



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly

No. 08/NA
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LAW ON NATIONAL HERITAGES

PART I
General Provisions

Article 1 **Purposes**

The Law on National Heritages sets the principles, procedures and measures for administration, use, protection, conservation, restoration, rehabilitation of the national heritages, as well defining rights and duties of State, social organizations and individuals to preserve the value of national cultural, historical and natural heritages aiming to educate citizens with conscious love to their fatherland and fine national traditions as the ritual basis and securing elements for prosper sustainability of the nation.

Article 2 **National Heritages**

National Heritages are the products of mankind or from the natural formations that have cultural, historical or natural values, becoming precious assets, properties of Lao national community part of which are adopted as regional and world heritages.

National heritages compose of cultural heritages, historical and natural heritages existing in form of tangible objects, Intangible Items, immoveable or moveable properties, in form of living organism or non-living organism identifying the historical existence of Lao Nation, Lao People in each different era.

The national heritages include the existences in the country and abroad.

Article 3 **Use of Terms**

The terms used in this Law shall have following meanings:

1. The national cultural and historical heritages mean the tangible objects or Intangible Items, immovable or moveable properties, which are of high outstanding precious value in the point of view of culture, history, science or technology becoming national properties, succeeding in different eras transferring from generation to generation.
2. The national natural heritages mean the heritages formed by the nature, which are of outstanding value from the landscape scenery and rich fullness of original natural biodiversity and aesthetic point of view of
3. Country's symbolic properties¹ mean the heritages which are of special high, outstanding value from the cultural, historical, rare natural and unique national point of view, which are in form of tangible, Intangible Items, in moveable or immovable property.
4. Historical monuments mean the sites, architectural works, and archaeological sites with archaeological objects, which are of high outstanding value from the point of view of culture, history and science.
5. Archaeological objects mean the tangible products created by mankind evidencing the historical evolution of mankind's society.
6. Sources of archaeological objects mean the sites which the archaeological objects or places and archaeological evidences are found in their homogeneous groups.
7. Pattern object mean the new created object copying from ancient object, which has similar characteristic feature, dimension, color, pattern, decorative and other specific identification to the original pattern.
8. Architectural works mean the artistic works which are of outstanding in the point of view of culture and history connecting to the ethnological livelihood, ancestors and national hero.
9. Protection of the national heritages means the protection from theft, destruction, and burning, natural cause of damages or illegal use.
10. Conservation of the national heritages means Conservation of cultural, historical or natural value, historical tracks, color from loss or deterioration of the national heritages.
11. Restoration of the national heritages means the process of maintenance, protection of feature, pattern and original details of building, architectural works corresponding certain era by adding and recovering of missing parts to their originals.

¹ ສົມບັດມິ່ງເມືອງ

12. Rehabilitation of national heritages means the restoration, Restoration to recover the historical cultural objects or architectural works, natural scenery in their original conditions and unique characters.
13. Heritages sites mean archaeological, anthropological, monumental, natural and architectural places, which are of the outstanding value from the point of view of culture, history, science or technology, scenery inheriting generation to generation.
14. Anthropological places mean the archaeological place, which is a sacred place of the people connecting with their religious believes, traditions and historical tacks.
15. Monuments mean the memorial place of glorious ancestors and the heroic deliberation's movements of the Lao, ethnic people in their national protection and development as the memory for the next generations.
16. Museums mean places for restoring, conservation and exhibition of articles on culture, history, nature, science and society for domestic and foreign research, educational studies, study tours, tourism.
17. Precious valuable properties mean the properties which are of high, outstanding value and rarely exist.

Article 4. State Policy on the National Heritages

The socio-economic development shall be side by side with protection and conservation of national heritages.

The State promotes and creates the conditions for individuals, organizations within the country and abroad for participating in the protection, conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the national heritages for sustainable existences.

The State promotes the research, innovation, introduction of the national, public value and advancement of the national heritages with restriction, elimination of obstructs to the advancement of the ethnics people and forward movement of the nation.

The State recognizes the national heritages of the organizations and individuals which are lawfully registered.

