

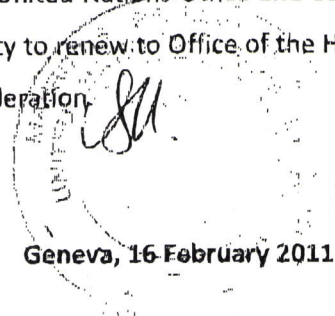
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**No. 19/2011 MMG/HR/28/1**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to its Note dated 7 October 2010 transmitting the questionnaire on the recognition, access and protection of cultural heritage as elaborated by the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights, has the honour to attach the responses of the Government of Mauritius thereto.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Geneva, 16 February 2011**

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10**

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**17 FEB 2011**

Recipients : SPD  
.....  
.....  
.....

Questionnaire on Access to Cultural Heritage

**I. The recognition of cultural heritage**

- (a) The list of all tangible heritage sites of Mauritius is at **Annex 1**. The inventory of intangible heritage is under process.
- (b) Endangered Cultural heritage are identified by the National Heritage Fund.
- (c) Cultural heritage are classified for protection and safeguarding.
- (d) The procedure to nominate and declare cultural heritage is determined by Article 12 of the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 at Annex II. The declaration of cultural heritage is based on the statement of cultural significance.
- (e) The stakeholders involved are the National Heritage Fund and the Ministry of Arts and Culture.
- (f) The declaration of cultural heritage must compulsorily go through these two stakeholders.
- (g) Once classified, the access to these cultural sites is not hindered.

**2. The legal definition for the different types of cultural heritage under the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 is as follows:**

"monument" which means

- (a) any structure of cultural significance, remains of such a structure, building or group of buildings which because of its homogeneity or its place in the landscape is of outstanding value; and
- (b) architectural work, work of monumental sculpture and painting, element or structure of an archaeological nature, inscription, cave dwelling which is of outstanding value;

"site" which means any area on land or underwater, with or without any structure, building, monument or object, thereon having a cultural significance.

## II. The legal and policy framework for the protection of cultural heritage

3. The legal instruments ratified by Mauritius are Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO 1970); Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972); and Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).
  
4. The legislations which protect the cultural heritage of our country are the:
  - (i) National Heritage Fund Act;
  - (ii) Planning and Development Act;
  - (iii) Environment Protection Act;
  - (iv) Planning Policy Guidance (General);
  - (v) Planning Policy Guidance – Le Morne Cultural Landscape;
  - (vi) Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Act;
  - (vii) Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act; and
  - (viii) Management Plans of Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Aapravasi Ghat.

The Government may classify any monument; any object or site of cultural significance; any intangible heritage; any natural feature consisting of physical and biological formation or group of such formations which are of outstanding value; and any geological and physiographical formation or precisely delineated area which constitute the habitat of animals and plants of outstanding value, in Mauritius to be a national heritage to protect cultural resources located in environmentally sensitive areas.

For certain development projects, promoters are required to submit a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.

## III. Access to cultural heritage

Access for the public: provision under respective legislations.



+41 22 734 86 30

5. The National Heritage Fund may designate any officer for the purposes of inspection and maintenance, have access to any national heritage at all reasonable times after giving reasonable notice, in writing, to the owner.

The National Heritage Fund, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund also organise awareness campaigns to promote appreciation for the cultural heritage.

6. In case of denial of access to cultural heritage, individuals, groups and/or institutions may appeal through contest in Court.
7. Cooperation between privately owned heritage owners and Government Institutions/ Ministries is important for the implementing of programmes on access to cultural heritage.

#### IV. The way forward

8. No assessment has been undertaken of laws, policies, plans and/or programmes that address access to and protection of cultural heritage.
9. A specific legal instrument - the Planning Policy Guidance for the Aapravasi Ghat will be promulgated under the Planning and Development Act to reinforce the protection of the Buffer zone of the World Heritage Property. However, in the field of heritage in Mauritius, there is lack of qualified/ trained personnel. Hence capacity building and training is required for cultural heritage identification, classification and protection.
10. Concrete measures which should be adopted and implemented to ensure access to cultural heritage including:
  - Reinforcing legislation to provide for enhanced protection;
  - Creating a website dedicated to national heritage sites so as to promote interest in cultural heritage;
  - A Virtual Museum could be contemplated to ensure access to cultural heritage through the use of new technologies; and
  - Access to heritage sites should also be provided for disabled persons.



