

## **SPECIAL LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EL SALVADOR**

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Amendments: **(1) Legislative Decree Number 491 dated November, 29 2007, published in the Official Journal Number 238, Volume 377 dated December, 20 2007.**  
Comments: **The purpose of this law is to regulate the rescue, research, conservation, protection, promotion, development and diffusion of the Salvadoran Heritage or Cultural Treasure, through the Ministry of Education or the Secretary of State responsible for Administration of the Cultural Heritage of the Country.**

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Content:  
**Decree N. ° 523**

### **THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR**

CONSIDERING:

- I. That in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic, it is the State's obligation to assure the inhabitants the enjoyment of culture, preserve the Spanish language and native languages spoken in the national territory and safeguard the artistic, anthropological, historical and archaeological wealth of the country, which are part of the cultural treasure of El Salvador; in consequence, laws that allow their diffusion and conservation must be issued;
- II. That the Cultural Property express the traditions of our people and they form the basis and reason of the identity and of the idiosyncrasy of Salvadorans, for which it is necessary to preserve and consolidate them, with the purpose of strengthening the bonds that unite them and make them constitute one nationality;
- III. That the Cultural Heritage of El Salvador or Cultural Treasure of El Salvador must be subjected to rescue, research, study, recognition, identification, conservation, promotion, development, diffusion and appreciation; for which, it is essential to formalize their ownership, possession and circulation, so as to grant through these Goods the full exercise of the cultural right through the communication of their message to the inhabitants of the country, as established in the Constitution of the Republic;
- IV. That the absence of an adequate formalization of cultural matters is affecting at an increasing rate the Goods that constitute the Salvadoran Cultural Heritage, therefore, it is necessary to have a legal basis that protects, secures and favors the cultural Heritage of our country;

- V. That it is necessary for the State of El Salvador to promote community participation in the process of conservation, maintenance and appreciation of the Salvadoran Cultural Heritage as a responsibility of all the inhabitants of the Republic.

THEREFORE,

In use of its constitutional powers and by initiative of the President of the Republic, through the Minister of Education and of the Legislative Assembly Representatives: Roberto Serrano Alfaro, Lilian Díaz Sol, Osmín López Escalante, Carlos Abdiel Centi, Oscar Balmore Velasco y Gladys Elizabeth Avalos de Palacios,

DECREES the following:

## **SPECIAL LAW OF PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EL SALVADOR**

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

##### **Purpose**

Art. 1.- The purpose of this law to regulate the rescue, investigation, conservation, protection, promotion, development, diffusion and appreciation of the Heritage or Cultural Treasure of El Salvador, through the Ministry of Education or the Secretary of State responsible for the Administration of Cultural Heritage of the Country, who in this law will be referred as the Ministry.

For the purposes of this law, Cultural Heritage and Salvadoran Cultural Treasure are equivalent.

##### **Cultural Goods Concept**

Art. 2.- For the purposes of this law, Cultural Goods are those that have been expressly recognized as such by the Ministry, whether they are of anthropological, paleontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historical, ethnographic, religious, artistic, technical, scientific, philosophical, bibliographic and documentary nature.

##### **Definition of the Goods that integrate the Cultural Heritage**

Art. 3.- For the purposes of this law, the Goods that integrate the Cultural Heritage of El Salvador are the following:

- a) The collections and specimens of zoology, botany, mineralogy, anatomy and objects of paleontological interest;
- b) Property related to history, including the history of science and techniques, military history and social history, as well as with the lives of leaders, thinkers, erudites and national artists related to cultural events of national importance;
- c) The resulting products of authorized or unauthorized excavations, or of archaeological discoveries;
- d) The elements resulting from the dismemberment of artistic or historical monuments and places of archaeological interest;
- e) Antiques, properly confirmed, such as inscriptions, coins, stamps, engravings or other objects;
- f) Ethnological material;
- g) Goods of artistic interest, such as:
  - 1) Pictures, paintings and drawings painted entirely by hand on any structure and in any material, excluding industrial designs;
  - 2) Original productions in statuary art and sculptures in any material;
  - 3) Original engravings, prints and lithographs
  - 4) Original artistic ensembles and montages in any material;
- h) Incunable manuscripts, books, documents and ancient publications of special historic, artistic, scientific or literary interest, unique or in a collection;
- i) Post stamps, tax and analogue stamps, unique or as a collection;
- j) Archives, including phonographic, photographic and cinematographic;
- k) Antique furniture or music instruments;
- l) The imagery, altarpieces, paraphernalia or religious props of historical value;
- m) National philatelic and numismatic collections of historical value;
- n) Incunable manuscripts, ancient background, editions, books, documents, monographs, journal publications such as magazines, newsletters, national newspapers and similar, maps, plans, brochures, photographs and audiovisuals, music library, disc collection, microfilms, and electronic or cassette tape recordings related to cultural events;
- o) Official and ecclesiastical archives.

