

"national park" means any park, reserve, river or beach declared a national park under this Act and any other site as may be prescribed by Order;

"national park officer" means the Director, a Superintendent, park ranger or other officer appointed under this Act;

"national park plan" means a plan prepared under section 10;

"Police Force" means the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force;

"State" means the State of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

"Superintendent" means a national park Superintendent appointed under this Act;

"vessel" means any craft designed or used for moving on water or under water whether powered by man, wind or engine or any other means of power.

Promotion of
national parks

3. The Minister shall take the measures he thinks fit under this Act to promote the establishment of national parks for the preservation, protection, management and development of the national physical and ecological resources and the historical and cultural heritage of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Establishment
of National
Parks, Rivers
and Beaches
Authority

4. (1) There is established an Authority to be called the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and it shall have the power to enter into contracts to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to acquire property, hold a mortgage or lease and dispose of all kinds of property moveable or immovable and to do and perform all acts and things required of it under this Act.

(2) The seal of the Authority shall be kept in the custody of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and may be affixed to instruments by the Director.

(3) A deed, document, contract or other instrument requiring the seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and the Director and shall be officially and judicially noticed.

Appointment of
Director

5. (1) There is appointed by Cabinet a Director of national parks, whose office shall be a public office and the Director shall be the head of

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

NATIONAL PARKS ACT, 2002

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS



SECTION

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Promotion of national parks
4. Establishment of National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority
5. Appointment of Director
6. Appointment of Superintendent and other officers
7. Powers and functions of the Authority
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13. Demarcation of boundaries of a national park
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15. Application of Fisheries Act to certain areas which are within the boundaries of a national park
16. Private land may be designated national park
17. Management of private land as national park
18. Compulsory acquisition of land for establishment of national park
19. Compulsory acquisition of land for maintenance of national park
20. Power to acquire land for use as national park
21. Permission subject to approval of Director
22. Acquisition of private land in a national park
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- 24. Authorised officer
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- 26. Immunity of authorized officer
- 27. Power to inspect and seize
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- 29. Release of vessel or thing on bond
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SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

ACT NO. 33 OF 2002

I ASSENT

MONICA DACON
Governor-General (Ag)
25th June, 2002

[L.S.]

ANACT to make provisions for national parks and the establishment of an authority for national parks, to make further provision for the preservation, protection, management and development of the natural, physical and ecological resources and the historical and cultural heritage of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and for connected matters.

[2nd July, 2002]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Assembly of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. This Act may be cited as the National Parks Act, 2002.
2. In this Act

"authorised officer" means any officer specified or designated in section 24;

"Authority" means the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority established by section 4;

"Board" means the National Parks Board established by section 8;

"Director" means the Director of National Parks appointed under section 5;

"Government" means the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

"Minister" means the Minister to whom responsibility for national parks has been assigned;

Short title

Interpretation

(6) The Board shall meet at the place, time and day determined by the Chairman for the necessary and expedient transaction of business, but no more than two months shall elapse between meetings.

(7) The Chairman or in his absence the Deputy Chairman and six other members present at the meeting shall be the quorum for the transaction of business of the board.

(8) If the Chairman or another member has directly or indirectly, any pecuniary or personal interest in a contract or another matter and is present at a meeting of the Board where the contract or matter is the subject of consideration, he shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after the commencement of the matter disclose the fact, and withdraw from the meeting until the contract or matter has been discussed and a vote taken on the matter.

(9) A member of the board who cannot attend a meeting of the Board on account of illness or other temporary cause or who will be temporarily absent from the State shall inform the Chairman accordingly.

(10) A member of the Board who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Board, without leave of the Chairman, ceases to be a member of the Board.

(11) A decision of the Board with regard to any question shall be determined by a majority of all members present at the meeting; but where the votes of the members are equally divided the Chairman presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his own vote.

(12) The minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Board shall be kept in a manner determined by the Board and the minutes of a meeting must be confirmed at the next meeting of the Board.

(13) The Chairman and the members of the Board shall be paid fees and allowances out of the funds of the Authority as determined by the Minister from time to time.

(14) Subject to this section, the Board may regulate its own proceedings.

