

The Preservation of Wildlife and Habitats Act.

Ministerial Resolution No. 118/ 16

Royal Decree No. M/12 dated 26/ 10/ 1415 H.

Article One:

This Act will be referred to as: The Preservation of Wildlife and Habitats Act. Its objectives are the preservation and sustenance of wildlife and habitats in the Kingdom.

Article Two:

The terms mentioned in this act are defined as follows, unless the context suggests otherwise:

- The Commission: The National Commission for the Preservation and Sustenance of Wildlife.
- The Board: The commission's board of directors.
- The Assigned Member of Board: A member of the board assigned to direct it.
- The Secretary General: The secretary general of the commission.
- Wildlife: All forms of life within a reserve.
- Reserve: An area defined by this act and designated for the preservation of wildlife.

Article Three:

1-Prior to the establishment of a reserve, environmental and technical field studies shall be conducted by a committee to be formed specifically for that purpose and representing the ministries of Interior, Agriculture and Water resources, Finance and National Economy, Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Industry and Electricity, Municipal and Rural Affairs, In addition to the King Abdul Aziz Compound for Science and Technology, the Department of Metrology and Environment Preservation and concerned principalities, with regard to the recommendations of the local authorities.

This study shall be conducted within a timeframe of six months.

2- Reserves shall not be established upon private property. In case of property claim, maps shall be altered or an alternate site selected.

3- The commission shall collaborate with the government bodies already mentioned to decide the location and space of a reserve. Maps shall be posted at the concerned principality's quarters as well as the

commission's headquarters in Riyadh, and published in the official gazette prior to official endorsement, according to the fifth article of this act.

Article Four:

The commission shall decide the type and purpose of a reserve, and restriction on its facilitation.

Article Five:

Upon completion of the procedure mentioned in articles 3 and 4, the establishment of a reserve shall be announced and endorsed by the Council of Ministers.

Article Six:

The Commission is responsible for the management of reserves and is entitled to operate accordingly.

Article Seven:

After the designation of a reserve, according to articles 3, 4 and 5, the Assigned Member of Board must announce the date as of which the resolution to establish a reserve becomes effective. The announcement shall be published in at least to gazettes, one of which is published in the nearest city to the reserve. It shall also be posted at the Commissions Quarters in Riyadh as well as the concerned Principality's.

Resolution will be effective in 30 days as of the date published in the official gazette.

Article Eight:

A Reserve Guard Force shall be formed in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior to protect the reserves and record violations to this act and all related regulations.

Article Nine:

The local authorities shall assist and support the Reserve Guard Force.

Article Ten:

The Commission must collaborate with the Ministries of Interior and Agriculture to set regulations governing public access to reserves, taking into consideration the nature of each reserve, and in compliance to this act.

Article Eleven:

Upon the discovery of a violation, a record containing information on the violator, such as I.D number and address, shall be kept. If such information cannot be collected on location, violator shall be taken to the nearest police or coast guard station where required information shall be collected and violator released afterwards.

In all cases, records must be submitted to a committee described in article 15 of this act.

Article Twelve:

In case a violator cannot be apprehended, a record of the violation must be filed and submitted to the nearest principality or police station in order to conduct an investigation.

Article Thirteen:

When complied with all other regulations, the following activities in reserves are deemed violations:

- 1- Any kind of unauthorized hunting.
- 2- Violation of fenced areas.
- 3- Unauthorized pasture, woodcutting and farming.
- 4- Dumping of any kind of waste.
- 5- Unauthorized harvesting or causing damage to plantation.
- 6- Any activity, not described above, that may cause damage to wildlife and/or habitats.

Article Fifteen:

With the exception of marine reserves, local committees formed in accordance with article 8 of the Hunting of Wild Birds and Animals Act, shall try and sentence violators on a basis of majority rule. Sentences maybe appealed at the Department of Appeals within 60 days of the sentencing date.

Article Sixteen:

The board shall issue the executive agenda of this act, which will be effective 30 days as of the date published in the official gazette.

Article Seventeen:

This act voids all contradictory regulations.

Article Eighteen:

This act shall be published in the official gazette and will be effective in 90 days as of the date published.