It is also considered as a cultural Good all those monuments of architectural character, sculptural, urban, historical gardens, squares, historic, vernacular and ethnographic sites, historical centers, historical sites and archaeological sites.

It is also considered as cultural Good:

- 1) Nahuatl language and other indigenous languages, as well as traditions and customs;
- 2) Traditional craft products and techniques;
- 3) Contemporary plastic, musical, dance, theatrical and literary manifestation, and other cultural Goods that according to the Ministry may be part of the Salvadoran Cultural Treasure.

Art. 4.- Personal and Real Cultural Public Goods are inalienable and indefeasible.

Art. 5.- It is the responsibility of the Ministry to identify, regulate, prevent, protect, investigate and disseminate the Salvadoran cultural Heritage.

Art. 6.- The State, Municipalities and natural or legal persons, are obliged to ensure the compliance of the regulations in this law.

Art. 7- Municipalities, for the purposes of conservation of the cultural Goods in their precinct, must abide by the rules dictated by the Ministry.

Art. 8.- When damage is being done, or any of the Goods mentioned in this law or any other Good that according to the Ministry may be a part of the Cultural Treasure of El Salvador are exposed to imminent danger, the Ministry will adopt necessary protective measures, through orders that will be communicated to the owner or holder of these Goods, or the institutions mentioned in the article number 26 of this law.

Urban and rural development plans, public constructions in general and private constructions or restorations which in one way or another are related to an real cultural Goods, must be submitted by the entity responsible of the construction to a pre-authorization from the Ministry, through their respective dependencies.

## CHAPTER II

### ABOUT OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION AND TENANCY OF CULTURAL GOODS

Cultural Goods could be of public or private ownership.

Art. 9.- They are of Public Property, all those that are in the power of governmental dependencies, official autonomous or municipal institutions.

They are of Private Property, those owned by individuals or legal entities of private law.

Goods belonging to International Organizations and to Diplomatic Organizations or Entities accredited in our country shall be subject to the regulations of this law or those established in the Treaties or Conventions in question. Such concessions will not have more privileges than those granted for nationals in the Constitution. Personal Goods may only leave the country with the authorization of the Legislative Assembly.

In any of the above cases the property may be original or derivative.

#### Acceptance of Rights and Requirements for Accreditation

Art. 10.- The right to own and possess cultural Goods is granted with the purpose of protecting and preserving them. The Ministry will recognize this right, at its own initiative or upon request, as long as the requirements of recognition, identification, registration and accreditation of it comply with this law.

#### Obligation to inform

Art. 11.- The owner or holder of a cultural Goods, must notify the existence of the Goods to the Ministry for its recognition, identification and certification, to legalize its registration within a period not greater than one year counted from the effectiveness of this Law or since they had knowledge of it.

Such registration must be legalized in the Cultural Goods Registration Unit of the Ministry.

#### Transfer

Art. 12.- The transfer of ownership or possession of cultural Goods must be made in compliance with the requirements and formalities required by this law. Transfers that infringe this law are illegal and null.

#### Investigations

Art. 13.- To carry out researches and excavations, archaeological or of historical interest, in public or private territory, it is necessary to have prior authorization, through an agreement issued by the respective unit in accordance with the pertinent regulations.

#### Inclusion by Law Ministry

Art 14.- Goods in ownership of the State, municipalities or individuals is automatically incorporated to the Salvadoran Cultural Heritage.

The respective entity is compelled to the conservation and safeguard of the Good in question and to facilitate the exhibition and communication of the same, which will be regulated by a guideline.

Cultural Goods owned or held by international organizations and diplomatic institutions or entities, shall be subject to the regulations of international treaties and conventions.

### CHAPTER III

## **REGISTRY OF PERSONAL OR REAL CULTURAL GOODS**

### About the registry and its purpose

Art 15.- The Registry of Personal and Real Cultural Goods, who from now on will be referred as The Registry, will be a unit of the Ministry

The purpose of the Registry is to identify, catalog, value, accredit, protect and control cultural Goods.

