ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.
AN ACT to amend the Guyana Forestry Commission Act, the Forests Act and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:

1. This Act may be cited as the Forests (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. The Guyana Forestry Commission Act is hereby amended as follows —
   (a) by the deletion of the definition of "Conservator" in section 2;
   (b) by the insertion of the following definition after the definition of "Commission" in section 2 —
       "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Forests;
   (c) by the substitution for the words "Conservator of Forests" in section 5 (1) of the words "Commissioner of Forests";
   (d) by the substitution for the word "Conservator", wherever it occurs, of the word "Commissioner"; and
   (e) by the substitution for the word "Board" in section 5 (3) of the word "Commission".

3. The titles Commissioner of Forests and Assistant Commissioner of Forests are hereby substituted for the titles of the offices hitherto known as Conservator of Forests and Assistant Conservator of Forests respectively and any reference to the Conservator of Forests, Conservator, Assistant Conservator of Forests or Assistant Conservator in any written law, instrument or document of any kind subsisting or in force at the commencement of this Act, shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed and have effect as a reference to the Commissioner of Forests, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner of Forests or Assistant Commissioner respectively.

4. The Forests Act is hereby amended as follows —
   (a) by the substitution for the definition of "Commissioner" in section 2 of the following definition —
"Commissioner" means the person holding the office of Commissioner of Forests; 

(b) by the deletion of the definition of "Conservator" in section 2; 

(c) by the substitution for the words "section 7" in section 5(1)(b) of the words "section 7 or 7A"; 

(d) by the substitution for the word "LEASES" in the heading before section 6 of the words "LEASES, TIMBER SALES AGREEMENTS"; 

(e) by the insertion after section 7 of the following new section as section 7A —

7A (1) The President or any forest officer authorised by the President may grant timber sales agreements giving to the grantees thereof the right to obtain forest produce or any specified kind of forest produce from State forests. Such agreements may be for the grant of exclusive rights to the grantees thereof.

(2) Such agreements shall be granted subject to such general conditions as may be prescribed and to such special conditions as the President may deem necessary in particular cases.

(f) by the substitution for the word "lease" in section 8 of the words "lease, grant timber sales agreements in respect of";

(g) by the substitution for the words "lease in writing" in section 9 of the words "lease or timber sales agreement in writing";

(h) by the repeal of section 11 and the substitution therefore of the following section —

11. (1) Where any condition of any lease made under section 7 or timber sales agreement granted under section 7A is not fulfilled, or where any regulation is not observed, the Minister may by notice to the lessee or grantee of the agreement suspend the lease or agreement whereupon it shall cease to be lawful for the said lessee or grantee of the agreement to carry out any operations on the land subject to the lease or agreement.

(2) Upon taking such action under subsection (1), the Minister shall forthwith make a full report to the President of the circumstances of the suspension of the lease or the timber sales agreement, as the case may be, whereupon the President may order —
(a) the cancellation of the lease or agreement;
(b) the suspension of the lease or agreement for such time as he may determine; or
(c) the withdrawal of the notice of suspension given by the Minister:

Provided that no order under paragraph (a) or (b) shall be made without affording any person whose rights under the lease or agreement may thereby be affected an opportunity of stating his case.

(3) In the exercise of his powers under this section, the Minister shall consult with the Commission.”;

(i) by the substitution for the words “Mining Act” in section 19 of the words “Mining Act or a timber sales agreement granted under this Act”;

(j) by the substitution in section 20 —

(i) for the word “lease”, wherever it occurs, of the words “lease or timber sales agreement”; and

(ii) for the words “lessee of State forest” of the words “lessee of State forest or a grantee of a timber sales agreement”;

(k) by the substitution for the word “lease” in section 22 (b) of the words “lease or timber sales agreement”;

(l) by the substitution for the word “lease” in section 40A, wherever it occurs, the words “lease, timber sales agreement”; and

(m) by the substitution for the word “issued” in section 42 (h) of the words “issued or any timber sales agreement may be granted”.

Passed by the National Assembly on the 1982—07—08.

F. A. Narain,
Clerk of the National Assembly.

(Bill No. 4/1982)
(MF: 2/26)