

FORESTS IMPROVEMENT FUND ACT, 1960

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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Assented to in Her Majesty's Name and on Her Majesty's behalf this 29th day of June, 1960.

LISTOWEL
Governor-General.

AN ACT to establish an improvement fund for forest reserves and to provide for the control of the revenue derived from forest reserves.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly of Ghana in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. This Act may be cited as the Forests Improvement Fund Act, 1960 and shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1960

Short title
and com-
mencement.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires -

Interpreta-
tion.

"Administrator of Stool Lands"
includes the Receiver of
Stool revenue;

"forest reserve" means a forest reserve
constituted under section
seventeen of the Forests
Ordinance (Cap.157) or
under bye-laws made by
a Local Authority;

"Fund" means the Fund established under section
three of this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for
forests in consultation with the
Minister responsible for Finance.

"revenue" includes rents, dues, royalties,
fees for silvicultural work and fines.

Establish-
ment of
Fund.

3. (1) There is hereby established a fund to be known as the Forests Improvement Fund which shall be under the control of the Minister responsible for forests.

(2) All moneys in the Forest Reserves General Deposit Account and any other deposit account maintained for any forest reserve shall, on the coming into operation of this Act and without further authority than this section, be transferred to the Accountant-General who shall open an Account for the Fund.

Payments
into Fund.

4. All revenues, and other payments, including moneys from the Government by way of ~~grants-in-aid~~ or endowment or otherwise due in respect of any forest reserve shall be collected by the Chief Conservator of Forests and paid into the Fund.

Disburse-
ment
from Fund.

5. (1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Conservator of Forests with the prior approval of the Minister to make payments from time to time from the Fund -

- (a) for costs incurred in connection with exploitation and silvicultural work; and
- (b) to landowners of forest reserves, through the appropriate authority, the royalties which by agreement the landowners are entitled to be paid.

Accounts
and
audit.

6. (1) The Chief Conservator of Forests shall keep proper records in relation to the accounts and shall for each financial year not later than the thirtieth day of September following the end of the financial year prepare a statement of accounts in such form as the Auditor-General may direct.

- (2) The accounts shall be audited by the Auditor-General and published in such manner as the Minister may determine.
- (3) The Minister shall lay a copy of the statement of accounts prepared by the Chief Conservator of Forests with a copy of any report made by the auditor on the statement of accounts before Parliament.

Schemes of
improve-
ment.

7. The Chief Conservator of Forests shall on the coming into operation of this Act prepare a scheme covering a period of not less than five and not more than ten years for the improvement of forest reserves for the approval of the Minister.

Stool Land
revenue.

8. In the Application of this Act to forest reserves subject to the provisions of the Akin Abuakwa (Stool Revenue) Act, 1958 (No.8), the Ashanti Stool Lands Act, 1958 (No.28) and the Stool Lands Control Act, 1959 (no. 79) the Chief Conservator of Forests shall be deemed to be acting for and on behalf of the Stool Lands Administrator for the purposes of the collection of revenue and accordingly any moneys in excess of the moneys spent by the Chief Conservator of Forests in the improvement of such forest reserves including moneys paid to landowners shall be paid by the Chief Conservator of Forests to the Administrator of Stool Lands under the said Acts.

9. Any moneys paid by way of fines to a forest officer or any moneys derived from the sale of forest produce or instruments seized under the Forest Offences (Compounding of Fines) Act, 1959, (No.83) shall be paid into the Fund and accordingly section four of that Act is hereby amended by substituting for the words "Consolidated Fund" the words "Forests Improvement Fund".

Payment
of Forest

10. The Minister may by legislative instrument make regulations prescribing the mode of collection of moneys due under this Act and the manner in which payments shall be made from the Fund.

Regulations

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the National Assembly, and found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

K. B. AYENSU
Clerk of the National Assembly.