### First registration

Art 16.- Owners and possessors of cultural Goods, in order to register them for the first time in the Registry and ensure their accreditation, must submit the Goods to the process of recognition and identification established in this law, within one year starting from the validation date of this law.

Cultural Goods owned or possessed by the Government of the Republic, municipalities and autonomous official institutions shall be recognized and identified by the request of the Ministry and registered in the Registry for consequent purposes.

### Registration method

Art. 17.- The Registry entries will be duly authorized by the Ministry and will be in the possession of the same.

### Titles

Art. 18.- Once the registration of a cultural Good has been completed, a certification of the registration will be extended to the owner or holder of the same, which will serve to legitimize its nature of cultural Good, with the rights and obligations of the holder.

### Real Cultural Property Accreditation

Art. 19.- It is a real Good, the resolution that identifies it as such will be logged in the Registry established by this law, and the property's certificate at the Property and Mortgage Registry will be marked in the margin as a Cultural Property.

### Effects of a Real Property Inscription

Art. 20.- The annotations in the margin of a Real Property's certificate will invalidate transfers and alienations of that property, unless the requirements established in this Law have been fulfilled.

## **CHAPTER IV**

## OF THE CIRCULATION OF CULTURAL GOODS

### Circulation Regulation

Art. 21.- Shall be considered legal the circulation of the cultural Goods of owners or possessors who have fulfilled the requirements of recognition, accreditation and registration in the Register, without prejudice to what is established in the Constitution of the Republic, Laws and Related Regulations.

The circulation of cultural Goods shall be managed by a regulation.

Art. 22.- The export of Cultural Goods is prohibited without prior authorization from the Legislative Assembly.

Custom authorities or Ministry delegates will not allow any Cultural Goods to leave the national territory without being presented with the authorization referred to in the previous paragraph, and must confiscate them in the act and send them in custody to the Ministry.

Art. 23.- The Ministry will grant the authorization established in the previous Article, for the temporary exit of the country of personal cultural Goods, in the following cases:

- a) To participate in cultural events;
- b) For their analysis in foreign scientific institutions, as long as such studies can't be performed in the national territory, for as long as is considered appropriate and so that their conservation is guaranteed.

The authorization for the temporary exit will be subject to the following conditions:

- a) Authorization of the Legislative Assembly;
- b) Previous elaboration of an agreement;
- c) After the completion of the studies, the cultural Goods whose exit had been authorized, should be returned to the country;
- d) That the results of the investigations be delivered in detail to the Ministry in Spanish language and including the procedures used in the corresponding studies.

The decree authorizing the temporary exit of a personal cultural Good must contain the date of departure from the national territory of the Goods in question; the date on which it must return and the obligation of the Ministry to inform the Legislative Assembly the status in which the good returned.

Art. 24.- Commercial establishments of antiques will be allowed, subject to the provisions established by this law and the respective Regulations.

### Cultural Indications

Art. 25.- Owners, possessors or holders of real cultural Goods, who find in them cultural traces, must notify the Ministry to proceed with its recognition, identification, registration and accreditation.

In case the owner or holder does not comply with this obligation, it will proceed ex officio without prejudice to the sanctions regime of this Law.

#### Restrictions on Personal and Real Cultural Goods

Art. 26.- If it is declared by the competent authority that an Good is an archaeological, historical or artistic cultural area, zone or site, its extension, boundaries and limits will be defined, an entry will be made in the Register of Cultural Goods and a side note will be added to its corresponding certificate at the Real Estate and Mortgages Registry for the purposes provided in the article number 21 of this Law.

This declaration will be notified to the Legislative Assembly, Attorney General, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Planning and Coordination of Economic and Social Development, Ministry of Defense and Public Security, National Police, National Ministry of the Environment, Departmental Political Governance, respective Municipal Office, as well as its owner or holder.

The owner or holder of a land declared as a cultural Good cannot oppose its recognition, investigation and rescue.

As a result of this declaration, the owners or possessors of cultural Goods are especially obliged not to execute in them works that may affect or damage them, without prior authorization from the Ministry.

#### Studies and Research in Real Properties.

Art. 27.- Research, studies and interventions of cultural Goods may be carried out directly by the Ministry or through national or foreign entities duly authorized by the Ministry. In such cases, the Ministry shall determine the conditions under which the authorization is granted in accordance with article number 11 of this law and to the provisions of their respective regulations.

#### State Acquisition of Cultural Goods

Art. 28.- Once a cultural personal property, as well as its cultural area, zone or site, has been added to the Registry, the State shall establish, through the Ministry, the criteria for acquiring the Good by direct negotiation or by expropriation, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic, after compensation.