9. The powers and functions of the Board are

- (a) to advise the Ministry on policy with respect to preserving, protecting and managing national parks;
- (b) to monitor and discuss the condition of national parks and to advise the Ministry accordingly;
- (c) to advise the Ministry as to the provision and improvement of facilities for persons visiting national parks;

Powers and functions of the Board

the Authority, have the over-all management of national parks and shall be charged with the duties and obligations of carrying out the provisions of this Act under the direction of the Minister.

(2) The Director shall have supervision of all other officers appointed under this Act and may delegate in writing to any of those officers the powers, duties or functions conferred or imposed on him by this Act.

(3) The power to delegate pursuant to subsection (2) shall be administered only by the Director.

(4) A delegation made by the Director under subsection (2)

- (a) may be revocable at any time by the Director; and
- (b) shall not prevent the exercise of those powers, duties or functions by the Director.

6. (1) The Board, after consultation with the Minister, shall appoint

- (a) a Superintendent of recreational sites;
- (b) a Superintendent of terrestrial national parks;
- (c) a Superintendent of marine national parks;
- (d) a*Superintendent of rivers and beaches;
- (e) park rangers; and
- (f) any other officer necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

Appointment of Superintendent and other officers

(2) The officers appointed under this section shall carry out the provisions of this Act under the supervision of the Director and shall perform the duties and exercise the powers under this Act as may be assigned to them by the Director.

7. (1) The Authority shall have power and control over all rivers, streams, springs, swamps, waterfalls, waterpools and beaches in the State.

(2) The functions and responsibilities of the Authority are

- (a) to manage and maintain national parks inclusive of all rivers, streams, springs, swamps, waterfalls, waterpools and beaches and other national and historic resources of the State as assigned by the Minister;
- (b) to advocate and promote conservation;

Powers and functions of the Authority

- (c) to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation and tourism;
- (d) to establish priorities and mechanisms for selecting, establishing and managing a national park;
- (e) to supervise the operation of a system of national parks once they are established, including the functions of planning, budgeting, financing and the recruiting and training of staff;
- (f) to ensure permanent protection of species and habitats, especially species which are threatened, rare, endemic and commercial species and representative habitats;
- (g) to undertake the replenishment or rehabilitation of depleted fish and invertebrate stocks, of damaged coral reefs and of other renewable natural resources;
- (h) to maintain the natural attractiveness of a national park as a tourism attraction;
- (i) to operate and provide for the operation of facilities for national enjoyment and for tourism;
- (j) to ensure that any development activities outside any national park do not adversely affect the national park;
- (k) to identify and resolve potential conflicts between users of the natural goods and services offered by a national park, particularly between fishermen and tourism interests;
- (l) to prepare management plans for each national park, including information gathering and research in order to provide the scientific basis for these plans;
- (m) to maintain a list of all rivers, streams, springs, swamps, waterfalls, water pools and beaches in the State;
- (n) to establish and operate an effective interpretation programme;
- (o) to regulate exploitation in national parks and their adjacent buffer zones;
- (p) to ensure visitor safety;
- (q) to provide security and enforcement mechanisms;

- (r) to see the establishment of public information and education campaigns to create national conservation awareness;
- (s) to maintain liaison with other agencies managing marine national parks and conducting marine biological research; and
- (t) to advise the Minister on matters relating to the Board's functions and conservation generally.

8. (1) There is established a National Parks Board comprised of the following persons appointed by the Cabinet:

National Parks
Board

- (a) the Director of Planning or a person nominated by him;
- (b) the Chairman of the National Trust;
- (c) the Director of Tourism;
- (d) the Medical Officer of Health;
- (e) the Commander of the Coast Guard or any person nominated by him;
- (f) a person nominated for appointment by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce;
- (g) three persons from non-governmental organizations;
- (h) two persons who, in the opinion of Cabinet, have had wide experience in and have shown capacity in environmental matters; and
- (i) the Director or any person nominated by him, and where a Director has not been appointed, a Superintendent.

(2) Cabinet shall appoint a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman from amongst the members of the Board.

(3) The person appointed in paragraph (i) shall be the Secretary to the Board.

(4) The persons referred to in paragraphs (f) to (h) in sub-section (1) shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(5) The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Board and in the absence of the Chairman the Deputy Chairman shall preside.

Management of private land as national park

17. (1) The Director may, with the approval of the Minister, enter into an agreement after consultation with the Board, and the owner, lessee or occupier of any private land, to manage such land as a national park where it is deemed necessary in the national interest.

