

# **WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION & POST-SEIZURE GUIDE**



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## Acknowledgement

This guide has been developed by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), drawing upon the organisation's long-standing experience in wildlife crime investigation, enforcement support, and species identification.

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This guide was designed, conceptualised and made by Ms. Apurva Bandal, Sr. Program Officer, WTI, and Mr. Utkarsh Saksena, WTI. We are also deeply grateful for the practical experience shared by Mr. Shankar Prakash, Assistant Manager, WTI, and Mr. Monesh Tomar, Assistant Manager, WTI, whose expertise greatly contributed to shaping and drafting the guide.

This guide is dedicated to all officers and conservation practitioners working tirelessly to combat the illegal wildlife trade and protect India's natural heritage.

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**Seized animals should only be handled under expert supervision, using appropriate equipments and established safety protocols.**



**The handling and safety sections of this guide are intended only for use in immediate wildlife emergencies when expert assistance is not available.**



**Please contact the following agencies for expert help:**

- **State Forest Department**
- **Local veterinary services**
- **Experienced wildlife handlers/rescue organisations**
- **Emergency medical services (in case venomous/dangerous species are involved)**

**This guide provides comprehensive information on:**



**Animal care and welfare protocols**



**Biosecurity measures to prevent disease spread**



**Health and safety procedures for personnel**



**Species identification and risk assessment**

## Introduction

Wildlife crime remains one of the fastest-growing forms of organised crime, posing a direct threat to biodiversity, public health, and national security. Law enforcement agencies are often the first line of defence against this illegal trade, yet officers face a unique challenge of identifying species and their derivatives during the seizures.

This **Wildlife Identification & Post-Seizure Guide** has been developed as a practical tool for frontline law enforcement officers across forest, customs, police, border, and transport agencies. It provides quick-reference identification cards for priority species most frequently encountered in illegal trade. Accurate and timely identification of these species is critical, as it enables officers to apply the correct legal provisions, strengthen the chain of custody, and build stronger, evidence-based cases that stand up in court while ensuring proper care and disposition of seized animals.

While the list of trafficked species is extensive and continuously evolving, the species included here have been prioritised based on two criteria:

1. **High seizure frequency**- species most commonly intercepted by law enforcement agencies in India.
2. **High commercial value and trade volume**- species that are targeted repeatedly due to demand in the illegal pet, skin, trophy, and or exotic animal markets.

By focusing on these criteria and the related priority species, this guide enables officers to rapidly distinguish protected species, apply the correct legal provisions, and thereby build stronger, defensible cases that can withstand judicial scrutiny while ensuring proper handling and disposition of the seized animals. This is intended to serve as a reference tool to help law enforcement officials easily identify the species and take appropriate measures to secure it.

Ultimately, the strength of a wildlife case begins at the point of detection. Equipping enforcement officials with accurate, accessible identification support ensures not only stronger prosecutions but also better outcomes for seized animals. This guide represents a step towards harmonising enforcement efforts and reinforcing India's commitment to safeguarding its natural heritage.

## General Safety Guidelines

### Personnel Safety Guidelines

Do's	Don'ts
Ensure medical & veterinary support is available	Handle without backup medical support
Confirm species ID & risk level (bite force, venom, disease)	Assume unknown species is "safe"
Ensure adequate personnel & equipment	Work alone with high-risk animals
Establish emergency & evacuation protocols	Skip briefing before handling wildlife emergencies
Disinfect all equipment before & after use	Reuse equipment between animals

### Animal Safety Guidelines

Do's	Don'ts
Provide immediate veterinary care for sick/injured animals. Ensure medical check up for all animals.	Delay treatment or ignore visible distress
Handle only when necessary for safety/documentation	Unnecessary or repeated handling

## Do's

House species separately; separate predators/prey

Keep in quiet, low-light areas and cover animal's eye to reduce stress.

