



BELIZE

**PRIVATE FORESTS (CONSERVATION) ACT
CHAPTER 217**

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CHAPTER 217

PRIVATE FORESTS (CONSERVATION)

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CHAPTER 217

PRIVATE FORESTS (CONSERVATION)

Ch. 117.
R.L., 1958.
CAP. 179,
R.E. 1980-1990.
40 of 1963.
S.I. 16 of 1965.

[1st December, 1945]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Private Forests (Conservation) Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“fell” includes girdle, lop, burn, injure or remove;

“land” means any land other than State land;

“owner” includes the person who is receiving or entitled to receive the rents and profits of any land, whether on his own account or on behalf of himself and others, or as agent or trustee, or who would so receive the rents and profits or be entitled to receive them if the land were leased, or any person having the possession or control of the land;

“tree” means a mahogany or cedar tree of any age, dead or alive, and a seedling, sapling or reshoot of any part of a mahogany or cedar tree.

Restriction on felling.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forests Act, Cap. 213, no person shall fell, or cause to be felled, any tree on any land in Belize unless,

S.I. 16 of 1965.

(a) an application has been made to the Chief Forest Officer by the owner or by the person authorised by him to do the felling stating the type and location of the forest and the minimum girth of any tree to be felled; and

- (b) a permit authorising the felling has been obtained from the Chief Forest Officer,

Provided that no such application or permission shall be necessary to fell trees under two feet girth measured at one foot above the buttresses during the clearance of land for agriculture but no tree so felled may be sold as timber without a permit from the Chief Forest Officer.

4.-(1) Within thirty days of the receipt of the application mentioned in section 3, a reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Chief Forest Officer.

Mode of dealing with application.

(2) Such reply shall be accompanied by either,

- (a) a permit authorising, subject to the conditions therein stated, the felling; or
- (b) a statement that no tree may be felled.

(3) Any applicant whose application is refused, or any applicant who may feel aggrieved by the conditions imposed by the Chief Forest Officer, may appeal to the Minister whose decision in the matter shall be final.

5. The Chief Forest Officer or any forest officer, as defined in the Forests Act, Cap. 213, or any person authorised in writing by the Chief Forest Officer may enter upon any land in respect of which a permit to fell trees has been granted under this Act to ascertain whether the conditions of such permit are being fulfilled.

Entry on land.

6. The Chief Forest Officer or a forest officer or a police officer who finds any tree which he reasonably suspects to have been felled without a permit, or in contravention of any condition of a permit granted under this Act, may seize such tree and it shall be forfeited to the State.

Seizure and forfeiture of trees.

7. Any tree forfeited under this Act shall be sold or otherwise disposed of as the Minister may direct.

Disposal of forfeited trees.
40 of 1963.

Penalty.

8. Every person who fells or causes to be felled any tree in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, or any condition of a permit granted under this Act, shall be liable for each tree so felled to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Offences punishable on summary conviction.

9. All offences against this Act shall be punishable on summary conviction on information which shall be laid by the Chief Forest Officer or by any person authorised by him in writing within two years after the offence was committed.