(2) An agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (1) may impose restrictions as may be necessary for the purposes of the agreement on the exercise of rights over the land by the owner, occupier or lessee of the land who shall be bound by the agreement.

(3) An agreement entered into pursuant to this section

- (a) may provide for the management of the land in such a manner, that allows for the carrying out of work and the doing of other things, on the land that may be necessary and expedient for the purposes of the agreement.
- (b) may provide for any of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a) to be carried out, or for the cost to be defrayed, either by the owner or other persons, or by the Government, or partly in one way and partly in another;
- (c) may contain other provisions as to the making of payments by the Government and in particular for the payment of compensation for the effect of the restrictions mentioned in subsection (2), as may be specified in the agreement.

Compulsory acquisition of land for establishment of national park
Cap. 241

18. (1) Subject to subsection (2), where upon the advice of the Board the Director is satisfied that it is expedient in the national interest of the State, that any land should be managed as a national park, the Director shall issue a written agreement to that effect and the Government may then acquire the land under the Land Acquisition Act and the acquisition shall be deemed to be for a public purpose notwithstanding the intended or actual use of the land by the Government.

(2) The Government shall not acquire any interest in any land under subsection (1) unless the Government is satisfied that the Director acting on all reasonable terms shall be unable to manage satisfactorily a national park on such terms and agreement stipulated under this section.

Compulsory acquisition of and for maintenance of national park

19. (1) Where, as respect any interest in land, the Director has entered into an agreement under section 18 and any breach of the agreement occurs which prevents or impairs the satisfactory management of the land as a national park, without prejudice to any other remedy, the Government may acquire that interest compulsorily.

- (d) in so far as it appears desirable to the Board, to encourage and advise the carrying out of such work as may be necessary to facilitate the use of the sea within certain marine parks for sailing, boating, diving, baiting, or fishing;
- (e) to collaborate with the Ministry in the preparation and implementation of a terrestrial national parks development plan;
- (f) any other powers and functions as may be conferred upon this Board by this Act or Regulations made under this Act;

10. (1) The Director shall prepare and keep under review a plan to be called a national park plan for the management and development of national parks. National Park plan

(2) A national park plan shall

- (a) identify each national park and assess the present state of its development;
- (b) include an inventory of the resources of the area;
- (c) contain a statement of objectives and policies on matters relating to, but not limited to
 - (i) the development and use of all lands and water in the national park,
 - (ii) the maintenance and protection of the natural environmental areas,
 - (iii) the protection and conservation of flora and fauna, heritage resources and historical and archaeological sites,
 - (iv) the provision of infra-structural facilities for visitors;
- (d) specify the management and development measures which shall be taken in respect of each national park;
- (e) include a description of any proposed research activities,

and shall be prepared within six months of the declaration of a national park under section 11.

(3) In the preparation, review or amendment of a national park plan the Director shall consult with members of the local community, local authorities and other persons or group of persons affected by the national park plan.

(4) After preparation or amendment of a national park plan, the Director shall submit it to the Board for its consideration and the Board shall advise the Ministry on the national park plan.

(5) The Director shall submit each national park plan or amendment thereto along with any submission made by the Board if any, to the Minister, who shall submit the said plan or amendment to Cabinet for approval of the same.

Declaration of national park

11. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with, or on the advice of the Board, by Order published in the *Gazette*, declare as a national park any area of Crown land or water or Crown land and water which by reason of its outstanding natural beauty, special historical, cultural or archaeological value, geological or scientific importance, or the opportunity it affords for open-air recreation, requires proper management for the purpose of preserving and enhancing its natural beauty and state.

(2) An Order made under subsection (1)

- (a) shall contain a description of the boundaries of the national park; and
- (b) shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Assembly.

(3) When a national park has been declared under subsection (1), the Minister shall cause a map of the said area to be prepared.

(4) When a map has been prepared pursuant to subsection (3), a notice of the preparation of the map shall be published in the *Gazette* and such notice shall specify the place, time and date that the map may be inspected.

Types of national park

12. (1) A national park may be either a marine national park or a terrestrial national park.

(2) A marine national park may comprise specific islands and areas of the marine environment surrounding those islands and all things therein whether living or non-living as defined by the Order made under section 11.

