AL-HIJR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
(MÂDAIN SÂLIH)

NOMINATION DOCUMENT
FOR THE INSCRIPTION ON THE
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

MANAGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 2007
# CONTENTS

1. **INTRODUCTION**  
   p. 4

2. **MANAGEMENT PLAN SCHEME**  
   p. 8
   2. a Preliminary Considerations  
   p. 8  
   2. b Document Structure  
   p. 10  
   2. c Plan Objectives: Immediate, Medium-term and Long-term  
   p. 15  
   2. d Management Plan Outline  
   p. 17  
   2. e Preliminary Notes for the Definition of Technical and Planning Guidelines for the Implementation of the Management Plan  
   p. 23

3. **SAUDI ARABIAN LAW OF ANTIQUITIES**  
   p. 34

4. **DRAFT ANTIQUITIES & MUSEUMS LAW**  
   p. 47

5. **HIJAZ RAILWAY BUILDINGS OUTLINE PROJECT**  
   p. 64

6. **IGN SURVEY: MAPS & PHOTOGRAMMETRY**  
   p. 85
1. Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recently approved a political strategy aiming at the development of tourism in the country. A new, young and dynamic organization, the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT), has been entrusted with the challenge to develop this sector for the benefit of Saudi economy. Indeed, the opening of the kingdom to tourism represents a major shift in the national policy requiring a series of changes at the very heart of the political system of the country. Such a deep re-thinking of basic aspects of the country policy cannot be introduced in a short time, but needs to be implemented step by step in order to verify their actual implications at the all levels.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has long been closed to non-religious tourists. Aside the millions of Muslim pilgrims heading for the Hajj to Mecca, no group or private tourist was admitted in the country. Starting from the 1990s this situation has began to evolve and a growing attention has been devoted to the development of tourism in the Kingdom. Since 1995, tourist visa for groups have been issued through Saudi Arabian Airlines and its associated travel agents within a program called “Discover KSA”. Currently the hypothesis to issue tourist visa for independent travellers is under review.

In 2000 was created the Supreme Commission for Tourism that has since been entrusted with the management and protection of the national cultural heritage. A number of studies and plans have been put forth by SCT, with the support of international consultants, to launch, control and direct the development of the tourism sector. The tourism market has been divided into three segments with a different level of priority:

**Priority A:**
- Saudi Arabian tourists, principally families and individuals;
- Inbound Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) and tourists from neighbouring countries (Arab countries);
- Umrah Plus – high income pilgrims.
**Priority B:**
Specific domestic niche markets (such as honeymooners);
Arab shoppers from neighbouring countries.

**Priority C:**
High income expatriates living in Saudi Arabia and in GCC;
Niche international leisure segments in the industrialised countries interested in culture and heritage, nature, ecotourism, and marine tourism;
Special markets such as MICE;
Saudi nationals and tourists from neighbouring countries interested in educational courses, medical treatment and sports events.

The Supreme Commission for Tourism has signed Memorandums of Understanding for cooperation and assistance in developing cultural tourism in the Kingdom with the following ministries and organizations:
- Ministry of Higher Education on 28/2/1427 H (28/3/2006 AD)
- Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs on 8/9/1424 H (3/11/2003 AD)
- Supreme Commission for the Protection of Natural Life and its Development.

SCT has identified Cultural Heritage as a major asset for the country. Realizing the specificity, importance and fragility of Cultural Heritage, SCT has prepared a draft “Sustainable Tourism Development Plan” to guide its actions. In the meantime it has launched in-depth studies for the analysis of the characteristics of the tourism sector in Saudi Arabia.

Since its creation in 2000, SCT has already initiated a number of key actions to reorganize and strengthen the Cultural Heritage sector’s institutional and legal structure, and to lay the groundwork for strengthening both fiscal and human resources capacity.

These on-going actions include:

**Drafting of new legislation** that will extend protection to all national heritage and cultural resources (immovable, moveable and intangible), and put in place an institutional structure to plan and implement regulations, policies and programs that will give force to the legislation;
Re-organization of the Deputy Ministry of Antiquities and Museums to function as a unit within the SCT. This re-organization includes the new organizational structure and will lead to significant human resources changes to establish capacity needed to implement the ambitious plan for the future development of the country’s heritage;

Provision of substantially increased budgets to support the strengthening of the organization and the initiation of the proposed program;

External consultation with important stakeholders, both within the private and public sectors. Without broad public understanding and support for the preservation and development of heritage and cultural resources the proposed program will be still-born. This requires a continuing commitment to community consultation at every level;

These actions, concerning the whole Cultural Heritage sector of the Kingdom, will have a significant and direct impact on al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madain Sâlih).

In 1978, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first countries to become a state party to the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, and has recently submitted its tentative List to the World Heritage Centre secretariat.

Al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madain Sâlih) counts among the three sites inscribed on this list as one of the major example of the richness and diversity of Saudi heritage.

The decision to submit a Nomination File to the World Heritage Centre in view of the inscription of al-Hijr on the World Heritage List is a proof of the Saudi Arabian opening and of the Kingdom’s will to share its unique and rich heritage with the rest of the world.

The preparation of this file is but a first element within the larger framework of the re-thinking of the current management practices in cultural heritage sites in the country and is meant to play an “example” role in the development of the necessary skills within the national administration.

The still on-the-making process of re-organization of the Cultural Heritage sector has already greatly profited of the dynamics created by the launch of this nomination process that have seen a full and fruitful collaboration between the Antiquities section and the overarching tourism organization with the common aim of protecting and developing the site of al-Hijr.
Saudi Arabian Authorities are committed to realize in the coming months/years the programme outlined in the following pages conscious of its importance for the whole cultural heritage sector well beyond the contingent issue of the World Heritage List inscription.

It obvious, nevertheless, that the inscription of al-Hijr would have the effect of boosting the confidence of the SCT team and would play a catalyzing role for the development of further initiatives aiming at safeguarding and developing Saudi national heritage.

The major problems facing the site were outlined since 1999, when a study realized by Ernst & Young Consultancy Group for the Supreme Commission for Tourism made a first assessment of the key issues that needed to be tackled in order to guarantee both the protection and the development of the site. According to the report’s recommendations\(^1\) a number of decisions have been taken to improve the management of the site; yet no comprehensive Management Plan was drafted, and no Site Management Unit has been created.

The following major steps were taken at al-Hijr during the last years:

- The traffic inside the fenced area has been regulated by the creation of a one-way circuit now followed by the vast majority of the cars;
- the first volume dedicated to al-Hijr of a series of new and modern monographic guides presenting the major heritage sites of the Kingdom, has been published;
- A new international agreement has been signed with France to allow a French archaeological mission to work at al-Hijr. In a first phase, a scientific survey of the site has been carried out with state of the art techniques, and this study is to be followed by a second phase – starting in 2006 – launching a five-year archeological excavation at al-Hijr in collaboration with the University of Riyadh and SCT/DAM.

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1. The study [Ernst & Young, 1999, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Supreme Commission for Tourism, Sustainable Tourism Development Plan - Output 2.06 Cultural Heritage Action Plan, Draft Outline Management Plans for al’Ula and al-Wajah] identified the following key issues: The religious background; The need to protect the site from urban encroachment; The need to protect views from the site towards encroachments; The need to protect the site from inappropriate developments within the setting; The absence of basic visitor support services (toilets, mosque, exhibition etc.); Absence of management and security within the site; Absence of monitoring of the visitors; Presence of inappropriate infrastructures (cement paths, metal bins and staircases); Inappropriate management responses to deal with problems (graffiti, well etc.); Health and Safety risks; Presence of a large fenced area within the site; Off-road driving; Lack of formalized parking areas in the vicinity of the major sites; Lack of site interpretation programmes; Lack of orientation (panels, signage, routes for vehicles); Vandalism and graffiti; Littering; No established linkage with other Nabataean sites within and outside the country.
2.a Preliminary Considerations

- A management plan is an evolutive document, needing periodical adjustments justified by the local context and the results of studies.
- A single on-site management unit for the al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madâin Sâlih) is necessary. The unit should be:
  - Responsible for all aspects relating to visitation and site protection
  - Operationally independent, but adhering to strategies and policies agreed upon by the SCT
  - Identified as the point of decision making authority

The coordination of the various bodies involved on the site that have separate lines of authority from Riyadh is absolutely necessary. These separate bodies should be put together under the unique umbrella of the Site Authority to be created. These bodies are:

  Supreme Commission for Tourism  
  Division of Antiquities & Museums/Supreme Tourist Commission  
  Ministry of Agriculture  
  Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs  
  Ministry of Communication and Transportation  
  Regional Tourism Council  
  External companies involved in road works, electrical supply, water pumping etc.  
  Police  
  Municipality of al-’Ulâ  
  Governorate of al-’Ulâ  
  Private sector actors (Hotels, tour operators, tourist guides, restaurants, etc.)  
  Public groups and local associations of residents and farmers  
  Private Foundations (like “Turath Foundation”)
The new Site Authority should:

- Upgrade visitors’ information and services (maps, signs, toilets, rest areas, etc.)
- Improve visitors’ circulation
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Direct archaeological research and coordinate international missions
- Be in charge of conservation and security issues

The implementation of a sustainable site development and management practices is necessary to protect the site from damages resulting from the foreseen increased number of visitors and the planned tourism development of the site.
2.b Document Structure

The structure of a standard “Management Plan” follows a scheme similar to the one proposed hereafter. The scheme should and will be adapted to the specific characteristics of the country and of the site. It will necessarily include a phase of analysis (to be built up on the material prepared for the Nomination File), to be followed by the plan itself and some specifications for implementation.

I – Analysis

1) Physical Environment
2) Natural, Cultural, Socio-Anthropological and Economic Values
3) Existing Management Conditions

II – Management Plan

The management plan of the al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madain Sālih) will participate to the overall vision for the development of tourism in the Kingdom put forth in previous SCT plans and reports and reproduced hereafter:

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the cradle of Islam, seeks to conserve and to present its cultural heritage as a most important element of the nation’s civilization and cultural identity, and to develop compatible uses, and cultural, social and economic benefits, within the context of the nation’s Islamic values.”

The Plan will add to a number of other plans already designed, or in the process of being elaborated, by the SCT. Notably to the General Strategy for the Development and Promotion of Tourism Industry, the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, the Medina Province Tourism Development Plan, and the Draft Outline Management Plan for al-‘Ulā and al-Wajah.
These documents have identified two major “Tourism Development Areas” in the North-West of Saudi Arabia: al-'Ulâ and al-Wajah. It is anticipated that within 20 years the area of al-'Ulâ will be established as the prime cultural heritage tourism destination within the kingdom, attracting both domestic and international tourists.

The ambitious goal of these plans is to profit of the unique cultural heritage assets of these areas while guaranteeing their protection, and to present them within a cultural landscape that constitutes in itself another major attraction. The landscape should be protected from the negative pressures of urban, agricultural and industrial developments through suitable local planning policies. The underlying assumption being that the development of tourism based on the area’s wealth of cultural and natural assets will be an important source of employment for the people living in these areas that can greatly contribute to the economic revitalization of the region.

The passage from a purely tourism approach to a conservation and management plan of a major heritage site like al-Hijr, however, requires a more fine-tuned strategy, specific technical qualifications and an even more respectful approach towards such eminently non-reproducible resources. When confronting with the management of cultural heritage, It should always be considered that the Management Plan is not simply a strategy document, but an ongoing process that must react to changes that are occurring, particularly in sites where there is rapid tourism development. It should therefore include mechanisms allowing a regular feedback and the continuous check of the actual impact of the planning policies implemented on site. The possibility to re-discuss and re-direct the plan strategies should be considered and planned since its inception phase.

Al-Hijr Management Plan will confront major “strategic” issues

- The relationship between Local Management Unit and National Tourism Plan should be carefully considered. Any choice concerning the development of the zone should be based primarily on conservation considerations. No development that could harm the uniqueness and the integrity of the site should be allowed.
- Only an effective collaboration between the Site Management Unit, the Local Administrations and the National Tourism Planning Authority will guarantee the sustainable development of the
whole region, the preservation of the site and the respect of the regulations imposed by its World Heritage Site status.
- The possibility, evoked in strategic SCT plans, to create a National Cultural Heritage Park including all the major sites in the al-Qura Wadi should be further developed with aiming at the creation of a sustainable Cultural Heritage Tourism around the attraction represented by the World Heritage Listed site of al-Hijr. The Site Management Unit should become an active member of the National Park directive board.

The al-Hijr Management Plan will confront local level issues

The plan will deal with the site and its surrounding areas to root the development of the protected zone within the overall development of the area. To achieve this goal a number of still partially unsolved issues need to be tackled. These concern notably:
- The issue of land ownership in the surrounding of the fenced areas
- The application of the provisions foreseen by the new Antiquity and Museum Law
- The definition of regulations detailing the activities forbidden inside the Buffer Zone and, further on, in the entire valley area.

The effectiveness of the Buffer Zone as a protective area for al-Hijr World Heritage Site will depend on the actual possibility to implement a series of restrictions to the uses of the land. A preliminary list of “prohibitions” is drafted hereafter. The Buffer Zone proposed in the Nomination File has been designed following state-owned land limits to avoid immediate tensions with private owners. However, the regulations to be applied in this Buffer Zone are not yet defined. They should include the following restrictions:
- No mining
- No new roads
- No new buildings
- No camping and housing
- No trade
- No hunting
No waste disposal
No plant removal
No plantation of exotic species
No fires
Strictly controlled agricultural and grazing activities

The ongoing expansion of the nearby villages is currently directed by local level planning directives put forth by the Municipal authorities. The Site Management Unit of al-Hijr World Heritage Site should intervene and be part of the local planning process. Indeed, the areas beyond and around the Buffer Zone should also be managed keeping in mind their proximity with a World Heritage Listed Site. Notably their urban and agricultural development should respect bylaws to be agreed upon by the new Management Unit that should ideally have a sort of “veto” power in dealing with local administration planning.

**PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The whole system concerning the protection and development of Cultural Heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recently gone through a process of complete reorganization. The decision to merge the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT) and the Deputy Ministry for Antiquities and Museums (DMAM) was based upon a strong rationale recognising the urgent need to inject new life into the DMAM whilst optimising the potential synergy with tourism to help add momentum to the development of tourism in Saudi Arabia. However, it has been noted that it is unusual for a national tourism organization, particularly a body that sits outwith mainstream governmental structures, to assume responsibility for national heritage. Though there is a clear and urgent requirement for the national heritage of Saudi Arabia to play a more prominent and influential role in the rapidly evolving tourist industry of the kingdom, Saudi national heritage deserves and requires more than a purely tourist approach, it requires a comprehensive approach to its long term stewardship, conservation, management and marketing.

The risks of a purely tourism-oriented policy for the conservation of the rich Saudi Heritage have been recognized and interiorized by the SCT that has prioritized the preparation of a “Sustainable Tourism Development Plan” for the Kingdom in order to respect the specificities and needs of Cultural and Natural heritage sites.

**AL-HIJR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (MAĐÂIN SÂLIH)**

Management Plan Scheme 13
According to the strategic planning put forward by the SCT (Cf. Stevens & Associates, 2003, Merger of Antiquities and Museums Sector into the Supreme Commission for Tourism: Part One – A Policy and Strategic Review), a project-based approach seems the most apt to achieve the SCT goals. Incidentally, this approach has also been considered the most suitable to guarantee a smooth interaction/integration of the two previously independent bodies following the merge of the DMAM into the SCT.

Such an approach implies that each Project Team should have a dedicated Project Manager who will report directly to the Head of the National Program for Cultural Tourism, and a specific Advisory Board representing key stakeholders or local experts. These Advisory Boards should be organized by project leaders and should report to the project leader.

This scheme overlaps almost without differences the one suggested in the file for the future Site Management Unit of al-Hijr. The system proposed for the implementation of the multi-sectorial, interlinked activities of the Management Plan requires a single structure acting with enlarged responsibilities and autonomy.

Similarly the suggestion to establish a “partnership”, whose specific legal and administrative status should be careful considered, between the Supreme Commission for Tourism on the one hand and the local authorities (Municipal, provincial and at governorate level), the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA), the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) on the other closely fits with the needs listed above of the Management Unit.

This “partnership” will have responsibility for preparing and implementing a full management plan for the site, devolving executive powers to relevant organizations where appropriate. Another important function of the partnership will be to consult with local people as to their aspirations and concerns and to ensure that these are adequately reflected in any future development and management proposals.

A first scheme of the structure of the management site unit is proposed in the Nomination File, section 5.e, p.76 and is reproduced hereafter. It is obvious, however, that during the elaboration of the Plan this suggestion will and should be modified to be adapted to the needs.

2.c Plan Objectives at Immediate, Medium-Term and Long-Term

**Immediate:**
- Establish a Site Management Unit for al-Hijr
- Commence management plan
- Introduce legislation to protect setting of the archaeological site
- Introduce cadre of rangers to patrol site
- Introduce charges for international visitors, use funds for conservation activities
- Prevent access to majority of tombs by removing metal steps
- Remove Perspex covers over inscriptions
- Remove all signs with concrete bases where this is damaging natural surfaces
- Remove all marble panels in front of the tombs
- Develop North Gate as main entrance to the site
- Introduce proposed one-way route and small car park near the major necropoleis at the most suitable locations
- Prepare interpretation and marketing strategies
- Introduce pre-booked guided tour programmes for interested parties
- Demolish partially built health centre & other recent buildings near railway station
- Remove concrete pathways & litter bins around the tombs
- Pilot soft-culture events at Islamic Fortress
- Establish monitoring systems related to baseline data on environmental, archaeological and other indicators
- Launch research excavations in residential area in collaboration with the French archaeological mission

**Medium-term:**
- Secure World Heritage Site status
- Monitor progress and update management plan
- Reduce the use of private cars around the site
- Introduce alternative transport around site (jeep caravans, bus, road train)
- Introduce alternative conservation measures for inscriptions
- Build major new visitor centre at Northern Gate
- Move all rolling stock into restored workshop building
- Develop interpretation on Hijāz Railway inside railway workshop and Ottoman fort.
- Introduce themed tourism packages with Petra and key Nabataean sites within the Kingdom
- Continue to monitor effect of legislation and planning controls designed to protect setting

Long-term:
- Monitor progress and update management plan on a five-year basis
- Develop onsite conservation laboratory with research capability
- Legislation in place to protect landscape and setting of site
- Establish National Cultural Heritage park in the region of al-'Ulā
- Prepare facility and service for presentation, consolidation storage and preservation of finds
- Madāin Sâlih to become international “must-see” cultural heritage destination
- Re-establish railway linking Madâin Sâlih with al-'Ulā
- Monitor effect of WHS status on tourism activities in al-'Ulā area

These recommendations will help to stimulate the development of a thriving sustainable tourism economy fully respectful of international conventions and of the international value of the site. This plan should also aim at placing the site in its wider historical and geographical context.
2.d Management Plan Outline

In the following pages are outlined the guidelines of the Management plan for *al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madâin Sâlih)*. The Management Plan will be prepared during the year 2007/8 by the new Site Management Team foreseen in this report.

The first task of this new structure will be to define with precision its organizational chart (fine-tuning the one suggested in the previous pages), the system of Local Board to liaise with local administrations and the other ministries and bodies involved, and the needs in human resources of the new Site Management Unit (including terms of reference of the personnel).

Its second task will be the preparation of the Management Plan according to the guidelines briefly presented in the following pages.

Feed-back mechanisms should be foreseen and designed in order to guarantee the continuous control of the effectiveness of the plan guidelines. Notably, data concerning tourist fluxes and visitors’ numbers will need to be continuously updated and confronted with expectations. Reactions and suggestions expressed by the local community should be, as far as possible, integrated within the management system.

One of the essential elements that will direct the action of the site management authority will be the creation of an effective record and follow-up system allowing budgetary and administrative choices to be based upon real data and the precise knowledge of what has been done and what still needs to be done.

The management plan will tackle the following points:

- Planning of the surrounding areas and of the access routes to the site, including proper signage;
- Identification of the most suitable conservation and restoration techniques for the site in the full respect of international best practice and international restoration charters;
- Definition of a set of priority interventions to be carried out for the conservation of the site, both in its architectural elements and its landscape. Such definition of priority will result from
the preparation of site “Risk Map” analyzing the present situation and identifying needs and priorities;
- Tourism management and the handling of the visitors at the site. The main points to address are: the definition of tourist circulation and special circuits, creation of services (cafeteria, restroom, first aid, shops and boutiques, etc.) enhancement of the quality of the visit (considering fluxes, circulation, explanatory panels and visitors’ centre, guided tours, publications, etc.), of the visitors’ security and of the site protection;
- Control and management of the foreign and national archaeological missions excavating at the site. The accent should be placed on the conservation and presentation of the sites during and after the excavations;
- The tourist development of the site through the re-organization of the access (shift from the South entrance to the North Gate), the careful landscaping of the access area, the planning of soft cultural activities (in the Ottoman fort and in the area in front of it), the creation of a visitors’ centre and a Hijâz Railway exhibition, the creation of special site riding tours (horseback or camelback) and of discovery tours to the nearby archaeological sites.
- The management (in close collaboration with the overall SCT programme) of the marketing activities and the development of a site “brand image” through national and international advertisement campaigns based on al-Hijr’s inscription on the World heritage List;
- Management of the economic resources generated by the site development and integration of the local and national entrepreneurs’ activities into a sustainable development strategy focusing on the preservation of the site;
- Development of the legal protective system of the site through the monitoring of the respect of the norms established for the buffer zone (and possibly – if the National Cultural Heritage Park will be created – beyond), but also through public relation campaigns specifically aimed at the local communities (schools, municipalities, local associations, and provincial bodies) and designed to strengthen their bond with the site and to develop their awareness of the universal signification of the site and of its scientific, cultural, heritage and identity value for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people;
- The administration and the training of the site employees and of the site management team through on-the-site training programs.
In the following pages are briefly synthesized and organized, the many ideas and projects for the development of al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madain Sâlih) put forth by the members of the team and the foreign consultants that have collaborate with the SCT. Some of these have already been included in the project documents and are already being implemented, others are still at the level of hypotheses and suggestions.

Accesses and fences
- Transfer the main access from the South Gate to the North Gate. Re-organize the tourist panels directing the visitors from al-‘Ulâ;
- Design suitable panels for the internal and external panels;
- Re-design the access area and prepare a detailed project for the re-use of the 16 Hijâz Railway buildings (the buildings should host: a visitors’ centre, A Hijâz railway Museum/Exhibition Hall, bookshop and boutiques, cafeteria and site restaurant, restrooms for the public and for the staff, Archaeological centre to host the missions working on site and store their finds, Guards’ homes, and a small mosque);
- Propose a range of technical solutions to reduce the visual impact of the metal fence surrounding the site through minor landscape interventions. The possibility to remove the fence and replace it by a less “impermeable” and more symbolic barrier might be evoked and discussed with the local community;
- The internal fence isolating the “residential area”, though undoubtedly affecting the overall aspect of the site, should be kept at list till the end of the archaeological campaign. Indeed, the conservation and the protection of the yet unknown archaeological urban site should be the first priority. The agreement with the archaeological mission should impose to this latter to propose and budget different options for the final presentation of the excavated sites that will be submitted to the site management unit. Only at a later stage, once the excavations and the consolidation of the ruins completed, the fence might be removed.

Conservation, consolidation, maintenance and restoration
- Collect and update all the maps, drawings, aerial and satellite pictures, photogrammetric surveys, and documents concerning the site. Digitize the graphic documents and organize a
database assembling all existing data to be kept in two copies, one in SCT office headquarters in Riyadh and one at the Management Unit office on site;
- Collect and analyse technical material concerning consolidation and restoration techniques applied to similar sites in the kingdom and abroad. Set up a scientific cooperation with UNESCO World Heritage Centre and with other World Heritage Listed sites having similar characteristics (first of all Petra, Jordan);
- Complete, wherever necessary, the surveys and the aerial coverage of the site in order to produce maps at the most suitable scales (1:25.000, or smaller) for the planning and development of the site.
- Remove unsuitable elements and define new technical solutions for the access to the tombs (new stairs where necessary), the road, the parking areas, the pathways around the rocky outcrops, the Nabataean well, etc.;
- Identify zones that might be dangerous for the visitors and solutions to limit the risks for the public (closure, protection barriers, alert and explanatory panels, etc.);
Set up a risk-preparedness approach establishing the necessary connections with the national and local bodies in charge of civil protection from natural and man-caused calamities with the aim of adapting their policies to the specific needs of the site (earthquakes, floods, wars, terror attacks, etc.);
- Elaborate a “risk map” of the whole area, identifying the most fragile and endangered elements in order to establish a list of priorities for future conservation and restoration interventions based on scientifically-based assessments;
- According to the risk map, define a range of possible actions according to different budgets and prepare a calendar of activities for the medium and long-term (5-10 years);
- Organize a regular, and scientifically sound, monitoring system of the physical conditions of the monumental and archaeological remains and of their surroundings (cf. Vol.1, section 6);
- Define maintenance criteria and “best practices” to deal with “minor” issues and set up a maintenance unit within the Site Management Unit;
- Conceive a comprehensive Landscape Protection Plan for the protection of the natural characteristics of the area.
Tourism management
- Identify and define, according to the estimated fluxes in the next five years, parking areas for the visitors’ cars;
- Study and apply alternative solutions to reduce the use of private cars inside the site, and verify their impact on the visitors. Alternative solutions might imply the creation of ranger-guided car caravans leaving the entrance at pre-defined hours, the use of small busses, or the use of more specific devices like land-trains or camel tours; The organization of these solutions might be put in the hands of private entrepreneurs or kept by the site authority in public hands;
- Define the maximum “capacity” of the site according to different tourist scenarios for the Kingdom and for the region;
- Analyse size and characteristics of tourist “groups” in order to set up guided tours specifically designed for them;
- Organize a set of circuits of different length for different kind of public (standard circuit, specialists’ circuit, circuit for schools, “experience” circuit, Hijāz railway circuit, etc.);
- Define, according to an estimation of the maximum amount of visitors per day, the needs in services (toilets, cafeteria, First Aid, etc) and plan accordingly the re-use of the existing Hijāz railway buildings;
- Create a modern and attractive “Visitors’ Centre” presenting the site and its history with the support of all modern and traditional techniques (models, pictures, photos, films, 3-D graphic reconstructions, etc.);
- Foresee a meeting point for groups and school classes (and the possibility to have on the site explanations, lectures or conferences);
- Test the effectiveness of the control at the entrance to reduce vandalism on site and study alternative solutions to improve the situation (guards posted on the site, closure of specific zones to the visit, obligation to follow guided tours of specific areas – like “Mount Ithlib” or the “residential area” – etc.). Define the number of guards needed on a yearly or seasonal base.

Site tourism development & marketing
- The inscription on the World Heritage List will be an opportunity for the development of the whole area beyond the limits of the inscribed property. An active collaboration with the municipalities, the private sector and the population should be sought and achieved in order to establish tourist circuits including the other natural and cultural sites of the region;
- The Site Management Unit should play an active role in the creation of a National Cultural Heritage park in the region of al-`U lã; 
- Set up a tourist strategy capable to attract international tourists visiting Petra to al-Hijr; and niche-conceived programs for high-profile tourists; 
- Organize national and regional tourism campaigns centred on the importance and attractiveness of the site to attract Saudi public; 
- Organize international and national events at the site; 
- Study the possibility to partially re-create a small section of the Hij ãz railway to connect al-`U lã with al-Hijr; 
- Organize in collaboration with local private sector a series of tourist projects in the area (hikes, camel tours, desert sports, etc.); 
- Consider the possibility to establish captive balloons or balloon competitions in the vicinity of the site (like in Wådi Rom); 
- Create a set of leaflets, postcards, posters, CD-Rom, videos etc. of the site with the World Heritage Logo; 
- Define with central SCT structure a marketing campaign for the site emphasizing its international significance and the signification of its inscription on the World Heritage List.