Monitor condition & record changes

## Don'ts

Mix species or place prey near predators

Place animals in noisy, bright, crowded spaces

Neglect observation or skip documentation

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### Standard PPE (All Situations)

- **Face mask & surgical gloves**
- **First aid kit & emergency contacts**










### Enhanced PPE (High-Risk Situations)

- **Puncture-resistant gloves**
- **Eye protection (venomous/aggressive species)**
- **Full-body protection (large bite-force animals)**
- **Respirators (high disease risk species)**



## IUCN RED LIST CATEGORIES

About IUCN Red List: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus, and plant species. It uses objective criteria to evaluate extinction risk.

Category	Description
<b>Extinct</b> 	No known individuals remaining in the wild or in captivity.
<b>Extinct in the Wild</b> 	No known wild populations exist.
<b>Critically Endangered</b> 	Facing extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Population has declined by $\geq 90\%$ over 10 years.
<b>Endangered</b> 	Facing very high risk of extinction in the wild. Population has declined by $\geq 70\%$ .
<b>Vulnerable</b> 	Facing high risk of extinction in the wild. Population has declined by $\geq 50\%$ .
<b>Near Threatened</b> 	Likely to become threatened in the near future without conservation efforts.
<b>Least Concern</b> 	Widespread and abundant.
<b>Data Deficient</b> 	Inadequate information to make an assessment.
<b>Not Evaluated</b> 	Has not yet been evaluated.



## CITES APPENDICES

About CITES: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.




Appendix	Description & Requirements
<b>Appendix I</b> 	Highest Level of Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International trade is permitted only in exceptional circumstances</li> <li>• Cannot be traded for primarily commercial purposes</li> <li>• Requires both import and export permits</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix II</b> 	Regulated Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species not necessarily threatened with extinction now, but may become so unless trade is strictly controlled</li> <li>• International trade allowed with proper permits</li> <li>• Requires export permit (or re-export certificate) from exporting country</li> <li>• No import permit needed unless required by national law</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix III</b> 	National Protection with International Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species protected in at least one country</li> <li>• Export from the listing country requires an export permit</li> <li>• Export from other countries requires a certificate of origin</li> </ul>








## Legends for Life: Feeding, Habitat, and Activity Cycles

This guide uses a system of symbols/ legends to convey key information. Use this legends for reference.





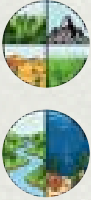
### Feeding

***\*A shallow container of fresh water should be provided to all animals.***

Feeding Type	Symbols	Diet Description	Feeding Advice
<b>Carnivorous</b>		<b>Meat-eating</b>	Provide fresh meat pieces and / or eggs appropriate to animal size. Fish for appropriate aquatic animals.
<b>Herbivorous</b>		<b>Plant-eating</b>	Provide fresh greens, vegetables, and leafy matter
<b>Frugivorous</b>		<b>Fruit-eating</b>	Provide fresh fruits as primary diet component







<b>Insectivorous</b>		<b>Insect-eating</b>	Provide live insects of suitable size (crickets, mealworms) or re-hydrated dry worms that are readily available.
<b>Omnivorous</b>		<b>Mixed plant and animal diet</b>	Offer a combination of plant matter and appropriate protein sources such as eggs.
<b>Frugivorous/ Herbivorous</b>		<b>Fruits and plants</b>	Provide fresh fruits with leafy greens and vegetables
<b>Herbivorous/ Insectivorous</b>		<b>Plants and insects</b>	Provide plant matter with live/ dry insect supplementation
<b>Insectivorous /Carnivorous</b>		<b>Insects and Meat</b>	Provide live/dry insects as primary food, supplement with meat and / or eggs
<b>Frugivorous/ Insectivorous</b>		<b>Fruits and insects</b>	Provide fruits with live/dry insect supplementation
<b>Omnivorous with fruits</b>		<b>Plants, meat, and fruits</b>	Provide varied diet including all three components

