illumination device;

- (vii) Any firearm capable of firing more than one round at each pull of the trigger, or any type of firearm prohibited in any Regulations issued under this Law;
- (viii) Any other method of hunting or capturing animals prohibited in Regulations.

Defense of Individuals of Property:

Subject to this Section, an Individual may take such measures as may be reasonably necessary to defend this person or property from a direct and immediate attack by any wild animal.

Shooting or killing the animal shall not be resorted to unless absolutely necessary to protect person or property.

No Individual may raise self-defense as a defense if he has provoked an animal to attack or, at the time of the attack, was committing an offense against the provisions of this Law or any Regulations issued thereunder.

The burden of proof that an animal has been killed in self-defense or defense of property shall lie on the person who alleges.

Where an animal is killed or wounded in self-defense or defense of property, the fact and circumstances of such killing or wounding shall be reported immediately, and in no event more than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter, to the Authority.

Any animal killed or wounded in self-defense or in defense of property shall be the property of the property which shall dispose of same at public auction and fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds deposited into the Environmental Conservation and Protection Fund, established under this Law.

Damage of property by Wild Animal:

- (i) It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to:

Fence or otherwise protect his land wherever possible so as to prevent the entry of wild animals;

Inform the Authority immediately of any damage to his crops, forests, or other properties by a wild animal;

- (ii) The Authority shall in the case of any wild animal subject to provision under this Law or Regulations:

Take such measure to prevent such animals from entering and causing damage to private property;

Encourage and cooperate with property owners to prevent the entry of such animals.

Any valid claims for damage caused by such animals.

- (iii) No compensation shall be payable to any property owner under the preceding subsection if the property owner has been in breach of his responsibilities under subsection.

Section 9.3 Protected Animals

Survey. The Authority shall:

Review the population, distribution and status of wildlife in Liberia and identify animals threatened by or in danger of extinction.

Maintain and update a list of animals threatened by or in danger of extinction in Liberia under subsection 9.3 (a) above.

Hunting of Protected Animals:

No Person shall hunt, capture or trade any species as contained in the list provided by the Authority from time to time.

Any person who hunts or captures or attempts to hunt or capture any species listed under section 9.3 (a) (i) above shall be guilty of an offense and liable on conviction.

This section shall not apply to any protected animals that has been in captivity and for which the owner has obtained a certificate to that effect from the authority.

c. Hunting or Capturing of Protected animals for Scientific Purpose:

The authority may authorize the capture, removal and transfer of any species contained in the list in subsection 9.3 (a) (ii) above, if such activity is for the purpose of captive breeding, propagation of the species, its safety, the safety, the safety of humans or scientific research.

d. Possession of protected Animals:

With six (6) months of the entry into force of this Law, no person shall possess any protected animal, whether live or dead, or any part thereof, without a certificate of legal ownership issued by the Authority. The burden of proving lawful possession of any protected animal or any part thereof shall lie with the person possessing such animal or any part thereof.

The Authority shall issue a certificate of legal ownership for any protected animal where it is satisfied that such animal was lawfully obtained under the authority of a valid license or permit or by other lawful means or was raised in captivity.

e. Hunting by Officers of the Authority: Any officer authorized by Regulations of the Authority may hunt or capture any wild animal, whether protected or not, in any area of Liberia, including National Parks, nature Reserves, Game Reserves and Controlled hunting Areas, where;

(i) Such hunting or capture is requested in the interest of research, management or administration;

(ii) It is necessary for the safety of the public or the protection crops livestock or other property;

(iii) It is necessary to prevent undue suffering by any animal;

Professional Hunting License: The Minister of Finance shall issue a hunters license, which shall for six (6) months each year.

Permits to keep Wild Animals:

(i) No person shall keep in captivity any live wild animal without a permit issued by the authority.

(ii) The Authority shall cancel a permit where a wild animal is not kept and cared for humanely or in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the permit.

(iii) The Authority is authorized to take possession of any wild animal from any Person who has not obtained a valid permit. The Authority may thereafter release same or donate the animal to a zoological institution or other appropriate facility in the discretion of the Authority.

Diseased Animals: Any diseased live wild animal seized or confiscated by the Authority may be quarantined, destroyed or delivered to the appropriate government agency.

CHAPTER 10. RIGHTS OF OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF LAND AFFECTED BY THIS LAW.