It may also enter into agreements with the owner, possessor or holder, to ensure the preservation, conservation, restoration and maintenance of the cultural Good in question.

The State may create a lease, a commodatum or trust agreements for a public cultural Good owned by the State, in order to guarantee the access of the services of the Good to the majority of the population at the discretion of the Ministry and for strictly cultural purposes.



## Special Rules for the Registration of Cultural Properties

Art. 29.- Without prejudice to the rights of third parties, in the registration of property declared as cultural Goods and that have become a property of the State, areas and descriptions provided by the technicians of the Ministry must be included even if they do not coincide with those expressed in the previous records; this requirement shall also be mandatory in the respective deed or instrument of acquisition.

## Protective Measures

Art. 30.- When a cultural Good is in imminent danger, suffering damage or being destroyed, the Ministry will adopt protective measures as it considers necessary.

The protective measures imposed by the Ministry shall be notified in writing to the owner or holder of the cultural Good and to the corresponding authorities as established in article number 46 of this law. At its discretion, the Ministry shall publish such measures in one or more newspapers of national circulation and in any other means of social communication, in the form and number of times it considers appropriate.

The owner or holder who does not comply with the protective measures issued by the Ministry shall incur the fine established in article number 46 of this Law. Failure to comply will be considered of the same severity of what is stipulated in Title V, Chapter III Article 260 of the Criminal Code, as well as infractions committed against Special Patrimonies.

## Permanent Protective Measures

Art. 31.- If the protective measures are established as indefinite, the Executive Body in the corresponding area, will issue an agreement under which the mentioned Good, personal or real, will be declared a cultural Good, and will be included Permanently in the Registry of Cultural Goods.

## Expropriation Origin

Art. 32.- A personal or real cultural property will be expropriated when the owner or holder does not comply with conservation measures; when it has been declared a national monument and does not comply with such measures or by cause of public utility previously qualified by the competent judge, through the procedure established in the common law.

# CHAPTER V

## ENJOYMENT OF CULTURAL GOODS

### About the enjoyment

Art. 33.- All cultural Goods is destined to the enjoyment of the inhabitants of the Republic of El Salvador, according to the respective laws and regulations.

### Exhibition of Cultural Goods

Art. 34.- A regulation shall manage the establishment, organization and operation of public or private places or premises, where the right to enjoy cultural Goods, individually or collectively, shall be exercised.

#### Objective of Disclosure

Art. 35.- The diffusion and promotion of cultural Goods is intended to inform, educate, create, stimulate and develop its appreciation.

#### Reproduction of Cultural Goods

Art. 36.- The Ministry must reproduce the cultural Goods or may authorize when considered appropriate the replica, trace or reproduction of the same, in order to maintain the authenticity in accordance with the originals, in order to avoid altering the characteristics and identity of the property.

The replica, trace or authorized reproduction of a cultural Good must have a clearly marked or printed indication identifying it as such.

The copies, as well as the authentic representations, will be identified by editions and by numbers appropriately supervised and registered by the Ministry.

The non authorization or supervision will result in the confiscation of the edition, replica or trace and the order to suspend the representation.

#### Public Reproduction Faculties

Art. 37.- The Executive Body, through the corresponding Ministry may order the reprinting, representation and reproduction of literary, archaeological, historical, geographic, linguistic, folkloric cultural Goods or works of art in general, for purely informative purposes, when they are publicly owned and when they are privately owned it will need the prior consent of the owners or holders.

#### Means and Ways of Reproduction and Communication to the Public

Art. 38.- The cultural Good owned by the State may be reproduced, exhibited and communicated by all means decided by the State, such as: Cultural Educational Television, Publications and Prints Directorate, National Radio of El Salvador, National Press, Libraries, Museums, Archives, Documentation Centers, Information Centers, Culture Houses, Botanical Parks and Zoos, Historical Parks and Places, Ruins, Sites, Monuments, Exhibition Rooms, Post Stamps, National and International Fairs and others.

In respect of privately owned cultural Goods, its diffusion shall be made by any of the means indicated, with the prior consent of its owners or possessors, with appropriate measures of security and preservation of the Goods.

Art. 39.- Supervision of privately owned cultural Goods will be regulated by a special regulation.

## CHAPTER VI

### ON THE CONSERVATION AND SAFEGUARDING OF CULTURAL GOODS

## Presumption of Cultural Value

Art. 40.- After the coming into force of this law, the Good specified in the article 2, both public or private, shall be presumed as a Cultural Good, which will extinguish at the completion of the recognition referred to in Article 10, both articles from this law.

