



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT

SENATE BILLS

(Bill No. 8 of 2023)

THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL, 2023



(A Bill published in the Kenya *Gazette* Supplement No. 20 of 28th February, 2023 and passed by the Senate, with amendments, on Tuesday, 21st July, 2026)

THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL, 2023

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clauses

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. – Short title.
2. – Interpretation.

PART II— SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

3. – General principles.
4. – Heritage assessment criteria and grading.

PART III – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

5. – Establishment of the National Museums.
6. – Functions of the National Museums.
7. – Powers of the National Museums.
8. – Functions of county governments in relation to museums.
9. – County museum.
10. – Composition of the Board of the National Museums.
11. – Qualifications for appointment of chairperson and members of the Board.
12. – Tenure of office.
13. – Vacancy of office.
14. – Removal of chairperson or member of the Board.
15. – Meetings of the Board.
16. – Committees of the Board.
17. – Delegation by the Board.
18. – Disclosure of interest.
19. – Protection from personal liability.
20. – Appointment of the Director-General.
21. – Staff of the National Museums.
22. – Code of conduct.

23. – Common seal.

PART IV – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

24. – Funds of the National Museums.

25. – Financial Year.

26. – Annual Estimates.

27. – Investment of funds.

28. – Accounts and Audit.

29. – Annual Report.

PART V— MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE

30. – Heritage of national importance.

31. – Declaration of heritage of national importance.

32. – Cabinet Secretary to issue notice.

33. – De-gazettement of place or object from national heritage.

34. – Lending or borrowing of objects.

35. – Disposal of objects.

36. – Petition for declaration of national and county heritage sites.

37. – Inventory of national heritage.

38. – Heritage registers.

39. – National heritage resources assistance programme.

40. – Heritage agreements.

41. – Compulsory protection order.

42. – Heritage areas.

43. – Establishment of research institutions.

PART VI – EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

44. – Exploration license.

45. – Conditions and form of exploration licences.

46. – Entry onto land under exploration licence.

47. – Compensation on private land.

48. – Notification of discovery.

49. – Restriction on moving objects.

50. – Offences under Part VI.

PART VII – PROTECTED AREAS

- 51. – Where protected area is community land.
- 52. – Control of access to protected area.
- 53. – Compensation to owner of land in protected area.
- 54. – Offences under Part VII.

PART VIII – MONUMENTS

- 55. – Inspection and repair of monuments.
- 56. – Acquisition of monuments and antiquities.
- 57. – Guardianship of monuments.
- 58. – Agreements for protection or preservation of monuments.
- 59. – Compulsory purchase of monuments.
- 60. – Duties of the National Museums to protect and maintain monuments.
- 61. – Relinquishing rights over monuments.
- 62. – Offences under Part VIII.

PART IX– ANTIQUITIES AND PROTECTED OBJECTS

- 63. – Antiquities property of Government.
- 64. – Information concerning antiquities and protected objects.
- 65. – Prohibition of removal of antiquities and protected objects.
- 66. – Prohibition of sale of antiquities and protected objects.
- 67. – Compulsory acquisitions of antiquities and protected objects.
- 68. – Offences under Part IX.

PART X – EXPORT

- 69. – Conditions relating to export.
- 70. – Export through customs port of entry.
- 71. – Offences under Part X.

PART XI – POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT

- 72. – Inspection.
- 73. – National Heritage Inspectors.
- 74. – Power of national heritage inspectors to inspect.

- 75. – Power of arrest.
- 76. – Power to search.
- 77. – Power of customs officers.
- 78. – Forfeiture to government after seizure.
- 79. – Notices.
- 80. – Offences under Part XI.
- 81. – County Cultural Inspectors.

PART XII – HERITAGE TRIBUNAL

- 82. – Establishment of Tribunal.
- 83. – Tenure of office.
- 84. – Remuneration of the members of the Tribunal.
- 85. – Secretary and staff to the Tribunal.
- 86. – Jurisdiction of the Tribunal.
- 87. – Proceedings of the Tribunal.
- 88. – Awards of the Tribunal.
- 89. – Quorum for the Tribunal.
- 90. – Disclosure of interest.
- 91. – Appeals to the High Court.

PART XIII– MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 92. – Incentives.
- 93. – Return of illegally exported cultural objects.
- 94. – Burden of proof.
- 95. – Exemptions from stamp duty.
- 96. – Mining activities in protected heritage areas.
- 97. – Access and payment of fees.
- 98. – General penalty.
- 99. – Consultation between the National and county governments.
- 100. – Regulations.
- 101. – Repeal of Cap. 216.
- 102. – Transitional provisions.
- 103. – Consequential amendments.

FIRST SCHEDULE: CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND THE AFFAIRS OF THE BOARD

**SECOND SCHEDULE: EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA FROM
PAYMENT OF ACCESS FEES, PERMIT/LICENSE FEES AND
EXPORT FEES FOR HERITAGE RESEARCH**

THIRD SCHEDULE: CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL, 2023

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, research and management of cultural and natural heritage at the national and county levels of Government; and for connected purposes

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows —

PART I – PRELIMINARY

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Heritage and Museums Act, 2023.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act –

“ancient” means an object, building or remains of a building, which being of historical age, is designated for preservation and protection under this Act;

“antiquity” means any movable object but excludes a book or document made in Kenya or imported into Kenya before the year 1895, or any human remains, faunal or floral remains of similar minimum age which exists in Kenya;

“Board” means the Board of the National Museums of Kenya appointed under section 10;

“Cabinet Secretary” means the Cabinet Secretary responsible for national heritage, ancient and national and historical monuments of national importance and antiquities;

“county executive committee member” means the county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to county cultural heritage and museums;

“county museum” means a museum vested in a County;

“cultural heritage” means –

- (a) monuments;
- (b) architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- (c) groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- (d) works of humanity or the combined works of nature and humanity, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view; and
- (e) objects of archaeological or paleontological interest, objects of historical interest and protected objects;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of the National Museums of Kenya appointed under section 20;

“exploration licence” means an exploration licence issued under section 44;

“export permit” means a permit to export a monument or part thereof, an antiquity or a protected object, issued by the Cabinet Secretary pursuant to section 69;

“heritage” includes cultural and natural heritage;

“living heritage” means the intangible aspects of inherited culture, and may include—

- (a) cultural tradition;
- (b) oral history;
- (c) performance;

- (d) ritual;
- (e) popular memory;
- (f) skills and techniques;
- (g) indigenous knowledge systems; or
- (h) the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships;

“maintenance” includes the fencing, covering in, repairing, restoring and cleansing of a monument or the fencing or covering of a protected area, and the doing of any act which may be necessary for the purpose of maintaining or protecting a monument or a protected area or of securing convenient access thereto;

“museum” means a public or private institution which collects, preserves, analyses and exhibits objects of cultural and natural heritage;

“monument” means –

- (a) a place or immovable structure of any age which, being of historical, cultural, scientific, architectural, technological or other human interest, is declared by the Cabinet Secretary to be a monument;
- (b) a rock-painting, carving or inscription made on an immovable object;
- (c) an ancient earthwork or other immovable object attributable to human activity;
- (d) a structure which is of public interest by reason of the historic architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attached to it and is declared by the Cabinet Secretary to be a monument; or
- (e) a shipwreck more than fifty years old; and
- (f) such adjoining land as may be required for maintenance thereof;

“natural heritage” means —

- (a) natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;
- (b) geological features and landscapes or physiographical formations of special significance, rarity or beauty;
- (c) specifically delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty; or
- (d) areas which are of religious significance, use or veneration;

“National Museums” means the National Museums of Kenya established in section 5 of this Act;

“national museum” means a museum vested in the National Museums of Kenya;

“national heritage inventory” means the national heritage inventory;

“object of archaeological or paleontological interest” means an antiquity which was in existence before the year 1800;

“object of historical, cultural or scientific interest” means an object which came into existence in or after the year 1800;

“open space” means an open space not built upon in any urban or peri-urban area, whether in a municipality or not, to which the public has access and which may be used for parks, gardens, recreation grounds or any other use;

“owner” includes a joint owner vested with powers of management on his own behalf and other joint owners, and an agent or trustee exercising powers of management over a monument, and the successor in title of any such owner, the successor in office of any such agent or trustee; but nothing in this Act shall be deemed to extend the powers which may be lawfully exercised by the owner, agent or trustee;