Section 10.1 Rights of Owners

The rights of owners and occupiers of land affected by the granting of Forest Resources Utilization Rights, if any, shall be governed by this chapter.

Section 10.2 Obligation to Observe this Law and Regulations

No owners of land shall undertake any prospection, logging or hunting on such land, except pursuant to this Law and Regulations.

Section 10.3 Supremacy of Government's Right

Government's rights as owner of forest resources within the Republic of Liberia are absolute and supercede the rights of any owners or occupiers of land in respect of the prospection, extraction, utilization and exportation of forest resources, provided however, that such owner or occupier shall be entitled to prompt and adequate compensation of any diminution in the value of the property caused by disturbance, disfigurement or other factors occasioned by the Government's exercise of it rights.

Section 10.4 Procedure on Refusal of Land Owner to Permit Forest Resources Operation

In case an owner of land refuses to grant permission to the Holder of a Forest Resources Utilization Rights to conduct prospection or Forest Operations, the circumstances including any financial offers made to the land owner or occupant. The Authority, shall by Regulations, establish appropriate procedures for the hearing and determines of such petition.

Section 10.5 Specific Authority required

Specific authorization shall be obtained from the Authority by the Holder of a Forest Resources Utilization Rights in order to carry out the following activities unless they are

expressly authorized in the text of an Operation Permit or Forest Products Utilization Agreement:

Cleaning the land of trees, shrubs and other obstacles, and cutting wood necessary for the Holder's activities outside the boundaries of this permits;

Operating used or unreserved waterfalls and harnessing them for purposes of such activities;

Installing electrical plants;

Installing plants for preparation, concentration, or chemical treatment of wood;

Development of roads, canals, pipeline, channels, conveyors or other above ground conduits for the purpose of transporting products beyond the land, subject to the Forest Resources Utilization Rights;

Creation or development of sea river ports and airports.

CHAPTER 11. PUBLIC USE OF CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE OWNED OR CONSTRUCTED BY HOLDER OF FOREST RESOURCE UTILIZATION RIGHTS

Section 11.1 use of Infrastructure

Communication lines installed or development by the holder of Forest Resources Utilization Rights within the area subject to the Forest

Resource Utilization Rights may be used by Government or by third parties, subject to fair compensation, provided that such use does not interfere with or hinder the Holder's Operation.

Section 11.2 Government Construction

Authority reserve the authority to construct roads highways, railway, telegraph and telephone lines and other lines of communication with area, provided, however, the Authority shall not unreasonably interfere with the operation and shall compensate the parties for all damage cause to the parties including but not limited to property damage (other than loss of surface leasehold right with respect to man) and economic or other losses, including, but not limited to, lost profits.

Section 11.3 Assets: All fixed assets installed by Forest Operations, where appropriate, shall become the property of the Government of Liberia, upon termination of their Forest Resources Utilization Rights; however, the moveable assets shall remain the property of the Operators.

Section 11.4 Disposal of construction materials

Holders of Agriculture or Operation Permits may dispose of construction material when operations and all activities accessory thereto require that they be demolished. The state or the legitimate occupant of the land, or unfructuary in cases determined by the state, may demand that the Operator dispose of unused materials under the conditions outlined above, where necessary.

CHAPTER 12. TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS

Chapter 12.1 International Trade in Wild Animal Species

Export of wild animal: Any wild animal, excluding those specifically mentioned in subsection below, may be exported from the country upon the authority of a valid permit issue by the Authority.

Export of Protected Animals and Endangered Species:

No Person shall export re-export or attempt or attempt to export or re-export any protected animal in Liberia, or as listed in Appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), except for purposes of scientific research, including breeding in captivity.

(ii) No export permit shall be issued for any protected animal unless the Authority is satisfied:

That such Wildlife has been lawfully obtained;

That such export will not be detrimental to the survival of species.

That an import permit has been granted by the competent authority of the importing country;

That such animal will be prepared and shipped as to minimize any risk of injury, to health and to prevent cruel treatment.

No Person shall import or attempt to import into Liberia any wildlife, except under valid export permit issued by the competent authority of the country of export.

Any domesticated animal may be exported from the country, provided that the exporter shall obtain an Export permit from the

Authority and a certificate from the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare certifying that the animal is in good health and free of all communicable diseases.

Household and Personal Goods: The Authority shall from time to time issue Regulations for household or personal good which are derivatives of wild animals.

