

Forestry Law

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THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

FORESTRY LAW

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Main Trends of Forestry Policy

The forest is one of the principal Lithuanian natural resources, which serves the welfare of the State and its citizens, protects the stability of landscape and quality of the environment, and which shall be managed on the basis of a continuous and multipurpose use, guaranteeing the diversity of forms of ownership. State forest ownership prevails in Lithuania.

Forests shall be managed properly without violating economic and ecological interests of the State.

The environment, diversity of plants and animals, landscape, nature and culture values must be preserved and harmonised in the forests.

Woodlands of Lithuania's territory must be increased and the capacities for their increase shall be defined in the process of preparation of documents on territorial planning (land use planning)..

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania shall shape the State forest policy, and the Ministry of Environment, authorised by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, shall implement it.

Article 2. Aims and Validity of the Law

The Forestry Law shall establish rights and duties of all forest managers, owners and users of the Republic of Lithuania to utilise, reproduce, grow and protect forests, strike a balance between the interests of forest owners and society, establish the main principles of forest management.

In cases where the Forestry Law of the Republic of Lithuania contradicts the regulations of international agreements of the Republic of

Lithuania concerning forest utilisation, reproduction and protection, the regulations of the international agreements shall be applied.

Article 3. Main Definitions

Forest land is defined as the land covered by forest (stands) or not covered by forest (cleared areas, perished stands, forest meadows, nurseries, seed-plots, seed orchards, and raw shrubbery and plantations). Also to be rated as forest land are forest roads and draining ditches, forest compartment lines, technological and fire-prevention strips, piling places and areas taken up by facilities related to forest, rest spots, game feeding points, swamps, sands, as well as land appropriated for afforestation.

Forest land may be forestry or conservation designated.

Forest is defined as a tract of land not less than 0.1 ha, covered by trees or other forest vegetation or temporary lost of it (cleared or burned areas).

Clusters of trees situated in fields, by roadsides, water bodies, within towns or rural settlements as well as cemeteries, narrow - up to 10 metres - tree lines, hedges, single trees and shrubs as well as parks planted by man, which are situated within towns and rural settlements, are not considered as forest. The procedure for care, protection and utilisation of green plantation shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest estate is defined as a forest land area managed by the right of private or State ownership.

Forest owners are defined as the State and Lithuanian citizens having acquired the right of ownership to forests within the manner prescribed by law.

State forest managers are defined as forest enterprises, reserves, national parks, enterprises and organisations which are granted the right to manage forests by the procedure established by laws or the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest users are defined as forest managers and private forest owners as well as forest leaseholders who utilise forest resources, and other legal and natural persons who have acquired the right to utilise forest resources.

Forest enterprise is defined as an institution of forest management and administration which reproduces, preserves, and protects the forest and utilises forest resources on the State land allotted in the established procedure to it for management. Standard regulations of forest enterprises shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest resources are defined as timber, technical material, medicinal herbs, mushrooms, berries, nuts, forest vegetation, shed antlers, forest fauna.

Forest protection class is defined as forest areas with similar main management goals, regime of management and leading forest function .

State forest service officers - executives and specialists of the Ministry of Forestry, those of regional State forest inspectorates, and those of forest enterprises and national parks, the list of whom is approved by the Minister of Forestry.

Complex Maintenance of Forestry - activities of a forest enterprise: administration of all the forests ascribed to the sphere of regulation of the Ministry of Environment and the totality of economic activities in State forests, ensuring the regeneration, improvement of forests, protection of the forest and its products, efficient use of forests and trade in forest products.

Article 4. Forest Protection Classes

Forests shall be divided into four classes.

Class 1 - forest reserves. State reserves, national parks, as well as reserves and forest reserve plots situated on biosphere monitoring territories.

Management purpose - let forests grow naturally. No cuttings except in cases provided for in the Law on Protected Territories of the Republic of Lithuania and in the regulations of reserves, shall be carried out.

Class 2 - special purpose forests. Two following subgroups shall be distinguished:

A - ecosystem-preserving forests. Forests within landscape, swamps, pedological, botanical, zoological, botanical-zoological sanctuaries and those of sanctuaries situated in national parks and biosphere monitoring territories, forests of protected nature resources plots and anti-erosive forests, and other forests.