“private land” means land privately owned and land the subject of a grant, lease or licence from the government in accordance with Article 64 of the Constitution and includes trust land;

"protected area" means a site which has been and remains declared by the Cabinet Secretary under section 52 to be a protected area;

"protected building" means a building of special architectural or historical interest declared by the Cabinet Secretary to be a protected building and includes any object or structure fixed to the building;

"protected object" means-

- (a) a door or door frame carved in an African or Oriental style before the year 1946;
- (b) any other object or type of object, whether or not part of an immovable structure, which, being of historical or cultural interest, has been and remains declared by the Cabinet Secretary to be a protected object; and
- (c) any material of biological and paleontological nature declared by the Cabinet Secretary to be a protected object;

"repository" means a place where things of national importance, of scientific, cultural, natural, technological and human interest are kept for safekeeping;

"safeguarding" means any measure taken by a county, community, social group or individual, aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalisation of the various aspects of such heritage;

"standards" means best practices, guidelines and generally accepted level of attainment that all museums are expected to achieve for heritage management;

"tradition" means a belief or behaviour with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past and passed down within a society or social group with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past;

"traditional knowledge" means any knowledge originating from a local or traditional community that is the result of intellectual activity and insight in traditional context, including know-how, skills, innovations, practices and learning where knowledge is embodied in the

traditional lifestyle of the community, or contained in the codified knowledge systems passed from one generation to another; and

“world heritage site” means a site listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee as a world heritage site.

PART II- SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

General principles.

3. (1) Every person shall, in the management of heritage resources, take into account —

- (a) the lasting value of natural resources to the Kenyan society;
- (b) the valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable nature of the resources and the need to ensure their survival;
- (c) the responsibility of every generation to act as trustee of the national heritage for succeeding generations;
- (d) the need to promote the interests of all Kenyans;
- (e) the need to promote reconciliation, understanding and respect, take account of all relevant cultural values and indigenous knowledge systems;
- (f) the involvement of communities in the management of heritage resources;
- (g) the respect of cultural values and the dignity of the communities to whom the resource is connected;
- (h) the need to ensure that the process and resources are researched, documented and recorded; and
- (i) the need to guard against the use of heritage for sectarian purposes or political gain.

(2) To ensure that heritage resources are effectively managed—

- (a) the skills and capacities of persons and communities involved in heritage resources management shall be developed; and

- (b) provision shall be made for the ongoing education and training of existing and new heritage resources management workers.

Heritage assessment
criteria and grading.

4. The National Museums of Kenya shall, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary and the county executive committee member in each county, prescribe a system of grading of places and objects which form part of the national heritage and shall distinguish between—

- (a) grade I category consisting of heritage resources with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance;
- (b) grade II consisting of heritage resources considered to have special qualities which make them significant within the context of a county or a region; and
- (c) such other grade assessment criteria as the National Museums of Kenya shall consider appropriate.

PART III – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

Establishment of the
National Museums.

5. There is established the National Museums of Kenya, a corporate body, with perpetual succession and a common seal and which shall in its corporate name be capable of -

- (a) suing and being sued;
- (b) purchasing or otherwise acquiring, holding, charging and disposing of movable and immovable property;
- (c) borrowing money;
- (d) entering into contracts; or
- (e) doing or performing all other things or acts necessary for the proper performance of its functions under this Act, which may lawfully be done or performed by a body corporate.

Functions of the
National Museums.

6. The functions of the National Museums shall be to –

- (a) identify, acquire and record ancient and historical monuments and sites that are of national importance for inclusion in the national heritage inventory;
- (b) serve as a national repository for things of scientific, natural, cultural, technological and human interest that are of national importance, including maintaining the national biodiversity inventory;
- (c) undertake research in fields of ancient, historical, scientific, cultural, natural, technological and human interest;
- (d) disseminate and transmit knowledge from research on cultural heritage, natural heritage, ancient and historical monuments and sites of national importance;
- (e) identify and manage grade I heritage resources in accordance with this Act;
- (f) protect and conserve heritage sites of national and global importance and attributes therein, including global biodiversity;
- (g) promote sustainable utilisation of heritage resources for national development;
- (h) develop principles, standards and policies for the management of the national heritage resources;
- (i) liaise with the county governments, national, regional and international institutions on heritage management;
- (j) promote the public's enjoyment and understanding of the national heritage, biodiversity, antiquities and monuments;
- (k) advise the Cabinet Secretary on the issuance of excavation, exploration and export licenses in connection with national heritage;
- (l) secure and exhibit the national heritage, antiquities and monuments to the public; and
- (m) undertake other functions incidental or relevant to the attainment of the mandate of the National Museums of Kenya.

Powers of the
National Museums .

7. (1) The National Museums of Kenya shall have the power to –

- (a) erect, maintain and improve buildings, including staff quarters;
- (b) appoint committees for heritage conservation in furtherance of its functions;
- (c) partner with any county government for the conservation of historical sites and monuments of national importance;
- (d) exchange, sell or otherwise dispose of objects not required for the purpose of the National Museums of Kenya as specified in the Regulations;
- (e) with the consent of the Cabinet Secretary and with the authority of a resolution by the Board, lend objects vested in the National Museums of Kenya to any person or institution, whether within or outside Kenya;
- (f) loan, for research purposes, specimens and collections under the appropriate loaning agreements;
- (g) purchase of an object which, in the opinion of the Board, is desirable to acquire for a National Heritage Centre or in furthering interest in and increasing the utility in a National Heritage Centre;
- (h) solicit, accept and receive subscriptions, donations, devises and bequests, whether of movable or immovable property and whether absolute or conditional, for the general or special purposes of the National Museums or subject to any trust;
- (i) charge for admission to a national museum, national heritage centre, or to any lecture, exhibition, conducted tour, course of instruction or other facility, or for publications, such fees or prices as the Board may consider, subject to any regulations made under this Act;
- (j) conduct heritage impact assessments, subject to the provisions of the national laws and international treaties and conventions;

- (k) enter into association with such bodies or organisations within or outside Kenya as the Board may consider in furtherance of the purposes for which the National Museums is established;
- (l) establish branches in counties;
- (m) establish national heritage centres;
- (n) advise on standards and best practices on heritage management;
- (o) monitor ancient and historical monuments and sites of national importance for purposes of preservation and conservation;
- (p) create, develop, own, protect and exploit inventions and innovations resulting from research activities undertaken on or by the aid of heritage resources;
- (q) establish mechanisms for effective dissemination of information on heritage;
- (r) set fees or other charges prescribed under this Act as may be necessary or expedient for—
 - (i) preserving and increasing the utility of the collections; or
 - (ii) securing the administration of anything vested in or acquired by the National Museums through this Act or other written law; and
- (s) undertake functions incidental to the mandate of the National Museums of Kenya.

(2) The National Museums of Kenya may receive moneys from any source and may apply such moneys to defray its expenses in carrying out the functions and exercising the powers conferred on it by this Act.

Functions of county governments in relation to museums

8. The functions of county governments shall be to –

- (a) acquire the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment that is of county importance for purposes of education, study and enjoyment;
- (b) identify, collect materials and objects of historical, cultural and natural importance relevant to the respective county;
- (c) identify and manage grade II heritage resources in accordance with this Act;
- (d) document the intangible heritage of county importance;
- (e) conserve the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment that is of county importance for purposes of education, study and enjoyment;
- (f) protect and conserve materials and objects of historical, cultural and natural importance relevant to the respective county;
- (g) publicise the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment that is of county importance for purposes of education, study and enjoyment;
- (h) promote awareness and education programmes for different audiences within the context of museums;
- (i) promote cultural activities and cultural festivals relevant to the respective counties;
- (j) develop and exhibit materials and objects of historical, cultural and natural importance relevant to the respective counties for purposes of education, study and enjoyment;
- (k) implement national standards on museums and heritage;
- (l) in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, exchange, sell or otherwise dispose of objects not required for the purpose of the county museums and lend objects vested in the county museum to any person or institution, whether within or outside Kenya; and
- (m) license private museums within the respective counties.

County museum.

9. (1) A county executive committee member may establish a county museum for the management of the heritage resources within the respective county.