**Education, research and publications**

- Set up effective cooperation with the archaeological teams working on the site; 
- Organize a medium and long-term calendar of activities and elaborate, with their scientific support if needed, the most effective solutions to share with the public their discoveries and their work; 
- Prepare a full range of tourist documents (from the simple leaflet to the scientific publication) in Arabic and English and make them available to visitors in the site bookshop; 
- Create a training centre for the site guides and guards; 
- Set up a calendar of scientific events/lectures presenting the site in the major Cultural institutions of the Kingdom (Universities, Museums, etc.).
2.e Preliminary Notes for the Definition of Technical and Planning Guidelines for the Implementation of the Management Plan

**Visitors’ circulation on the site**

A first plan concerning the control of the circulation within the fenced area has already been prepared and implemented. A one-way, unpaved road permits to accomplish a complete tour of the site and to return to the South entrance gate. Most of the private cars of the visitors do follow the suggested road, though there are still cars running off-the-track. No parking areas exist in the vicinity of each major complex of tombs.

The dimension of the site and the hard climatic condition during most of the year (extremely hot in summer, cold and windy in winter) require a motorized circulation within the fenced area. Saudi traditions and habits do not easily allow for common transportation (at least in a first phase) and therefore it is likely that private cars will continue to be the main, if not the unique, way of visiting the site.

Following the careful record and analysis of the tourist fluxes, alternative solutions might be considered to reduce visual nuisance to the “natural” aspect of the area caused by an excessive number of private cars. These solutions might include, at first, the organization of car “caravans” – lead by a site ranger – leaving the Hijāz Railway access at pre-defined time (every hour, for example) during the peak seasons or the use of or road-trains to tour the site leaving private cars and tourist busses outside the enceinte. These suggestions need to be tested on site after having carefully analysed the habits of the public throughout the year. Their effectiveness needs to be tested and recorded through questionnaires distributed to the visitors.

The creation of camelback or horseback visit circuits to tour the site should also be considered bearing in mind the extreme climatic conditions of the site. A camelback evening circuit might be extremely attractive, add value to the visit, and create new job opportunities for the local community. The actual location of the facilities hosting the animals should be carefully considered. The re-use of some ancient farm might sound attractive, yet the actual long-term impact of such a project upon the integrity of the site should be carefully considered.

Another nuisance provoked by the visitors’ cars, beside the dust and the noise perturbing an otherwise “intact” landscape, is their obtrusive presence when parked in front of the major sites. The solution
for this problem requires the definition of parking areas in the vicinity of each site (at a distance not exceeding the 200-300 metres for climatic and cultural reasons) in order to avoid parking directly in front of the tombs.

It is suggested to create in these parking points some information panels or models presenting the site that should substitute the visually disturbing panels currently placed in front of each tomb that should be removed (both the tombs identification numbers and the explanatory panels in metal and marble).

It is also suggested to equip one or two of these areas with carefully designed lavatories and restrooms (most likely partially or completely underground or buried in the sand) for the public. Their exact number and location will need to be studied in detail.

One of the first goals of the new management structure will be to identify these zones for each site and to define the most suitable kind of informative elements (and garbage bins) to be located in each of them. This might take place already in the year 2007 in parallel with the definition of the road project already financed by the Ministry of Transport.

**Antiquities at risk**

The almost complete “freedom” given to the visitors within the enceinte (with exception of religiously-related prohibitions, like eating and sleeping on the site, and the actual size of the area do not allow for a continuous monitoring of the public from site guards and rangers.

Examples of minor vandalism are therefore relatively frequent (graffiti on the walls, littering and even voluntary destruction of archaeological artefacts, cf. section 4) as the control is extremely loose.

It is suggested to consider, at least during the peak seasons, the option to have a continuous presence of a site guard at the Ithleb Mountain area, and possibly also to restrict the access to this extremely fascinating, yet fragile area, to guided tours only. Once more, the most suitable solution should be tested in a first phase in order to verify its effectiveness and its impact on the visitors’ behaviour.

A further protective measure for the major tombs will be achieved through the removal of the vast majority of the metal stairs the DMAM built in the 1990s. Only a limited number of tombs (or even none…) should be accessible to the visitors. Their interior is relatively repetitive for the standard visitor and more fragile. The removal of the stairs will permit to achieve contemporarily two major results: 1) to reduce threat to the integrity of the tombs 2) to re-create the original aspect of the rocky outcrops hosting the necropolis currently partially spoiled by the infrastructures built by the DMAM.
The comprehension of the burial techniques and rock hewing architecture, on the other hand, might be achieved through the visit of the tombs directly accessible from the ground floor level and through explanatory panels/videos in the Visitors’ Centre. The stairs might eventually be kept for one or two major tombs, where the existing metal ladders might be replaced by newer and less obtrusive ones.

The existence of clandestine excavations inside the site is prevented by the double fences (one circling the whole area, the second one isolating the fragile archaeological area from the visitors) put in place by the Saudi Authorities. Nevertheless, continuous attention should be paid by the guards to avoid any attempt at illegal activities within the site. The regular check of the cars trunks, for instance, might play a dissuasive role without requiring larger personnel. Incidentally, this kind of control will also permit to identify paintings and spray bottles or any device that might affect the conservation of the site.

**Commercial activities**

At the time being there are no commercial activities taking place at the site. On the contrary, the lack of lavatories, libraries and visitors’ centre is strongly felt by most visitors. The comprehensive plan for the renewal of the Hijâz Railways Station buildings, will transform these 16 buildings into a tourist pole. The commercial concessions and the contracts to be tendered for the private sector will need to be carefully designed and regularly updated & controlled in order to guarantee the respect of the site and avoid unsuitable and obtrusive design, littering and pollution. The withdrawal of a concession if the private entrepreneur does not respect the regulations should be foreseen by the site regulations. Private sector pressures can be extremely strong on the local management unit and it is essential that the regulations are written in such a way that the Unit could always have the upper hand over the will of the private sector.

The possibility of using the fortress (restored in early 1990s), and/or the large water reservoir and the Train hall for public shows during the evenings, seems fully acceptable from the conservation point of view. The actual impact of these activities on the original buildings, however, will need to be continuously monitored to avoid deteriorating the structures.
A feedback mechanism of control should be designed to monitor all commercial and public activities taking place within the area. Prices and quality of the services to be tendered out to the private market (food, cafeteria, bookshop, gift shop, handicraft shop, etc.) should be monitored by the Site Authority.

The possibility that the Site Management Unit could directly control the revenues (or part of them) generated by the selling of the licenses, and by the entrance tickets, in order to injected directly these funds on site management and conservation projects, should be considered and discussed with the relevant administration (Ministry of Finance, SCT).

**Sanitary Facilities**

They are currently completely lacking. It is foreseen that lavatories for the public will be created in the Railway buildings in the vicinity of the northern gate.
The archaeological zone of al-Hijr needs an adequate number of lavatories organized in specially planned spaces, with water supply systems and dispersion tanks.
Detailed studies will be necessary to integrate the design of the new facilities into their surroundings in such a way that they are not visible from the monuments and they do not disturb the harmony of the site.
The most suitable location and the precise number and size of these facilities will be defined within the Management Plan. Particular attention should be devoted to the issue of sewerage and waste. The most suitable technique for a desert milieu should be planned in order to respect this fragile ecological environment.
The most suitable system for bringing in water should also be studied. Elsewhere in the country, the creation of isolated water tanks regularly re-filled by tankers has proved the best solution as it does not require the creation of complex and expensive underground infrastructure.
Any new development should be coordinated by the Site Management Unit, within the framework of an overall detailed development plan.
Tourist information

Tourist information is currently almost totally lacking, with the exception of the intrusive and seriously weathered panels standing in front of the major carved tombs. A new Visitors’ Centre presenting the site of al-Hijr and the ongoing researches and excavations is planned in the Hijâz Railways area. The design and the plans of these new facilities for the public are not yet ready, but a preliminary study (joined to this Volume in section 5) has determined that the needed surfaces are compatible with the existing buildings. The future role of the Visitors’ Centre is to become an orientation centre which will give the visitor the essential keys to understand and interpret the archaeological and natural site. The most important themes that should be explained in the centre are:

- The geological area and its ecological equilibrium
- The history and extent of Nabataean kingdom
- The characteristics of its monumental architecture
- The gods of the Nabataean and their religious practice

The possibility to assign more space to the Visitors’ Centre then actually proposed should be considered as the Visitors’ Centre will become a major point of attraction and play an important educational role.

Beside the Visitors’ Centre, the Train Hall will host a permanent exhibition focusing on the Hijâz Railway, presenting locomotives and carriages of the original trains. It has been suggested to utilize the Ottoman fort as an exhibition area presenting the Syrian pilgrimage route; this option is currently being studied.

A coherent system of information panels, possibly with the addition of three-dimensional models carefully designed and made of suitable materials, should be created and placed in the vicinity of each major necropolis. These informative elements should not be intrusive and need not be placed in the immediate vicinity of the tombs to preserve their visual integrity.

A first series of new publications, presenting the sites in an attractive and scientifically correct manner, has already been prepared by SCT and the Antiquity & Museum section. These new guides of the site will be available at the site bookshop with all the other existing publications concerning the site, the nearby archaeological and natural points of interest and Arabian heritage at large.
Other information material, documents, flyers, site maps, postcards, posters, videos, CD-ROMs etc., should also be available at the site. A free map of the site should be given to all visitors to facilitate their orientation and locate the facilities. The possibility to prepare audio-guides for the visit of the site to be rented by the visitors might be considered.

An important element for the management of the visitors could be represented by the definition of multiple circuits tailor-made for different kind of public. These different circuits might be signalled on the site map with various colours according to their length/time requested. Besides, an archaeological site as important as Madâin Sâlih, where excavations will soon start, should be able to propose to visitors, particularly school children, commentated visits to explain the progress of the digs, the stratigraphy, important finds, techniques of dating, conservation problems etc. This type of visit could be a “cultural tourism product” which would be particularly appreciated by a small foreign clientele.

**Ticketing**

At the time being access to the site is free of charge. Saudis are allowed to visit the area without permit, while foreigners have to apply for a special permit at al-’Ullâ. It is evident that the new Management plan will introduce a more flexible approach to ease the access formalities for foreign tourists.

The possibility to introduce a paying entrance should be carefully considered. Though this solution differs from the current practices in the country (apart from the National Museum in Riyadh), it seems a relatively necessary step fully justified by the exceptional quality of the site. Eventually paying entrance can be limited only to the foreign visitors, in order not to dissuade the Saudi public that is not used to pay entrance fees.

The presence of a continuous fence around the site, and of a circle-circuit with a single entrance/exit from gate north, offers the best possible scenario for the creation of a paying mechanism.

The legal obstacles that might exist for the implementation of this measure should be explored, notably as far as the system of redistribution of the money produced by the entrance fees is concerned.
What would be the “correct” market price? Would the money collected from the entrance tickets be directly managed by the Site authority, or will it be collected by the Ministry of Finance or by SCT and re-invested in this and other sites throughout the Kingdom?

If we consider that, following the implementation of marketing policies and the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, the number of 50,000 foreign visitors/year might be easily attained (out of the 100,000 total visitors expected – cf. statistics in Section 5), and that the entrance cost could be around 5 US $, we realize that the simple entrance fees might produce some 250,000/500,000 US $ a year; a sum that could contribute significantly to the everyday maintenance of the site, covering the salaries of the staff for instance.

**RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITY OF THE SITE**

The site of al-Hijr is quoted in the Holy Qur’an and a strongly felt religious tradition prohibits living and settling in the area. This prohibition has been extended to eating and sleeping on the site. The impact and relative importance of this tradition for the Saudi public should be monitored and carefully addressed.

Evening or night visits to Madâin Sâlih might be extremely appealing considering the extreme climatic conditions of the site during day-time. An agreement defining the commonly-accepted extent of the area concerned by religious prohibitions should be developed through the dialogue with the religious people.

The presence of moveable food selling cars inside the fenced area should anyway be forbidden and the whole food-related sector should be concentrated in the restored Hijâz Railway buildings.

The possibility to demolish the recent and abandoned concrete buildings and structures in the immediate vicinity of the Train Hall should also be taken into consideration, as well as the possibility to turn one of the existing buildings into a praying hall for the visitors.

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2. It is stated (VII, 73-84) that the people of Thamud were wealthy, built their palaces in the al-Qura valley and inhabited the mountains. The Thamoud were ungrateful and worshiped idols. God sent them his messenger, the Prophet Sâlih, to invite them to worship the Only God. Only a few of them trusted his envoy and they asked Sâlih to make a miracle to prove his words. Sâlih made a she-camel appear from the rock. Notwithstanding the miracle, the people of Thamud refused to respect God’s will and killed the animal. In response of this act God sent them a doom. Madâin Sâlih is believed to be the location of this event.
Generally speaking, there is a very evident need of campaigns specifically designed for the school children, the region inhabitants and the Saudi public at large capable to raise the awareness of the significance and value of pre-Islamic national heritage.

**Quality of the Restoration and Maintenance Work at the Site**

Till now, no major restoration campaign has taken place on the Nabataean tombs. However, the quality of the restoration carried out in the Ottoman Fortress, and the recent project for the lighting of the Railways Station site, do not seem to comply with international standards. The attempts to remove graffiti from the tombs walls and the protective plastic plates in front of the inscriptions though showing the authority's will to protect the site from vandalism and deterioration, exemplify also the relative isolation of the Saudi authorities in charge of the site and their relative ignorance of current restoration techniques and their lack of technical training.

The new management structure will need to establish regular contacts and exchanges with the management bodies of other sites in the Arab Region in order to profit of their experience in conservation, management and planning. Similarly the concrete slabs used to create paths around the sites do not seem acceptable form an aesthetic point of view. Different solutions should be considered for the immediate surroundings of the major carved façades.