+41 22 734 86 30

Annex 1

**SCHEDULE***(section 2)***NATIONAL HERITAGE OF MAURITIUS****PORT LOUIS DISTRICT**

- 1 Aapravasi Ghat and the remaining part of the structure comprising it
- 2 Abreuvoir (New Moka Street)
- 3 Bowen Square
- 4 Canal Dayot Aqueduct
- 5 Central Market
- 6 Central Railway Station
- 7 Charles Henry Leal Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 8 Chien de Plomb
- 9 Cimetière Breton (G.R.N.W.)
- 10 Colonel Joseph Yates Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 11 D'Archibald de Litchfield Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 12 Dominus Arthur Chicester Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 13 Donjon St Louis and surrounding
- 14 Dr. F. Dauban Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 15 Flour Mill (G.R.N.W.)
- 16 Fort Adelaide (Citadelle)
- 17 Fort George
- 18 Fountain (Artillery Square)
- 19 Fountain (St Louis Cathedral)
- 20 French Batteries (Dumas)
- 21 French Retranchements (Pamplemousses Road)
- 22 General Jacob de Cordemoy Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 23 Government House
- 24 Hospital (G.R.N.W.)
- 25 Ireland Blyth (Stone) Building, 10 Dr. Ferrière Street
- 26 Leoville L'Homme Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 27 Leoville L'Homme Tomb (Western Cemetery)

+41 22 734 86 30

- 28 Line Barracks
- 29 Lislet Geoffroy Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 30 Louis Lechelle Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 31 Malartic Tomb (Champ de Mars)
- 32 Mauritius Institute Building
- 33 Military Hospital
- 34 Monument commemorating the 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Mauritius, Jardin de la Compagnie
- 35 Monument commemorating the landing of Commandant Guillaume Dufresne on 20 September 1715, Robert Edward Hart Garden
- 36 Monument in memory of Soeur Marie Barthélemy, Jardin de la Compagnie
- 37 Monument of Revd. Mère Barthelemy (Western Cemetery)
- 38 Monument on Dr. Aimé Joseph Mailloux Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 39 Monument on Remy Ollier Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 40 Monument on Revd. Jean Lebrun Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 41 Municipal Theatre
- 42 Old Grand River North West Bridge
- 43 Old Gas Factory (Pleasure Ground)
- 44 One monument erected in memory of Dr Horace Beaugeard (outside Western Cemetery)
- 45 One monument erected in memory of the dead of 1892 cyclone (outside Western Cemetery)
- 46 Post Office Headquarters Building (Ex Civil Hospital)
- 47 Prosper d'Epinay Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 48 Revd. Sommuël Rock Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 49 Signal Tower (Harbour and Quays)
- 50 Sir Lionel Smith Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 51 Sir Robert Barclay Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 52 Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Residence (Wooden Building)
- 53 Statue of A. Remy Ollier, Jardin de la Compagnie

+41 22 734 86 30

- 54 Statue of Adrien d'Epinay, Jardin de la Compagnie
- 55 Statue of Brown Sequard, Jardin de la Compagnie
- 56 Statue of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Government House Compound
- 57 Statue of His Majesty Kind Edward VII, Champ de Mars
- 58 Statue of Leoville L'Homme, Jardin de la Compagnie
- 59 Statue of Mahé de Labourdonnais
- 60 Statue of Manilall Doctor, Jardin de la Compagnie, Port Louis
- 61 Statue of Sir John Pope Hennessy, KCMG, Place Sookdeo Bissoondoyal
- 62 Statue of Sir W. Stevenson, KCB, Government House Compound
- 63 Statue of Sir William Newton, Place Sookdeo Bissoondoyal
- 64 Statue of V. I. Lenin, Robert Edward Hart Garden
- 65 Swinny Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 66 The Charles Baissac Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 67 The Dr. Onesipho Beaugeard Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 68 The Edith Cavell Government School (Port Louis)
- 69 The General Post Office
- 70 The Mercantile Bank Building
- 71 The Stone and Iron Works of Port Louis Market (Marché Central)
- 72 The Supreme Court Buildings
- 73 The Treasury Buildings
- 74 Tomb of Commodore House (Cemetery)
- 75 Tomb of Jean Pascal Dujonc de Boisquesnay, Western Cemetery (Old Cemetery)
- 76 Trou Fanfaron Police Station
- 77 Vagrant Depot
- 78 Victoria Station(G.R.N.W.)
- 79 Wenceslas Bojer Tomb (Western Cemetery)
- 80 Pierre Tombale Père G. Igou
- 81 SSR Statue, Waterfront