Article 5. The Obligation of Citizens

Lao citizens, foreign residents, people having no nationality living in the territory of Lao PDR shall have the obligations to participate in the protection, conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the national heritages.

The foreigners, tourists entering Lao PDR shall have same obligations to participate in the protection and conservation of the national heritages.

Article 6. International Cooperation

The State has policy toward promotion of international relations and cooperation respecting the national heritages for the exchange of lessons, information, scientific research, technical training, and introduction of culture, exhibition, attraction of fund and other activities.

PART II National Heritages

Section 1

Cultural Heritages

Article 7. Types of Cultural Heritages

The cultural heritages compose of two types:

- The cultural heritages in tangible objects;
- The cultural heritages in Intangible Items.

Article 8 Cultural Heritages in Tangible Objects

The cultural heritages in tangible objects are the tangible heritage, which are of high outstanding value from cultural point of view including in the form of moveable or immovable properties with unique character, namely: antiques, handicrafts such as: Lao skirts' [design pattern](#),² artistic works, consumption's goods, foods such as: sticky rice, fermented fish³, traditional music instruments such as: khane..., production's tools, ancient scripts, archaeological sites, anthropological sites and others.

Article 9 Cultural Heritages in Intangible Items

The cultural heritage in Intangible Items are the intangible heritages, which are of high outstanding value from cultural point of view such as: local innovation, knowledge, public philosophies, believes, fine traditions, which indicate their livelihoods, social behaves, languages, scripts, numbers, [inscriptions](#),⁴ legends, novels, proverbs, poems,

² ຜ້າແຜ່ລາຍຈີກ, ລາຍມັດຫມໍ້

³ ປາແດກ

⁴ ພິ້ນແຜ່ນ

traditional music, traditional dances, singings, melodies, folks songs, formula of traditional medicines and others inheriting from generation to generation.

Section 2

Historical Heritages

Article 10 Types of Historical Heritages

The historical heritages compose of two types:

- The historical heritages in tangible objects;
- The historical heritages in intangible Items.

Article 11 Historical Heritages in Tangible Objects

The historical heritages in tangible objects the tangible heritage, which are of high outstanding value from historical point of view including in the form of moveable or immovable properties, namely: sacred house, worship's house⁵, military equipments, tools, foods, consumption's goods, recording documents, historical sites such as: deliberation's base of the people, heroic ancestors and revolutionary leaders, battle field, monuments...

Article 12 Historical Heritages in Intangible Items

The historical heritages in form of Intangible Items are those ritual heritages connecting with the history in different eras and generations such as: idea, theories, ideologies, which express in their loves to fatherland, heroic non-surrendering fights⁶, innovative knowledge, capability, strategy, artistic fights⁷, and tactics, fighting lessons, the leaderships, administrations and the national developments.

Section 3

Natural Heritages

Article 13 Types of Natural Heritages

The natural heritages compose of two types:

⁵ ຫໍ, ໂຮງ

⁶ ພິລະອາດຫາກຕໍ່ສູ້ບໍ່ຍອມຈຳກັດ

⁷ ສິລະປະຍຸດ

- The natural heritages having scenery value;
- The natural heritages having scientific, ecological value;

Article 14 Natural Heritages with Scenery Value

The natural heritages having scenery value are the heritages which are of aesthetic outstanding, rich full biodiversities such as: national conservations forests, biodiversity conservation areas, natural caves, waterfall, rapids,rivers, streams, islands, mountains, rocky mountain, aquatic and wild animals, lakes, Marshes, canals, ponds, and other...

Article 15 The natural heritages having scientific, ecological value;

He natural heritages, which are of outstanding value in the point of view of ecology, science are the heritages with precious value, which are of significance, outstanding in the point of view of geology, biology, geography.

PART III

Levels of National Heritages

Section1

Levels of Cultural and Historical National Heritages

Article 16 Levels of Cultural and Historical National Heritages

The cultural and historical heritages are divided in three levels:

- Local level;
- National level;
- Regional Level
- Universal level.