Management purpose - to preserve or regenerate forest ecosystems. Regeneration felling in the stands of natural maturity and, in the cases which are provided for in the regulations of respective protected territories, the same fellings in the stands of other age, as well as all-type improvement and sanitation cuttings shall be allowed.

B - recreational forests. Forest parks, health-resort forests, forests within recreational areas of national parks, plots of recreation forests and other forests.

Management purpose - to create and preserve the recreation environment of forest. Regeneration fellings in the stands of natural maturity, all types of improvement, sanitation and landscape shaping cuttings shall be allowed.

Class 3 - protective forests. These are geological, geomorphologic, hydrographic, cartographic and cultural sanctuaries and forests of sanctuaries, situated within national parks and biosphere monitoring territories, forests of protective areas and other forests.

Management purpose - to form productive stands which can fulfil the functions of protecting the soil, air, water and man's living environment. Non-clear and small scaled (up to 6 ha) clear fellings, improvement and sanitation cuttings shall be allowed.

Class 4 - commercial forests. These are all the forests, not comprised in Classes 1-3, including forests within commercial zones of national parks.

Management purpose - to form productive stands pursuant to the environmental protection requirements, to supply timber continuously. All kinds of fellings shall be allowed. Clear cutting areas must not be larger than 10 hectares.

Separate parts of reserves and recreational forests may be assigned to different forest classes on the basis of territorial planning documents.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall establish the procedure for division of forests into protection classes and assign other forests to the established groups.

Article 5. Forest Ownership

Forests shall be divided into private and State according to the forms of ownership.

Forest ownership relations shall be regulated by this Law, Land Law of the Republic of Lithuania and other laws.

A private forest estate shall not be divided into parts, if the estate is or becomes smaller than 5 hectares. In the protected territories this shall be regulated by the Law on Protected Territories.

The following persons shall be granted priority to buy forest on the same conditions:

- 1) owners of neighbouring estates; and
- 2) persons who have a higher or special secondary forestry education.

Forest land can be taken (bought out) from forest managers and

owners to meet public interests in the procedure established by the Land Law.

Forests of State significance shall belong by the exclusive right of ownership to the Republic of Lithuania if the forests are assigned to:

- 1) State reserves, reserves within national and regional parks;
- 2) the Curonian spit national park;

3) protective forests which are situated in up to 7-kilometre-width belt at the shores of the Baltic Sea and the Curonian lagoon, especially valuable recreational forests, establishments of scientific research of forests and training, and establishments of selected seed growing, the first and second zones of sanitary protection of health resorts, town forests, parks within forests, genetic reserves within forests, forest nurseries and seed orchards.

Other forests which are not subject to privatisation according to the Law on Land Reform and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania, except for the forests which are being returned to private ownership in the procedure established by laws, shall be assigned to the forests of State significance.

Article 6. State Forest Land Lease

State forest land shall not be leased. An exception is made of small forest land lots which are situated between private estates, territorially inconvenient for management by forest enterprises and national parks and which have not been privatised during the land reform. These lots may be leased to legal and natural persons in the procedure established by the Land Law and the Law on Land Lease of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 7. State Forest Management and Supervision of the Implementation of the Forestry Law

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and a State institution authorised by it shall perform the functions of the owner of State forests. The Ministry of Environment shall perform the functions of State management of all forests of Lithuania. The General Forest Enterprise under the Ministry of Environment shall carry out the functions of the economic management of State forests, organise the regeneration, preservation, and protection of forests, and utilisation of forest resources; the regulations of the General Forest Enterprise shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Ministry of Environment and its regional State forest inspectorates shall supervise the implementation of the Law on Forestry, exercise the State control over the conditions, utilisation, regeneration and protection of forests. Officers of the State forest service of forest enterprises and national parks may be instructed to exercise State control

over the conditions, utilisation, regeneration and protection of forests belonging to forest owners, managers and users under their control. The regulations of the State forest control shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The officers of the State forest service shall have the right: to keep and, in the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, to carry a service weapon, to stop all kinds of means of transportation which carry timber on the forest roads and the territory of forest land, and to check documents of timber purchase and the legality of transportation, to terminate, restrict or prohibit an illegal economic activity in the forest estate, if this Law and the requirements of other standard acts are being violated or damage is being caused to the forest by it..