(3) A terrestrial national park may comprise areas of land including any river, spring or stream therein or any inlet from the sea, and all things therein whether living or non-living, as defined by the Order made under section 11.

13. The Director shall, within two years of the making of an Order under section 11 and where practicable, cause the boundaries of the national park declared by that Order to be surveyed, marked, defined and maintained in a manner as to be clearly visible at all times.

Demarcation of boundaries of a national park

14. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with, or on the advice of the Board, by Order published in the *Gazette* alter the limits and boundaries of a national park.

Alteration of boundaries of a national park

(2) An Order made pursuant to subsection (1) is subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Assembly.

15. (1) A national park may have within its boundaries

- (a) fishing priority areas,
- (b) areas leased for aquaculture,
- (c) marine reserve areas, or
- (d) areas over which permission has been given for the undertaking of research as declared under the Fisheries Act.

Application of Fisheries Act to certain areas which are within the boundaries of a national park

Cap. 52

(2) If areas mentioned in subsection (1) are within the boundaries of a national park, the provisions of the Fisheries Act shall apply to those areas.

Cap. 52

16. (1) The owner of any private land may, with a view to having such land designated a national park and having it managed as a national park shall, represent in writing to the Director his desire

Private land may be designated national park

- (a) that the land be supervised or managed on behalf of the owner as a national park; or
- (b) that any or all of the provisions of this Act or its Regulations be applied to the land.

(2) If the Director receives written representation as provided for under subsection (1) the Director shall seek the advice of the Board on the representation.

(3) If the Board makes a determination on the representation under subsection (1) and has advised the Authority that the land may be designated as a national park, the Minister may by Order published in the *Gazette* designate the land a national park and apply to the land the provisions of this Act or its Regulations as are suitable to the circumstances and as may be agreed upon by the owner of the land.

and search any baggage or other thing in possession of the person;

- (b) enter and search any temporary shelter or land that the person occupies; or
- (c) under the authority of a warrant issued by a magistrate, enter and search any building which the person occupies;
- (d) seize any tools, power saws, vehicles, boats, or any other equipment and any forest produce, livestock, fish coral or mineral that he may reasonably suspect to have been used by such person in connection with the offence or in respect of which the offence has been committed.

Things seized to be taken to port or police station

28. Any thing seized under section 27 (d) shall be taken by the authorised officer to the nearest and most convenient

- (a) port, if the thing seized is a vessel; or
- (b) police station, if the thing seized is not a vessel; and

the vessel or thing shall be detained pending the outcome of any legal proceedings under this Act or it may be released on a bond or any other form of security in accordance with section 29.

Release of vessel or thing on bond

29. The court may, on application made by a person whose vessel or thing has been seized, order the release of such a vessel or other thing seized under this Act on receipt of a satisfactory bond or any other form of security from the owner or any other person claiming such property.

Power to prosecute

30. An authorised officer may

- (a) prosecute an offender under this Act before a magistrate; or
- (b) deliver an offender to the police for prosecution.

Compounding offences

31. (1) The Minister may compound any offence by any person under this Act or its Regulations other than an offence under section 25 if he is satisfied that evidence is available that would reasonably support the bringing of a charge against that person for that offence, by accepting on behalf of the Government from the person alleged to have committed the offence a sum not exceeding the maximum fine specified for that offence, plus all reasonable expenses the Government may have incurred in the

(2) A breach of an agreement entered into by any person under section 18 shall be treated as not having occurred where the person within a reasonable time after giving notice to the Director does any act or omission capable of remedying the said breach.

(3) Any dispute arising under this section as to whether there has been a breach of an agreement entered into under section 18 shall be determined by a magistrate.

20. The Government may lease, exchange, buy or acquire property for use as a national park.

Power to acquire land for use as national park

21. (1) No permission, approval, authority, subdivision or lease relating to any land or property whether Crown land or otherwise within a national park shall be granted by or made by a Statutory Corporation, or by any person purporting to act with delegated authority from that Statutory Corporation unless prior approval is given by the Director for such purpose.

Permission subject to approval of Director

(2) If the Director's written approval has not been obtained, any action as specified in sub-section (1) taken concerning land or property within a national park shall be void.

(3) A person who is aggrieved by the refusal of the Director to grant the approval referred to in subsection (1) may, within twenty one days of the day of the refusal, appeal to the Minister setting out the grounds upon which the appeal is made.

