REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

FORESTRY ACT NO. 31 OF 2019

Period for Harvesting and Exporting of Sandalwood Logs (Amendment) Order No. 42 of 2023

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 46(2) and paragraphs 54(2)(i),(j),(k),(m) and (r) of the Forestry Act No. 31 of 2019, I, the Honourable NAKO IANATOM NATUMAN, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, make the following Order.

1 Amendments

The period for harvesting and exporting of sandalwood logs Order No.60 of 2022 is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 22 day of March, 2023.

Honourable NAKO IANATOM NATUMAN
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, FISHERIES & BIO-SECURITY
REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF PERIOD FOR HARVESTING AND EXPORTING OF SANDALWOOD LOGS ORDER NO. 60 OF 2022

1 Period of harvesting and exporting of sandalwood

The harvesting and exporting of sandalwood logs and chips commences from March 2023 to November 2023.

2 Clause 2

Repeal the clause, substitute

"2 Harvest quota for sandalwood logs and chips

(1) The harvesting quota for year 2023 is 200 metric tonnes. The harvesting quota for sandalwood logs and chips and heartwood is allowed in the following metric tonnes:

(a) 150 tonnes of sandalwood and Heartwood timber and logs; and

(b) 20 tonnes of sandalwood chips, Second Cutting chips and Sapwood chips; and

(c) 30 tonnes of Sandalwood pre-grind.

(2) A licensee must purchase and export the sandalwood logs and chips according to the licensee's harvest quota in subclause (1).

(3) The licensees who have reached the license quota under subclause (1) must stop purchasing and exporting sandalwood logs and chips, unless the licensees get an approval from the Director to purchase and export additional quota.

3 Grades for various sandalwood logs

The sandalwood logs are to be graded in four categories as follows:

(a) Grade 1 – No defects;

(b) Grade 2 – Up to 10% defect;

(c) Grade 3 – 15 to 50% defect;

(d) Grade 4 – More than 50% defect.

4 Code of Logging Practice

The harvesting and processing of sandalwood logs must comply with the requirements of the Vanuatu Code of Logging Practice.

5 Records and Reporting

(1) A licensee must keep a record of the harvesting and exporting of sandalwood.

(2) The licensee is to provide a written report to the Director:

(a) during the licensee's application to obtain an export permit. The licensee will provide all data and information on sandalwood through submission of sandalwood purchasing register; and

(b) if there are complaints received from farmers and the Director is requesting a report from the licensee.

6 Export permit fee

The export permit fee for exporting sandalwood logs is VT10,000.

7 Forest Management Charge

(1) A licensee who exports sandalwood must pay a Forest Management Charge.

(2) The payment of the Forest Management Charge includes the following:

(a) the normal sandalwood logs/timber and heartwood of any grade is VT50 per kg (excluding VAT); and

(b) the sandalwood products such as sapwood chips is VT10 per kg; and

(c) the pre grinded is VT30 per kg; and

(d) the sandalwood powder is VT30 per kg (excluding VAT); and

(e) the sandalwood oil is VT50 per kg (excluding VAT).

8 Duration of licence

The duration of licence for a licensee to export sandalwood logs and chips under clause 1 is 11 months.

9 License Fee

(1) The sandalwood license fee is VT120 per kg (excluding VAT) and the fee applies to any sandalwood that is to be exported.

(2) The sandalwood license fee is VT50 per kg (excluding VAT) and the fee applies to any sandalwood that is to be processed domestically.

10 Offences

(1) It is an offence for a person:

(a) to operate without a valid license is an offence; and

(b) who fails to purchase sandalwood heartwood at the minimum price sets out in Clause 4; and

(c) to harvest the sandalwood outside the sandalwood season; and

(d) who has reached his or her sandalwood total quota stated on his or her sandalwood license but continues to trade, unless he or she applies for an additional tonnage to the Director.

(2) A person is liable to a fine not exceeding VT100,000, if he or she commits an offence under subclause (1).