Section 12.2 International Trade in Timber Products

For the purposes of quality control and acceptable market standards, exporters shall be required to:

Submit Sales Contract Receipt.

Obtain Export Permit.

Section 12.3 Timber Producer/Exporter

All Timber Producers/Exporter will be required to maintain main offices in city in Liberia and sub-offices in areas of operation, operate banking accounts in a reputable local bank and encourage social economic activities in area of operation.

Section 12.4 Processing of Timber Products

Upon the passage of this Law, all Timber producers shall be required to process locally in consonance with International Conventions and initiatives.

Section 12.5 Timber Products in Domestic Trade

To ensure the availability of quality timber and wood products on the local market, all timber producers shall be required to market a minimum of 5% (five percent) of their production locally.

Section 12.6 Grading of Timber and Timber Products

To ensure the exportation of inferior quality Timber and Timber Products and to ensure harmonization of Timber and Timber products grades at the various ports of exit, the Authority shall have all Timber and Timber Products designated for the International market graded as follows: Grade I/II, Grade II, Grade II/III and Grade IV. The details of the Grading shall be published by the Authority from time to time in Regulations.

Section 12.7 Adherence to International Market Requirements

All producers/Exporter shall be required to ensure that Timber and Timber Products to be export from Liberia shall fall within one of the grades as contained in section 12.6 as per the requirement of the International Market.

Section 12.8 Export Permit

The Authority, in collaboration with the Ministries of Finance and Commerce shall grant and issue the requisite export permits for all forest products.

CHAPTER 13 FISCAL PROVISIONS

Section 13.1 Income and Other Taxes

All Holders of Forest Resource Utilization Agreements and other permits shall be subject to the Revenue and Finance Law of general application in Liberia

Section 13.2 Forestry Fees

Establishment of fees. The Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, shall establish, from time to time and to publish in the Regulations, all fees in respect of stumpage and other related Forestry fees.

Fees for land rental and stumpage shall be collected and deposited into the general government revenue accounts.

Fees for Reforestation. All Reforestation fees assessed and imposed shall be deposited directly the Holder into a special account to be used exclusively for the payment of reforestation contractual services provided pursuant to section 8.3 of this Law.

Forest Research and Conservation. All Forest Research and Conservation fees shall be collected by the Authority and deposited into the Environmental Conservation and Protection Fund, created in Section 15.5 to be used for the sustainable management of the forest.

Administration Fees. All administrative fees for the issuance of permit for surveys, annual coupe/block mapping, and way bills (local and foreign) shall be assessed by the Authority and published in the Regulations.

Section 13.3 Incentives

The National Investment Commission in collaboration with the Authority shall consider, review and decided upon requests for investment incentives to holders of Forest Resources Utilization Agreements in keeping with provisions of the Investment Incentive code.

CHAPTER 14. Establishment and Operation of Account

The establishment and operation of bank Accounts shall be consistent with the Laws and Regulations of the Central Bank of Liberia.

CHAPTER 15. MEASURES FOR THE PROMOTION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES.

Section 15.1 Forestry Research

All Forest Research and Conservation fees shall be used for the purpose of conducting research in the areas of natural forest improvement, man-made forests, wildlife conservation and forest products research. These fees shall be deposited in the Fund created in Section 15.5 herein below.

Section 15.2 Scientific Investigation

The Authority may, authorize any Person to undertake prospection in the course of a scientific investigation into the forestry resources of the Republic. However, such Person shall provide all reports and data relating to such scientific investigation to the authority, which shall keep all such reports and data confidential for a period of two (2) years at the request of the Person conducting such prospection.

Section 15.3 The Shrinking Forest Base

Shifting cultivation and unauthorized settlements in high forest areas of the country, particularly in National Forest, National Parks, Nature Reserves, and other Protected Areas shall be strictly prohibited.

Section 15.4 Managing Director's Notice

The Authority shall notify each applicant for a Forest Resources Utilization Right as to the disposition of the application within no longer than sixty (60) days after receipt of the application provided that in the case of an applicant for a Prospection Permit the Authority only needs to inform the applicant of the current status of the application and commence negotiation within sixty (60) days after receipt of the application.