Article 17 Local Level

The cultural and historical heritages at local level are the heritages, which are of outstanding local value situating in that local area such as: Prabath Phonsane, Thath Phone.

Article 18 National Level

The national cultural and historical heritages are the heritages, which are of the outstanding national value located in any area of Lao PDR becoming the heritages of national community such as: Thath Louang, Xieng Thong Pagoda, Vieng Xay District, Lumvong Dance, Seosavath and Sang Sinh Say novels, and others.

Article 19. Universal Level

The universal cultural and historical heritages are the heritages of Lao, which are of the outstanding universal value locating in any areas of Lao PDR, which are adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization such as: Louang Phrabang City, Vath Phou Champasack and others.

Section 2 Levels of National Natural Heritages

Article 20 Levels of National Natural Heritages

The cultural and historical heritages are divided in three levels:

- Local level;
- National level;
- Regional Level
- Universal level.

Article 21. Local Levels

The natural heritages at local level are the heritages, which are of outstanding local value in the point of view of aesthetic scenery and biodiversities for any locality and situated in that local area such as: Tat lo, Tat Gouang Chi.

Article 22. National Levels

The national natural heritages are the heritages, which are of the outstanding national value in the point of view of aesthetic scenery and biodiversities located in any area of Lao PDR becoming the heritages of the national community such as: Phou Bia, Khone Phapheng, Xepiane National Conservation Forest, Phou Hine Boune, Naky-Namtheuane Biodiversity Conservation Area, Dinosaur fossil site and others.

Article 23. Regional Level

The regional natural heritages are the national heritages of Lao, which are of the outstanding regional value in the point of view of regional aesthetic scenery locating in

any areas of Lao PDR such as: National Conservation Forest, hot springs and others, which are adopted by the concerned regional organization

Article 24. Universal Level

The national natural heritages at universal level are the heritages of Lao, which are of the outstanding universal value in the point of view of aesthetic scenery locating in any areas of Lao PDR, which are adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Section 3

Country's symbolic Property

Article 25. Importance of Country's Symbolic Property

The country's symbolic properties include the national heritages, which are of special outstanding value, rarely found and unique character of the nation where the State must pay attention to protect, conserve for prosper existences within the country.

Article 26. Type of Country's symbolic Properties

The country's symbolic properties are classified in tangible and intangible properties, in moveable or immovable properties, such as: Thath Loang Vientiane, Ho Phakeo, Xiang Thong Pagoda, Phrabang, Khounbolom's inscription, Sang Sinh Say novels, Xiang Miang novel and others;

PART IV

Administrative Regulation, Use, Protection, Conservation, Restoration of Cultural, Historical National Heritages

Section 1

Administrative Regulations on National Cultural, Historical Heritages

Article 27 Administrative Regulations

The State centrally uniformly administers the national cultural and historical heritages within the country including the representative office of Lao PDR in abroad by registering, dividing the administration between sectors and local authorities.

The State protects the properties, copy rights on the national cultural and historical heritages, which are outside the territory of Lao PDR or illegitimately possessed or copyrighted by foreign countries.

Article 28. Registration

The national cultural and historical heritages, which are possessed by individuals or organizations, shall be registered.

The State conducts survey, collect the heritages for evaluating classifying levels and registering them, while encouraging the possessor of the heritages to propose for registration as regulated in the following:

1. The national heritages at local level shall be registered with the province, city's information and cultural division.
2. The national heritages at national level shall be registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture;
3. The national heritages at universal level shall be registered with the concerned international organizations based on the proposal of the Government of Lao PDR;
4. The national heritages that are in the possession of the representative's offices of Lao PDR abroad shall be registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture and the concerned organization;
5. The national heritages which are country's symbolic properties shall be registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture.

After registration, the State recognizes these heritages as national heritages as well as the possession's rights of the owner to these heritages.

In the event, the heritages are not registered; the owners of these heritages are not entitled to conduct any activities on these heritages such as: displaying in exhibition, make sample models and others.