Officers of the State forest service shall not have the right to work for hire, to be founders and shareholders of private logging, wood processing, timber trade and hunting service enterprises.

The regulations pertaining to officers of the State forest service shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 8. Economic Regulation of Forestry

Works related to regeneration, developing, caring for, protection of forests within forest enterprises, to preparation of timber and to organisation of forest exploitation, to building and reconstruction of production and dwelling facilities, to laying and repairing of forest roads, supervision of land draining systems, purchase and repair of main means as well as other forestry activities shall be covered from the Forest Fund.

The Forest Fund of forest enterprises shall consist of: incomes from the sold not-cut forest and raw timber (in the forest, upper and lower landings), secondary use of forest (hay-mowing and pasture of cattle, birch sap, mushrooms and berries, medicinal herbs, gathering of forest litter and leaves), preparation of secondary forest material (resin, stumps, basses and barks, twigs, Christmas trees and other decorative materials), from forest areas rented for hunting, organisation of rest and business, incomes from the sold forestry and hunting production, forest seeds, saplings and various services rendered, funds received from recovered forestry losses due to the change of the designated purpose of land use, funds from losses, forfeit and fines for forest violations and infractions of rules concerning the uncut forest sale as well as other resources provided for in the procedure for the establishment and use of the Forest Fund.

The Forest Fund shall not be taxed; the procedure for its establishment and use shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Mandatory appropriations to the State Budget for the year 2000 shall be LTL 20 million for the profit from the sold raw timber

and noncut forest.

The Forest Fund may also be established in national parks and other forest enterprises and organisations.

Land tax for the forest land shall not be collected.

Units of forest enterprises and national parks which process raw timber, shall buy it through the same procedure as other users of timber and shall pay taxes established by laws.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania may provide subsidies and preferential credits for afforestation, regeneration, growing of forests, for the development of fire prevention and sanitary protection of forests as well as the infrastructure of forests. If the economic activity of forest managers, owners or users is restricted, they shall be granted tax and other privileges and compensations in the manner prescribed by laws and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

In order to manage forestry in a more rational and effective way, forest owners may voluntarily unite into co-operative structures, establish targeted funds or otherwise accumulate means for the development of forestry activities. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall encourage the activity of these structures.

Article 9. Public Access to Forest

Citizens shall enjoy the right to visit forests freely, except for reserved forests and forests of a special purpose (borderland, military facilities, etc.) designation. They may gather medicinal herbs, fruits, nuts, berries and mushrooms, keep bees in hives and apiaries observing this Law and the Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania as well as subordinate legislation. Exception covers private forests surrounding homesteads of forest owners at a distance of up to 100 metres and forests in which this is restricted by other laws.

On the recommendation of forest enterprises and national parks and in town forests - without this recommendation, when there are valid reasons (great danger of fire, forest felling, specific management areas, protected facilities, necessity to preserve forest resources, forest business and other), regional and town municipalities may forbid or restrict public access to forests and gathering of medicinal herbs, mushrooms, berries and other forest products.

Public access to forests and gathering of forest products within protected areas shall be regulated by the Law of Protected Territories and the regulations of these territories.

Forest managers, owners or users shall post information signs on the boundaries of forests which are forbidden or restricted to visit.

Upon having noticed a fire in the forest, forest visitors must put out the fire and if they cannot put it out, they must immediately inform a forest enterprise, national park, State fire prevention service, police or local authority.

2. FOREST USE

Article 10. Duties of Forest Owners, Managers and Users

Forests shall be managed according to the principal of sustainable forest use, so that timber and other forest products shall be constantly supplied and the annual or periodical balance between timber growth and the logging shall be maintained.

Forest managers, owners and users must protect forests from fire, pests, diseases and other negative factors, regenerate cut down forest in time and appropriately, use the forest in such ways which would help to reduce the negative influence on the environment, rationally manage forest lands (forest), preserve soil capacity, protect biological variety, observe rules set forth in this Law as well as in other laws and subordinate legislation.