The creation of a technically competent maintenance structure on the site could significantly affect its conservation. For instance, while no major capillarity-related damages of the rock carved façades are evident, specific zones where rainwater accumulates and rests in contact with the bases of the rock outcrops show evident signs of salt crystallization and humidity-caused deterioration. The regular monitoring and the simple drainage of these waters by the site rangers will significantly reduce the rate of decay of the rock outcrop bases. A regular exchange of expertise with the conservation team working in Petra should be established.
ENHANCEMENT, RESTORATION AND TOURISM-RELATED PLANS

The preliminary sketches presenting a “landscaping” idea for the North entrance, or an open-air theatre in front of Mount Ithleb proposed in the Regional Tourism Plan do not respect the standards required by a Word Heritage Site. Similarly, the recently built illumination system of the Hijâz Railway buildings shows a complete lack of understanding of the needs and characteristics of the site. The same poor technical quality might be seen also in the earlier restoration of the Ottoman Fort or in the attempts at removing the graffiti from the rock façades.

It is essential that the new Site Management authority tackles the comprehensive development of the site in a highly professional manner and that the solutions designed for this unique site follows internationally-accepted quality standards. To achieve better standards, the Site Authority needs to establish contacts, at the national and international level, with the most qualified technician and planners available. When intervening on the site, the overarching principle that should guide the deeds of planners, architects and conservators should always be the preservation of the site and of its monuments. The same attention that will be required in dealing with the conservation of the rock-hewn structures and the archaeological remains should be applied also when dealing with all other aspects of the site, whether the rehabilitation of the railway buildings or the creation of the tourism infrastructure.

The monitoring of the sites after the inscription of a property on the World Heritage List carried out by the World Heritage Committee on a regular basis might act as a control device, but the Site Authority must be able to detect the risks and the possible damages embedded in every plan proposed before they are realized. Once the site inscribed on the WHL, the World Heritage Centre can be solicited for technical support and advice.

WATER ISSUE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND CLEANING

A possible threat for the environmental equilibrium of the area might arise from the excessive pumping of underground waters for agricultural use that affects the water table level.
A comprehensive ecological assessment of the oasis area and of its water resources should be carried out in the coming years to allow for a sustainable development of the region. The experience of Petra, where the hotels built above the cornice have overexploited the water resources, and brought about the progressive desertification of an entire valley, should always be kept in mind.

The Site Management unit will be involved in the elaboration of these studies and in the practical application of their recommendations for the site protection. The water necessary for the running of the site restaurant, cafeteria and restrooms will be pumped from a nearby well that will be reactivated. The most suitable and ecologically safe system of disposal of the used waters, however, will need to be assessed before launching the tenders for the renovation of the Hijâz Railway buildings.

The Site Management Authority will also collaborate with the al-'Ulâ Municipality (currently in charge of waste disposal in the area) to reduce the risks of environmental pollution caused by garbage and solid waste, while raising the visitors’ awareness on ecological issues and on the impact of uncontrolled disposal of rubbish in the natural landscape.

The current system of retrieval of garbage from the site depends from al-'Ulâ Municipality. The Management Plan will identify the most suitable garbage collection system for the site (private company, Municipality of al-'Ulâ, site guards etc.) according to the evolving needs of the site in this domain. It is likely, in fact, that the amount of refusal will grow enormously with the opening of commercial activities in the re-used Hijâz Station buildings and the expected augmentation of the number of visitors.

The management plan for the area will identify the most suitable strategy to deal with these agricultural traces and decide for a suitable landscaping plan of the area.

The most suitable location of the garbage bins inside the al-Hijr Archaeological Area and their design will also require decisions from the site authority.

The system currently applied for the cleaning of the site is based on the outsourcing to the private sector. A national contract exists and a new version of the contract is currently being prepared (Cf. Vol.I section 5.f).
It seems, however, that the proposed system is not fully suitable for al-Hijr site. It is suggested to consider the possibility to separate Madâin Sâlih from the overall National contract. Indeed, it would be better if a new contract is prepared and run/signed directly by the director of the Site Management Unit. This contract should be short-term and renewable (one-two year); it should include provisions to oblige the contractor to comply with the required standards, like already proposed for the Hijâz Railway buildings. The contract for al-Hijr should allow a great flexibility in the number of janitors required as the number of visitors varies considerably during the year. Besides, the issue of insect removal and “interior” cleaning, currently foreseen by the national contract, should be pondered more carefully. The maintenance/cleaning of the tomb vaults needs supervision form antiquity personnel, or at least precisely-defined specifications/terms of reference concerning the techniques to apply and/or the materials to use in order to avoid damaging the rock.

**Risk-preparedness**

The Site will develop a risk-preparedness approach in order to minimize the effects of natural and man-caused disasters, though no major natural cataclysms are expected. Site managers will be asked to integrate specific measures for the protection of the World Heritage Site within existing emergency planning systems at the local, regional and national levels.
Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Finance and National Economy

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The Law of Antiquity
Chapter One
Definition and General Provision

Article (1) The Higher Council of Antiquity

To form the Higher Council of Antiquity of the following:

1. The Minister of Education
2. Deputy Ministry of Education
3. Representative of The Ministry of Finance and National Economy
4. Representative of The Ministry of Interior
5. Representative of The Ministry of Education
6. Representative of The Ministry of Hajj and Endowment
7. Representative of The Ministry of Information
8. Representative of The Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs
9. The Director of Antiquity Directorate.

The rank shall at least be:

- President
- Deputy
- Member

Education and the Chairman of the Higher Council of Antiquity.

Article 2- The aim of establishing the Higher Council of Antiquity is to gather as much expertise as possible in order to reach the desired objective. The Council shall deal with the issues hereunder:

1) Propose the general policy of The Antiquity department in the field of maintenance, restoration, renovation and excavation of archaelogical sites.
2) Propose the amendments of the Law of Antiquity and the issued Ministerial resolutions for implementation thereof.
3) Sell, gift, exchange, loan and accept donation antiquity.
4) Study the annual report set by the director of Antiquity regarding tasks thereto and recommend his perception regarding the issues therein.
5) Propose the establishment of new museums.
6) Practice authorities thereto indicated in the law of Antiquity.
7) Deal with the other issues in regard to antiquities delegated to it as seen by the Minister of Education and recommended by the director of antiquity.

Article 3: The Higher Council of Antiquity shall have at least two meetings annually. The meetings shall be considered valid if attended by half of the members and the Council shall issue resolution thereto by majority and in case of a tie the president side shall overrule. The director of antiquity shall implement the Council’s resolutions after being approved by the Chairman.

Article (4): The Minister of Education shall have the right to call for an exceptional meeting if needed and based on the request of two third of the Council’s members and for the general well fare.

* The paragraph hereina was added and the article (5) underneath was amended based on the Royal Decree No 6/M in 28/2/1388H.
Article (4°): A reward shall be paid for the Chairman and the members of the Higher Council of Antiquity in return to their attendance determined by a Ministerial resolution.

Article (5°): Movable and immovable properties built, made, produced, modeled or drawn by human being 200 years ago, or had acquired archeological characteristics due to old natural factors shall be considered as antiquities. The Antiquity Directorate may consider moveable and immovable properties of recent decades as antiquities if acquiring artistic and historical characteristics and it shall be approved by a resolution from the Minister of Education based in a recommendation from the Antiquity Directorate.

Article (6°): The Antiquity Directorate in association with other governmental bodies each in the field of profession thereto shall be responsible for preservation of antiquities and archeological sites. It shall also estimate the history of each antiquity. The registration of each antiquity means the government’s approval of its historical and artistic importance and the government’s efforts on maintaining and studying it in order to present it in a suitable appearance according to the regulation hereby.

Article (7°): Antiquities are two kinds: moveable antiquities and immovable antiquities:

a) **Immovable antiquities** are the fixed antiquities as natural caves or engraved antiquities used for ancient man needs.
Rocks which was engraved with pictures, patterns and scripts; the remains of cities and buildings buried in hills and historical establishments built for several purposes like; mosques, temples, palaces, infirmary, schools, castles, fences, forts, playground, Hammamat, cemeteries, tunnels, dams and the remains of buildings therein and the related tools like doors, windows, pillars, balconies, ceilings, cornice and crowns … etc.

b) **Movable antiquities** are antiquities made to be separated from the ground or historical buildings which can be moved as sculptures, engravings, scripts, textiles and manufactures of any

substance and the purpose of production and means of usages thereof.

Article (8°): Moveable and immovable antiquities and archeological sites existing in the Kingdom shall be considered of the government property except the following:

a) Immovable antiquities owned by individuals
b) Moveable registered by their owners at the antiquity directorate.
c) Moveable antiquities stated by Antiquity Directorate not necessarily be registered

Article (9°): The Antiquity Directorate with the association of the government relevant bodies shall have the right to drive out commissions or individuals occupying historical buildings or archeological sites. If their occupation of the buildings or locations prove to be done with no violation to regulations hereby, they shall be compensated according to article (21) of the Law herein.

Article (10°) The land owner shall not change the moveable or immovable antiquities found in the surface or in depth and he shall not excavate for antiquities.

Article (11°): Immovable and moveable antiquities shall not be damaged, changed or deformed by writing or drawing on it or change its features. It is also forbidden for citizens to hang posters or signs on archeological sites or registered historical buildings.

Article (12°): When planning development, expansion and improving villages and cities, preserving archeological sites shall be considered. Planning project in archeological sites shall not be approved unless having the approval of Antiquity Directorate which shall determine the archeological areas and inform the city planning body thereof.

Article (13°): Municipality shall not issue restoration or building license in locations close to archeological sites and historical buildings unless approved by the Antiquity Directorate to assure achieving harmony between the new buildings and the traditional style.
Article (14): The Antiquity Directorate in association with relevant departments of land surveys shall determine archeological hills, buildings and sites close to populated areas in order to secure it from being inhabited.

Article (15): The Antiquity Directorate shall work within the scope of the agreements, treaties and recommendations of international institutions to return the snuggled antiquities from the Kingdom and help in returning the foreign antiquities entered into the Kingdom.

Chapter Two
Inmovable Antiquities

Article (16)-: The Antiquity Directorate shall determine the historical buildings and archeological sites and old neighborhood to be preserved and maintained. The Antiquity Directorate shall register the specified antiquities in the record of historical buildings and archeological sites after the approval of the Higher Council for Antiquity and the issuing of the Ministerial resolution of registration. The registration record shall state rights of contiguity concerning the neighboring buildings. Owners and managers of the properties, the governmental bodies and relevant municipalities shall be informed of the Resolution.

Article 17:- Ministries, directorates, special committees shall consider rights of contiguity when organizing and planning cities and villages containing historical buildings, and archeological sites owner shall also consider the rights of contiguity determined by the Antiquity Directorate which require specifying an empty area surrounding the historical buildings and archeological site and determining the style, height, color and building materials of the new buildings in order to match the ancient ones.

Article 18:- The Antiquity Directorate shall permit dealing with the historical buildings and archeological sites which are not necessarily registered.

Article 19:- Based on a recommendation of the Higher Council of Antiquity, some historical building or archeological sites may be removed from the record. A Ministerial resolution shall be issued in regard and shall be published in a gazette.

Article 20:- Individuals who own registered historical buildings may remain their ownership to their properties.
**Article 21:** The Antiquity Directorate shall have the right to own archaeological sites or historical buildings provided that ownership process according to expropriation principles and for public welfare. The Antiquity Directorate shall also have the right to own buildings and lands surrounding the registered immovable antiquities in order to highlight these monuments. An ownership compensation shall be issued regardless of the historical, artistic and archeological value for buildings and occupied sites.

**Article 22:** The Antiquity Directorate alone shall be responsible for maintaining and restoring registered immovable antiquities in order to preserve them. The owner shall not have the right to object.

**Article 23:** The registered archaeological land shall not be used as storages. No cemeteries, buildings or irrigation system shall be placed land or planting or any removing any trees which cause a change in the land’s feature without a license of the Antiquity Directorate. Remains of historical buildings and ancient ruins shall not be used nor any sands or rocks shall be taken from archaeological sites without written approval from the Antiquity Directorate.

**Article 24:** Whoever discover an archeological site or was informed of a discovery shall inform the closest authorities. The authority in its part shall inform the Antiquity Directorate immediately to overtake the proper action. The discoverer shall be entitled for a reward after an approval from the Ministry of Education and a recommendation of the Antiquity Directorate.

**Article 25:** Each individual occupying archeological sites or historical buildings shall permit the antiquity employees to investigate the location; study, draw and take photograph.

**Article 26:** If the owner of the registered immovable property are in demand of settling the property by assignment, he shall state in the contract that his property is registered and shall inform the Antiquity Directorate within one week from holding the agreement.

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**Chapter Three**

**Moveable Antiquities**

**Article 27:** Moveable antiquities owned by the government shall not be sold or gifted. Other unimportant antiquities which have many copies may be sold after having a ministerial resolution and the approval of the Higher Council of Antiquity.

**Article 28:** Exchanging moveable antiquities or models thereto shall be permitted among scientific institutions and museums if it is beneficial. The exchange shall be issued by a ministerial resolution after the approval of the Higher Council of Antiquity.

**Article 29:** Commissions and individuals shall have the right to obtain moveable antiquities and preserve it in special collections provided that it shall be presented to the Antiquity Directorate in order to be registered. The owner of the relic shall be responsible to preserve it in its original state. If any changes or damages occur the owner of the relic shall inform the Antiquity Directorate immediately. Those restrictions are applicable to all antiquities that were not presented to the Antiquity Directorate in order to be registered.

**Article 30:** The owner of a moveable antiquity shall inform the Antiquity Directorate or registration in a four month period from the date of the implementation of the law hereby. If any antiquity where found after the date stated, the antiquity shall be seized and penalties shall be enforced.

**Article 31:** Commissions and individuals who have moveable antiquities shall have the right to keep records for the antiquities they acquire. The Antiquity Directorate shall have the right to check those records as required.
Commission and individuals shall have the right to inform the Antiquity Directorate of any new items.

**Article 32:** Registered movable antiquities may be transferred to other owners after the original owner informs the Antiquity Directorate of the new owner's name and place of residence within a year after assignment. If the new owner is a foreigner who is interested in exporting the antiquity to other countries the contract of assignment shall be held after acquiring the exporting license.