The national heritages at national level, which are of high precious value, rarely found and unique of national character, shall be considered and proposed for registration of national ownership and copyright with the international organizations.

Article 29. Maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation

The State promotes individuals and organizations to participate in the maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation of the national cultural and historical heritages.

The maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation of the national heritages shall be approved by the organizations where they are registered.

Article 30. Pattern Models

The pattern modeling is new creation of objects by copying the pattern, color, design of the original heritages.

The pattern modeling of national heritages, which are country's symbolic properties and national heritages at national level, shall be approved by the Ministry of Information and Culture. For the national heritages at local level shall get approvals of provinces, city division of information and culture.

Article 31. New Creation

Individual and organization intending to create the monuments or sculpture their ancestors, leaders, national hero, shall get approval from the government.

For the creation of religious place shall get approval from the governor of the province, city by coordination with concerned authorities.

For the sculpturing of Buddha, sculpturing monument of individual's ancestors shall get approval from the information and cultural sector.

Article 32. Exhibition

Exhibition of the national heritages are main three types:

- The exhibition for displaying to the public;
- The exhibition by contribution for protection and restoration;
- The exhibition for commercial purpose.

The exhibition of national heritages may be conducted within the country or abroad.

The exhibition of national heritages within country shall get approval from the information and culture sector after coordination with the local authorities concerned.

The exhibition of the national heritages abroad shall get approval from the government by proposal through the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Article 33. Found and Seen

Individual or organization by conducting any activities have found national heritages shall immediately report to the local administration authorities and the information and culture sector concerned, and shall suspend such activities until the approval for continuation is granted.

Individual or organization, who has seen the sites or receiving information on the existing sites or is in doubt that national heritages exist, holy relic,⁸ shall immediately

⁸ ເຄື່ອງຄົ້ນຂອງຄູ

report to the local authorities and information and culture sector and prohibited to explore them prior to the approval of the information and culture sector.

Article 34. Research study

The State promotes domestic or foreign persons or organizations to conduct research studies on the national cultural and historical heritages by different incentives.

The research studies of such national heritages shall get approval from the information and culture sector: the person or organization intending to cooperation with foreign countries to conduct such research studies shall get approval from the Ministry of Information and Culture after coordination with ministry of foreign affairs.

The original record on the data and results of such research studies shall handover to the information and culture sector for restore and publication as regulated.

Article 35. Export for Analysis

The export to other country of parts or objects that are the national cultural and historical heritages, which are of high value for analyzing, shall get approval from the government. For the parts or objects that are other national heritages, shall get approval from the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Article 36. Import, Display or Distribution

Importing, displaying or sale of the cultural products of other countries shall be examined and approved by the Information and Culture sector.

The tangible cultural products of other countries, especially Buddha or intangible products that are in contradicting to the culture, fine tradition of the Lao Nation will not be permitted to entering, displaying or selling.

Article 37. Transfer

The national cultural and historical heritages, which are registered, the ownership thereof may be transferred, copyrighted provided that such transfer shall be notified to the Information and Culture sector, within thirty days from the date of transferring, with the office where they are registered.

Article 38. Buy and Sale

Any individual or organizations intending to buy-sell the national cultural and historical heritages shall notify to the Information and Culture sector. In the case, such national cultural and historical heritages having high outstanding value, the State shall have priority to buy such heritages at agreed price.

State does not permit to sell national heritages out of the Country. For the exchange between States shall get prior approval by the Government.

Article 39. Succession

The national cultural and historical heritages, which are registered, may be succeeded, provided that the successor shall notify the Information and Culture sector, within thirty days from the date of succession, with the office where they are registered. In the case, there are many successors; the written assignment to one person may be made to represent for such notification

Section 2

Regulations on the Use of Cultural, Historical National Heritages

Article 40. Purpose of the Use

The use of national cultural and historical heritages has the following purposes:

1. as the basis for national prosperity, as the striving forces to the socio-expansion as well as the goal of the national development for a strong and wealthy of the nation;
2. To educate the citizens to love their fatherland, to be unify and proud of the foregone efforts, creative, heroic deliberation, unifying of the Lao People, ethnic groups in their protection and developments of the nation;
3. To increase the inventory's resources for rich fullness of the national culture and historical heritages.
4. To promote the tourist industry;
5. To integrate the activities for conservation, extension the value of national cultural and historical heritages with the world's history;
6. To conduct research on the archeology, history and others.