Forest users must put forest areas, which have been destroyed during the forest utilisation, in such an order that they are suitable for utilising according to their purpose, save forest roads, drainage systems and other technological equipment and must not violate the rights and legal interests of forest managers, owners and other users.

In State forests forest managers and users must observe the regulations concerning the non-cleared forest sale. These regulations shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. In State forests timber processors must, within the periods established by the forest utilisation permit, including extended periods, must clear the forest and remove the produced timber. Upon the request of timber processor, time for removal of forest felling and produced timber shall be extended up to 6 months. Forest which has not been cleared and raw timber which has not been removed during the fixed term, including the extended term, shall pass into the hands of the forest manager and shall be realised on the general basis and the received resources shall be included into the Forest Fund.

The procedure for account of raw timber and marking which is established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall be obligatory to all forest managers, owners and users.

Article 11. The Right of Forest Managers, Owners and Users to Utilise Forest and its Resources

Private forest owners shall be granted the right to utilise forest upon receiving the document confirming the ownership of a landlot.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall approve the regulations for management and utilisation of private forests.

The right to utilise the State forest resources shall be acquired upon receiving the license by an appropriate forest manager. The procedure for issuing such a license shall be established by the Ministry of Environment.

Forests may be used for the production of timber and other forest products, recreation, scientific research, training, hunting, apiculture, protection of habitats and other purposes which do not contradict this Law.

Forest managers and owners may lease in the established manner forest areas for hunting, preparation of medicinal herbs, recreation, scientific research, secondary utilisation of forest.

Forest users shall have the right in the procedure prescribed in the license to construct technological forest roads, sites for loading the forest production and parking transport vehicles, to install production equipment and arrange other activities related to forest work .

Established terms and conditions for the forest utilisation shall be entered in the forest utilisation licenses.

The rights of forest users shall be protected by laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Violated rights must be restored and the inflicted losses - compensated.

The rights to utilise forest may be restricted in the procedure established by laws in the interests of society, environmental and forest protection.

Foreign entities may be granted the right to utilise forest resources in the procedure established by laws of the Republic of Lithuania and by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 12. Termination of the Right to Utilise Forest Resources

The right to utilise State forest resources shall be terminated when: the term of forest utilisation expires; the forest user renounce his right to utilise forest; the requirements, established in the forest utilisation license, and regulations of forest felling and protection are not being observed; the right to utilise forest is transferred to somebody else or the legal person, who has the right to utilise the forest resources, is liquidated; forest is taken for public needs, as well as for the interests of environmental protection.

The right to utilise forest resources in private forests shall be terminated in the procedure established in the regulations of private

forests management and utilisation.

Article 13. Forest Land Transformation

Forest land may be transformed into farming land or other type of land only in exceptional cases, striking a balance between the interests of the State, forest owner and society, and in the manner prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest cutting to meet technological and production needs of forestry (to establish seed-plots, to build roads related to forestry, to construct fire prevention-belts, technological strips, recreation areas and timber landings, to dig in the established manner gravel and sand for economic needs, for other forest equipment) shall not be considered as a forest land transformation.

If other than a forest land is afforested in the procedure established by laws, the Forestry Law becomes effective in this area.

Article 14. Forest Land Draining, Fertilising and Road Construction

Forest land draining, fertilising and the use of a poisonous chemical substance may not contradict the Law on Environmental Protection and the appropriate standard acts.

The maintenance and repairing of forest land drainage network and forest roads which extending over the estates belonging to several forest owners and managers must be done by the owners and managers of these estates.

Minor maintenance work of forest land drainage systems shall be done and forest roads built with the funds of forest owners, managers, users and the Forest Fund.

Other drainage works of all forests shall be financed from the budget.

Article 15. Official Land Parcels

State forest enterprises and national parks shall have the right to allot to their employees official land parcels in the landlots allotted to them. Norms and procedure for their allotment shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. This land shall not be privatised.

3. STATE FOREST CADASTRE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Article 16. State Forest Stocktaking, Forest Registration and Forest Cadastre

The purpose of the State forest stocktaking and forest registration

- to evaluate forest resources, their quality, and to furnish information concerning natural and managerial situation of forests.

State forest stocktaking shall be exercised in all forest estates. In forest enterprises, national reserves and national parks the stocktaking and registration are obligatory for both forest and non-forest lands (farming lands, waters and so on).