**Article 33:** If any one finds a movable antiquity by a chance, he shall inform the nearest authority as soon as possible. The authority shall inform the Antiquity Directorate. If the Antiquity Directorate decides to keep the antiquity they shall pay a reward to the person who found the antiquity suitable to the value of the antiquities. If the antiquity is of precious stone or account for more than a thousand SR, the approval of the Higher Council of Antiquity is required. The reward shall be issued by a Ministerial resolution. If the Antiquity Directorate decides on leaving the antiquity with the one who found it, it shall be registered and returned with a written record containing the numb of the record.

**Article 34:** Any one who finds or hared about a discovered unregistered antiquity shall inform the Antiquity Directorate, and the Directorate in its part shall offer the person a suitable reward determined by the Ministry of Education.

**Article 35:** The Antiquity Directorate by a resolution from the Ministry of Education and the approval of the Higher Council of Antiquity shall be able to buy the registered movable antiquities acquired by individuals or commissions or movable antiquities detached from immovable antiquities which does not belong to recorded archaelogical or historical buildings for the general welfare.

**Article 36:** The Antiquity Directorate shall ask individuals who have registered antiquities for any antiquity to be studied or projected in any exhibition for a temporary period of time. It shall return it in good state as soon as the task is over.

**Article 37:** Registered movable antiquities owned by individuals or commissions shall not be moved from one place to another without a license from the Antiquity Directorate. The Directorate shall offer expertise to transfer these antiquities in special technical ways if necessary.

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**Chapter Four**

**Antiquity Business**

**Article 38:** Antiquity business shall be permitted within the boundaries of the law hereby permitted by an official license from the Antiquity Directorate for one year period subject to renewal in return for an annual fee determined by a resolution from the Minister of Education.

**Article 39:** Antiquities which are subject to commercial exchange are antiquities which are registered at the Antiquity Directorate or the one that the Directorate indicate that they shall not be registered. The traders shall have the right to own other antiquities however they shall present them to the Antiquity Directorate within a week from date of acquisition and present a valid information about the source of purchases.

**Article 40:** The license of practicing Antiquity’s business shall include the name of the trader, title and place of residence as well as the location of his business.

**Article 41:** Each licensee shall consider the following conditions and any other conditions the Antiquity Directorate finds it necessary to be added:

a. Hold official records provided by the Antiquity Directorate for the purpose thereof indicating the content of his storage with details in addition to trade transactions on daily basis. These records shall be presented to the Antiquity Directorate employees whenever requested.

b. Present any acquired antiquity to the antiquity employees when investigating his place and offer the facilities required.

c. Provide the Antiquity Directorate with a photograph of each acquired antiquity and allow the Directorate to take a photograph thereto.
d. Submit a monthly statement to the Antiquity Directorate about each sold and purchased with details regarding the description of the antiquity and the identity of the owner and the new purchaser.

e. Hang a poster indicating that he is entitled of practicing antiquity trading. Hang a sign indicating that exporting antiquities shall be admitted by the Antiquity Directorate approval written in both Arabic and English language and placed in a visible location.

**Article 42:** Professional Antiquity's employees shall have the right to investigate any antiquity shops and examine records thereto which include the residential right for antiquity trader when the resident is for storing antiquities according to the offered license.

**Article 43:** Antiquity trader shall not push someone to excavate for antiquities without having a license, if such act is proved his license shall be canceled.

**Article 44:** The Antiquity Directorate shall have the right to cancel or refuse to renew the license offered to the antiquity trader if he violates regulations hereby or conditions stated in article (41).

**Article 45:** If the Antiquity Directorate canceled the license of practicing antiquity business or refuse to renew, the trader shall stop buying antiquities and shall sell what is within his acquisition within a year subject to renewal in return to the indicated fees in article (38) if he still have some antiquities they shall be treated as registered antiquities owned by individuals according to article (29).

In the previous cases, the trader shall not be offered a license before at least one year of settling his antiquity trading practice.

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**Chapter Five**

**Exporting Antiquities**

**Article 46:** Exporting antiquities are subject to acquiring a license by the Antiquity Directorate according to the regulations hereby. Directorate herein shall have the right to refuse the exporting of antiquity if proved to be affecting the cultural heritage of the country.

**Article 47:** Individual with interest in exporting antiquities shall submit an application to the Antiquity Directorate including information hereunder:

a. The name, title, profession, place of residence and nationality of the licensee.

b. Port, station or border center the antiquity shall be exported to.

c. The location in which the antiquity will be exported and the name of the received person.

d. The method of acquiring the antiquities to be exported.

e. The description of the antiquities with a list including number, type, measurements and estimated value thereto. The licensee shall present the antiquities to the Antiquity Directorate before exporting them.

**Article 48:** The Antiquity Directorate, after examining the exported antiquities, shall have the right to permit or refuse the exporting of the antiquities or purchase whatever desired with the amount estimated in the exporting application unless the Directorate find big difference between the price in the application form and the price estimated by the Directorate, in that case the Directorate shall adopt the latest provided that a resolution of the Minister of Education shall be issued.

**Article 49:** The antiquities to be exported are subject to the following:
a. If the price of the antiquity to be exported is more than 1000 SR, an
approval of the Higher Council of Antiquity shall be acquired
according to the Antiquity Director recommendation.
b. If the price of the antiquity to be exported is more than 5000 SR, an
approval from the Minister of Education based on a recommendation
of the Higher Council of Antiquities shall be required. In both cases,
the Antiquity Directorate shall be responsible for estimating the real
value of the piece.

Article 50:- If the Antiquity Directorate approves exporting an antiquity
the licensee shall be provided with a license from the relevant
Administration. The licensee shall pay exporting fees determined as
follow:
15% of the piece value which is estimated to be less than 500 SR
25% of the piece value when it is more than 500 SR

The estimated value determined by the licensee in the application thereto
is a basis to complete the fees unless the Antiquity Directorate finds big
difference between the indicated price and the actual price for the piece.
In this case, the fees shall be completed with the price determined by the
Directorate.

Article 51:- The Antiquity Directorate shall issue exporting license for
the following items without completing fees:

a. Antiquity sold to individuals and associations by the directorate.
b. Antiquities to be exchanged with museums and scientific
commission inside and outside the Kingdom.
c. Antiquities dedicated to a commission or scientific association as
a result of official excavation done.

Article 52:- The licensee on his expense shall wrap the licensed antiquities
to be exported. The Directorate shall seal and stick an official statement
indicating No and date of the license.

Article 53:- The exporter shall submit the exporting license to the customs,
postal, security officers and others if requested. Those officials shall seize
any unlicensed antiquity for exporting and recorded in an official minute
and submit the seized items to the Antiquity Directorate.

Chapter Six
Excavation of Antiquities

Article 54:-
a) Excavation means all process undertaken in order to dig and
investigate the existence of moveable or immovable antiquities inside
the earth or on the surface of the earth, in water flows, lagoons and
regional waters.
b) Excavating graves shall not be practiced in order to find antiquities
assumed to be buried there.

Article 55:- The Antiquity Directorate is the only body which shall have the
right to excavate and investigate for antiquities in the Kingdom.
Commission, scientific association and archeological delegations shall have
the right to undertake excavation process with a license according to the
regulations hereby.

Article 56:- The Antiquity Directorate, commission, association or
delegation which are licensed to practice excavation process shall have the
right to excavate the government, commissions and individuals properties
provided that properties which do not belong to the government shall be
returned to its original state. The excavator shall compensate the owners of
the properties for caused damages, the amount shall be determined by a
resolution issued by the Minister of Education after completing the
excavation season based on a recommendation of a special committee
formed for this purpose. The licensed commission, association or
delegations for excavating in institution and individual properties shall have
the right to buy the land in which excavation process are taking place. The
area shall be of the government properties as soon as being purchased, and
shall be registered in the record for such properties.
Article 57: Excavation license shall not be issued for associations and scientific commission unless proved to be qualified both financially and academically.

Article 58: The application shall be addressed to the director of antiquity and the following data shall be included:

a) The name and description of the scientific commission or delegation and former experience and the number of employees and qualifications provided that delegation must include surveyor, painter and photographer.

b) The archaeological site to be excavated shall be accompanied with a map indicating the border of the excavated area.

c) The excavation program and time

Excavation license shall be signed by the Minister of Education and the director of antiquity.

Article 59: Commissions, associations and delegations licensed to practice excavation process shall comply with the following:

a) Consider taking photographs and drawing the archaeological sites and all discovered antiquities according to the common standards and prepare collection of photographs of excavation process and the important discoveries.

b) Consider registering the antiquities on daily basis in a special record provided by the Antiquity Directorate to be returned at the end of the season.

c) Not to remove any part of the archeological building unless approved by the Antiquity Directorate.

d) Provide the Antiquity Directorate with the required information about the excavation process in approximately every 15 days. The Antiquity Directorate shall have the right to publish the news of excavation process while commissions, associations or delegations shall not have the right to do so unless informing the Directorate in the first place.

e) Present a brief report at the end of each season accompanied with excavation planning. The excavator shall provide data, paintings and photographs about the discovered antiquities and any required information by the Directorate.

f) Provide detailed scientific report valid for publication regarding the results of excavation process in one year period at the end of each season.

g) Accept a representative of the Directorate to completely supervise the excavation process and discoveries to be found as well as checking the antiquity’s record. The representative expenses shall be of the licensee responsibilities.

h) Submit the discovered movable antiquities at the end of each season to the Antiquity Directorate and undertake the expenses of warehousing and transporting it to the specified location provided that antiquities not to be moved from the excavation location without an approval of the Antiquity Directorate.

Article 60: The licensed commissions, associations and delegations shall permit the visit of representatives of the Antiquity Directorate whenever requested, they shall also permit the visits of archeologists provided that copyrights shall be preserved to excavator.

Article 61: If the licensed commission, associations or delegations violate any of the provisions included in article 59, the Antiquity Directorate shall stop excavation process immediately. If the violation is sever the Directorate shall cancel the license by a resolution of the Minister of Education.

Article 62: If the licensed commission, associations or delegations stopped excavation process for two seasons with no proper excuse excepted by the Directorate, the Minister of Education shall have the right to cancel the license and a license may be issued for other delegation to undertake excavation process at the same area.

Article 63: The Antiquity Directorate shall have the right to stop excavation process if affecting the delegation’s safety provided that a Ministerial resolution shall be issued in regard.

Article 65: All discovered antiquities found by the commissions, associations or delegations shall be of the government properties and shall not be transferred to others especially which can be formed into collections representing the country’s industry, art and history. However the Antiquity
Article 66:- The Antiquity Directorate shall cooperate with the scientific commission in excavation process provided that conditions governing this process shall be determined in regards to financial, technical and scientific level in excavation license as well as special license.

Chapter Seven
Penalties

Article 67:- Whoever seize, transformed, damaged or draw on immovable antiquity without a license or a movable antiquity that is not permitted by the Directorate to be settled either of the government or individuals properties shall be subject to one month to 3 years in prison and a financial penalties counting for 250 SR to 10000 SR financial penalties.

Article 68:- Whoever steal an antiquity either owned by the government or individual shall be subject 2 to 3 years in prison and a financial penalty from 500 to 1000 SR as well as regaining the stolen antiquity.

Article 69:- Whoever commit the following is subject to one of these penalties either from a month to 2 years in prison and financial penalty from 100 to 1000 SR:

- a) Undertake excavation process or assist without having a license.
- b) Practice antiquity’s trade without a license.
- c) Practice antiquity trade without following the determined conditions indicated in article (61).
- d) Export or assist in exporting antiquities without license.

Article 70:- Whoever build on a location of registered archeological site, or violate conditions and rights of contiguity of neighboring archeological sites and historical buildings with the penalty stated in article (69) in addition to enforcing the violator to remove the additional parts and restore the site to its original state.
**Article 71:** Whoever commits the following shall be subject to 15 days to a month in prison and financial penalties from 50 to 500 SR:

a) Acquire a registered antiquity.
b) Transfer the antiquity from one place to the other without a license.
c) Obtain remains, rocks and dust of an archaeological sites without a license.

**Article 72:** Whoever commits the following shall be subject for one week to one month in prison and financial penalties from 10 to 100 SR:

a) Deform an antiquity by writing, painting, posting and sticking posters thereof.
b) Entering archaeological locations and museums without a license or without paying the required fees.
c) Violate any of the regulations hereby.

**Article 73:** Violator in all cases shall remove all violating reasons and return the antiquity to its original state within a period determined by the Directorate on his expenses.

**Article 74:** Any moveable antiquity shall be seized if the owner violates any of regulations stated in article (29-33-37-38-39-46-55).

**Article 75:** Any antiquity seized in regards to regulation hereby shall be submitted to the Antiquity Directorate.

**Article 76:** Common executive authorities based on the Directorate demand shall take over the responsibility of pursuing violators of regulations hereby, investigate the charges, accuse them of committing violations and file a law suit against them.

**Article 77:** Violators of the regulations hereby shall be judged by a committee consisting of three members issued by a resolution of the Council of Ministers. Resolutions issued by the committee shall be final after being approved by the Prime Minister.
With God’s Help
We King Khaled bin Abdul Aziz
King of Saudi Arabia

After viewing clause (20) of the Law of the Council of Minister issued by the Royal Decree No (38) in 22/10/1377H.

And after viewing the Law of Antiquity issued by the Royal Decree No 26/M in 23/6/1392H.

And after viewing the Ministerial Resolution No (235) in 21/1/1398H.

Determined the following:

First: the text hereunder shall be added at the end of article (1) of the Law of Antiquity:

(The Higher Council For Antiquity may be reformed by a ministerial resolution based on the Minister of Education, Chairman of The Higher Council of Antiquity’s recommendation).

Second: the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, Chairman of The Higher Council of Antiquity shall execute our resolution herein.