Article 41. Regulation on the Use

The use of national cultural and historical heritages shall comply with the following provisions:

1. Use in accordance to the purpose, in effective and sustainable manner;
2. It is prohibited to use the heritage area, heritage places, and historical place in any purpose that may cause to change their original conditions;
3. Use the revenue from the national heritage at suitable portion for the development of such heritages.

Section 3

Regulation on the Protection, Conservation, Maintenance and Restoration of National Cultural, Historical Heritages

Article 42. Protection, Conservation, of National Cultural, Historical Heritages in tangible Objects

The protection, Conservation, of national cultural, historical heritages in tangible objects shall carry out as following:

1. Individuals or organizations that are responsible for the national heritages shall assess the effect of damages to the national cultural and historical heritages and determining preventive measures, including immediate and proper resolution;
2. Individuals or organizations intending to pursue socio-economic development, in particular the industrial, agricultural and infrastructural developments in the areas or suspicious places that have national cultural and historical heritages shall get prior approval from the Ministry of Information and Culture, including determining of measures to protect such heritages from the loss.
3. Individuals or organizations are prohibited to cause damages to national cultural and historical heritages such as: destroying the Buddha, archeological sites, anthropological sites, historical sites of invasion, the occupation of land in the area for national heritages' conservation, change the original status of the heritages to other different status, misleading of the historical trusts.

Article 43. Protected Area of Heritages Site

The protected area of national heritages site in general are divided in three zones:

- Zone 1 is central area, where the heritages locate, which must be protected in their original circumstances and no constructions are permitted.
- Zone 2 is area surrounding the central area, where some activities are permitted to increase the value of zone 1 provided that no damages shall cause to that surrounding area;
- Zone 3 is the administering area where the construction is permitted to serve zone 1 and 2 for accommodation of tourists.

The detail determination on each zone shall be specifically regulated.

Article 44. Protective Measures on Heritages Site

The responsible authorities shall pay attention to monitor, in the cases, the heritages are invaded, destroyed or caused damages from manmade or from natural causes on which immediate protective measures shall be laid down by coordinating

with local authorities where the heritages are located followed by notification to the Information and Culture sector for immediate solutions.

Article 45. Procedures for Maintenance, Restoration and Rehabilitation

Maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation of national cultural and historical heritages shall be performed as follows:

1. There must be a specific enterprise or enterprises, which are lawfully registered and met the conditions to perform the maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation of national cultural and historical heritages
2. The performance of works shall be approved by the heritages administration's authority, where the heritages are located. For the national cultural and historical heritages at national and universal levels shall be approved by the Ministry of Information and Culture;
3. The original character of the heritages shall be maintained.

Article 46. Protection and Conservation of Intangible National Heritages

The protection and conservation of intangible national cultural and historical heritages shall be carried out as follows:

- The protection and conservation of national cultural and historical heritages shall be simultaneously undertaken with the promotion, publication and widely use to domestic and foreign contexts;
- The research, creation shall ensure the national, public and progressive characteristics;
- The expatriate, foreigners, including their organizations, international organizations intending to conduct research, analysis the national heritages shall perform trustfully in consistent with real existence of that heritages and shall get approval fro the Ministry of Information and Culture;
- It is prohibited to copy, assemble of the result of research, innovation of other people respecting the national heritages by pirating the copyright or publication without getting prior consents of the Copyright's owner and of the authorities concerned.

PART V

Regulations on the Administration, Use, Protection, Conservation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of the National Natural Heritages

Section 1

Regulation on the Administration of National Natural Heritages

Article 47. Regulation on the Administration of National Natural Heritages

The State centrally uniformly administers the national natural heritages within the country by registering, dividing the administration between sectors and concerned local authorities.