Section 15.5 Establishment of the Environmental Conservation and Protection Fund

There is hereby established an Environmental Conservation and Protection Fund (the Fund) for the following purposes:

Financing of all or part of activities designed to enhance the promotion and protection of environment;

financing all or part of the Government's programme for the conservation of Wildlife and the bio-diversity eco-system;

financing training in forestry and wildlife conservation;
Financing participation in organizations, at forestry conferences and international seminars dealing with the development of the forestry sector, with particular emphasis on reforestation, forestation, Wildlife conservation and forest products;
Financing the conduct by the Authority of forest and Wildlife assessments and related studies;
Such other purposes as the Authority shall determine.

Section 15.6 Sources of Funding for the Environmental Conservation and protection Fund

The Fund shall be from the following sources:

All fees in relations to reforestation, forest research and conservation as provided in Section 13.2(d);

The full amount of all fines imposed and collected pursuant to this Law and Regulations; Timber or Timber Products and animals and animal parts obtained by Persons without any Forest Resources Utilization Rights, Operation permits or Hunting License under this Law and forfeited to Government pursuant to the laws of Liberia;

Any and all funds mobilized from time by the government from the international donor community and other organization interested in the sustainable management of tropical forest resources;

Section 15.7 Administration of the Fund

The Fund shall be administered by the Authority.

CHAPTER 16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Section 16.1 Settlement of Disputes

The resolution of any dispute arising under any of the provisions of this Law between Holders of Forest Products Utilization Rights and between a Holder of such rights and the Government of Liberia shall be governed by the respective provisions provided for in such agreements.

Section 17. 1 Indemnity for Damages

Holders of a forest Resource Utilization Agreement shall be oblige to indemnify Government against any claim that may be asserted by any other Person for damages cause to such other Person by such Holders.

Section 17.2 Employment of Liberia Citizens

No Operator, its contracts or subcontractors under this Law shall employ foreign unskilled labor. To the maximum extend feasible, an Operator, its contractors and/or subcontractions shall employ Liberia citizens, especially Liberia professional foresters, at all levels, and particularly in skilled, technical, administrative, financial and managerial positions, including supervisory and senior managerial position. Particulars regarding the employment of Liberians shall be published by the Authority in Regulations from time to time.

Section 17.3 Training of Liberian Citizens

Any and all Operators, their contractors or subcontractors, shall provide on a continuing basis appropriate training for its Liberia employees, in order to qualify them for skilled, technical, financial, administrative and managerial positions.

Section 17.4 Transfer of Technology

All Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Rights and their respective contractors and subcontractors shall conduct business in Liberia in such a way as to encourage the transfer of technology to Liberians, particularly Liberians forester, to the fullest degree possible.

Section 17.5 Fundamental Rights

All Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Rights are subject to the provisions of International Conventions which the Government has ratified and the laws and Regulations of the Republic of Liberia, guaranteeing the following:
The right to freely dispose of their property and organize their businesses as they wish to;

The right to hire and dismiss the services of their employees, subject to the Labor Practices Law of the Republic of Liberia;

Unlimited access to raw materials;

Freedom of movement of personnel and product with the Republic;

Right to import goods and services not available in the Republic and any necessary funds;

Right to dispose of their products on International markets subject to Section 12.5

Section 17.6 Non Discrimination

While acting within the scope of their professional activities, foreign employees are subject to the laws of Liberia and the Rules and Regulations promulgated under those laws without discrimination of any kind whatsoever.

Section 17.7 Government's Right to Negotiate Trans-Border Agreements

If and when it becomes necessary, the Government may conclude any agreements with other states to facilitate transportation of Timber or Timber Products over such other states' Territory. The Government shall grant to all Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Rights, without distinction, all advantages arising out of such agreements.

Section 17.8 Processing Rights

All Holders of Forest Resource Utilization Rights are obligated to establish plants within the Republic for conditioning, treatment, refining and processing of Timbers subject to the prevailing Regulations.

Section 17.9 Declaration

Subject to prior declaration to and the approval of the Authority, the purchase, sale, import and export of any Timber or any Timber Products, and the conditioning, treatment, refining and transportation thereof may be undertaken in Liberia.

Section 17.10 Industrial Infrastructure

Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Rights shall have the right to install any and all industrial infrastructures necessary for and incidental to Forestry Operations, in accordance with prevailing standards of the forestry industry worldwide, this Law and the Regulations.

