

The Icelandic Museum of Natural History Act

2007 No 35, 27 March

Entry into force 30 March 2007. Amended by Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011).

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

Section I Objective and role

■ **Article 1** The Icelandic Museum of Natural History is in the ownership of the Icelandic state. It is the designated central museum in the field of natural history. The running costs of the Museum shall be borne by the Treasury as further stipulated in the annual Budget Act.

■ **Article 2** The role of the Icelandic Museum of Natural History is to shed light on Iceland’s natural environment, the use of natural resources and nature conservation, and to elucidate the interaction between humans and nature and the country’s natural environment in a local and global context.

The Museum of Natural History shall collect, catalogue and preserve items of interest for its operations. The Museum shall compile information providing an overview of Iceland’s natural environment and the use of natural resources within and outside the country, and present this material by means of exhibitions and other educational activities with a view to providing the most comprehensive survey possible of Icelandic nature. The Museum shall communicate information about Icelandic nature to schools, the media and the general public. The Museum shall conduct research in its area of responsibility.

The Museum of Natural History shall provide advice to other museums of natural history, promote the cooperation of such museums in Iceland, and develop a coordinated museum policy in the field of natural history.

The Museum of Natural History shall enter into cooperation with scientific and research institutions in the field of natural history, whether publicly or privately operated.

■ **Article 3** The Icelandic Institute of Natural History shall provide scientific and academic backing for the work of the Museum of Natural History. The two institutions shall cooperate closely on the basis of a special agreement entered into between them.

The collection of the Museum of Natural History, together with the scientific collections of the Institute of Natural History, is the basis on which the Museum’s educational activities and its exhibitions and research are based.

Section II Organisation and general administration

■ **Article 4** [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall assume responsibility for the general administration of the Icelandic Museum of Natural History.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 449.

■ **Article 5** The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall appoint the Director of the Icelandic Museum of Natural History for a five-year term. The Director must have completed a degree from a higher education institution, and must possess sound knowledge of the Museum's field of activity. The Director is an *ex officio* member of the Museum Council.

□ The Director acts as the Museum's manager and determines its policy. The Director shall report to the Minister for the Museum's financial affairs and general operations.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 449.

Section III Miscellaneous provisions

■ **Article 6** The Museum may charge entry fees. Similarly, the Museum may charge fees for the loan of objects, the photographic reproduction thereof, copies of photographs, specially compiled lists of objects and extracts from computer files, specialist documentation services, and copying of all types of archive material, in order to recover the costs therefor. Tariffs established for these services must be approved by [the Minister].⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 449.

■ **Article 7** The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ may issue a Regulation containing further provisions on the implementation of this Act.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 449.

■ **Article 8** This Act shall enter into force forthwith.

□ ...

■ **Transitional provision** Objects which at the entry into force of this Act are in the possession of the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and which primarily have exhibition value shall after the entry into force of the Act be administered by the Icelandic Museum of Natural History, in accordance with the agreement entered into between the two institutions pursuant to Article 3.

Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.