Royal Signature
Khaled

Resolution No 235 in 21/2/1398H

The Council of Ministers

After viewing the correspondence herewith including the letter of HE the Minister of Education, Chairman of the Higher Council of Antiquity No 36/1/3/1020/43 in 3/4/1397H which highlights clause (1) of the Law of Antiquity issued by Royal Decree No 26/M in 23/6/1392H based on the Ministerial resolution No 534 in 8/6/1392H where the article state the formation of the Higher Council of Antiquity as follow:

| 1. The Minister of Education | President |
| 2. Deputy Ministry of Education | Deputy |
| 3. Representative of The Ministry of Finance and National Economy | Member |
| 4. Representative of The Ministry of Interior | The rank shall at least be ten |
| 5. Representative of The Ministry of Education | Member |
| 6. Representative of The Ministry of Haj and Endowment | The rank shall at least be ten |
| 7. Representative of The Ministry of Information | Member |
| 8. The Director of Antiquity Department | The rank shall at least be ten |
| 9. Two members chosen by Chairman of the Council among individuals known for their prominent scientific statues and interested in culture and heritage. The period of their membership shall not be less than two years subject to renewal. |

Based on the proposed memo submitted to the Higher Council of Antiquity in its seventh session in 1/3/1379H in regard to considering the assignment of an additional member among the Council’s members representing The...
Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs regarding city planning due to the close relation between the responsibilities of city planning and archeological and historical sites all over the world.

Worth mentioning, the former representative of The Ministry of Interior in the Higher Council of Antiquity is the general manager of city planning prior to the establishment of The Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs.

Upon this, the Council of Antiquity, according to the enclosed recommendation of the minutes, has agreed on the request of appointing an additional member among the Council’s members representing The Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs-city planning- adding to that the Council proposed additional members with experiences of individuals according to article (9) of the Law of Antiquity as explained above and have 3 members instead of 2, due to the benefit gained through citizens with experiences who are familiar with cultural and heritage issues. The Council proposed the submission of the request to the Council of Ministers.

Therefore HE seeks the approval of the following:

First--adding new paragraph after paragraph (7) of article (1) of the Law of Antiquity as follow:
(17-representative of The Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs) member

Second- amending article (9) of the Law of Antiquity as follow:
(3 members chosen by the Chairman of the Council...etc) after viewing the memo of The Bureau of Exports No 100/5 in 4/7/1397H in the subject.

The following shall be issued:

1. To add the following text to at the end of article (1) of the Law of Antiquity issued by Royal Decree No 26/M in 23/6.

The Higher Council of Antiquity may be reformed by a Ministerial Resolution based on a recommendation from HE The Minister of Education and the Chairman of the Higher Council of Antiquity./1392H.

2. A copy of a Royal Decree draft regarding the matter is enclosed herein.

Approved as stated.

Prime Minister
AL-HIJR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (MADÂIN SÂLIH)

Management Plan

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
The Supreme Commission for Tourism
Secretariat General

Confidential

Draft Antiquities and Museums Law
(V1)

1
Table of Contents

Chapter 1: (Definitions & General Provisions) .................................. 3
Chapter 2: (Archaeological & Historical Sites and urban Heritage Sites) .................................................. 12
Chapter 3: (Underwater Antiquities) ........................................... 13
Chapter 4: (Trading of Archeological Objects & Urban Heritage Objects) .................................................. 14
Chapter 5: (Surveying and Excavating for Antiquities) ............. 18
Chapter 6: (Urban Heritage) ...................................................... 19
Chapter 7: (Museums) .............................................................. 24
Chapter 8: (Penalties) .............................................................. 28
Chapter 9: (Final Provisions) ...................................................... 33

Chapter 1: (Definitions & General Provisions)

Article 1
For the purpose of this law, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them unless otherwise stated:

The Commission: The Supreme Commission For Tourism and Antiquity.
The Board (BoD): The Supreme Commission For Tourism and Antiquity Board of Directors.
Antiquities: moveable, immovable, buried and sunken properties which are built, produced, accommodated and painted by human being, or acquired archeological characteristics by human being interaction in ancient ages. Under the title antiquities come historical and archeological sites, architectural heritage, traditional culture and sites.
Immovable Antiquities: immovable antiquities which are fixed on earth like natural or excavated caves used by Man and rocks which was painted, engraved with pictures and scripts. Remains of cities and buried establishment as well as cities, villages, old neighborhoods and buildings build for various reasons ex; mosques, palaces, homes, hospitals, schools,
castles, forts, fences, hansamat, cemeteries, tunnels, damps and the remains of those places as well as doors, windows, pillars, verandas, ceilings, friezes, crowns and ornamentation thereto.

**Moveable Antiquities**: Archaeological pieces made to be separated from the earth or from immovable antiquities which can be removed from it in its original location; e.g., sculptures, scripts, textiles, and other industries and the materials, reason of manufacturing and ways of usages used thereof.

Traditional tools which represent national heritage in terms of traditional, artistic, aesthetic, scientific, historical features or priority of usage thereto; e.g., Hijaz railroad and first elevator used in the Kingdom.

**Urban Heritage**: cities, villages, neighborhoods and buildings built by human beings with included spaces, establishments, irrigation tunnels, roads and plazas which have historical, scientific and cultural values even if their period extended to the recent decades yet it must not be less than 50 years, although the Commission have the right to consider heritage belonging to recent ages as urban heritage.

**Historical Sites**: locations witnessed famous important historical events unnecessarily including visible or sunken antiquities.

**Sites of Traditional Heritage**: areas in which social and handicraft activities related to traditional heritage are practiced, such as: sites of honey production by traditional means, traditional agricultural terraces, sesame seeds mills, ship manufacturing and locations for seasonal and sustainable social events.

**Collections of Traditional Heritage**: all tools used or produced by Man in ancient time in any of the Kingdom’s areas to practice daily lifestyle; e.g., accommodation, food, clothes, education, self-defense, health care and entertainment means.

**Museum**: all collection of pieces temporarily or permanently projected in a suitable place open for public in fixed opening hours in which projection thereof shall achieve the desired entertainment, educational and cultural objectives, other pieces shall be called special collection.

**Excavation**: all excavation, exploring and diving processes aiming at finding moveable or immovable antiquities under or above the surface of the earth, valleys, lakes and regional water.

**Archaeological Survey**: all exploring processes executed above the surface or under sea of the earth in order to discover antiquities.

**Excavator**: individual or individuals scientifically or technically qualified for practising excavating and searching for antiquities.

**General Provisions**

**Article 2**

All types of antiquities moveable and immovable are public property of the State, except for private properties that are proven by the documents accepted by specialized authorities in the government.

**Article 3**

a. The Commission shall have the right to evacuate individuals or commissions occupying archaeological buildings or historical sites in cooperation and coordination with the relevant authorities. If the occupiers commit no violation to the regulations hereby, they shall be compensated for their buildings and properties thereto according to the Disposition of Ownership for Public Welfare.
b. Archeological buildings and sites may remain in the custody of owners and beneficiaries by virtue of a license issued from the Commission and according to its regulations.

Article 4
Ownership of the land does not vest its owner with the right to deal with existing moveable or immovable antiquities thereon or buried therein. Excavation for antiquities shall not be carried out in therein. The Commission may carry out the excavation itself or authorize other bodies. Discovered antiquities are a property of the State, and the Commission may relinquish immovable antiquities if deemed necessary after ascertaining their significance and classification, and after documenting and registering them according to this law and its regulations.

Article 5
Any natural person or legal entity occupying an archeological site or historical building shall allow the Commission’s employees access to the site or building.

Article 6
It is prohibited to destroy, damage, disfigure or cause any harm to moveable and immovable antiquities, including causing change in features by writing or drawing or sticking advertisements on them. It is also prohibited to put signs and commercial advertising posters with the Commission’s approval.

Article 7
The Commission shall determine the (chronological) age of antiquities and what antiquities to be registered. Registration of an antiquity means: the government acknowledges the national, historical, cultural, and technical significance of antiquities. Registered antiquities shall be studied, maintained, presented and exhibited properly according to the provisions of this law.

Article 8
1. Maintenance of archeological, historical and cultural sites shall be considered when planning, improving and expanding projects for cities and villages. The rights of contiguity shall be considered by providing an protection area surrounding sites and monuments. Planning projects shall not be approved in areas with historical or archeological sites or traditional and urban heritages locations without the Commission’s approval.
2. The Commission shall identify archeological and historical sites, sites of urban and traditional heritage, and shall notify the Department for planning cities at the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs about these sites. License for construction or restoration shall not be issued for locations close to historical or archeological sites or traditional and urban heritages locations without coordination with the Commission to ensure that style of new buildings will harmonize with the ancient style.

Article 9
The Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Oil, The Ministry of Transportation or any other relevant
authority shall coordinate with the Commission before implementing any filed work.
The permission of the Commission must be obtained before licensing mining and crus-her projects and other similar projects. This does not relieve the body working at the site from preserving the existing antiquities.

**Article 11**
The Commission shall coordinate with the Ministry of Interior and relevant security bodies in order to create a mechanism for protecting archeological sites. The Authorities in Provinces and subordinated districts and administration shall support in protecting antiquities when necessary.

**Article 12**
Heavy and dangerous industry shall not be permitted close to moveable and immovable antiquities and shall be not less than 500 m away.

**Article 13**
The Commission shall set investment regulations for archeological and historical sites and urban heritage locations.

**Article 14**
It is prohibited to organize auctions to sell archeological or cultural objects without a license from the Commission.

**Article 15**
The Commission shall work towards returning antiquities smuggled outside the Kingdom, and shall assist on giving back foreign antiquities smuggled to the Kingdom in accordance to international treaties and conventions in this regard.

**Article 16**

The Commission shall have the right to own any registered archeological site or historical building provided that ownership procedures follow regulations of dispossessing for the public welfare. The Commission shall also have the right to own lands and buildings near registered immovable antiquities.

**Article 17**
A Board of Consultant shall be established in the Commission chaired by the SG and the membership of a number of members chosen by the SG among specialist, people with interest and from relevant bodies. Membership term shall be two years subject to renewal. Professional Consultative group shall also be formed chaired by the Deputy SG for Antiquity and Museum. Rewards shall be paid for members of the Board of Consultant and the consultative group according to the executive regulations under this law.

**Article 18**
1. The Commission shall establish a register for national antiquities both moveable and immovable antiquities whether owned by the State, individuals or private museums. The register shall be called the Antiquities Register for documenting each moveable or immovable antiquity approved by the BoD as a national antiquity to be protected for its scientific, artistic, cultural and historical value. The Antiquities register includes the following:
   - **List (a):** moveable or immovable antiquities of great historical, cultural, scientific, or national value and the Commission considers the preservation of such antiquities a public benefit.
7. The owner shall not restore or operate his registered cultural building without obtaining a license from the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs and the Commission's prior consent.

Article 19
The Commission may allow dealings with archeological areas and historical buildings which do not necessarily need to be registered. The Commission may, upon a resolution from its Board, register any archeological site or building based upon a recommendation by the SG.

Article 20
A fund shall be established at the Commission entitled The Antiquities Protection and Development Fund to finance the preservation, maintenance and utilization of antiquities and to support the private sector efforts as individuals, legal entities, institutions and private associations aiming at achieving the desired objectives indicated in the Law herein. Financial resources includes the following:

- Contributions, donations, subsidies and grants offered by individuals, public and private institutions, international, regional, Arab and private commissions. The BoD of the Commission shall approve foreign donations.
- Special allocations for the fund from revenues of projects managed by the Commission.
- The Commission shall issue the rules and regulations regarding managing, spending, and depositing money in the Fund.
Article 21
The Commission may establish non-profitable associations (groups) for friends of heritage and antiquities with the right to benefit from the Fund. The executive regulations under this law shall set out the provisions related to these associations.

Chapter 2: (Archeological & Historical Sites and urban Heritage Sites)

Article 22
It is prohibited to trespass to archeological sites in any form including changing features of the site, using the existing remains, taking rocks, soil or any other material from the site without a license from the Commission.

Article 23
Whoever discovers or hears about a discovery of an antiquity shall inform the closest relevant authority as soon as possible. The authority shall inform the Commission immediately. The discoverer or the informer of an unregistered important antiquity may receive an appropriate reward according to the executive regulations under this law.

Article 24
The following works within the boundaries of archeological sites shall be subject to the Commission’s prior approval. Response to the request shall be issued within a period of two months as of the date of application. The same works shall also be subject to the technical supervision by the Commission during implementation:

- Partial and full demolishing works for any building within the boundaries of archeological sites.
- Roads, gas, electricity and water network supplies and whatever might deform the features of buildings and antiquities sites or disturb the archeological layers.

Article 25
Registered historical sites and urban heritage sites in the Antiquities Register shall be governed by protection regulations related to archeological sites set out in this law.

Chapter 3: (Underwater Antiquities)

Article 26
Underwater (sunken) antiquities both moveable and immovable whether discovered or undiscovered in Regional and Interior waters shall be are properties of the State. The Commission reserves the right to reclaim underwater antiquities—whether in the custody of individuals or institutions—through appropriate means and in accordance to this law and its regulations.

Article 27
a) Whoever discovers an archeological site under water, wreckage of a drowned ship or moveable antiquity objects shall keep them in their original locations without causing damages or changes, and immediately notify the Commission or the closest authority in order to inform the Commission.
b) Whoever accidentally captures an antiquity object out of water shall notify the Commission, or submit the object to the Commission or the nearest authority within one week of capture. The discoverer may receive a reward according to the executive regulations under this law.

**Article 28**
If antiquity objects under sea are subject to damage or endangered, the Commission shall take the necessary precautions to rescue the antiquities as it sees fit.

**Article 29**
The Commission shall coordinate with the General Authority for Ports, National Commission for Wildlife Protection and development, and the Public Administration of Border Guards and other relevant bodies to form a mechanism that guarantees the protection of underwater antiquities. These authorities shall inform the Commission of any discovered antiquities or about intruders who are caught with antiquities extracted from the sea.

**Article 30**
The Commission shall have the right to offer other commissions, scientific associations and foreign missions the permission to excavate underwater antiquities after coordinating with the concerned bodies according to special conditions set out in the executive under this law.

**Chapter 4: (Trading of Archeological Objects & Urban Heritage Objects)**

**Article 31**
1. It is permitted, upon a resolution by the Commission’s Board, to exchange duplicated movable antiquities or replicas that belong to the Commission with museums, scientific institutions inside and outside the Kingdom. The executive regulations under this law shall set out the procedures organizing the exchange.