## Scope of the Cultural Detriment

Art. 41.- The personal and real cultural Goods are subjected to conservation and safeguarding as established by the present law.

The cultural or historical site area comprises all adjacent or adjoining surfaces that form a single body, and all Goods that can be considered part of buildings, and in general, all objects that are connected to them in a fixed or stable manner.

From the moment that the procedure to recognize a real cultural Good is initiated, the licenses granted to divide it into lots, make subdivisions, buildings or demolitions will be suspended. New licenses will not be granted. Likewise, all work initiated will be suspended and cannot be continued except with the authorization of the Ministry and under the supervision of its delegates. Such authorization may be revoked at any time when the Ministry considers it necessary for the conservation of the cultural Goods.

## Protection of Monumental Cultural Goods

Art. 42.- A monumental property, declared cultural cannot be modified or substantially altered by interior or exterior works, unless previously authorized by the Ministry, and with knowledge that the project that will not affect the cultural value or identity of the same.

Likewise, it is forbidden to place on such property any kind of notices, signs, symbols, commercial or publicity of other kind, cables, antennas or any other object or body that disturbs the contemplation of the cultural Good in its surroundings.

If a monumental cultural Good is destroyed or damaged by accident or force majeure, restoration or reconstruction shall be carried out, according to its original architectural structure, under the supervision of the Ministry.

## Protection of Personal Cultural Goods

Art. 43.- Personal Goods with cultural value that is in the possession of ecclesiastical institutions, officials or natural or juridical persons may be restored or relocated when requested by the aforementioned entities under the supervision of the Ministry and when the latter qualifies it of cultural interest.

# CHAPTER VII

## PROHIBITIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS AND PENALTIES

### Obligation of Conservation

Art. 44.- Being Spanish the official language of El Salvador, and without prejudice to the justification due to the Nahuatl language and other native languages, it is the obligation of the State to ensure its conservation and education. For this purpose, it shall be subject to the regulations of the respective Laws.

It is strictly forbidden to change the names of indigenous sites with which cultural properties, populations, historical sites, areas, cultural areas of El Salvador, tourist attractions, streets, avenues or roads, monuments, plazas, gardens, rivers, lakes, volcanoes, hills, are known for, or any other place or geographic space in the national territory. Equal protection applies to historical and cultural names.

The prohibition above extends to personal cultural property with indigenous names.

Every indigenous name change will be annulled.

The historical names in Spanish language will have an equal protection if there isn't a pre-existing indigenous name.

#### Export Prohibition

Art. 45. - The export of cultural Goods is prohibited except for legal exceptions.

#### Pecuniary Sanctions and Special Prohibitions

Art. 46. - The violation of the protective measures for cultural Goods established in this law will incur a fine equivalent to two minimum wages up to the equivalent of one million minimum wages, depending on the severity of the violation and the financial capacity of the offender, without prejudice of the property being transferred to the State, by confiscation or expropriation according to the case of the cultural property in question, aside from the corresponding criminal action.

It is strictly prohibited to perform actions such as painting, gluing, dirtying, scratching, altering and all those that are detrimental to the physical integrity and dignity of national monuments and archaeological and historical sites. The violation of this rule and any other damage done to cultural Goods will incur the offender in a fine similar to the one imposed and regulated in the preceding paragraph, without prejudice to the criminal liability of the offender.

#### Nullities

Art. 47. - Any act related to a cultural Good, without complying with the regulations of this Law, shall be null and void and shall cause the confiscation of the property, if it is personal; and to expropriation if it is an real Good. The confiscated or expropriated Good will be added to the Salvadoran Cultural Heritage, after compensation to its owners in accordance with the appraisal that the Ministry carries out for said property.

During the process of expropriation of the property and until the corresponding compensation has been paid, the Ministry will take the necessary measures to safeguard the Good in question.

## Criminal Responsibility

Art. 48. - Any sanction imposed by this law is without prejudice to the criminal liability that may be applied to the offender.

## Import regulation

Art. 49. - Import of Cultural Property can only be done with the corresponding export certificate from the issuing country.