(2) Notwithstanding the generality of subsection (1), a county museum shall—

- (a) advise the county executive committee member on the implementation of this Act or relevant county legislation;
- (b) submit an annual report to the county executive committee member regarding its activities for each financial year;
- (c) promote the systematic identification, recording and assessment of heritage resources and heritage objects which form part of the national heritage in a county;
- (d) protect and manage heritage resources in a county which fulfil the heritage assessment criteria prescribed under this Act for grade II status;
- (e) notify the National Museums of Kenya of the presence of any heritage resource in the county which fulfils the heritage assessment criteria prescribed under this Act for grade I status;
- (f) maintain databases on heritage resources in accordance with national standards, and at regular intervals, furnish the National Museums of Kenya with such data; and
- (g) establish policy, objectives and strategic plans for heritage resources management in the county.

Composition of the
Board of the
National Museums.

10. (1) The Management of the National Museums of Kenya shall vest in a Board which shall comprise of—

- (a) a chairperson appointed by the President;
- (b) the Principal Secretary for matters related to national heritage, antiquities and monuments;
- (c) the Principal Secretary for matters related to finance;
- (d) three persons representing scientific, arts and general outstanding interest in, and contribution to the work of, the

national heritage, one of whom shall be nominated by Nature Kenya;

(e) one person nominated by the Kenya Tourism Board;

(f) two persons with outstanding interest in and contribution to the work of the national museums nominated by the Council of County Governors; and

(g) the Director-General who shall be an *ex officio* member and secretary to the Board with no rights to vote.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall appoint the persons nominated under subsection (1) (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g).

(3) The Board shall elect a vice chairperson from among its members.

(4) The chairperson and vice chairperson of the Board shall be of opposite gender.

(5) The persons appointed under subsection (1) (b) and (c) may designate, in writing, a representative to attend and participate in the meetings of the Board on their behalf.

(6) In appointing persons under subsection (1) (d), (e) and (f), the Cabinet Secretary shall take cognizance of the provisions of the Constitution regarding gender, persons with disabilities, marginalized persons and the youth.

(7) The Board shall be responsible for the general management, development and control of the National Museums and all functions vested in the National Museums of Kenya by this Act.

Qualifications for appointment of chairperson and members of the Board.

11. (1) A person shall be qualified for appointment as the chairperson of the Board if that person –

(a) holds a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;

(b) has at least fifteen years' experience in the relevant field, seven of which are in a managerial position; and

(c) meets the requirements of leadership and integrity in Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(2) A person is qualified for appointment as a member, if that person —

- (a) holds a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;
- (b) has at least ten years' experience in the relevant field, five of which are in a managerial position; and
- (c) meets the requirements of leadership and integrity in Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the chairperson or as a member, if that person —

- (a) is a member of a governing body of a political party;
- (b) is an undischarged bankrupt;
- (c) has been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to a term of not less than six months' imprisonment;
- (d) has been removed from any public office for contravening the provisions of the Constitution or any other written law;
- (e) is a member of Parliament or county assembly; or
- (f) has not met his or her legal and statutory obligations relating to tax and other statutory obligations.

Tenure of office.

12. The chairperson and members of the Board other than an *ex-officio* member shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further final term of three years.

Vacancy of office.

13. A person shall cease to be a member of the Board if that person—

- (a) is unable to perform the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity;
- (b) is adjudged bankrupt;
- (c) is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than six months;
- (d) is absent from at least three consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Board;

- (e) resigns, in writing, addressed, in the case of the chairperson, to the President, and in the case of any other member, to the Cabinet Secretary;
- (f) violates the Constitution or any other law; or
- (g) dies.

Removal of the
chairperson or
member of the
Board.

14. The chairperson or member of the Board may be removed from office for –

- (a) physical or mental incapacity to perform the functions of the office;
- (b) gross misconduct;
- (c) being absent for at least three consecutive meetings of the Board without notice to the chairperson or without sufficient cause;
- (d) incompetence; or
- (e) serious violation of the Constitution, including contravention of Chapter Six.

Meetings of the
Board.

15. (1) The conduct and regulation of the business and affairs of the Board shall be as provided in the First Schedule, but subject thereto, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

(2) The Board may invite any person to participate in its deliberations on any particular issue, but a person so invited shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Board.

Committees of the
Board.

16. (1) The Board may, from time to time, establish such committees as it considers necessary for the effective carrying out of its functions under this Act.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), the Board may co-opt into its membership a person whose knowledge and skills are found necessary for the functions of National Museums.

(3) A person co-opted under subsection (2) shall have no right to vote.

(4) The Board shall not co-opt more than two people at any one time.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

Delegation by the Board.

17. The Board may, by resolution generally or in any particular case, delegate to any committee of the Board the exercise of any of the powers or the performance of any of the functions or duties under this Act.

Disclosure of interest.

18. (1) A member of the Board with a personal interest in a matter being considered or to be considered by the Board shall disclose the nature of their interest to the Board.

(2) A member who has declared an interest under subsection (1) shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of or vote during the deliberations on the matter by the Board.

Protection from personal liability.

19. (1) A member of the Board or agent of the Board shall not be personally liable to any action, claim or demand for acts done in the course of executing the functions, powers and duties of the Board under this Act.

(2) The Board shall however, not be relieved of the liability to pay compensation or damages to a person for an injury suffered by the person, their property, or any of their interests arising directly or indirectly from the exercise of any power conferred by this Act or any other written law.

Appointment of the
Director-General.

20. (1) There shall be a Director-General of the National Museums who shall be appointed by the Board through a competitive recruitment process.

(2) A person shall be qualified for appointment as Director-General if that person—

- (a) holds a doctorate degree from a university recognised in Kenya;
- (b) has at least fifteen years' professional experience, of which five shall be at a management level, in any field or discipline related to the work of the National Museums; and
- (c) satisfies the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(3) The Director-General shall—

- (a) be responsible for the day to day management of the National Museums;
- (b) be responsible for the direction of the affairs and transactions of the National Museums;
- (c) be the chief executive officer of the National Museums; and
- (d) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board from time to time.

(4) The Director-General shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further final term of three years.

Staff of the National
Museums.

21. (1) The Board may appoint such officers and staff necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the National Museums under this Act.

(2) The staff appointed under subsection (1) shall serve on such terms and conditions as the Board may, in consultation with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, determine.

Code of conduct.

22. The members and the employees of the Board shall subscribe to the code of conduct as prescribed under the Regulations to this Act.

Common seal.

23. (1) The common seal of the National Museums shall be kept by the Director-General and shall only be used on order of the Board.

(2) The common seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director-General and the chairperson of the Board or in the absence of the chairperson, such other member of the Board who shall be designated by the Board for that purpose.

(3) The common seal of the Board shall, when affixed to a document and authenticated, be judicially and officially noticed and unless the contrary is proved, any order or authorisation by the Board under this section shall be presumed to have been duly given.

PART IV – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the
National
Museums.

24. The funds of the National Museums shall comprise –

- (a) money allocated by Parliament for the purposes of the National Museums;
- (b) any grants, gifts, donations or other endowments given to the National Museums;
- (c) such monies as may accrue to or vest in the National Museums in the course of the exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act.

Financial year.

25. The financial year of the National Museums shall be the period of twelve months ending on the thirtieth of June in each year.

Annual estimates.

26. (1) The Board shall, at least three months before the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the National Museums for that financial year.

(2) The annual estimates shall make provision for all the estimated expenditure of the National Museums for the financial year concerned and, in particular, shall provide for—

- (a) the payment of salaries, allowances and other charges in respect of the staff of the National Museums;
- (b) the payment of pensions, gratuities and other charges in respect of retirement benefits which are payable out of the funds of the National Museums;

- (c) the proper maintenance of buildings and grounds of the National Museums;
- (d) the funding of training, research and development of activities of the National Museums;
- (e) the acquisition, maintenance, repair and replacement of the equipment and other movable property of the National Museums; and
- (f) the creation of such funds to meet future or contingent liabilities in respect of retirement benefits, insurance or replacement of buildings or equipment or in respect of such other matters as the Board may deem appropriate.

(3) The annual estimates shall be approved by the Board before the commencement of the financial year to which they relate and shall be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance for tabling in Parliament.

Investment funds. of 27. The Board may invest any of the funds of the National Museums in securities in which, for the time being, trustees may by law invest funds or in any other securities which the Treasury may from time to time approve for that purpose.

Accounts and Audit. 28. (1) The Board shall cause to be kept proper books of account of the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the National Museums.