+41 22 734 86 30

**PAMPLEMOUSSES DISTRICT**

- 1 Abbe Buovanita Tomb (Pamplemousses Cemetery)
- 2 Adrien d'Épinay Tomb (Pamplemousses Cemetery)
- 3 Balaclava (Arsenal)
- 4 Batterie des Grenadiers (Pointe aux Piments)
- 5 Battery at Oberoi Hotel (Pointe aux Piments)
- 6 Battery at Pointe aux Cannoniers Hotel (Pointe aux Cannoniers)
- 7 Cere Tomb (Pamplemousses Gardens)
- 8 Charles Planel Tomb (Pamplemousses Cemetery)
- 9 Charles Thomy Pitot Tomb (Pamplemousses Cemetery)
- 10 Cimetière des Esclaves
- 11 Dr Goomany Tomb (Pointe aux Cannoniers)
- 12 Fort Albert (Tombeau Bay)
- 13 Lienard Memorial
- 14 Powder Magazine at Oberoi Hotel (Pointe aux Piments)
- 15 Magon de La Villebague Tomb (Pamplemousses Cemetery)
- 16 Model Factory (Pamplemousses Gardens)
- 17 Mon Plaisir Building (Pamplemousses Gardens)
- 18 Old Fort (Tombeau Bay)
- 19 Old Lighthouse (Pointe aux Cannoniers)
- 20 Powder House at Oberoi Hotel (Pointe aux Piments)
- 21 Powder Magazine (Pointe aux Cannoniers)
- 22 Prince Ehenelepola Monument
- 23 Ruins of French Arsenal (Baie aux Tortues)
- 24 Sugar Factory (Grande Rosalie)
- 25 The Presbytery (Pamplemousses)
- 26 Tower of Old Powder Mill
- 27 Windmill Tower (Riche Terre)

+41 22 734 86 30

**RIVIERE DU REMPART DISTRICT**

- 1 Monument commemorating the wreck of St. Géran (Poudre d'Or)
- 2 Old Windmill (Petit Paquet)
- 3 Transit of the Planet Venus Pillar (St. Antoine)
- 4 Windmill Tower of Belle Rive (Cap Malheureux)
- 5 Windmill Tower of Forbach

**FLACQ DISTRICT**

- 1 Commerson Monument
- 2 District Court
- 3 Limekilns (Poste de Flacq)
- 4 Old Cemetery (Poste de Flacq)
- 5 Old Sugar Mill Chimney (Petite Retraite)
- 6 Pont D'Epinay (Bramsthan)
- 7 Prisons of Belle Mare
- 8 Ruins of Quatre Cocos Factory
- 9 Sugar Factory (Belle Mare )
- 10 Tomb of Le Comte Gaud Louis Ravanel (St. Julien Cemetery)
- 11 Verandah of Manager's Residence (Constance)