The State protects the properties, copy rights on the national natural heritages, which are outside the territory of Lao PDR or those are illegitimately possessed or copyrighted by foreign countries.

Article 48. Registration of National Natural Heritages

The national natural heritages shall be registered in particular the areas, which have the heritages and high valuable, outstanding species such as: biodiversities protected area, conservation forests, **water bank** area, caves that have natural value as regulated in the following:

1. The national natural heritages at local level shall be registered with the information and cultural division of provinces, cities in collaboration with the sectors concerned;
2. The national natural heritages at national level shall be registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with the sectors concerned;
3. The national natural heritages at regional level shall be registered with the concerned regional organization by the proposal of the Government;
4. The national natural heritages at universal level shall be registered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization by the proposal of the Government.

Article 49. Regulations on the Administration of Biodiversity's Sources

The biodiversity's sources, which are the national natural heritages such as: wetland, **ponds, marsh**⁹ shall be administered by inspection, registration as proposed by the concerned sectors.

Article 50. Regulations on Administration of Conservation's Forest

The conservation forests that have been registered as the national natural heritages shall be administered for the purpose of sustainable and rich full natural protection.

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Article 51. Regulations on Administration of National Park

The national natural parks, which are rich fullness with the ecosystem, aesthetic attraction that become national natural heritages shall be administered as places for relaxation and for domestic and foreign tourist attraction.

Article 52. Regulations on Administration of Natural Scenery

The areas of natural sceneries, which are of the value in the point of view of natural aesthetic scenery and outstanding including mountain, rocky mountain, forests, rivers, mainstream, waterfall and others shall be registered as national natural heritages and shall be administered for the purpose of sustainable preservation of aesthetic nature.

For the administration of the natural heritages defined in article 49 to 52 of this Law shall be regulated in separate regulations.

Section 2

Regulations on the Use, Protection, Conservation and Restoration of National Natural Heritages

Article 53. Purpose and Regulations on the Use

The use of national natural heritages has the following purposes:

1. as the basis of the national prosperity, as the basis and the striving forces of the socio-economic development;
2. To create the awareness to the citizens to love the natural environment, in particular, forests, water resources and biodiversities;
3. To promote the tourist industry;
4. To integrate the activities for conservation, extension the value of national natural heritages with the regional and world's natural heritages;
5. To conduct research on the nature, biodiversity and others;
6. To increase the inventory resources of national natural heritages more rich full.

Use of national natural heritages shall:

1. use in consistence with the socio-economic development plan;
2. use in effective, sustainable and no harmful effects to the natural environment or to the society;
3. use in accordance to laws and regulations.

Article 54. Regulations on the Protection and Conservation of National Natural Heritages

The protection and conservation of national natural heritages shall be carried out as following:

1. Individuals or organizations intending to pursue socio-economic development in the area of national natural heritages, in particular the industrial, agricultural and infrastructural developments shall get prior approval from the Ministry of Information and Culture and other concerned sectors.
2. Individuals or organizations that are responsible for the national natural heritages shall assess the effect of damages to such national natural heritages, and determining preventive measures, including immediate and proper resolution;
3. The national natural heritages shall be preserved for the aesthetic scenery and rich fullness of biodiversities;
4. Individuals or organizations are prohibited to cause harmful effects to the national natural heritages such as: destruction of forest or exploration of the surface natural resources, underground in the area of national natural heritages, invading, occupying of land in the biodiversity protected area, in the area of conservation forest, national park and natural aesthetic scenery, including change of the original conditions if the natural heritages.

Article 55. Regulations on the Restoration of Natural National Heritages

The restoration of national natural heritages shall comply with the following:

1. There must be a specific enterprise or enterprises, which are lawfully registered and met the conditions to the restoration of national natural heritages
2. The restoration shall be approved by the heritages administration's authority, where the heritages are registered. For the national natural heritages at regional and universal levels shall be approved by the Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with concerned authorities;
3. The original character of the heritages shall be maintained.
4. The restoration shall aim to improve the national natural heritages that are deteriorated, damaged or destroyed to their original conditions.