## Containment Guidelines by Habitat Type

Habitat	Symbol	Key Guidelines
<b>Terrestrial</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure, well-ventilated containers</li> <li>Substrate: newspaper/cloth/sawdust (easy to clean)</li> <li>Adequate space to stand &amp; turn</li> <li>Check &amp; secure all escape routes</li> <li>Separate predators &amp; prey</li> </ul>
<b>Arboreal</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical space + climbing structures</li> <li>Aerated containers with secure tops</li> <li>Branches/textured surfaces for grip</li> <li>Tall containers with ventilation</li> <li>Separate predators &amp; prey</li> </ul>
<b>Aquatic (Freshwater)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep containers with <b>dechlorinated water</b></li> <li>Maintain room/optimal temperature</li> <li>Filtration or frequent water changes</li> <li>Depth for swimming/diving</li> <li>Separate predators &amp; prey</li> </ul>
<b>Aquatic (Marine)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use <b>artificial seawater</b> (35 g salt/L) or natural seawater</li> <li>Stable temperature &amp; circulation</li> <li>Adequate oxygenation/air stones</li> <li>Separate predators &amp; prey</li> </ul>
<b>Semi-Aquatic</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide both dry &amp; wet zones</li> <li>Easy access between land &amp; water</li> <li>Maintain humidity levels</li> <li>Follow freshwater/marine protocols as per species</li> <li>Monitor dehydration &amp; drowning risk</li> <li>Separate predators &amp; prey</li> </ul>

## Day Cycle Management

*\*Handle live animals only for required stabilisation and transfer.*

Day Cycle	Symbol	Definition	Handling Advice
<b>Diurnal</b>		Active during daylight hours	Handle during daytime when animals are naturally active; provide adequate lighting during temporary housing
<b>Nocturnal</b>		Active during night hours	Keep in dark, quiet environments during the day; minimal disturbance; handle during evening hours when possible. Do not use bright torches.
<b>Crepuscular</b>		Active during dawn and dusk	Handle during twilight hours; provide dim lighting; avoid bright lights during housing
<b>Nocturnal/ Crepuscular</b>		Active during night and twilight	Combine protocols for both; keep in low-light conditions; schedule handling for late evening
<b>Diurnal/ Nocturnal</b>		Active during both day and night	Flexible handling times; provide day/night cycle in housing; monitor for stress indicators
<b>Nocturnal/ Diurnal</b>		Primary nocturnal with some day activity	Prefer evening handling; provide mostly dark environment with some natural light variation

## Handling Guidelines by Risk Category

### Bite Force Levels



**\*High Bite Force Animals should only be handled by experts and with the use of specialised equipment**

Do's	Don'ts
High Bite Force: Handle only with experts & specialized gear	Attempt solo handling
Always maintain 2-person teams	Use hands directly without equipment
Keep animals in secure, escape-proof containers	Transport in loose or open carriers
Have emergency medical plan ready	Assume first aid kit is enough



## Venomous/Poisonous Animals



- Such animals should only be handled by experts and with the use of specialised equipment
- **CRITICAL:** Have antivenom/emergency medical support on standby
- Use long-handled tools only - maintain a minimum safe distance
- Secure in ventilated, locked containers according to species size
- Label containers clearly with hazard warnings

### Disease Risk Categories



- **Direct Contact** - Touching animals, contaminated surfaces, or bodily fluids
- **Respiratory** - Inhaling droplets from animal breathing, dust from dried droppings/feathers
- **Bite/Scratch** - Open wounds from animal contact, allowing pathogen entry
- **Faecal-Oral** - Contamination from animal waste to the mouth/food
- **Vector-Borne** - Through ticks or other parasites (less common in enforcement scenarios)
- **Document all exposures and monitor handler health post-contact**

### Zoonotic Disease Risk by Animal Type

Most seized animals (especially mammals, birds and reptiles) have the potential to spread diseases to humans. Always use appropriate PPE and follow biosecurity protocols for all animal types.

This table shows the most common diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans during enforcement operations.

**Note:** The health and individual history of the individual animals can affect the disease risk, and these classifications are only based on generic information.