2. It is permitted, upon a resolution by the Commission’s Board, to lend moveable antiquities to be exhibited in international museums and exhibitions for a period that does not exceed a year subject to renewal. The executive regulation under this law shall set out procedures organizing this.

3. The Commission may organize exhibitions for antiquities inside and outside the Kingdom.

**Article 32**
The Commission may accept archeological objects offered as gifts or permanent or temporary loans. The Commission keeps these antiquities and records the name of presenter. These objects may be exhibited in the Commission’s museums or other museums under the name of the owner.

**Article 33**
The Commission may pay to whoever accidentally discovers an important moveable antiquity a reward (if he/she wants). The reward shall be proportionate to the value of the antiquity. The Commission shall set the regulation for this.

**Article 34**
The Commission may leave the antiquity accidentally discovered in the custody of the discoverer after registration. The discoverer may not deal with the antiquity without the Commission’s approval.

**Article 35**
Restoration of archeological objects may not be carried out with a license from the Commission.
Article 36
Urban heritage objects classified as national heritage (national antiquities) are subject to special protection, and the Commission shall assist in the documenting, studying, and exhibiting these objects. The Commission shall also support efforts of individuals and institutions interested in the documentation and scientific research.

Article 37
A license shall be obtained from the Commission to repair, maintain, or restore registered moveable heritage tools owned by the private sector.

Article 38
Registered moveable antiquities owned by the State may not be sold or gifted except after an order from the Chairman of Council of Ministers.

Article 39
1. Any kind of ownership of archaeological is not permitted unless legally verified.
2. Commissions and individuals may—without contradicting the provisions of this law—own and preserve moveable antiquities after registration at the Commission. Owner registered antiquities is responsible for preserving and maintaining the antiquities. If the antiquities are lost or damaged he shall notify the Commission immediately according to the procedures specified in the regulations.

Article 40
The Commission may—upon a resolution from the SG—purchase or exchange a moveable antiquity in the custody (care) of individuals or commissions.

Article 41
It is permitted to trade with and import moveable antiquities represented in artistic, porcelain objects, paintings, coins, and collections of urban heritage, and heritage tools after obtaining a license from the Commission according to the terms and provisions set out in the executive regulations under this law.

Article 42
With a license from the Commission, it is permitted to exchange archaeological objects and collections of urban heritage registered at the Commission as national heritage or owned by individuals or private institutions within the boundaries of the Kingdom only. The individual who sells or gifts an archaeological object shall notify the Commission about the deal, and shall inform the purchaser or receiver about the registration and protection resolution. The Commission shall have priority to purchase any archaeological object.

Article 43
Any who enter the Kingdom with an archaeological or heritage object shall comply with international rules and regulations organizing this, notify Custom Officers about the object, and register the object at the Commission or any of its branches in the Provinces within three weeks of entering the Kingdom. The owner shall have the right to take the object out of the Kingdom after obtaining permission from the Commission.

Article 44
Prior approval from the Commission shall be obtained when wishing to copy (duplicate) an archaeological object for commercial purposes.
Chapter 5: (Surveying and Excavating for Antiquities)

Article 45
The Commission only has the right to excavate, dig, survey, or dive in search for antiquities. National scientific commissions, institutions, and association, individuals interested, or foreign exhibitions may carry out such works with a license issued according to the provisions of this law and its executive regulations.

Article 46
Licensed scientific commissions and associations or institutions have the right to excavate in public and private properties after notifying the owners. If there is a necessity to reserve (maintain) the discovered immovable antiquities, private owners shall be compensated for the land value where the antiquity is discovered according to disposition law for public welfare. If there is no intention to own the land, compensation shall be paid for any damages caused when excavation works end.

Article 47
If an excavation licensee violates any of the provisions of this law or its executive regulations, the Commission shall have the right to stop excavation works immediately until the violation is removed or rectified. The Commission may also cancel the license by a resolution from the SG.

Article 48
All discovered antiquities—discovered by the Commission, a foreign association or exhibition, or individuals—are properties of the State, and they may not be relinquished. The Commission Secretary-General may grant (offer) the excavating party or individuals linked to a scientific organization some moveable antiquities similar to what have been discovered in the same excavation area according to the executive regulations under this law.

Chapter 6: (Urban Heritage)

Article 49
Urban heritage sites are classified in the National Antiquities Register as A, B, C of high, medium and low level of importance in national, scientific, artistic, cultural and historical fields. The classification shall include:

- Building or site or part of them including moveable antiquities related to them
- Urban areas consisting of several buildings and forming an urban texture of cities, villages and neighborhoods including areas surrounding the registered sites which are necessary to preserve, present or use the registered building or site.
- Natural areas surrounding urban sites or the integrated area completing the planned environment such as parks and gardens.

Article 50
1. Protection area shall be 200 m immediately surrounding the immovable urban and archaeological heritage of a registered site or building. It shall extend until the areas viewing the building in order to maintain the visual environment of the registered antiquity. The area may be extended or reduced by a resolution from the Commission.
2. Protection requirements shall be canceled if already located within a preserved area of urban heritage development.
3. Protection area may be altered under the supervision of the Commission and by a resolution from it within the regulations of the protection of architectural heritage, planning preliminary architectural structures or detailed architectural designs provided that the requirements of protection areas are included in the documents mentioned.

Article 51
Construction regulations shall not be applied on classified urban heritage buildings and sites if application of these regulations contradict protection and classification requirements.

Article 52
Classified immovable antiquities in the National Antiquities Register (A, B, C) and their protection areas shall be included in plans for organizing cities structure and details, and in the plans for the protection and development of urban heritage.

Article 53
By classifying urban heritage sites or buildings within the National Antiquity Register as (a, b, c) the government shall be responsible of preserving and protecting them if owned by the government and shall contribute in the process if owned by the private sector. It shall be expropriated by the government according to regulations hereby if preservation conditions are not available as being owned by the private sector.

Article 54

(A) By classifying urban heritage sites or buildings within the National Antiquity Register as (a, b, c), it shall be preserved, maintained, restored and appropriately operated provided that no alteration will be done to the features of the classified building or the site unless it were necessary for the purposes of operation.

(B) No operation or utilization process shall be undertaken without the Commission’s permission and supervision provided that the Commission is notified three months in advance before the work commencement and also including a clarification of the nature of the work.

(C) No alteration shall be done to the preservation area that will cause any harm or disfigure the classified building or site or obstruct operation or use.

Article 55
The Commission or the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs or both parties shall contribute 50% of restoration, fixing and maintenance expenses for the urban heritage site or building or area classified as (B) class in the National Antiquity Register. This percentage may reach 100% if the owner was absolutely unable to provide any amount specified for this purpose. The Commission or the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs participating in the efforts to preserve buildings listed in class (B) in the National Antiquity Register may contribute in maintaining and developing it by providing 30% of maintenance expenses and 50% of restoration expenses.

Article 56
Notwithstanding the relevant regulations, it is prohibited to sell or transfer the ownership of any urban heritage site or building classified under the National Antiquity Register (A, B) and owned by the government to the private sector unless the Commission approves such. The buyer or new owner shall comply with the classification conditions stipulated in the Law.

Article 57
The preparation of detailed structural urban plans and designs shall comply with the preservation requirements for buildings and sites classified under the National Antiquity Register class (C). In case it were necessary to review this classification the matter has to be transferred to the Commission. The Commission then reaches a resolution in regards to this matter within 90 days or else the classification will be void.

Article 58
By classifying a building under class (C) of the National Antiquity Register the government shall contribute in maintenance with no more than 30% of maintenance fees in case being owned by the private sector.

Article 59
"The preservation area for urban heritage " shall be identified in cities and villages if the Commission considers it significant from scientific, artistic, cultural and historical aspects that justify its preservation. A resolution from the Commission BoD shall be issued and the Commission shall issue a resolution in regard to classifying these areas in association with the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. The resolution includes the plan for urban heritage preservation and development. The full or partial classification for the protection area may be canceled in virtue of a resolution issued by the Commission BoD.

Article 60
The Commission in coordination with the relevant sectors shall develop a plan for urban heritage preservation and development corresponding with an overall comprehensive and integrated program for the development and protection of the specified area. The plan for urban heritage protection shall identify the classified locations and buildings as well as protection requirements and implications, intervention method guidelines including: urban restoration, rehabilitation and revitalization, construction regulations, parameters for land, intervention methods regarding buildings and height limitations, transportation, traffic and service plans etc.

Article 61
As a result of issuing the resolution that identifies a " protected area for urban heritage preservation and development ", the urban heritage protection plans shall be integrated with the detailed organizational and structural urban plans and replace them in regards to the classified area.

Article 62
Any amendments to the urban heritage protection and development plans shall not be allowed without the Commission’s approval.

Article 63
Construction, maintenance, restorations work as well as the division of classified and protected urban heritage buildings; villages and neighborhoods shall obtain an approval from the Commission. These operations are subject to the technical and scientific supervision and monitoring of the Commission during execution according to regulations set by the Commission in association with the relevant bodies.
Article 64
It is not allowed to work in the restoration and maintenance filed for heritage buildings without obtaining a license and classification from the Commission according to the executive regulations under this law.

Chapter 7: (Museums)

Article 65
Individuals or establishments may establish private cultural, scientific or traditional museums or others regarding them as a cultural or investment project or both.

Article 66
Museums shall be established according to conditions, regulations and procedures stipulated in the executive regulation of the law herein under the supervision of the Commission.

Article 67
"Saudi Museum" symbols shall be approved by the Commission to be a distinguished title given to individuals, institutions, commissions and associations by a resolution from the Commission BoD and based on the recommendation of the SG. The symbol shall also be transferred with the museum, if ownership is transferred. The executive regulations stipulate the conditions of granting, canceling and withdrawing the symbol by a resolution from the Commission BoD, if the museum owner requested withdrawal, or if the museum violated one of the conditions listed above and the Commission notified the owner of the museum and he did not rectify the situation within two years after notification.

Article 68
Museums that hold the Saudi museum symbol shall be divided into three types A, B and C according to the exhibitions standard and diversification of activities. Other than that, they will be considered collections not museums according to the executive regulations of this law.

Article 69
A museum holding the Saudi museum symbol shall undertake the following tasks and responsibilities:
1. To preserve, restore, maintain, study and enrich the collections the museum owns.
2. To display its collections and make accessible to the biggest number of visitors.
3. To implement cultural and scientific activities in coordination with relevant bodies.
4. To participate in scientific research and contribute in the development and dissemination of knowledge and information.

Article 70
The Commission holds the right to visit and inspect the museum holding a Saudi museum symbol.

Article 71
Any museum carrying the Saudi museum symbol shall have the right to benefit from the Commission's experience, receive its scientific and technical support in the fields of: exhibitions, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of exhibition items, operation and management. It shall also have the right to benefit from international experts in these fields within the frame of a joint cooperation program between the Commission, international museums, and specialized international organizations. The Commission will
also support the museum and provide it with required governmental and private funding resources in order to receive loans and endowments to help develop and improve the museum.

Article 72
Admission fees for museums may be set and determined in order to attract the biggest number of visitors and encourage them to visit the museum.

Article 73
Any museum carrying the Saudi museum symbol shall not be permitted to acquire (obtain) any antiquity items whether by purchase, gift, grant, or exchange without verifying legitimacy of ownership.

Article 74
The Commission may register the exhibition items in the museum that comply with the specifications of an national antiquity item in the National Antiquities Register. No museum shall offer registered items for sale or take these items outside the Kingdom without a prior approval from the Commission.

Article 75
Museums that carry the Saudi museum symbol may participate in exhibitions organized outside the Kingdom, and in joint activities with other international museums after obtaining prior approval from the Commission.

Article 76
Museums that carry the Saudi museum symbol may accept financial grants and gifts that are given in kind and presented by individuals, commissions, institutions, and private or public companies working in the Kingdom.

Similar gifts and grants offered from outside the Kingdom may be accepted after obtaining an approval from the Commission.

Article 77
Museums Friends Association (MFA) shall be established on the national level in each Province in the Kingdom. Membership shall be available for all citizens and residents who are interested and pay the annual membership fee according to the Association’s regulations.

Article 78
A Saudi Museum Fund shall be established at the Commission. The financial resource of this Fund shall be from the support provided by the Commission, donations presented by individuals as well as local institutions and companies, and foreign companies working in the Kingdom. Amounts may be paid from this Fund to establish new museums, and support existing governmental and private museums holding the Saudi museum symbol.

Article 79
The National Museum shall establish a Board of Trustees chaired by the General Secretary of the Commission and with the membership of a number of specialists and interested individuals from relevant bodies in both private and public sectors assigned by the Commission upon the recommendation of the SG. This Board shall propose programs to operate the museum and follow-up on all its affairs and different scientific activities and cooperation areas with museums inside and outside the Kingdom subject to the SG’s approval.

Article 80
Individuals, institutions and companies working in the Kingdom may find the purchase of antique or heritage items and collections for museums that hold the Saudi museum symbol. In return, the companies will receive discounts when paying due taxes to the government according to relevant set regulations.

**Article 81**
All governmental and private museums carrying the Saudi museum symbol shall have to coordinate in advance with the Commission if the museum is transferred to another location, or if any dramatic changes occur in the exhibits.

**Article 82**
If a governmental or private museum wants to terminate its activity or suspend it for an extended period of time, then the Commission shall have a right to present its point of view regarding the future plans for the museums exhibit items and may also object if these plans may endanger the safety of these items.

**Article 83**
Any restoration to an antique item registered in the National Heritage list and owned by the museum shall not be allowed except after consulting the Commission. The relevant rules and regulations shall also be determined.

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**Chapter 8: (Penalties)**

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**Article 84**
Not withstanding any harsher penalties set out in other laws, the penalties for violating any provisions of this law shall be as follows:

1. **A fine not exceeding (5000 S.R)** for anyone who:
   A. Does not provide the Commission with a statement about the antiquities he/she owns after two years from enforcing this law.
   B. Possesses an original antique item without a registration or license.
   C. Possesses an antique item with no certificate of origin according to provisions of this law.
   D. Does not notify the Commission of any sale for registered and protected movable or immovable antiques.
   E. Obstructs the work of the Commission task forces in archeological and historical sites, and in traditional and urban heritage sites owned by individuals.