Article 56. Development Goal

The development of national natural heritages aim to make the heritages sustainable, completeness and more rich full as the basis for national economic development, for the research study, promoting the maximum value of such heritages meanwhile to extend the strength of the heritages in the environmental protection, tourism through out the country, contributing to the mission of national protection and development.

PART VI

Museums

Article 57. Types of Museums

The museums are divided into three types as following:

- State museum;
- Collective museum;
- Private museum.

Article 58. The Meaning of Museum

1. The State museum is the storing place, exhibition, preservation of the object that are of precious, outstanding value of value the State composing of:
 - The national museums are the places of restoring, exhibition, preservation of objects with precious, outstanding value through out the country;
 - The sector museums are the places of restoring, exhibition, preservation of objects with precious, outstanding value for the sectors concerned;
 - The local museums are the places of restoring, exhibition, preservation of objects with precious, outstanding value existing in that local area.
2. The collective museums are the places of restoring, exhibition, preservation of objects with precious, outstanding value for the collective in that area;
3. The private museums are the places of restoring, exhibition, preservation of private articles.

Article 59. Regulations on the Establishment of Museum

The establishment of museums shall meet the following conditions:

- There shall be adequate numbers of articles that are of precious value in culture, history, nature, science, technology for exhibition;
- Places for exhibition and restoring must be secured;
- There shall be knowledgeable experts on the national heritages as regulated.

The establishment of museum shall be approved in the following cases:

- The State museum shall be approved the State President based on the proposal of the Government;

- The sector and local level museums shall be approved by the Prime Minister based on the proposal of the Ministry of Information and Culture;
- The collective and private museums shall be approved by the Governors of Provinces or Cities based on the proposal of information and culture division.

PART VII

National Heritages Fund

Article 60. Sources of National Heritages Fund

To secure the protection, conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the national heritages in sustainable and develop manner, the national heritages fund is necessary to establish, which shall obtained from:

1. State budget;
2. The assistances of foreign countries and international organizations;
3. The contribution of individuals and organizations within country and from abroad;
4. The revenue from the use of national heritages value such as: entrance fees from displaying, publications, research analysis of national heritages, from the tourist companies, fine of violating persons and others;
5. Obligations for the activities having effects on the national heritages;
6. Income from the activities relating to the national heritages and others.

Article 61. Administration and Use of National Heritages Fund

The administration and use of national heritage fund shall consistently comply with the purpose as stipulated in paragraph one of article 60 of this Law, in accordance with the Law on budget and other relevant Laws.

The administration ad use of such fund shall be specifically regulated.

PART VIII

Administrative Agencies and Inspections

Section 1

Administrative Agencies

Article 62. Administrative Agencies

The State centrally and uniformly administers the national heritages within the country by assigning tasks to the Ministry of Information and Culture as central administration with the concerned sectors and with relevant local authorities.

The national heritages' administrative agencies are divided in four levels as follow:

1. The Ministry of Information and Culture;
2. The Division of Information and Culture of Provinces, Cities;
3. The Offices of Information and Culture of Districts, Municipalities;
4. The Village administration.

The administration of Lao national heritages that become World heritages or regional heritages shall be administered by special organizations such as: the committee for the national heritages, the heritages local committees and office for the national heritages which shall be separately regulated on the establishment and activities.

Article 63. Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Information and Culture

In the administration of national heritages, the Ministry of Information and Culture shall have following major rights and duties:

1. To conduct research, lay down the policies, strategy, issue legislations on the national heritages, in particular, the cultural and historical heritages;
2. To conduct survey, gather data, analysis, explore each type of national heritages;
3. To disseminate, educate on the directive policies, laws and regulations on the national heritages;
4. To supervise, encourage, monitor, control the divisions of information and culture in their implementations of laws and regulations, policies, projects on the national heritages;
5. to supervise, encourage the offices of regional and world heritages in their implementations of laws and regulations, policies, projects on the regional and heritages;
6. To register and issue licenses on the national heritages within their responsibilities;
7. To build the human resources on the national heritages;
8. To be focal point in coordination with other relevant sectors in the administration and performance on the national heritages;

9. To extend the relation and cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations on the activities of the national heritages.
10. To make report and evaluation on the implementation on the activities of the national heritages to the Government and Prime Minister;
11. To perform other rights and duties as regulated by laws.