The violation of the above shall cause the imported good to be confiscated by the customs authorities, who shall deliver it to the Ministry, which shall proceed immediately to comply with the regulations of the "CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY", signed at the XVI MEETING of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Paris on 14 November 1970, and ratified by El Salvador through the Legislative Decree No. 412, published in the Official Journal No. 236 from December 20, 1977, as well as what was prescribed in the "CONVENTION FOR THE DEFENSE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAN NATIONS", known as the General Assembly of San Salvador of the Organization of American States, approved on July 16, 1976, ratified by El Salvador through Decree No. 217 of the Revolutionary Government Board, published in Official Journal number 90, Volume 267 dated May 15, 1980.

## Importer's Criminal Liability

Art. 50. - The illegal importer of cultural property will be subject to criminal liability, determined by the competent courts.

## Recognition of Cultural Goods

Art. 51. - Cultural Goods shall be recognized through a Legislative Decree, Executive Decree or Internal Resolution of the Ministry, as the case may be.

The Legislative Body will recognize a cultural property as National Monument; Historic Center; Cultural or Historical Area, Zone, Site, Place, Ensemble. The cultural property will be recognized in the manner prescribed in this law and its regulations. (1)

## Cultural Association

Art. 52. - Cultural associations may be constituted at a Municipal, Departmental, Zonal or National level; if its purpose is to contribute to the protection, safeguard, enrichment and communication of Salvadoran Heritage or cultural property, to create awareness of the social purpose of culture; to the cultural training of its members, to the promotion of national culture in all its aspects; to project the Salvadoran culture abroad, to promote the creative cultural activities of Salvadorans; to collaborate with the Ministry and carry out the other activities of their own, or similar, with Salvadoran culture.

These Associations shall have the right to legal status, which shall be granted by the Ministry of the Interior and shall be regulated by the respective regulations.

It is the responsibility of the Ministry through the corresponding Directorate to keep a record of Cultural Associations.

## CHAPTER VIII

### FINAL DISPOSITIONS

#### Tax Incentives

Art. 53.- Are exempt from the Heritage Tax the property included in the Salvadoran Cultural Treasury, the expenses incurred by the owner or holder in the conservation, restoration or safeguard the mentioned Goods that have been approved by the Ministry; These will also be deductible from Gross Income, for the purposes indicated in the Income and Heritage Tax Law. The tax obligations may be partially or totally settled, with cultural Goods, previously appraised, in order to increase the Salvadoran Cultural Treasure.

#### Supplementary Application

Art. 54. - What is not anticipated in this Law, will be resolved in accordance with the regulations of the current International Treaties, celebrated by El Salvador with other Countries, or with International Organizations that have been ratified in the form prescribed by the Constitution.

In case of conflict between this law and a Convention, Treaty or any other international instrument currently active in El Salvador, the respective Convention or International Instrument will prevail as long as it has been ratified.

#### Regulatory Power

Art. 55. - The President of the Republic, within a period of ninety days counted from the validity of this law, shall issue the regulations established therein, in order to make feasible its application.

#### Derogations

Art. 56.- Are repealed the Legislative Decree of March, 14 1903, published in the Official Journal of the 21st of the same month and year, prohibiting the extraction of antiques and archaeological objects from the country; Legislative Decree number 107 dated September, 25 1935, published in Official Journal number 219, Volume 119, of October, 4 of the same year; Legislative Decree number 137 of October, 13 1936, published in Official Journal number 227, Volume 121 of the same month and year, Legislative Decree number 816 dated November, 12 1987, published in the Official Journal number 214, Volume 297 of the 20 of the same month and year, which contains the Transitory Law to safeguard the Goods that are part of the Salvadoran Cultural Heritage; and, as well as any other provision that opposes those contained in this law.

Art. 57. - The present Law by its special character will prevail over any other that contradicts it.

Art.58. - This Decree will come into force eight days after its publication in the Official Journal.

AT THE "PALACIO AZUL" OF THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE: San Salvador, on the twenty-second day of April, nineteen ninety three.

Luis Roberto Angulo Samayoa,  
President

Ciro Cruz Zepeda Peña,  
Vicepresident

Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas,  
Vicepresident

Mercedes Gloria Salguero Gross,  
Vicepresident

Raúl Manuel Somoza Alfaro,  
Secretary

Silvia Guadalupe Barrientos Escobar,  
Secretary

José Rafael Machuca Zelaya,  
Secretary

René Mario Figueroa Figueroa,  
Secretary

Reynaldo Quintanilla Prado,  
Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE: San Salvador, the third day of the month of May, nineteen ninety-three.

FOR PUBLICATION

ALFREDO FELIX CRISTIANI BURKARD,  
President of the Republic

Cecilia Gallardo de Cano,  
Ministry of Education

AMENDMENTS:

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