+41 22 734 86 30

**GRAND PORT DISTRICT**

- 1 Chateau Riche en Eau
- 2 Dutch Monument (Ferney)
- 3 Grand Port Battle Memorial (Pointe des Régates)
- 4 Ile de la Passe
- 5 Lighthouse (Ile aux Fouquets)
- 6 Maison Historique de Grand Port
- 7 Monument facing Railway Station (Wreck of Crysolite)
- 8 Monument to commemorate entry of sugar cane
- 9 Old Cemetery (Old Grand Port)
- 10 Old Disused Chimney (St. Hubert)
- 11 Old French Batteries (Grand Port)
- 12 Remains of Old French Battery (Anse Petite Sable)
- 13 Ruins of 1939-45 war buildings on top of the promontory, overlooking the whole of the South East Coast
- 14 Ruins of French Batteries (Pointe du Diable)
- 15 Tour Hollandais (Old Grand Port)
- 16 Monument des Esclaves Pointe Canon
- 17 Gunpowder Magazine Pointe Canon
- 18 Fossil Remains at Mare-aux-Songes

**SAVANNE DISTRICT**

- 1 Bain des Négresses Bridge (Souillac)
- 2 Baron d'Unienville Tomb (Souillac)
- 3 Le Batelage Building (Souillac)
- 4 Maison St. Aubin
- 5 Police Station (Souillac)
- 6 Police Station (Tyack)



+41 22 734 86 30

- 7 Telfair Monument
- 8 Trevesa Monument (Bel Ombre)

### BLACK RIVER DISTRICT

- 1 Batterie de l'Harmonie
- 2 Colonel Draper Tomb (La Mivoie Cemetery)
- 3 La Tour Koenig
- 4 Martello Tower (La Preneuse)
- 5 Le Morne Brabant Mountain

### PLAINES WILHEMS DISTRICT

- 1 Abbé de la Caille Memorial (Municipality of Curepipe Compound)
- 2 Carnegie Library (Curepipe)
- 3 Chapman Tomb (Beau Bassin)
- 4 Dr. Stadtman Tomb (Chebel)
- 5 Flinder's Memorial (La Marie)
- 6 Laperouse Memorial (Fau Coulée)
- 7 Old Labourers' Quarters (Trianon)
- 8 Post Office (Rose-Hill)
- 9 Private Cemetery of Martin-Moncamp Family (Trianon)
- 10 Statue of Aimé de Sornay, Municipality of Curepipe Compound
- 11 Statue of J.P. Toulet, Municipality of Curepipe Compound
- 12 Statue of Paul et Virginie, Municipality of Curepipe Compound
- 13 The Curepipe Town Hall
- 14 The Emmanuel Anquetil Tomb (St. Jean Cemetery)
- 15 The Monument aux Morts (Curepipe)
- 16 The Royal College (Curepipe)
- 17 Tomb of John Comber-Browne (St. Thomas Cemetery, Beau Bassin)

+41 22 734 86 30

18 Plaza Theatre

**MOKA DISTRICT**

1 Government House, Le Réduit

**RODRIGUES**

1 Cannon (Pointe Canon)

2 Ex-Administration Block (Port Mathurin)

3 Garde Post (Mont Venus)

4 Ben Gontron House (Barclay Street, Port Mathurin)

5 Residency Buildings (Port Mathurin)

**Acts 2003****THE NATIONAL HERITAGE FUND ACT 2003**

Act No. 40 of 2003

I assent

SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH

*President of the Republic*

08 November 2003

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS****Section**

1. Short Title
2. Interpretation
3. Establishment of the National Heritage Fund
4. Objects of the Fund
5. Establishment of the Board
6. Functions and powers of the Board
7. Meetings of the Board
8. Disclosure of interest
9. The Director
10. Appointment of staff
11. Appointment of Advisory Committee
12. Designation of national heritage
13. Ownership of national heritage
14. Maintenance of national heritage
15. Powers of the Minister
16. Prohibition on exports
17. Offences
18. Delegation of powers
19. Execution of documents
20. General Fund
21. Donations and legacies
22. Exemptions
23. Regulations
24. Repeal
25. Consequential amendments
26. Transitional provisions
27. Commencement



+41 22 734 86 30

---

**Acts 2003**

---

**An Act**

To provide for the establishment and management of the National Heritage Fund and for matters relating to national heritage

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius as follows:-

**1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the National Heritage Fund 2003.

**2. Interpretation**

In this Act-

“Board” means the Board established under section 5;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board;

“cultural significance” means aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, botanical, ethnological, geological, historical, linguistic, palaeontological, scientific, social, spiritual or technological value;