(2) The Board shall, within three months from the end of the financial year, submit to the Auditor-General the accounts of the National Museums together with—

- (a) a statement of income and expenditure during the year; and
- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the National Museums on the last day of that year.

Annual Report. 29. (1) The Board shall, within three months after the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Cabinet Secretary a report of the operations of the National Museums for the immediate preceding year.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall lay the annual report before Parliament within three months.

PART V—MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE

Heritage of national importance.

30. (1) National heritage shall be managed by the National Museums established under section 5 of this Act.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a place or object shall be considered to be of national importance if the resource is of -

- (a) ancient origin;
- (b) historical importance;
- (c) natural or cultural significance to the nation;
- (d) world heritage sites;
- (e) a site, monument or object declared to be a monument; or
- (f) special value to the people of Kenya.

Declaration of heritage of national importance.

31. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, after consultation with the Board and the Council of County Governors, by notice in the *gazette*, declare any place or object to be heritage of national importance, if it satisfies any of the following criteria -

- (a) it is of ancient origin;
- (b) it is of historical importance;
- (c) it constitutes rare or endangered aspects of Kenya's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) it is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued nationally; or
- (e) it is strong or special in association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of Kenya.

(2) A national heritage may include -

- (a) a place, building, structure or equipment of cultural and natural significance it is of ancient origin;
- (b) a place to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;

- (c) historical settlements and townscapes
- (d) landscapes, seascapes, open spaces and natural features of national significance;
- (e) geological sites and landscapes of scientific or cultural importance;
- (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
- (g) historical graves or cemeteries;
- (h) graves of individuals designated by an Act of Parliament;
- (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery, history of colonialism, or ancient migratory patterns of the Kenyan people as recorded in Kenya;
- (j) movable objects, including –
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of Kenya, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art;
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) natural and cultural collections of national significance.

(3) All natural and cultural heritage collections of national importance shall be deposited with the National Museums, as the custodian of objects of national importance, and shall be displayed in accordance with the Regulations.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary may make Regulations for the proper discharge of functions under this section.

Cabinet Secretary to
issue notice.

32.(1) The Cabinet Secretary shall, before declaring a place or object a national heritage -

- (a) publish, in the *Gazette*, a declaration notice; and
- (b) invite members of the public to lodge any objections within two months from the date of publication of the notice published under paragraph (a).

(2) On the expiry of the period of two months -

- (a) if no objection has been lodged, or if lodged, has been heard and dismissed, the Cabinet Secretary shall confirm the declaration of the place or object as a national heritage; or
- (b) if an objection has been lodged and upheld, the Cabinet Secretary shall withdraw the notice;

Provided that the decision to uphold or withdraw a declaration notice following an objection should be concluded within a period of three months.

Cap. 216.

(3) An object, monument or protected area declared under the National Museums and Heritage Act, to be a protected object, monument or protected area shall be a protected object, monument or protected area within the meaning of this Act.

De-gazettement of
place or object as
national heritage.

33. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may degazette a place or object declared to be a national heritage.

(2) A place or object shall be degazetted -

- (a) if the Board resolves unanimously to degazette the place or object; and
- (b) a notice of intent has been published in the gazette and at least two newspapers with wide national circulation and members of the public invited to lodge any objections within two months from the date of publication of the notice and no objections have been made, or if so made, have been heard and dismissed;

(3) Where the proposal to degazette is rejected, the Cabinet Secretary shall cause a notice to be published in the *Gazette* within two months from the date of that decision.

Lending or
borrowing of
objects.

34. (1) The Board may lend any object the property in which is vested in the National Museums and which is comprised in their collections for purposes of exhibition and specialized analysis.

(2) The Board shall, when lending an object—

- (a) give special consideration to a request for the loan of an object for public exhibition and specialized research; and
- (b) have regard to suitability of the prospective borrower, the purpose of the loan and the physical condition of the object.

(3) The Board may accept loaning of objects for exhibition, study or research by the National Museums.

Disposal of objects.

35. The Board may dispose of an object, the property in which is vested in the National Museums, if the disposal is —

- (a) by way of sale, exchange or gift of an object which is a duplicate of another object the property in which is so vested and which is so comprised;
- (b) by way of sale, exchange or gift of an object which, in the Board's opinion, is unsuitable for retention in their collections and can be disposed of without detriment to national and scientific interest; or
- (c) of an object which the Board is satisfied has become useless for the purposes of their collections by reason of damage, physical deterioration, or infestation by destructive organisms.

Petition for
declaration of
national and county
heritage sites.

36. (1) A person may petition —

- (a) the National Museums of Kenya for a place to be declared a national heritage site; or
- (b) the respective county museum for a place to be declared a county heritage site.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall develop regulations on petitions for declaration of National and county heritage sites.

Inventory of
national heritage.

37. (1) The National Museums of Kenya shall keep and maintain an inventory of national heritage.

(2) The inventory of national heritage shall be in the form of a database of information on heritage resources, including—

- (a) an object, monument or protected area declared under this Act to be a protected object, monument or protected area;
- (b) all places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the *Gazette* or *county gazette*, whether under this Act or a county legislation; and
- (c) places and objects subject to general protection under this Act or a county legislation for the management of heritage resources.

(3) The National Museums of Kenya shall list heritage resources in the inventory under the categories prescribed under this Act.

(4) The National Museums of Kenya shall, from time to time, and in consultation with the relevant county museum review and update the inventory of national heritage.

(5) The National Museums of Kenya shall make the inventory of national heritage accessible to members of the public.

(6) The National Museums of Kenya shall, at regular intervals, publish a summary and analysis of the inventory of national heritage.

Heritage registers.

38. (1) A county museum shall compile and maintain a heritage register specifying the heritage resources in the respective county in accordance with this Act.

(2) A county museum shall, in the heritage register, set out the heritage resources in accordance with—

- (a) the subcategories prescribed under this Act;
- (b) the area of jurisdiction; and
- (c) such other categories as the Cabinet Secretary shall prescribe.

(3) The respective county executive committee member shall prescribe the procedure and information required for—

(a) the entry of a resource into the heritage register; and

(b) the compilation of an inventory of heritage resources.

(4) A county museum may approve an application for the entry of a heritage resource in the heritage register submitted to it by any person in the prescribed form.

(5) A county museum shall not enter a place in a heritage register unless the museum has consulted with the owner of such place regarding the protection of that place.

National heritage
resources assistance
programme.

39. (1) The National Museums of Kenya may provide assistance to an approved body or an individual for a project in line with the provisions and the principles prescribed under this Act.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Museums of Kenya, prescribe the procedure for the application for approval and granting of assistance and the criteria for the assessment of projects.

Heritage
agreements.

40. (1) The National Museums of Kenya or a county museum may enter into an agreement with a conservation body, a person, or a community for the conservation or improvement of a heritage resource.

(2) A heritage agreement may provide for—

(a) the maintenance and management of a heritage resource;

(b) the custody of the resource;

(c) the occupation or use of the place by the owner;

(d) the facilities of access to be permitted to the public;

(e) the payment of any expenses incurred by the owner in connection with the maintenance of the heritage resource;

(f) the duration of the agreement; and

(g) the procedure for the resolution of any dispute arising out of the agreement.

Compulsory
protection order.

41. The National Museums of Kenya or a county museum may, where it appears that any place or object is in imminent danger of serious damage or destruction and requires to be protected by a declaration under this Act, make an order protecting the said place or object in the prescribed manner.

Heritage areas.

42. (1) The National and county governments shall at the time of revision of a national or county planning laws, or the compilation or revision of a spatial plan, take into account the need for the designation of heritage areas to protect any place of environmental or cultural interest.

(2) A county government may, in consultation with National Museums of Kenya, by notice in the county gazette, designate any area or land to be a heritage area if such area or land is of environmental or cultural interest or has heritage resources.

(3) A county government shall provide for the protection of a heritage area through the provisions of its planning laws or legislation.

Establishment of
research institutions.

Cap. 511.

43. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, by notice in the *Gazette*, establish other research institutes and grant a Certificate of Registration in accordance with the provisions of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act.

(2) The research institutes established under subsection (1) may research and conduct other activities of –

- (a) scientific, natural, cultural or technological importance by means of exploration and field investigations, data analysis, public programmes, exhibitions, tours or publications;
- (b) biomedical importance by use of non-human primates and other animal models; and
- (c) research in fields of scientific, technological, biomedical or human interest.