Section 17.11 Economic Sabotage

It shall be an offense under this Law for any Operator to exceed the granted area specified in its Agreement or for the Authority to grant areas of forest lands in excess of the provisions of this Law. Any party found committing such an offense whether it be the Forest Operator or the Managing Director of the Authority, shall be charged with economic sabotage. It shall also be an offense for the Authority to reward a Permit or Rights to any Person or Persons for forest lands falling within high forest areas which are planned for National Park or Parks, Nature Reserves and other Protected Areas.

Section 17.12 Development of National Forestry Resources

Extraction shall be carried out in such a manner as to ensure sustainable development of the forest Resources Base. The Holder shall follow standard technical procedures accepted by the Timber industry worldwide, as set forth in this Law and Regulations.

Section 17.13 Existing Rights

Extraction Rights shall be issued subject to existing rights of other Persons in the lands subject to such Forest Resources Utilization Rights.

Section 17.14 Renewal

If an Agreement of Permit conferring a Forest Resources Utilization Right expires without a decision having been made on an application for its renewal that was presented in the form and within time limits prescribed by the Agreement and the Regulations, the said Agreement nevertheless shall be extended *nunc pro tunc* to the date of expiration and in that case, a renewal notice shall be sent to the applicant that his request for renewal has been granted. No Forest Resources Utilization Right may be granted to any other Person until a decision has been made on any application for renewal submitted prior to the date the Agreement expires, provided that the request for renewal shall be deemed denied if, within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the expiration of the said Agreement a decision has been made and communicated to the applicant.

Section 17.15 Period to Vacate

When application for renewal or extension of a forest Resources Utilization Right is denied pursuant to this Law or Regulations, the Holder thereof shall cease all activity as may be necessary for the shut down of Operations and removal of equipment within a period of six (6) months after notice of such denial.

Section 17.16 Receipt of Notice

For the purposes of Section 17.15 above the Holder shall be deemed to have received notice upon actual delivery of the denial of its application.

Section 17.17 Reporting

Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Right shall be required to submit to the Authority reports in such form and number as the Regulations may require. The content and frequency of such reports shall be as prescribed by the applicable Forest Resources Utilization Rights and by the Regulation.

Section 17.18 Termination of Forest Resources Utilization Rights

The duration including renewals of Forest Resources Utilization Rights may expire by the lapse of time surrender of the Forest Resources Utilization Rights by the Holder or revocation by the Government. When a Forest Resources Right expires, the right granted thereby the Holder shall revert to Government without charge.

Section 17.19 Holder's Obligation to Government

Holder of Forest Resources Utilization Rights shall remain liable to Government for the settlement of all outstanding taxes, duties and other levies due and payable to the Government and for any lawful obligation incurred by the Holders during Operations, notwithstanding the expiry of the Forest Resources Utilization Rights in question or any Agreement of Permit entered into pursuant thereto.

CHAPTER 18 REGULATIONS

Section 18.1 Regulation

The Authority shall have and is hereby empowered and authorized to issue, from time to time Regulations as well as standard agreements pursuant to this Law for the sustainable management of forest resources for the purpose of giving effect to the policies set forth in the provisions of this Law.

Regulations shall provide for all matters that are the subject of this Law including, but not limited to, the follow:

Prescribed any measure which in terms of this Law needs to be efficiently regulated;

The manner in which application under this Law shall be made, types and formats of documents required and information to be supplied by an applicant;

The shape and size of areas over which Forest Resources Utilization Agreements, and Survey Permits may be granted, as well as the manner in which areas and boundaries shall be marked, beached and surveyed and the fees payable in respect of such surveys;

The renewal, transfer, assignment and surrender of Agreement the returns to be rendered and the nature of the accounts, books and plans to be kept by the Holders of Forest Resources Utilization Agreements prescribing controls and insuring licenses in relation to Nation Parks, National Reserves and other Protected Areas'

Prescribing controls on and issuing licenses in respect of National Parks, Nature Reserves and other Protected Areas;

The valuation, sampling, weighting and testing of Timber, animal and flora;

The nature and methods of calculation of the amount of forestry fees and the manner and time of payments thereof;

The safety of the public and the safety and welfare of persons employed at the forestry camp, in the hunt, or in the collection biodiversity materials;

Operations in a safe, proper and effective manner;
The reporting of accidents;
The examination and inspection of forest Operation by Authorized Officers;
The proper and efficient working of Prospection and Logging Areas, and the avoidance of wasteful logging practices;
Prescribing criteria for required and periodic environmental assessments;
Resolution of disputers and penalties for offenses against this Law and Regulations.