“Director” means the person appointed under section 9;

“Fund” means the National Heritage Fund established under section 3;

“intangible heritage” means intangible aspects of inherited culture and includes culinary arts, cultural traditions, customs, festivities, oral history and traditions, performing arts, rituals, popular memory and skills and techniques connected with material aspects of culture;

“member” means a member of the Board and includes the Chairperson;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the responsibility for the subject of arts and culture is assigned;

“monument” means-

(a) any structure of cultural significance remains of such a structure, building or group of buildings which because of its homogeneity or its place in the landscape is of outstanding value; and

(b) architectural work, work of monumental sculpture and painting, element or structure of an archaeological nature, inscription, cave dwelling which is of outstanding value;

“national heritage” means-

(a) a national heritage designated in section 12 and specified in the Schedule; and

+41 22 734 86 30

(b) includes a national monument designated under the repealed National Monuments (Designation) Regulations 1985 and specified in the Schedule.

"site" means any area on land or underwater, with or without any structure, building, monument or object, thereon having a cultural significance.

### 3. **Establishment of the National Heritage Fund**

(1) There is established, for the purposes of this Act, a Fund to be known as the National Heritage Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be a body corporate.

### 4. **Objects of the Fund**

The objects of the Fund shall be to-

(a) safeguard, manage and promote the national heritage of Mauritius;

(b) preserve the national heritage sites as a source material for scientific and cultural investigation and as an enduring basis for the purposes of development, leisure, tourism and enjoyment of present and future generations worldwide; and

(c) educate and sensitize the public on cultural values, national heritage and to instill a sense of belonging and civic pride with respect to national heritage.

### 5. **Establishment of the Board**

(1) The Fund shall be administered and managed by a Board to be known as the National Heritage Fund Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of:-

(a) a Chairperson, appointed by the Prime Minister;

(b) a representative of the Prime Minister's Office;

(c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of arts and culture;

(d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of finance;

(e) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of tourism;

(f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of education;

(g) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of local government;

(h) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment;

+41 22 734 86 30

- (i) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of housing and lands;
- (j) a representative of the Mauritius Association of Architects;
- (k) a representative of the Mauritius Museums Council; and
- (l) 3 persons having wide experience in matters relating to national heritage to be appointed by the Minister

(3) The members of the Board shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(4) Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Board may provide for the payment of a fee to every member of the Board.

## 6. **Functions and powers of the Board**

The Board may do all such things as appear requisite and advantageous for the furtherance of the objects of this Act and in particular shall-

- (a) identify sites, monuments, structures, intangible heritage or such other objects of cultural significance to be designated as national heritage;
- (b) establish and maintain a register of designated national heritage;
- (c) regulate and authorize activities pertaining to the exploration, excavation, salvage of national heritage or any object or structure of cultural significance;
- (d) manage national heritage entrusted to it;
- (e) make such arrangements as are necessary to enable the public, whether on payment of a fee or free of charge, to view and enjoy a national heritage;
- (f) produce and publish materials to sensitize the public of the existence of a national heritage;
- (g) make surveys, prepare maps and plans to collect information in relation to any monument, site or intangible heritage which can be designated as a national heritage;
- (h) hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions and give advice or other information pertaining to the pursuit of objects of the Fund;
- (i) undertake or support research into the means of preserving a national heritage;
- (j) co-operate with any local or public authority or other body concerned in the objects of the Fund;



+41 22 734 86 30

- (k) work in collaboration with the international community to trace and recover any national heritage which may be outside the territory of Mauritius or to restore foreign heritage or to jointly manage shared heritage;
- (l) provide guidance to owners of national heritage for restoration and management of the national heritage;
- (m) where appropriate, lease or entrust the management of a national heritage vested in the Board to any person on such terms as the Minister may approve;
- (n) have access and control of any heritage site for the purpose of exercising its functions and powers under this Act;
- (o) take such measures, as deemed necessary, to maintain, protect and promote a national heritage and to attain the objects of the Fund;
- (p) raise funds by subscription, donations, grants, gifts or loans; and
- (q) advise the Minister generally on all matters pertaining to national heritage.