(4) The Director may not refuse to grant the approval referred to in subsection (1) except where he is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for the better carrying out of his functions under this Act or in order to give effect to a national park plan or any part of a national park plan.

22. If upon the advice of the Board the Director has determined that it is necessary or desirable for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Act that any private land within a national park should be acquired by the Government, the Director shall issue a written determination to that effect and the Government may thereupon acquire such land under the Land Acquisition Act and such acquisition shall be deemed to be for a public purpose notwithstanding the intended or actual use of such land by the Government.

Acquisition of private land in a national park

Cap. 241

23. (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (5) of this section, no person shall, within a national park

Prohibited acts in national parks

- (a) cut, clear, burn, take, or otherwise damage, destroy or remove any flora, fauna, tree, bush, plant, coral or other living or non living thing;
 - (b) reside on, occupy or cultivate any land or plant or otherwise grow or harvest any crops;
 - (c) construct or occupy any house, shelter or other structure;
 - (d) mine, quarry, drill, or remove any minerals;
 - (e) take any livestock or other domestic animal or permit any livestock or domestic animal to stray;
 - (f) obstruct, pollute, or divert as the case may be any river, lake, sea or other body of water;
 - (g) remove archaeological or cultural materials;
 - (h) place, erect, move, destroy, or interfere with any notice, fence, gate, boundary marker, or other such marker, or destroy or deface any object; and
 - (i) perform any act or engage in any activity likely to destroy, endanger or disturb wildlife.
- (2) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment for one year or both.
- (3) The Minister, or any person authorised by him in writing, may give written permission to do any of the acts prohibited under this section where the doing of such acts shall be required for the proper management of the national park.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a national park officer from carrying out his official duties under this Act.
- (5) An agreement under this Act for the management of private land as a national park may provide for the non application to that national park of certain provisions listed under subsection (1) and where the agreement so states, the provision shall not apply.

Authorised
officer

24. (1) A national park officer and members of the Police Force shall be authorised officers under this Act.

(2) In addition to the persons specified in subsection (1) the Minister may designate, by notice published in the *Gazette*, a person he considers fit including a member of the enforcement authority of any

country or of any regional or sub-regional marine enforcement entity to be an authorised officer for the purpose of this Act with respect to a marine national park.

25. (1) For the purpose of enforcing this Act, any authorised officer having reasonable suspicion may, without a warrant

Powers of
authorised
officers

- (a) (i) stop, board and search any vessel in any marine area declared a national park; or
- (ii) stop and search any vehicle in any terrestrial area declared a national park;
- (b) require to be produced, examine and take copies of any licence or other document evidencing permission granted under this Act or Regulations made under this Act.

(2) If a person commits, attempts to commit, or is reasonably suspected by an authorised officer to have committed an offence the authorised officer may:

- (a) order the person to cease commission of the offence; and
- (b) require the person to give his name and place of residence.

(3) If a person fails to comply with any order issued to him under subsection (2) by an authorised officer or the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has given to him a false name or address, the authorised officer may arrest the person without a warrant and deliver the arrested person to the nearest police station.

(4) If a person commits an offence under subsection (3) such person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two months or both.

26. No action shall be brought against any authorised officer in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him in good faith in the execution or purported execution of his powers and duties under this Act.

Immunity of
authorised
officer

27. If an authorised officer has reasonable grounds to believe that any person has committed an offence under this Act he may

Power to inspect
and seize

- (a) stop and search the person and any vehicle, boat or other conveyance in the possession of the person or in which the person happens to be and the authorised officer may open

(f) provide for the prevention within a national park of damage to any land, building, person, animal or thing and for the preservation of public order.

(2) A Regulation made under subsection (1) may prescribe a penalty on summary conviction for breach of a regulation not exceeding five thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Passed in the House of Assembly this 17th day of April 2002.

NICOLE HERBERT

Clerk of the House of Assembly (Ag.)

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2001

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seizure, storage, maintenance or removal of any thing seized in relation to the offence.

(2) On compounding an offence under this section, the Minister may order the release of any vessel or thing seized under this Act on such conditions, including the payment of such additional sums of money not exceeding the value of the things seized, as he may think fit.

(3) In any proceedings brought against a person in respect of an alleged offence under this Act or any Regulation made under this Act, it shall be a defence if such person proves that the offence with which he is charged has been compounded under this section.