Section 18.2 Power of Authority to Issue Regulations

The Authority shall, from time to time, pursuant to the provisions thereof, issue Regulations, which shall govern prospection, logging collection and processing of wood and animal specimens and promote the policies set forth in this Law.

Section 18.3 Power of Authority to Consult

The Authority shall publish Regulations proposed to be issued for at least sixty (60) day prior to their effective date in order to allow for public comments on all such proposed Regulation. The Managing Director shall collect and summarize all such comments, and refer them advice not later then fourteen (14) day before their effective date.

CHAPTER 19 OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

Section 19.1 Penalty

Any Person or Individual who contravenes Chapter 4, 5, 8 and 9, of this Law thereof shall be guilty of an offense and shall be liable upon conviction to fines and imprisonment as provided in section 19.7.

Section 19.2 Court

The Court before which a person convicted under Section 4.1, 5.2, 5.1 (b) 8.2 and 8.3 hereof may order the forfeiture of all Forest Products obtained by such person, weapons and equipment used or if such Forest Product cannot be located, of such sum of money as may represent the value of such Forest Products. Any Forest Products so confiscated shall be sold or otherwise disposed of as the Court shall direct and the proceeds of such sales shall be paid into the Environmental Conservation and Protection Fund.

Section 19.4 Reporting offenses and Reports

Offenses Under this Law and the Regulations shall be reported by law enforcement officers, member of plant protection forces, private security officer, Forest Officers of the Authority, and any private individual to Government.

Section 19.5 Search, seizure, and Visits

Law enforcement officers, working along with sworn Forestry Officers of the Authority and the National Environmental Commission of Liberia especially commissioned for such have the power to visit, search and seize contrabands pursuant to the laws of Liberia.

Section 19.6 False Representations

Any Person determined to have:

Forge information as to a Forest Resources Utilization Agreements;

Made material, false representations in order to obtain a Forest products Utilization Agreement by fraud; or

Destroyed, move or altered a boundary market of the perimeter of the area subject to a Forest Resources Utilization Agreements shall, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, be subject to a fine of between Two Thousand and Ten Thousand United States Dollars (or equivalent Liberian Dollars) or imprisonment for two (2) months to twelve (12) months.

Section 19.7 Other Offenses

A violation of subsections (a) and (b) shall constitute an offense punishable by a minimum fine of Ten Thousand United States Dollars (or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars) or imprisonment for a period of six (6) to Twelve (12) months or both.

A violation of Chapter Eight of this Law or any applicable Regulations; and

A violation of Chapter Nine of this Law or any applicable Regulations.

Section 19.8 Offenses for possessing Protected Fauna and Flora

Except for the persons as permitted by this Law, any person found in possession of Protected Fauna and Flora shall, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction be fined a minimum of Five Thousand of a maximum of Fifty Thousand United States Dollars (or equivalent Liberia dollars) or imprisoned for a period of not less than of six (6) months of a minimum of two (2) years and the Funa and Flora, shall be forfeited to the Authority.

Section 19.9 Other Offences and Penalties

All other forestry related offenses and penalties not provided for in this Chapter shall be established by Regulations from time to time.

CHAPTER 20 REGIONAL AND INTERNTIONAL FORESTRY INITIATIVES AND CONVENTIONS.

Section 20.1 Initiatives and Conventions

Liberia being a member of the regional and international timber community and a party to a number of regional and international initiatives and conventions, the Authority is hereby empowered to ensure that Liberia supports and adheres to all forestry initiatives to which Liberia is a party, shall pay keen attention to all other regional and international initiatives and conventions which seek to foster the sustainable management of tropical forest resources.

CHAPTER 21 TRANSITIONAL

Section 21.1 Forest Resources Utilization Agreements

Pursuant to the periodic review provisions provided for in all existing concession agreement, other than Natural Rubber Concession Agreements relative to Forest Resources of Forest Land Grant Agreement, shall be subject to review by the relevant agencies of Government, the National Investment Commission and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), within the period of twelve (12) months, effective as of the passage of this Act into Law, so as to bring the said agreements in compliance with provisions of the Law.

Section 21.2 Penalty

Failure of any Holder to adhere to the above sections may subject their Agreements to cancellation.

CHAPTER 22 EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 22.1 Effective Date: This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in handbills.