#### 7. Meetings of the Board

- (1) Subject to section 37(6) and (8) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, the Board shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (2) The Board shall meet at such time and place as the Chairperson may determine-
  - (a) at least once a month; or
  - (b) whenever the Chairperson deems it necessary or where a request for a meeting is made by not less than 5 members.
- (3) Seven members shall constitute a quorum
- (4)
  - (a) The board may co-opt representatives of bodies other than those specified in section 5(2), to attend meetings.
  - (b) No co-opted member shall have the right to vote.

#### 8. Disclosure of interest

A member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board shall forthwith, or as soon as is practicable after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose in writing the nature of his interest to the Board and shall not-

+41 22 734 86 30

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Board with respect to that matter; and
- (b) take part in any decision of the Board with respect to that matter.

#### 9. The Director

- (1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, a Director.
- (2) The Director shall be responsible for the execution of the policy and decisions of the Board and for the control and management of the day to day business of the Fund.
- (3) In the exercise of his functions, the Director shall act in accordance with such directions as he may receive from the Board.

#### 10. Appointment of staff

- (1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister appoint on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, such staff as may be reasonably necessary for the purposes of or in connection with the discharge of its functions.
- (2) Every member of the staff shall be under the administrative control of the Director.

#### 11. Appointment of Advisory Committees

- (1) The Board may set up an Advisory Committee on an *ad hoc* basis to advise the Board on matters pertaining to the objects of the Fund.
- (2) Any Committee set up under subsection (1) shall consist of:
  - (a) a Chairperson, designated by the Board from members of the Board;
  - (b) such other members of the Board as the Board may designate; and
  - (c) such co-opted members having appropriate specialized skills in the relevant fields, as the Minister may designate.
- (3) The Committee may regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

#### 12. Designation of national heritage

- The Minister may, on recommendation of the Board, designate by regulations-
- (a) any monument;
  - (b) any object or site of cultural significance;
  - (c) any intangible heritage;



+41 22 734 86 30

- (d) any natural feature consisting of physical and biological formation or group of such formations which are of outstanding value; and
- (e) any geological and physiographical formation or precisely delineated area which constitute the habitat of animals and plants of outstanding value, in Mauritius to be a national heritage.

### 13. **Ownership of national heritage**

- (1) The ownership of a national heritage shall remain vested in the owner.
- (2) Where the Minister designates a private property as national heritage, the Director shall forthwith give notice, in writing, to the owner of that property.
- (3) Any owner of a national heritage who intends to alter structurally or make any addition to any national heritage shall-
  - (a) give notice, in writing, of his intention to do so to the Director; and
  - (b) not commence any alteration or addition to the national heritage unless the Board has, with the approval of the Minister, authorized the said alteration or addition.
- (4) Where the Board is of the opinion that a national heritage shall be compulsorily acquired for the public benefit, the Board may make a recommendation to that effect to the Ministry responsible for the subject of lands.
- (5) Where the Minister responsible for the subject of lands is satisfied that the compulsory acquisition of a national heritage will be for the public benefit, he may acquire the national heritage in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act.

### 14. **Maintenance of national heritage**

- (1) The Board may, by written notice, request the owner of a national heritage to maintain or effect repairs to the national heritage in such manner and within such time as may be specified in the notice.
- (2) The Director or any officer designated by him shall for the purposes of inspection and maintenance, have access to any national heritage at all reasonable times after giving reasonable notice, in writing, to the owner.
- (3) Where the Board is satisfied that the owner of a national heritage is unable to maintain the national heritage, the Board may provide assistance to that owner in such manner as it deems appropriate.
- (4) Any person who interferes with hinders or obstructs-
  - (a) any inspection or maintenance work; or

+41 22 734 86 30

(b) any officer in the exercise of his powers or duties under this Act,

shall commit an offence.