State forest stocktaking specialists shall have the right to enter all forest estates, perform stocktaking works and be provided with the information necessary to carry out stocktaking.

The procedure, content and periodicity of State forest stocktaking and forest registration shall be established by the Ministry of Environment, in compliance with the provisions of the Law on the Principles of Accounting.

Upon the basis of the State forest stocktaking data, forest registration shall be carried out, State forest cadastre shall be drawn up and forest management plans shall be drafted.

The State forest cadastre shall comprise the totality of the data concerning forests, type of their ownership, quantity, quality and economic value of forest resources. Its content and the procedure for its drawing up shall be established by the Ministry of Environment together with the Ministry of Agriculture.

State forest stocktaking and registration in private forests shall be carried out with State funds, in other forests - with the funds of the State, forest managers and the Forest Fund.

Article 17. Forest Management Plan

Forest management plan shall be the basis for organising forest management. It shall be obligatory for all forest estates, except for the owners who have up to 3 ha of forest in small tracks. Forests shall be managed, utilised and regenerated according to this plan. Taking into consideration the size of the estate, the Ministry of Environment shall establish its content and other indices, as well as the age of stands felling in all forests. Main fellings shall be done in mature, overmature forests, in cases provided for in forest felling regulations and in the stands which become mature. The annual norm of main cuttings shall be established for each forest manager and owner according to the methodics approved by the Ministry of Environment. The obligatory parts of the plan shall be allowable cut, reforestation and environmental requirements.

The norm of forest felling of the Republic of Lithuania in the State forests shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

State forest managers, possessing forests of more than 500 ha, and

citizens, managing by the common right of property more than 500 ha of forests, must not exceed the norm of annual final cutting, with the exception of cases of natural calamities and when this norm has not been overfulfilled in previous years, counting from the year of the norm approval. In other cases, permission to exceed the annual norm of the main felling may be granted by the Ministry of Environment. Other forest owners and managers, not violating the requirements of the forest felling regulations, may deviate from annual norm, but must observe the norm of the decade felling.

Forest management plans shall be approved in the manner prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest management plans shall be worked out by the State forest management authority, as well as by legal and natural persons in a manner prescribed by the Ministry of Environment. The said persons may also carry out the forest stocktaking; the stocktaking data must be furnished to the State forest management authority.

Forest management plans shall be worked out with the funds of the State, forest owners, managers and the Forest Fund.

4. FOREST REGENERATION, GROWING AND FELLING

Article 18. Forest Regeneration and Afforestation

Forest must be regenerated from the funds of its managers, owners and users, observing the regulations approved by the Ministry of Environment.

Forest on non-forest land may be afforested upon co-ordinating with the town (regional) land exploitation authority according to forest management or land exploitation plans. It shall be afforested with the funds of the State, forest managers, owners and the Forest Fund.

Cleared and burned areas shall be artificially reforested within two years after those areas have emerged. Forest shall be artificially afforested and regenerated on the genetic-ecological basis, with seedlings (seeds) of selection nature. Officers of the State forest service may prohibit forest managers, owners and users from further final fellings till the cleared forest is not reforested. Exceptions shall be allowed when forest has been destroyed in large areas because of natural calamities.

Regeneration and afforestation shall also include reconstruction of stands of little value, replenishment, tending and protection of plantation (artificially afforested or naturally grown) until a thicket stage. Destroyed plantation shall be regenerated within two years.

Cleared oak, maple, lime, ash and pine stands, which grew on the sites suitable for them, must be again reforested by the same tree species.

The Ministry of Environment shall organise the forest gene pool protection and creation of selective seed production base, establish the requirements for the seed and planting material quality.

Article 19. Stands Growing and Felling

Stands growing shall be regulated by cleaning, thinning and reconstructive fellings, other silvicultural and soil improvement measures according to the directions and regulations approved by the Ministry of Environment.

Cleanings and thinning shall be carried out in immature stands to improve their productivity and stability and to preserve biological diversity. Stands density and species composition shall be regulated by these fellings.

Sanitation cuttings shall be carried out for keeping and improving forest health state.

Final cuttings shall be carried out following the regulations approved by the Ministry of Environment.