(3) An order under this section may specify—

- (a) that the institute to which it relates shall have corporate personality;
- (b) the duties, powers and functions of the institute;
- (c) the manner in which the institute shall be governed; and

- (d) such other matters with respect to the conduct and management of the institute, as the Cabinet Secretary may find it necessary or desirable to provide for.

PART VI – EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

Exploration licence.

44. (1) A person shall not by means of excavation or surface operations search for a buried monument, a buried part of a monument, or a buried antiquity, whether or not in a protected area, unless that person is in possession of an exploration licence issued under this section.

(2) A person who desires to carry out a search for a buried monument, a buried part of a monument, or a buried antiquity shall apply to the Cabinet Secretary for an exploration licence in the prescribed form.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary shall, on receipt of the application under subsection (2) and on recommendation of the National Museums, certify-

- (a) that the proposed research is scientifically ethical and sound;
- (b) that the person has the financial support; and
- (c) the person has received competent training and experience to carry out an exploration or excavation in accordance with the most recent scientific methods.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary shall consider the application and determine whether to issue a licence upon payment of the prescribed fees.

(5) An exploration licence issued under this section shall contain an agreement that the licensee, or the institution which the licensee represents, shall, within such period as may be specified in the licence deposit with the Cabinet Secretary and the National Museums copies of a detailed report or publication on the results of the exploration and excavation.

(6) The exploration licence shall specify, such limitations and conditions as the Cabinet Secretary considers necessary –

- (a) to protect a monument from injury, removal or dispersion; and
- (b) in respect of antiquities, for the removal of finds to a place in Kenya, or temporarily to a place outside Kenya for the purpose only of special examination or preservative treatment.

Conditions and form
of exploration
licence.

45. An exploration licence –

- (a) shall be valid for a period not exceeding three years, but may be renewed for a further period not exceeding one year at a time;
- (b) may be revoked at any time, if the Cabinet Secretary is of the opinion that the holder has failed to conform with any express or implied obligations under the licence;
- (c) shall be in the prescribed form; and
- (d) shall not entitle the holder to enter upon any land without the consent of the owner.

Entry onto land
under exploration
licence.

46. (1) The holder of an exploration licence, may enter upon any area of land specified in the licence, including private land or a protected area, and exercise therein all rights conferred by the exploration licence, for such period and subject to such limitations and conditions as may be stated in the licence.

(2) Where the holder of an exploration licence intends, pursuant to any licence, to enter upon private land, the holder shall give a month's notice to the occupier and the owner of the land.

(3) In the case of community land, the licensee shall serve the notice on the County Government in which the land is vested and the residents for whose benefit the county holds the land. The notice shall specify-

- (a) the nature of licence;
- (b) duration of the licence;
- (c) the land affected by the licence; and
- (d) activities to be undertaken in accordance with the exploration licence.

(4) Where, in the course of operations carried on by the holder of an exploration licence, disturbance of the rights of the owner or occupier of private land, or damage to the land, or to crops, trees, buildings, stock or works thereon, is caused, the holder of an exploration licence shall be liable to pay or compensate the owner or occupier as is fair and reasonable having regard to the extent of the disturbance or damage and to the interest of the owner or occupier in the land.

(5) If the holder of an exploration licence fails to pay or compensate when demanded under subsection (4), or if an owner or occupier is dissatisfied with the amount or nature of any compensation offered to him, the owner or occupier may, within six months of the date on which the demand or offer is made, but not later than two years after the occurrence of the disturbance or damage, appeal to the Heritage Tribunal.

(6) A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Heritage Tribunal may appeal to the High Court within thirty days of the decision.

Compensation on
private land.

47. (1) In the case of disturbance of the rights of owners or occupiers of private land, or damage to any such land, an owner or occupier who claims to be entitled to compensation under section 46 (4) shall, within six months after the occurrence of the disturbance or damage, apply for compensation to the holder of an exploration licence.

(2) The holder of an exploration licence shall notify the Cabinet Secretary and the National Museums of the application made under subsection (1).

(3) The Cabinet Secretary shall appoint a panel of three persons to hear and determine the claim in accordance with section 46 (4).

(4) The panel shall give notice in writing to the applicant and to the holder of the exploration licence of the award or of the rejection of the award.

(5) The applicant or the holder of an exploration licence may appeal to the Cabinet Secretary against the decision of the panel under subsection (4).

(6) A sum payable under an award shall be deposited by the holder of the exploration licence to the owner or occupier of private land upon the expiry of thirty days from the date of notification of the award or from the date of the final appeal decision, as the case may be.

(7) An award made under this section shall be enforceable as if it were a decree of a court.

Notification of
discovery.

48. Where a person discovers a monument or object of archaeological or paleontological interest, the person shall—

(a) within seven days, give notice indicating the precise site and circumstances of the discovery to the National Museums; and

- (b) in case of an object, deliver the object to the National Museums for identification or custody for any particular purpose or period.

Restriction on moving objects.

49. A person shall not move a monument or an object of archaeological or paleontological interest from the place where it has been discovered otherwise than in such manner and to such place as may be allowed by an exploration licence, or by written authorization from the Cabinet Secretary.

Offences under Part VI.

50. A person who –

- (a) engages in a search contrary to section 44;
- (b) being the holder of an exploration licence, fails to conform with any express or implied obligations under the licence;
- (c) enters upon private land pursuant to the licence without having given prior notice and such security, if any, as may have been directed in accordance with section 46;
- (d) fails to give notice of discovery in accordance with the provisions of section 48; or
- (e) moves a monument or object of archaeological or paleontological interest contrary to section 49.

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both fine and imprisonment.

PART VII – PROTECTED AREAS

Where protected area is community land.

51. A protected area, which is part of community land, may be set aside in accordance with the provisions of Article 63 of the Constitution.

Control of access to protected area.

52. The Cabinet Secretary may, in respect of a protected area, from time to time –

- (a) by notice in the *gazette*, prohibit or restrict access, development, use for agriculture or livestock purposes, or an activity which, in the opinion of the Cabinet Secretary, is likely to damage a monument or an object of archaeological or paleontological interest;

- (b) place the protected area under the control of the National Museums on prescribed terms;
- (c) take steps necessary for the maintenance of the protected area; or
- (d) make regulations to control access into the protected area and the conduct of visitors in such an area.

Compensation to owner of land in protected area.

53. Where private land is included in a protected area and—

- (a) the use by the owner or occupier is prohibited or restricted under this Act;
- (b) the rights of the owner or occupier are infringed;
- (c) there is damage to the land, crops, trees, buildings, stock or works;

the State shall pay the owner or occupier a fair and reasonable compensation having regard to the extent of the prohibition, restriction, disturbance or damage and to the interest of the owner or occupier in the land.

Offences under Part VII.

54. A person who—

- (a) enters upon a protected area or within such area does any act contrary to a prohibition or restriction of which notice has been given by the Cabinet Secretary under section 52; or
- (b) breaches any regulation made by the Cabinet Secretary under section 52,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

PART VIII – MONUMENTS

Inspection and repair of monuments.

55. (1) A heritage inspector or any other person authorized in writing by the National Museums may at any reasonable time—

- (a) enter and inspect a monument;

(b) take photographs, measurements, drawings or other records of particulars of a monument; or

(c) if so required by the Board carry out, at the expense of the National Museums, repairs to a monument:

(2) Where a monument is occupied, one month's prior notice in writing shall be given to the occupier of the intention to carry out repairs thereto.

Acquisition of
monuments and
antiquities.

56. The Board may purchase or take on lease or accept a gift or bequest of a monument or an antiquity.

Guardianship of
monuments.

57. (1) The owner of a monument may, by a written instrument, confer on the National Museums the guardianship of the monument.

(2) The National Museums shall be the guardian of any monument which is the property of the State or has no apparent owner.

Agreements for
protection or
preservation of
monuments.

58. (1) The National Museums may enter into a written agreement with the owner of a monument or any other person for the protection or preservation of a monument.

