

CONTROL OF BUSH FIRES LAW, 1983

In pursuance of the Provisional National Defence Council (Establishment) Proclamation, 1981 this Law is hereby made:

1. Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of this Law it shall be unlawful for any person to start bush fire for any purpose whatsoever. Bush fires prohibited.

2. (1) It shall be lawful for any person to set fire for the purpose of burning farm slash or any grass, herbage or wood trees on a farm if the fire is controlled and confined within the boundaries of the farm and does not exceed the purpose for which the fire is permitted. Burning of farm slash, grass, herbage, etc. permitted.

(2) It shall be lawful for any person authorised by the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Chief Game and Wildlife Officer to set fire to a conservation area or a specified area for the purpose of the management of such area if the fire is controlled and confined within the boundaries of such area.

3. (1) Any person who starts a bush fire or who does any act in contravention of section 2 of this Law shall be responsible for all the consequences of that fire and for making good the cost of any unlawful damage caused thereby. Responsibility for bush fires, etc.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) of this section it shall be the duty of any person who starts a bush fire to control the spread of the fire.

4. (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ₦10,000.00 or to imprisonment not exceeding five years or to both. Offences.

(2) In addition to any penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section the Court may order the offender to make good the cost of any unlawful damage caused by the fire.

5. The Secretary responsible for Lands and Natural Resources may by legislative instrument make such regulations as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Law. Regulations.

6. (1) In this Law—

“conservation area” means any Government protected natural resource area under the administration of the Forestry Department or the Department of Game and Wildlife;

“specified area” means an area specified in a permit issued by the Department of Game and Wildlife or the Forestry Department in which burning may be necessary for habitat management purposes.

Interpretation.

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(2) For the purposes of this Law a person starts a bush fire if any action of his results in the uncontrolled burning of vegetation or of any farm, forest or wildlife reserve or human habitation or electricity pylon or telephone pole.

Repeals and
Revocation.

7. (1) Section 7 of the Wild Animals Preservation Act, 1961 (Act 43) and section 1 (1) (c) and (d) of the Forest Protection Decree, 1974 (N.R.C.D. 243) are hereby repealed.

(2) In regulation 4 (2) of the Wild Animals Preservation (Game Reserve) Regulations, 1967 (L.I. 171) the word "or maliciously sets fire to" are hereby revoked.

Made this 10th day of May, 1983.

FLT.-LT. JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS
Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council

Date of Gazette notification: 20th May, 1983.