2. **A fine not exceeding (15,000 S.R)** for any one who:
   A. Makes antiquity models or replicas and uses them for commercial purposes without a license from the Commission.
   B. Refrain from delivering antiquities that were discovered or found to the Commission whether or not he carries a license for survey or excavation.
   C. Exports a movable antique or deals with it in methods that violate the provisions of this law.

3. **A fine not exceeding (20,000 S.R)**:
   A. For anyone who builds in a registered archeological site with proof that the person knew that the land is a registered archeological site, or
if a person violates the rights of custody set on surrounding lands adjacent to archeological sites, in addition to enforcing the violator to remove what he built and return the site to its original status on his personal expense and under the supervision of the Commission.

B- Any one who violates the licensing terms for construction and restoration of archeological and heritage buildings and the relevant provisions.

4. Imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month, or a fine not exceeding (20,000 S.R), or both if one of the following violations are committed:
A- Move remains, rocks, or sand from an archeological site without a license.
B- Dispose of waste or litter in archeological sites.

5. A fine not exceeding (25,000 S.R) for anyone who:
A- Forges or intended to forge an antique deliberately.
B- Provides false information or documents to obtain a license or a permit by virtue of this law.
C- Changes, sells, grants a building or a classified site or changes the surrounding environment that might cause harm without notifying the Commission. The Commission may claim compensation for any losses or resulting damages based on an amount estimated by a committee formed according to the executive regulations, and force the violator to rebuild the site or building on his own expenses and implement the penalty stipulated in paragraph 4/C of this article.

6. Imprisonment for at least six months, or a fine not exceeding (50,000 S.R), or both for changing, damaging, destroying, or demolishing an immovable antique or part of it, or a movable antique which the Commission does not permit dealing with it whether owned by individuals or the government.

7. Imprisonment for at least 2 years, or a fine not exceeding (100,000 S.R), or both for any one who steals an antique owned by the government and force the person to return the stolen antique.

8. Imprisonment for at least 3 years, or a fine not exceeding (150,000 S.R), or both for any of the following violations:
A- Excavation with no license.
B- Smuggling antiquities outside the Kingdom.

Article 85
Any sold antiquities may be confiscated (seized) by power of a court order if the owner violates any of the provisions in this law or its regulation, and shall be delivered to the Commission.

Article 86
Violations shall be cited by authorized employees from the Commission. As for urban heritage, Municipality employees are in charge of this task along with Commission employees. Violations must be reported to the Commission.

Article 87
Investigation and Public Prosecution Corporation shall be in charge of investigating violations that impose penalties according to this law and present a claim before the committee specialized in reaching verdicts regarding violation cases.

**Article 88**
In case of violating trading regulations, the license shall be terminated permanently or temporarily suspended according to regulations of this law.

**Article 89**
Notwithstanding other penalties set out in this law, anyone who causes irreparable damage to a protected archeological or historical site or traditional and urban heritage site shall be forced to pay compensation estimated according to the damages.

**Article 90**
A- A special committee shall be formed by a resolution from the Commission’s BoD to look into violations, transgressions and enforcing penalties according to this law. The committee shall be chaired by a judge from the Ministry of Justice with the membership of a representative from the Board of Grievance and another representative from the Commission as well as a specialist.
B- The penalty order shall be approved by the Commission’s SG and the violator shall be informed about the verdict in a period of no more than 30 days.
C- The violator has the right to appeal to the Board of Grievance within 30 days from the time he was informed about the verdict.
D- The executive regulations of this law stipulate the working procedures of this committee and the method of issuing orders and rewards to members.

**Article 91**
According to the executive regulations of this law, financial rewards shall be granted to anyone who:
- Helps in seizing an antique item found or dealt with among individual/s or bodies in a way that violates the provisions of this law or its regulations.
- Provided information that led to the discovery of any violations to this law or its regulations.

**Chapter 9: (Final Provisions)**

**Article 92**
The law herein shall replace the Law of Antiquity issued by the Royal Decree No. 26/M in 23-6-1392 H and shall overrule any contradicting regulations.

**Article 93**
The Commission shall issue the executive regulations for the Law herein.

**Article 94**
This law shall hereby be enforced within 90 days from publication date in the official gazette.

**Article 95**
Individuals who are subject to the law herein and its executive regulations shall amend their positions in accordance with regulations hereby within two years from publication date in the Official Gazette.
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
The Supreme Commission for
Tourism (SCT)

Al Hijr Archeological Site (Madain Sâlih):
Completion, Development and
Presentation Project:

Buildings & Structures of
Al Hijaz Railway Station
Complex

Al Hijir Station (Madaen Saleh)
Located in the Northwestern tip of Al Hijir Archeological site (Madain Sâlih), the Hijaz Railway Buildings form the hub of tourism-related activities in the site. They provide services such as: Reception, Tourist information and Guidance, Presentation, Gastronomy, Souvenirs, and light accommodations.

The buildings were renovated by DMAM (Ministry of Education’s Deputy Department of Antiquities and Museums) in 1995 and were not utilized since then.

The Supreme Commission for Tourism plans to utilize some of them for administrative purposes such as: site administrative offices, workshops, security, and to host international scientific expeditions working in the site.
The Current Situation:

- The Hijaz Railway (also spelled Hedjaz) was originally built to transport pilgrims from the city of Damascus in Syria to the city of Medina in Saudi Arabia.
- The Train Station is composed of (16) stone structures, built during the Ottoman era in 1906-08 by a German architect.
- It was completed in 1908, but was severely damaged during WWI (1914-1918) by Lawrence of Arabia and the Arab Revolt.
- Parts of the Hijaz Railway survived and some of the sections are still functioning today.
- Al Hijj Station is the 2nd largest in Saudi Arabia after Al Medina Station.

Diagram:

- Building (1): Hijaz Railway Museum
- Building (2): Exhibition Hall
- Building (3): Site Management Offices
- Building (4): Information & Public Facilities
- Building (5): Clinic
- Building (6): Research Center
- Building (7): Restaurant
- Building (8): Beeswax
- Building (9): Public Toilets
- Building (10): VIP Accommodations
- Building (11): Commercial & Accommodations
- Building (12): Residential Suits (5)
- Building (13): Private Duplex (2)
- Building (14): Research Staff Housing (E)
- Building (15): Research Staff Housing (8)
- Building (17): The Syrian Hajj Route Museum

General Layout of Al Hijaz Railway Station
A longitudinal stone structure consisting of a large continuous open space covered by a wooden gable with an advanced space truss system seldom seen in the area. The building has 4 entrances on the short sides; 2 on the North wall plane, and 2 on the south side of the building, while the long sides contain 25 large glazed steel windows with a small entrance on the eastern plane with 2 sets of authentic steel tracks remain of the station.

It is proposed to utilize the facility as a walk-through museum presenting the history of Al Hijaz Railway containing a number of authentic locomotives and cars from the early 20th century.
A 'L' shaped stone structure located to the east of the Repair station. It consists of a large hall surrounded by 3 supporting rooms. The structure is covered by a wooden gable. The building has 5 entrances: 3 on the eastern wall façade, and 2 on the northern side of the building. The long façade has 6 large glazed steel windows similar to that found on the eastern façade of Building 1.

The building contains what is left of the old power plant. It is suggested that the building be utilized as a multi-purpose exhibition hall to support the activities of the nearby cultural facilities.

Ground Floor Layout

Building 2: Exhibition Hall
An inverted 'L' shaped flat roof stone structure located west of the repair station. It consists of 4 rooms of various size surrounding a peripheral court on the SW corner. The rooms are serviced by a Kitchen and toilet.

The building has 2 entrances: 1 on the southern façade opening into a corridor leading to the court, and another on the north side of the court.

The building was renovated to become the Head quarters of the Site Management Unit.

It is suggested that the building function remains while rehabilitating the spaces and Appliances.
An ‘I’ shaped flat-roofed stone structure located NE of the repair station. It consists of a central large room, oriented NW-SW, topped at both ends with fully functional toilets. The hall has 2 central columns. There are 3 entrances all opening on the southeastern façade: 1 for the main hall, and two others for the toilets.

The building’s unique organization qualifies it to become the Visitors’ Centre. It is suggested to utilize this building for public use and site facilities.
A square-shaped, flat-roofed stone structure located north of block #3. It consists of a central rectangular court oriented SW-NW, surrounded by 4 rooms: 2 on the northwest side, 2 on the southeast side, and by 1 small toilet on the southeast side.

The building’s unique organization qualifies it to become a site facility. It is suggested to rehabilitate and utilize this building as a site medical clinic.
An 'I' shaped flat-roofed stone structure located north of bidg. #6. It consists of a central open corridor oriented NW-SW on both sides of which open 8 rooms (4 on the northeast side, 4 on the southwest side) a toilet and a kitchenette.

The building's unique organization qualifies it to become a research facility. It is suggested to rehabilitate an re-use this building as a research center.
An 'L' shaped gabled stone structure located north of block 6. It consists of a large lounge extending from the northwest to southeast topped at both ends by 4 rooms one of which is a kitchen. The hall is a large open space with a central pillar upon which rest 4 arches. The building has 6 entrances opening on the two SW and NW facades, 4 leading to the main hall and 4 leading to the ancillary rooms.

The building's unique spatial characteristics qualifies it to become a public facility. It is suggested to rehabilitate and adapt this building as site restaurant with suitable catering facilities.
An 'I' shaped, gable roofed stone structure located to the north of Bldg #7. It consists of 10 identical rooms 4.2x3.6 metres, organized in 2 parallel rows with 5 rooms on each side. Each room has a door directly opening to the outside.

The building’s unique organization makes it suitable for commercial facilities. It is suggested to utilize and rehabilitate this building to host site boutiques and a handicrafts bazaar.

Ground Floor Layout

Building 8: Bazaar
A square-shaped gable-roofed stone structure located south of Building #10. It hosts 4 toilets. The building was recently renovated by DNAM with new fixtures and appliances. The building can be utilized as public toilets after rehabilitation.

Building 14b is a simple rectangular flat-roofed stone structure annexed to Building 14A on its SE side. It consists of 2 toilets, and can be utilized as part of Building #14.
An ‘I’ shaped gabled stone structure located north of Bldg #9. It has an internal layout similar to the one of building #7. It is divided into 2 units consisting of a main lounge, a kitchen, 1 room and a toilet; the hall is separated from the kitchen by a central arch. The building has 6 entrances: 4 on the northeast side, and 2 in the southwest.

The building’s unique organization qualifies it to become an accommodation for the site’s special guests. It is suggested to utilize and rehabilitate it as accommodation with suitable ancillary facilities.

Ground Floor Layout
Ground Floor Plan

An ‘I’ shaped, two-story, gable roofed stone structure located to the north of Bldg #10. It consists of 19 rooms varied in size and organized on 2 floors. 10 rooms on the ground floor and 9 on the upper level, connected via 2 wooden staircases located on the back. The upper floor contains 2 suites with their own kitchen and toilet.

The building’s unique structure qualifies it to become an accommodation with commercial shops on the ground floor. It is suggested that the building utilized and rehabilitated for Commerce.

First Floor Plan

Building 11: Commercial Accommodations
Ground Floor Plan

An ‘I’ shaped, two-story, Gable roofed stone structure located north of Bldg #11. It consists of 18 rooms of various sizes, organized on 2 floors: 12 rooms on the ground floor and 6 on the upper one, connected by 2 wooden staircase located on the front. It contains 8 suites, equipped with their own kitchen and toilet.

The building’s unique structure qualifies it to become a full service accommodation for visitors. It is suggested that the building utilized and rehabilitated for investment.

First Floor Plan

Building 12: Residential Suites
Ground Floor Plan
A square-shaped, Gable roofed stone structure North of Building #12. It consists of 4 rooms varied in size, organized on 2 floors, 2 rooms per floor connected by 2 wooden staircases located in the middle.

The Building contains 2 Duplex suites, each equipped with kitchen and toilet.

The building’s unique structure qualifies it to become an accommodation for guests. It is suggested that the building utilized and rehabilitated as private residence.

First Floor Plan
A simple 'I' shaped gabled stone structure located north of Bldg. #13. It is divided into 4 rooms of various sizes, connected to Bldg. #14B.

The building's unique organization qualifies it to become a full service accommodation. It is suggested that the building utilized and rehabilitated as a guest house for foreign expeditions excavating in the site.

**Ground Floor Layout**

Building 14, Research Staff Housing (A)
An inverted "L" shaped Gable roofed stone structure located north of Block #14. It consists of 6 rooms of different size. 3 of these open to a peripheral court, 2 others open to the outside. Services containing a kitchen, storage, and wash room and 3 toilets, are located in the eastern corner. The building's unique composition qualifies it to become a full service accommodation for research staff members.
A square-shaped, flat-roofed stone structure North of Bldg. #15. This building, like Bldg. #5, consists of a central court oriented SW-NW, surrounded by 6 rooms organized on two floors. 4 rooms are on the ground floor and 2 on the upper level; There is a toilet at each level.
Building 17: The Islamic Fort

The Old Bunker
An underground fortified structure used for storing ammunition during WWI. The structure can be renovated and rehabilitated as a site Mosque.

The Water Tank
An elliptic-shaped stone structure more than 2 floor-high topped by 2 steel water tanks. The structure can be renovated and rehabilitated as a site Mosque.

The Ottoman fort, dating from 1600 AD, was renovated by DMAM. Its unique qualities and historic significance qualifies it to become a Museum presenting the old Syrian Hajj Route.
Public Facilities

The Power Station

Site Services

These are two buildings recently constructed in the site for the purpose of providing electric power to the site. The use of these buildings for the benefit of the site is suggested to replace these buildings after shifting the main entry point to the north gate.
IGN Survey:
Maps & Photogrammetry

SAUDI ARABIAN ANTIQUITIES

AL-HIJR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (MADAIN SALEH)

Management Plan

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

AL-HIJR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (MADAIN SALEH)

IGN Survey:
Maps & Photogrammetry

SAUDI ARABIAN ANTIQUITIES

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