



# NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (NACOSTI)

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Licensing of Research in Kenya**

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is established by the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013, Revised in 2014 (the Act) as a State Corporation. The Commission **regulates and assures quality in Science, Technology and Innovation Sector and advises the Government in matters related thereto.** In this regard, the Act stipulates seventeen (17) functions of the Commission. Among the functions of the Commission, Section 6(1)(f) of the STI Act 2014 [2013] specifies that the **Commission shall** accredit research institutes and **approve all Scientific research in Kenya.**

Consequently, **Section 12(3) of the Act requires that any person undertaking or intending to undertake research in science and technology in the country, or who accesses, handles, or transfers any material or technology or moves it within, from or into the country, shall apply to the Commission for the grant of a licence in accordance with the Act.**

Section 12(5) of the Act further **directs that no licence shall be granted** by the Commission for any research involving activities which;

- (a) may **adversely affect the culture of any community** in Kenya;
- (b) may **adversely affect the environment**;
- (c) may **result in the exploitation of intellectual property rights of communities** to their traditional knowledge.
- (d) may, in the view of the Commission, **adversely affect the lives of Kenyans.**

Section 13(1) of the Act reinforces Section 12(5) by directing that the Commission shall, upon receipt of an application under section 12, evaluate the application, and if **satisfied that the conduct of the research is beneficial to the country, and that the research shall not adversely affect any aspect of the nature, environment or the security of the country**, issue to the applicant a licence in the prescribed form.

**Pursuant thereto, members of the public are hereby notified that according to the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2014 [2013], Scientific Research in Kenya must be approved and licensed by the Commission.**

As stipulated in Section 15 of the Act, any person who accesses, handles, transacts, transfers or moves any specified technology or any material necessary for scientific research within, into or from Kenya without a licence issued under this Act; or contravenes the provisions of Section 12 of the Act, **commits an offence** and shall, in addition to any other penalty which may be provided for in this Act or any other written law, be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years, or both.

For further clarification kindly contact the Commission, or visit online services at <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke/>

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**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

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