#### 15. Powers of the Minister

- (1) The Minister may give such directions of a general character to the Board not inconsistent with the objects of the Fund, which he considers necessary in the public interest, and the Board shall comply with those directions.
- (2) The Board shall furnish to the Minister such information with respect to its activities as the Minister may require.
- (3) The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, by regulations, cancel the designation of a national heritage where the national heritage has ceased to exist or where it would no longer serve the public interest that the national heritage remains so designated.

#### 16. Prohibition on exports

No person shall export or cause to export a national heritage without the prior approval of the Board.

#### 17. Offences

- (1) Any person who unlawfully-
  - (a) alters, damages, destroys, defaces, digs up, moves, changes, covers, conceals or in any other way disfigures a national heritage;
  - (b) removes any part of a national heritage; or
  - (c) otherwise contravenes this Act

shall commit an offence

- (2) Any person who commits an offence under this Act shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

#### 18. Delegation of powers

Subject to such instructions and rules of a general nature as it may give or make, the Board may delegate to the Chairperson or to the Director such of its powers under this Act as may be necessary to assist it in the effective management of the Fund, other than the power to-

- (a) borrow money;
- (b) raise loans; or
- (c) enter into any transactions involving capital expenditure which exceeds 100,000 rupees.



+41 22 734 86 30

**19. Execution of documents**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), all documents shall be deemed to be executed by or on behalf of the Fund if signed by the Chairperson or the Director.
- (2) Every cheque of the Fund shall be signed by any 2 of the following persons-
  - (a) the Chairperson;
  - (b) the Director; or
  - (c) such other member as may be appointed for that purpose by the Board.

**20. General Fund**

- (1) There shall be a General Fund-
  - (a) into which shall be paid-
    - (i) all monies accruing to the Fund including all charges or fees that may be prescribed;
    - (ii) all donations, grants and contributions received by the Fund; and
    - (iii) any other sum which may lawfully accrue to the Fund;
  - (b) out of which all payments required to be made by the Fund shall be effected.
- (2) The Board may establish such other special funds as it thinks fit for the furtherance of its objects.

**21. Donations and Legacies**

Article 910 of the Code Napoleon shall not apply to the Fund.

**22. Exemptions**

Notwithstanding any other enactment-

- (a) the Fund shall be exempt from the payment of any duty, rate, charge, fee or tax;
- (b) no stamp duty or registration shall be payable in respect of any document under which the Fund is the sole beneficiary.

**23. Regulations**

- (1) The Minister may after consultation with the Board, make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purposes of this Act.

- (2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) may provide-
- (a) for the levying of fees or taking charges in respect of the activities conducted or facilities provided by the Fund;
  - (b) that any person who contravenes those regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year; and
  - (c) for an amendment to the Schedule.

#### 24. Repeal

The following enactments are repealed-

- (a) the National Heritage Trust Fund Act;
- (b) the National Monuments Act;
- (c) the National Monuments (Designation) Regulations 1985.

#### 25. Consequential amendments

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Schedule to the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act is amended in Part II by deleting the words "National Heritage Trust Fund" and replacing them by the words "National Heritage Fund".
- (2) For the purposes of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the period extending from the commencement of this Act to 30 June next following shall be deemed to be the first financial year of the Fund.
- (3) Section 7(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall apply in relation to the first financial year of the Fund.
- (4) The auditor to be appointed under section 5 of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall be the Director of Audit.

#### 26. Transitional provisions

- (1) All assets and liabilities of the National Monuments Board and of the National Heritage Trust Fund shall be transferred to the Fund.
- (2) A person who immediately before the day on which this Act comes into operation, is employed by the National Heritage Trust Fund shall-

+41 22 734 86 30

- (a) where he is not employed by the Fund, be entitled to such compensation as may be provided in his contract of employment or by law; and
- (b) not be entitled to any compensation where that person is appointed to the staff of the Fund without break in the continuity of employment and on terms not less favourable than those of his previous employment with the National Heritage Trust Fund.
- (3) Where this Act does not make provision for the necessary transition from the repealed enactments specified in section 24, the Minister may make such regulations as are necessary for that purpose.

27. **Commencement**

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

Passed by the National Assembly on the fourteenth day of October two thousand and three.

*André Pompon*  
*Clerk of the National Assembly*