(2) An agreement under this section may provide for the following matters—

(a) the maintenance of the monument;

(b) the custody of the monument;

(c) the occupation or use of the monument by the owners;

(d) the restriction of the right of the owner or occupier to build or to do other acts or things on or near the site of the monument;

(e) access by the public;

(f) access by persons deputed by the owner or the National Museums to inspect or maintain the monument;

(g) the notice to be given to the National Museums in case the owner intends to offer the land on which the monument is situated for sale, lease or other disposal thereof, and the right to

be reserved to the National Museums to have first refusal of any such sale, lease or other disposal;

- (h) the payment of any expenses incurred by the owner or by the National Museums in connection with maintenance of the monument;
- (i) the removal of the monument or any part to a place of safe custody;
- (j) the duration of the agreement;
- (k) the procedure relating to the settlement of any dispute arising out of the agreement; or
- (l) any other matter connected with the protection or preservation of the monument.

(3) The terms of an agreement under this section may be altered from time to time with the consent of all parties to the agreement.

(4) An agreement under this section shall be binding on any person claiming to be the owner of the monument to which it relates to or under a party by whom or on whose behalf the agreement was executed.

(5) Any rights acquired by the National Museums or by the owner in respect of expenses incurred in maintenance shall not be affected by the termination of an agreement under this section.

Compulsory
purchase of
monuments.

59. If the Cabinet Secretary considers that a monument is in danger of being destroyed, injured or allowed to fall into decay, the Cabinet Secretary may acquire the monument by way of compulsory acquisition under the provisions of the Land Act, 2012, but that power shall not be exercised—

- (a) in the case of a monument which, or any part of which, is periodically used for religious observances;
- (b) if the monument is under the guardianship of the National Museums as provided by section 57;
- (c) if the monument is the subject of an agreement for its protection and preservation as provided by section 58; or

- (d) if the owner of the monument is willing to confer guardian thereof to the National Museums as provided by section 57 or to enter into an agreement for its protection as provided by section 58 or to give, sell or lease to the National Museums the monuments on acceptable terms.

Duties of National Museums to protect and maintain monuments.

60. (1) A monument which is for the time being –

- (a) owned by the National Museums;
- (b) under the guardianship of the National Museums as provided by section 57; or
- (c) the subject of an agreement for its protection or preservation as provided by section 58,

shall be properly maintained by the National Museums except where its maintenance is by such guardianship or agreement, the responsibility of the owner of the monument.

(2) When any such monument or any part thereof is used periodically for religious observances, the National Museums shall make provision for the protection of the monument from pollution or damage —

- (a) by prohibiting the entry of any person not entitled to enter by the religious usage or community by which the monument or part thereof is used; or
- (b) by taking such other action that the National Museums considers necessary.

(3) Subject to regulations made under subsection (2) and to the terms of any instrument whereby the National Museums has been constituted guardian or of any agreement for protection or preservation of a monument, the public shall have right of access to a monument referred to in subsection (1) on such conditions as approved by the National Museums.

Relinquishing rights over monuments.

61. The National Museums may subject to the conditions of any instrument—

- (a) where rights have been acquired by it in respect of a monument by virtue of a sale, lease, gift or bequest, relinquish those rights in favour of the person who would

be the owner of the monument if those rights had not been acquired; or

(b) relinquish any guardianship which the Board has accepted under the provisions of this Act.

Offences under Part VIII.

62. (1) A person who—

- (a) destroys, removes, injures, alters, defaces or does any act that imperils the preservation of a monument;
- (b) obstructs a national heritage inspector or other duly authorized person in the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this part; or
- (c) breaches any regulations regulating the entry of persons into a monument which is used for religious observances, or of any other condition of access to a monument;

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both

(2) In addition to the penalty under subsection (1), the court may order, a person convicted of an offence under paragraph (a), to pay to the National Museums such sum of money as may be determined by that court to be necessary to defray the cost thereof.

PART IX – ANTIQUITIES AND PROTECTED OBJECTS

Antiquities property of the Government.

63. (1) All antiquities lying on or under the ground of any land, whether protected or not, objects of archaeological, paleontological or cultural interest discovered in any part of Kenya under this Act shall be the property of the State.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary may, on the recommendation of the National Museums, by notice in the *Gazette*, disclaim the ownership of any such antiquity.

Information concerning antiquities and protected objects.

64. A person shall, if required in writing by the National Museums, within one month, furnish the National Museums with full particulars of all objects in the person's possession which the person knows are antiquities or protected objects.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

Prohibition of removal of antiquities and protected objects.

65. The Cabinet Secretary may, after consultation with the National Museums, by notice in the *Gazette*, prohibit removal of a specified antiquity or a protected object from the place where the antiquity or the protected object is situated by way of sale, exchange, gift, bequest or loan.

Prohibition of sale of antiquities and protected objects.

66. (1) A person shall not –

- (a) sell or otherwise part with ownership or possession of a protected object without a permit from the National Museums;
- (b) buy or take by way of exchange an antiquity without a license to deal in antiquities; or
- (c) sell or give by way of exchange an antiquity to a person without a license to deal in antiquities

(2) This section shall not apply to acquisition by the State or by the National Museums of a protected object or antiquity by way of purchase, exchange, gift, bequest or loan.

Compulsory acquisition of antiquities and protected objects.

67. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the National Museums, if they consider that an antiquity or protected object is in danger of being destroyed, injured or allowed to fall into decay, or of being unlawfully removed—

- (a) acquire the antiquity or protected object by way of compulsory acquisition on the grounds that acquisition is necessary in the interests of the utilisation of the antiquity or protected object by preservation and display for the public benefit; and
- (b) ensure prompt compensation as provided by Article 40 of the Constitution.

(2) The power of compulsory acquisition under subsection (1) shall not be exercised if the owner of the antiquity or a protected object is willing to deposit it with the National Museums by way of loan, either permanently or for such period as the Cabinet Secretary considers necessary.

Offences under Part IX.

68. A person who—

- (a) without just cause fails to furnish the National Museums with full particulars of all objects in his possession which he knows are

antiquities or protected objects, or misrepresents after being required in writing so to do within the period specified by a notice under section 64;

- (b) wilfully destroys or damages an antiquity or protected object;
- (c) removes an antiquity or protected object contrary to section 66; or
- (d) sells or otherwise parts with ownership or possession of a protected object, or sells or buys or gives or takes by way of exchange an antiquity, contrary to section 66,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or twice the value of the antiquity or protected object concerned, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both.

PART X – EXPORT

Conditions relating
to export.

69. (1) A monument, an antiquity or a protected object shall not be removed from Kenya unless its removal has been specially authorized in an exploration licence or by an export permit issued by the Cabinet Secretary on the recommendation of the National Museums under this section.

(2) An application for an export permit shall be made in writing to the Cabinet Secretary and shall contain—

- (a) a full description of the monument or part thereof, antiquity or protected object in respect of which it is made;
- (b) the reason for the proposed removal;
- (c) the place to which and the person into whose care it is to be removed; and
- (d) such further information as may be prescribed.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary may before issuing an export permit, cause an inspection to be made and the monument, antiquity or protected object to be sealed or placed in their custody.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the National Museums, issue an export permit subject to such terms and conditions as the Cabinet Secretary considers fit.

(5) An export permit may, in particular, be issued under the conditions that—

- (a) the subject-matter thereof shall be deposited in a specified place and in the care of specified persons;
- (b) the subject-matter thereof shall be returned to Kenya within a specific period;
- (c) part of the subject-matter thereof may be subjected to scientific destructive analysis; and
- (d) a specified portion of the subject-matter thereof shall be surrendered to the National Museums, or loaned permanently or for a specified period.

Export through
customs port of
entry.

70. A monument or part of an antiquity or a protected object shall only be removed from Kenya—

- (a) through a customs port of exit; and
- (b) the relevant export permit or a copy of the relevant exploration licence certified by the Cabinet Secretary shall be surrendered to a customs officer before removal from Kenya is effected or allowed.

Offences under Part
X.

71. A person who —

- (a) removes a monument or part thereof, an antiquity, or a protected object, from Kenya contrary to section 69 or section 70;
- (b) fails to comply with any of the terms of conditions of an export permit; or
- (c) obtains an export permit by an application containing information which the person knows to be false or incomplete in any material particular,

commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both.

PART XI – POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT

Inspection.

72. (1) An authorised representative of the National Museums may—

- (a) at any time inspect work being done in connection with a monument or object of archaeological or paleontological interest; and
- (b) without warrant enter any premises and order the cessation of any such work.

(2) The National Museums shall report to the Cabinet Secretary any such order for cessation of work and the reasons for the order.

National heritage inspectors.

73. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may by notice in the Gazette appoint a person recommended by the National Museums to be a national heritage inspector for the purpose of enforcing this Act.