32. In addition to the offences and penalties provided under this Act, the offences and penalties provided under the Forest Resource Conservation Act shall apply in the case of a terrestrial national park, and offences and penalties provided in the Fisheries Act shall apply in the case of a marine national park except that where a marine national park has an island within its boundaries the offences and penalties provided in the Forest Resource Conservation Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the island.

Offences
47 of 1992

Cap. 52

47 of 1992

33. (1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of

Funds of the
Authority

- (a) money voted by Parliament;
- (b) a loan made to the Authority by the Government or any other person or organisation;
- (c) money derived from any fees charged for entry into a national park or to use the facilities in a national park;
- (d) any other money lawfully received by the Authority, by way of grant or otherwise for the purposes of the Authority.

(2) The money referred to in subsection (1) shall on receipt be placed to the credit of the Authority at a bank to be determined by the Board.

(3) The Board, on consultation with the Minister, may invest the funds of the Authority in a prudent manner so as to enhance the financial position of the Authority.

34. Subject to this Act, the Board may with the prior consent of the Minister, after he has consulted the Minister of Finance, borrow money or

Power to borrow

raise loans from the Government or from any other source, that is required to meet its obligations or to discharge any of its functions under this Act.

National Parks
Fund

35. The Minister shall establish a special fund called the National Parks Fund, to be used for the preservation, protection, management and development of a national park and any fees charged for entry into a national park as well as any voluntary contribution by individuals or organisations shall be paid into the fund.

Budget and
investment
plan

36. (1) The Authority shall cause a budget to be prepared every year, with respect to the ensuing financial year and submit the budget to the Board for approval.

(2) The Board shall submit a copy of the approved budget to the Minister within seven days after the approval.

(3) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister an investment plan for any period determined by the Board.

Accounts

37. (1) The Authority shall

- (a) keep proper books of accounts and record all its transactions to the satisfaction of the Board; and
- (b) prepare and retain financial statements in respect of each financial year.

(2) The statement of accounts in respect of each financial year shall present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority, the results for the financial year to which it relates and of the operations of the Authority.

(3) The Board shall appoint a qualified accountant to prepare an audited financial statement for each financial year.

(4) The Board and the officers and staff of the Authority shall make available to the accountant, appointed to audit the accounts under subsection (3), all books, ledgers, deeds, contracts, accounts, vouchers and other documents required for the purposes of subsection (3).

(5) The accountant, appointed under subsection (3), may require any person holding or accountable for any document to appear before him and give a signed statement or information in relation to the document.

(6) The accountant, appointed under subsection (3), shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than three months after the end of each financial year send copies of the audited financial statement of accounts and the report in respect of the audit for the financial year to the Authority.

(7) The Authority shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than one month after the receipt of the audited financial statement of accounts and report under subsection (6) submit a report to the Minister containing

- (a) the audited financial statement of accounts and the report received from the accountant; and
- (b) a review of the activities of the Authority during the preceding year in a form directed or approved by the Minister.

(8) The Minister shall cause a copy of the audited financial statement and report together with the review to be laid in the House of Assembly within one month of its receipt.

38. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law providing for the registration of documents or the payment of stamp duties, no certificate, receipt, instrument or other document issued by the Authority shall be subject to stamp duty, registration fee or charge of a similar nature; nor shall the Authority be liable for the payment of any search or inspection fee in any registration office.

Exemption from
stamp duty and
other charges

39. Notwithstanding any provision contained in the Income Tax Act, the income of the Authority shall not be liable to income tax.

Exemption from
income tax
Cap. 312

40. (1) The Minister may make Regulations generally for carrying out the purposes of this Act and for the preservation, management and development of national parks, and without derogating from the generality of this provision the Regulations may:

Regulations

- (a) prohibit or restrict entry into or movement within any Crown Land in a national park by any person, vehicle or animal;
- (b) prohibit or restrict camping, squatting or residing on any Crown Land in a national park;
- (c) provide fees for entry into any Crown Land in a national park or any buildings therein or for any services or amenities provided by the Authority;
- (d) provide for the payment of compensation by any person causing damage in a national park or any person committing an offence against any Regulation;
- (e) provide for the control and regulation of the conduct of any trade or business carried on within a national park; and