Article 64. Rights and Duties of the Divisions of Information and Culture

In the administration of national heritages, the Divisions of Information and Culture at the provinces, cities shall have following major rights and duties:

1. To elaborate laws, plans, projects of the Ministry to their regulations, plan, projects and implementation;
2. To conduct survey, gather data on the national heritages within their responsibilities;
3. To disseminate, educate on the directive policies, regulations on the national heritages;
4. To register and issue licenses on the national heritages within their responsibilities;
5. To supervise, encourage the district or municipalities' offices of information and culture in their implementations on the administration of national heritages;
6. To be focal point in coordination with other relevant sectors in the administration and performance on the national heritages;
7. To make reports and evaluations on the implementation on the activities of the national heritages to the Government and Prime Minister;
8. To perform other rights and duties as regulated by laws.

Article 65. Rights and Duties of District's Office of Information and Culture

In the administration of national heritages, the District's Offices of Information and Culture at the districts, municipalities shall have following major rights and duties:

1. To implement laws, plans, projects on the national heritages;
2. To conduct survey, gather data, create list of the national heritages within their responsibilities;
3. To disseminate, educate on the directive policies, regulations on the national heritages;
4. to issue licenses on the national heritages within their responsibilities;
5. To coordinate with other relevant sectors in the administration and performance on the national heritages;

6. To make reports and evaluations on the implementation on the activities of the national heritages to the Government and Prime Minister;
7. To perform other rights and duties as regulated by laws.

Article 66. Rights and Duties of the Village Administration

In the administration of national heritages, the Village's Administration shall have following major rights and duties:

1. To perform tasks on the national heritages in the administration, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and use of the national heritages within their responsibilities;
2. To conduct survey, create list of the national heritages within their responsibilities to propose to higher authorities for approvals;
3. To make summary reports on the implementation of activities on the national heritages;

Article 67. Rights and Duties of other concerned Agencies

The concerned authorities on the administration of national heritages at central and local levels shall have the rights and obligations to coordinate with the information and culture sector in accordance to their roles and responsibilities.

Section 2

The Monitoring Agencies

Article 68. Monitoring Agencies

The monitoring agencies are the administrative agencies defined in article 62 of this Law.

The monitoring agencies have the following rights and duties:

1. To monitor the implementation of plans, projects, laws and regulations on the administration of national heritages including contracts and international conventions that Lao PDR has signed and entered as the parties;
2. To monitor the resolution on the proposals of individuals or organizations on the national heritages;
3. To perform other rights and duties as stipulated by laws and regulations.

Article 69. Form of Monitoring

The monitoring of activities on the national heritages may conduct in three types:

1. Regular systematic inspections which are based on the operational plan at regular basis and in certain period of times;
2. Inspection by advanced notification, which is the inspection outside the operational plans in the case there is necessary and the prior notice shall given in advance to the persons inspected.

PART IX

Awards and Sanctions

Article 70. Awards

Individuals or organizations having outstanding performances in the administration, protection, conservation, restoration and development of national heritages shall receive awards and other appropriate incentives.

Persons having found, seen, explored or given useful information on the national heritages, in addition to the awards shall receive other benefits as regulated by Laws.

Article 71. Sanctions

Individuals or organization that have violated the provisions of Law shall be educated, fined, paid in civil remedies or criminally punished depend on the convictions.

PART V

Final Provisions

Article 72. Implementation

The Government of Lao PDR is entrusted to implement this Law.

Article 73. Effective Date

This Law shall come into effective after sixty days from the date of promulgation by the Presidential Decree of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Any regulations, provisions that are contradicting to this Law shall be repealed.

President of the National Assembly