(2) A person shall be qualified as a national heritage inspector under subsection (1) if that person –

- (a) holds a minimum qualification of a degree in a relevant field from a university recognised in Kenya; and
- (b) has at least three years' working experience in a relevant profession.

(3) A national heritage inspector appointed under subsection (1) may by notice published in the gazette by the Director of Public Prosecutions, be designated as a prosecutor for offences committed under this Act.

Power of national heritage inspectors to inspect.

74. A national heritage inspector may—

- (a) inspect an antiquity or protected object; and
- (b) with written authority from the National Museums enter premises where the antiquity or protected object is or should be, and require the production of the antiquity or protected object or information as to its whereabouts.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

Power of arrest.

75. A police officer or national heritage inspector may arrest any person whom the national heritage inspector or police officer has reason to believe has committed an offence under this Act.

Power to search.

76. A national heritage inspector or a police officer may, upon obtaining a warrant, at any time search any person or the premises occupied by any person whom they reasonably suspect of having acquired ownership or possession of a protected object, or of having bought or taken by way of exchange an antiquity, contrary to this Act.

Power of customs officers.

77.(1) A customs officer may at any time without a warrant, search anything intended to be removed from Kenya or any person intending to leave Kenya, if the officer reasonably suspects that thing, or person is carrying, a monument or part of a monument, an antiquity or a protected object.

(2) The customs officer may seize anything which he believes to be a monument or part of a monument, antiquity or protected object, including any container that is in the process of being removed from Kenya contrary to this Act.

Forfeiture to government after seizure.

78. (1) Anything seized under section 76 or section 77 shall, as soon as possible, be taken before a magistrate who shall –

(a) in respect of seizure under section 77, order forfeiture to the State of the thing seized, including any container, if it is established that—

(i) the thing seized is a protected object; and

(ii) the ownership or possession of which has been acquired; or

(iii) an antiquity that has been bought or taken by way of exchange is contrary to this Act;

(b) in respect of seizure under section 76, order forfeiture to the State of the thing seized together with any container thereof if it is established that the thing seized is a monument or part thereof, an antiquity or protected object that was in the process of being removed from Kenya contrary to section 76 or section 77.

(2) Anything forfeited to the State under subsection (1) shall be deposited with the National Museums.

Notices.

79. The National Museums may attach to or erect on a monument or protected area in the official language and the local language commonly used in that area, such notice as it considers necessary for the better protection of the monument or protected area.

Offence under Part
XI.

80. A person who—

- (a) obstructs an authorised representative of the National Museums, a police officer, national heritage inspector, or customs officer, in the exercise of his powers or duties under this Act;
- (b) fails without reasonable cause to comply with a lawful order or requirement of an authorised representative of the National Museums, a police officer, national heritage inspector or customs officer, under this Act; or
- (c) destroys, removes or damages a notice attached or erected by the National Museums under section 79,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

County Cultural
Inspectors.

81.(1) The county executive committee member responsible for culture may appoint county heritage inspectors.

(2) The county cultural inspectors shall undertake the following functions—

- (a) make a full assessment of the state of compliance with county legislation on county culture and county museums;
- (b) ensure that county culture and museums are preserved and maintained properly;
- (c) consult with any person on any violations of county heritage regulations on county culture and museums encountered and what further action they intend to take;
- (d) make reports on any violations of county culture and museums to the county executive committee member for action; and

- (e) inspect any damage to county museums and advise the county executive committee member on appropriate actions to be taken.

PART XII – HERITAGE TRIBUNAL

Establishment of
Tribunal.

82. (1) There is established a Heritage Tribunal to be appointed by the Chief Justice.

(2) The Tribunal shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Judicial Service Commission –

- (a) a chairperson who shall be a person qualified for appointment as a judge of the High Court;
- (b) three advocates of the High Court of Kenya nominated by the Law Society of Kenya; and
- (c) three other persons who have demonstrated competence and a high level of integrity in the heritage conservation sector nominated.

(3) The Chairperson and members of the Tribunal shall be recruited and appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule to the Judicial Service Act, 2011.

(4) The members of the Tribunal shall be appointed at different times so that the respective expiry dates of their terms of office shall fall at different times.

Tenure of office.

83. (1) A member of the Tribunal shall hold office for a term of three years, but shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term of three years.

(2) A person appointed under this Act shall cease to hold office if that person—

- (a) resigns from office by notice in writing addressed to the Judicial Service Commission;
- (b) becomes a public servant;
- (c) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Tribunal without the permission of the Chairperson;
- (d) is adjudged bankrupt by a Court of competent jurisdiction;

- (e) is convicted of an offence of a criminal offence;
- (f) is unable to perform the functions of the office arising by reason of infirmity of body or mind; or
- (g) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of the office.

Remuneration of the members of the Tribunal.

84. The members of the Tribunal shall be paid the allowances approved by the Cabinet Secretary in consultation with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

Secretary and staff to the Tribunal

85. (1) The Tribunal shall have a secretary who shall be a public officer appointed by the Judicial Service Commission through a competitive process.

(2) The secretary shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified by the Judicial Service Commission.

(3) The secretary shall be responsible for the day to day affairs of the Tribunal and shall be answerable to the Tribunal in the performance of their functions.

(4) The secretary shall perform any other functions determined by the Tribunal.

(5) There shall be such other staff of the Tribunal as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

Jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

86. The Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction to hear and determine –

- (a) appeals arising from any decision made under this Act;
- (b) any complaints arising from the exercise of the Cabinet Secretary's powers under this Act;
- (c) any conflicts that may arise between heritage institutions and agencies established under this Act; and
- (d) any complaints by any person aggrieved by any act done by any person under this Act.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

Proceedings of the
Tribunal.

87.(1) A person may make a complaint or appeal, in writing, within sixty days of the act, omission or decision complained of.

(2) On the hearing of a complaint or an appeal, the Tribunal shall have all the powers of a subordinate court to –

- (a) summon witnesses;
- (b) take evidence on oath or affirmation;
- (c) order the production of documents; or
- (d) summon expert witnesses as may be necessary.

(3) All summons, notices or other documents issued under the hand of the chairperson of the Tribunal shall be considered to have been issued by the Tribunal.

(4) The Tribunal shall sit at such times and in such places as it may appoint.

(5) The proceedings of the Tribunal shall be open to the public save where the Tribunal, for good cause, otherwise directs.

(6) Except as expressly provided in this Act or any regulations made thereunder, the Tribunal shall regulate its proceedings as it considers fit.

(7) Any person who is a party to the proceedings before the Tribunal may appear in person or be represented by an Advocate.

Awards of the
Tribunal.

88. (1) The Tribunal may -

- (a) award damages;
- (b) confirm, vary or set aside the decision appealed against; or
- (c) make interim orders.

(2) The Tribunal shall have power to award the costs of any proceedings before it and to direct that the costs shall be taxed within such a scale as it may prescribe.

(3) The Tribunal may, on its own motion or upon application by an aggrieved party, review its decisions, awards or orders.

(4) Judgments of the Tribunal shall be executed and enforced in the same manner as judgments of a subordinate court.

Quorum for the Tribunal.

89. (1) The quorum for the hearing and determining of a cause or a matter referred to the Tribunal shall be the chairperson and two other members, at least one of whom shall be an advocate of the High Court.

(2) The chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Tribunal and in the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson or a member elected by members present and voting.

Disclosure of interest.

90. A member of the Tribunal who has an interest in the matter for consideration by the Tribunal shall disclose, in writing, the nature of that interest and shall not participate in the deliberations of the Tribunal in respect of that matter.

Appeals to the High Court.

91. A person aggrieved by a decision or order of the Tribunal may, within thirty days of that decision or order, appeal against the decision or the order to the High Court.

PART XIII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Incentives.

92. The Cabinet Secretary of the National Treasury may make such orders as he may determine regarding incentives to heritage conservation that may be issued under this Act.

Return of illegally exported cultural objects.

93. (1) The National Museums of Kenya may request a court or other competent authority of another country to order the return of a cultural object illegally exported from the territory of the Republic of Kenya.

(2) A cultural object which has been temporarily exported from the territory of the Republic of Kenya, for purposes such as exhibition, research or restoration, under a permit issued under this Act and not returned in accordance with the terms of that permit shall be considered to have been illegally exported.

Burden of proof.