Fellings may also be carried out in order to form the landscape, to execute biotechnical means, to arrange fire prevention-belts, to prepare sites for technological instalments and other fellings.

5. FOREST PROTECTION

Article 20. Forest Protection Objectives

Forest and its products shall be protected from illegal actions: self-willed forest cutting, violation of forest use procedure, plunder of forest products, industrial forest pollution, forest littering, forest burning, damages caused by domestic animals.

Forest shall also be protected from diseases, pests, damages caused by wild animals, fires and other natural calamities, mechanical damages on forest soil and trees.

Article 21. Forest Protection from Fire and Natural Calamities

The uniform system of State fire prevention measures, comprising monitoring, preventive and fire control measures, must be established and maintained. This uniform State system of fire prevention measures shall be prepared and its implementation shall be organised by the Ministry of Environment and forest enterprises as well as national parks which are under its jurisdiction, together with town (regional) municipalities. Forest managers, owners, users and visitors must observe the forest fire prevention regulations. These regulations shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Forest enterprises and national parks as well as municipalities shall allocate funds for the uniform State system of fire prevention monitoring and fire extinguishing in all forest estates. Forest managers and owners shall implement fire preventive measures (establish fire prevention-belts and fire camps, clean forest from slash and other) with their funds.

In the cases of natural calamities in forests, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or the Ministry of Environment authorised by it shall have the right to introduce specific measures of protection and elimination of the results of natural calamities which shall be obligatory for all forest managers, owners and users.

Article 22. Forest Protection from Diseases and Pests

Forest managers, owners and users must observe the directions of Forest sanitation protection, inform forest enterprises and national parks about the centres of tree diseases and pests, take away from forest in fixed time or properly protect from pests coniferous timber products which are left in forest. The directions of forest sanitation protection shall be approved by the Ministry of Environment.

Areas of mass attack by pests and diseases shall be localised and liquidated with the funds of the State, forest managers, owners and the Forest Fund.

Article 23. Forest Protection from Damages Caused by Domestic and Wild Animals

Pasture of domestic animals on the State forest land shall be forbidden, except in cases defined by the Ministry of Environment. Pasture in private forests shall be forbidden on felling sites, in natural and artificial young stands (up to the age of 20).

Density of hunted animals on forest lands, except the specific areas assigned for hunting, must be regulated so that the stability of ecosystem and equilibrium between the number of animals and fodder supply in the forest are guaranteed. While regulating the number of animals in forest, the Law on Environmental Protection and other laws shall be observed.

Article 24. Forest Protection from Industrial Pollution

Forest managers, owners and users shall inform forest enterprises and national parks about the impact of industrial pollution on forests. The Law on Environmental Protection shall regulate the allowable intensity of pollution and the level of compensation for damages done to forests.

If the polluters are established, dead off or damaged forests must be regenerated with the funds of the polluters, in other cases - with the funds of the State, special funds, forest managers and owners.

6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THE FORESTRY LAW

Article 25. Responsibility

Natural and legal persons who have violated the requirements of the Forestry Law, shall be called to account in the procedure established by laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 26. Compensation for Damages Caused by Illegal Actions

Natural and legal persons who have made damages to forest, property or interests of forest managers, owners and users, must completely compensate for them or, if there is such a possibility, to recover the former state. The procedure for calculation of losses shall be established by laws and subordinate legislation.

Timber which has been acquired through violation of this Law shall be confiscated in favour of the State or the forest owner. The amount of losses shall be recovered in favour of the damaged party. Recovering amounts for suffered losses in State forests shall be transferred to the Forest Fund.

The following shall have the right to lodge a claim for damages caused by illegal actions:

- 1) forest managers, owners and users whose forest, property or interests have suffered damage; and
- 2) institutions and their officers who exercise control over forest utilisation, regeneration and protection - for violations of this Law.

7. COMING INTO FORCE OF THE LAW

Article 27. Coming into Force of the Law

This law comes into force on 1 January 1995.

Upon coming into force of the Forestry Law of the Republic of Lithuania, the Forestry Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Pin., 1979, No. 19-241) shall become invalid.

I promulgate this Law enacted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ALGIRDAS BRAZAUSKAS