94. In any proceedings under this Act, where the Cabinet Secretary has certified in writing that in his or her opinion, on the advice of the National Museums, a thing is a monument, an object of archaeological or paleontological interest, an object of historical and scientific interest or a protected object, as the

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

case may be, the burden of proof shall lie upon any person who asserts the contrary.

Exemption from
stamp duty.
Cap. 480.

95. An instrument or agreement executed under this Act shall be exempt from stamp duty chargeable under the Stamp Duty Act.

Mining activities in
protected heritage
areas.

96. (1) All mining activities in any protected heritage area, including caves, rock shelters and any such areas of potential heritage importance, shall require a written permit from the Cabinet Secretary on recommendation of the National Museums.

(2) A person who desires to carry out mining activities in terms of this section shall make an application to the Cabinet Secretary in the prescribed form.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary shall, within sixty days of receipt of an application under subsection (1) and on payment of such fees as may be required, either issue a permit with or without conditions or reject the application, giving reasons, in writing, for the rejection.

Access and payment
of fees.

97. All research conducted by the National Museums in furtherance of its functions and powers to protect and conserve national heritage under this Act shall be exempt from payment of access, permit or export fees payable under any laws contained in the Second Schedule to this Act.

General penalty.

98. A person who commits an offence under this Act for which no penalty is prescribed shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings or imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months, or to both.

Consultation
between the
National and county
governments.

99. (1) The national and county governments shall perform their functions and powers under this Act on the basis of consultation and cooperation.

(2) The National Museums of Kenya shall, in carrying out its functions under this Act, consult the council of county governors on any matter that affects the functions and powers of county governments.

Regulations.

100. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the Council of County Governors, make regulations for the better carrying out of this Act, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, for any of the following purposes –

- (a) prescribing conditions for the preservation and use of open spaces of national importance, which may prescribe different conditions for different open spaces;
- (b) prescribing conditions for the protection, preservation and alteration of national monuments;
- (c) prescribing conditions for the protection, preservation, alteration and access to and use of protected buildings, including the manner in which an application may be made and consent given for any alteration, internal or external, to such protected buildings;
- (d) prescribing conditions for the protection, preservation, alteration, access to and use of areas of natural and cultural heritage;
- (e) prescribing the forms of, and conditions to be implied in exploration licences and export permits;
- (f) regulating the management of a protected area;
- (g) controlling the reproduction of objects of archaeological or paleontological interest;
- (h) licensing dealers in antiquities;
- (i) prescribing penalties for breach of any such Regulations; and
- (j) prescribing the fees to be charged under this Act.

(2) The county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to county museums may make regulations relevant to county and private museums for the better carrying out of any of the purposes of this Act.

Repeal of Cap. 216.

101.(1) The National Museums and Heritage Act is hereby repealed.

(2) Despite subsection (1), any gazette notices, declarations by the Cabinet Secretary or statutory instructions which declared any heritage to be a monument under the repealed Act shall continue to be in full force and effect as though made pursuant to this Act.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

(3) Despite subsection (1), all subsidiary legislation, regulations, rules and legal notices made under the repealed National Museums and Heritage Act, 2006 shall continue to operate as if made under this Act.

Transitional provisions.

102. (1) In this section “commencement date” means the day this Act comes into operation.

(2) All rights, obligations and contracts which, immediately before the coming into operation of this Act, were vested in or imposed on the National Museums shall, by virtue of this section, continue to be the rights, obligations and contracts of the National Museums.

Cap. 265F.

(3) Subject to the Intergovernmental Relations Act, all property, assets, rights, liabilities, obligations, agreements and arrangements delineated for purposes of the museums function and assigned to a county government shall, upon commencement of this Act, be deemed to have vested in or have been acquired, incurred or entered into by or on behalf of the relevant county government to the same extent as they were enforceable by or against the National Museums before the commencement of this Act.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary will prepare, in consultation with the County Government and relevant public sector institutions, a plan of transfer of staff, assets, liabilities and contracts.

(5) The transfer of staff who, immediately before the appointed day was an officer or member of staff of the National Museums, for purposes of the museums function shall be handled by the body responsible for transition to County Governments in line with the Intergovernmental Relations Act.

(6) The term of any person who is, at the commencement of this Act, a member of the Board of the National Museums shall continue to be a member of the Board of the National Museums for the remainder of his term upon commencement of this Act.

Consequential amendments.

103. The Acts specified in the Third Schedule are amended in the manner specified in the Third Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(s. 15)

THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND AFFAIRS OF THE BOARD

Meetings of the
Board.

1. (1) The Board shall meet not less than four times in every financial year, and not more than four months shall lapse between the date of one meeting and the date of the next meeting.

(2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), the Director-General may, and upon requisition in writing by at least five members, convene a special meeting of the Board at any time for the transaction of the business of the Board.

(3) Unless three quarters of the total members of the Board otherwise agree, at least fourteen days' written notice of every meeting of the Board shall be given to every member of the Board.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Board at which he is present, but in his absence, the vice-chairperson shall preside and shall, with respect to that meeting and the business transacted thereat, have all the powers of the chairperson.

(5) In the event of the absence of both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside, who shall, with respect to that meeting and the business transacted thereat, have all the powers of the chairperson.

(6) Unless a unanimous decision is reached, a decision on any matter before the Board shall be by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting and in the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson, the vice-chairperson if chairing the meeting or the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the Board may determine its own procedure and the procedure of any committee of the Board and for the attendance of other persons at its meetings.

Quorum of the
Board

2. (1) The quorum of the Board shall be five members excluding the ex-officio members.

- (2) The powers of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership thereof.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(s.97)

Exemption of the National Museums of Kenya from payment of access fees, permit, license fees and export fees for heritage research

- (a) The Science, Technology and Innovation Act, No.28 of 2013, Part IV, section 12
- (b) The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, No.47 of 2013
Part IV, section 22
Part IX, section 80 (1) d, and 81

THIRD SCHEDULE

(s. 103)

Consequential Amendments

The Mining Act.
Cap 306.

s.36

Section 36 (2) of the Mining Act is amended by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (h) –

- (i) the approval of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to Heritage, where the land is situated within a protected heritage area, including caves, rock shelters and any such areas of potential heritage importance;

The Physical and
Land Use
Planning Act.
Cap 303.

s.71

Section 71 of the Physical and Land Use Planning is amended in—

- (a) subsection (1) by deleting the words “the National Museums and Heritage Act, 2006” appearing immediately after the words “provisions of” and substituting therefor the words “the Heritage and Museums Act, 2023”; and
- (b) subsection (2) by deleting the words “the National Museums and Heritage Act, 2006” appearing immediately after the

words “declared under” and substituting therefor the words “the Heritage and Museums Act, 2023”.

The Environment
Management and
Co-ordination
Act.
Cap 387.

s.38

Section 38 of the Environment Management and Co-ordination Act is amended—

(a) in paragraph (jj) by deleting the words “the National Museums and Heritage Act” appearing immediately after the words “Cabinet Secretary under” and substituting therefor the words “the Heritage and Museums Act, 2023”; and

(b) by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph(jj)–

(jjj) undertake a heritage impact assessment within the meaning of the Heritage and Museums Act 2023.

The Land
Registration Act.
Cap 300.

s.76

Section 76 of the Land Registration Act is amended by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (3)–

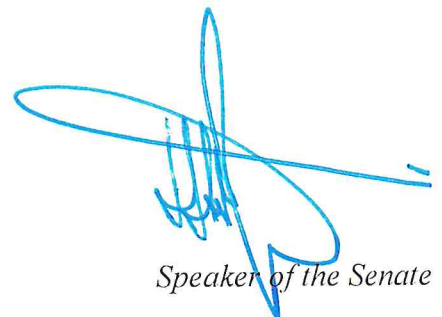
“(4) The Registrar shall make a restriction expressed to last until the making of a further order when the Registrar is informed by the National Museums that a declaration of heritage by the Cabinet Secretary under the “The Heritage and Museums Act, 2023” has been applied for, or is about to be gazette or has been gazette affecting the property in question and upon gazettment the restriction shall take effect as a charge over the land”.

The Heritage and Museums Bill, 2023

I certify that this printed impression is a true copy of the Bill as passed by the Senate, with amendments, on Tuesday, 21st July, 2026.


Clerk of the Senate

Endorsed for presentation to the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of standing order 161 of the Senate Standing Orders.


Speaker of the Senate