Animal Type	Primary Zoonotic Diseases	Risk Level	Transmission Mode
<b>Reptiles</b> (Snakes, Lizards, Turtles, Crocodilians)	Salmonella	Medium	Direct contact, contaminated surfaces
<b>Primates</b> (Monkeys, Apes)	Herpes B, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis	Medium-High	Bites, scratches, respiratory droplets
<b>Carnivorous Mammals</b> (Cats, Bears, Servals)	Rabies	Medium	Bites, scratches
<b>Aquatic Animals</b> (Fish, Eels)	Salmonella, Mycobacterium marinum	Medium	Direct contact, wound contamination

<b>Birds</b> (Parrots, Cockatoos, Mynas)	Psittacosis (Chlamydia psittaci)	Medium	Respiratory droplets, dust from feathers/dropping
<b>Amphibians</b> (Frogs, Newts, Salamanders)	Salmonella	Medium	Direct contact
<b>Arthropods</b> (Scorpions, Spiders)	Bacterial wound infections	Low	Secondary infection of bite/sting wounds
<b>Marine Invertebrates</b> (Corals, Sea Cucumbers)	Bacterial infections	Low	Wound contamination
<b>Large Herbivores</b> (Elephants)	Zoonotic Tuberculosis	Medium	Respiratory transmission
<b>Wild Pigs</b>	Swine Flu, Brucellosis	High	Respiratory droplets, direct contact
<b>Marsupials</b> (Kangaroos)	Q Fever	Medium	Respiratory transmission, tick vectors

## Notes

## Native Species

Pages	Taxonomic Group
2-16	Reptiles
17-33	Mammals
34-36	Aves
37	Amphibians
38-40	Invertebrates
41-43	Pisces
44-48	Plants

**Tokay Gecko***Gekko gekko***Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

©Tontantravel

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, urban**Threats:** Pet trade, & traditional medicine.**Identification:** A large, robust gecko with a bluish-grey body and distinctive orange or reddish spots. It has a loud "to-kay" vocalisation.**Leopard Gecko***Eublepharis macularius***Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

N/A



©Furryscaly

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Shrubland, grassland, rocky areas, and arid/desert**Threats:** Pet trade.**Identification:** Known for its distinct spotted pattern resembling a leopard. Unlike many geckos, it has movable eyelids.

## Indian Spiny-tailed Lizard

*Saara hardwickii*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



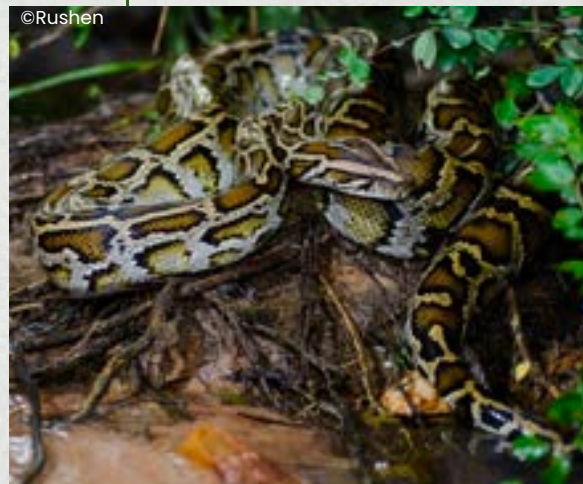
**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Arid/Desert, shrubland, and grassland.

**Threats:** Pet trade, meat & medicinal oil.

**Identification:** Covered in spiny, keeled scales, especially on its tail, which it uses for defence. The tail is often thicker and more rounded than those of other lizards.

## Burmese Python

*Python bivittatus*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Grasslands, swamps, marshes, river valleys, and forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, meat & tourist photo props.

**Identification:** A large, heavy-bodied snake. Its colour pattern consists of a light-coloured background (tan to light brown) overlaid with large, dark brown blotches bordered by black. There is a distinct, dark "arrowhead" pattern on the top of the head.

**Parts:** Skin used to make leather products will feature the distinctive blotched pattern.

## King Cobra

*Ophiophagus hannah*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, shrubland, grassland

**Threats:** Illegally traded for venom, skin, & meat.

**Identification:** World's longest venomous snake. Identified by its size and the ability to raise a significant portion of its body to stand upright. Look for the distinctive chevron or inverted "V" shape on the back of its neck, which can be seen even when the hood is not flared.

## Red Sand Boa

*Eryx johnii*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, shrubland, grassland, desert

**Threats:** Pet trade & exploitation due to superstitious beliefs.

**Identification:** A non-venomous snake with a blunt, rounded tail that resembles its head. It has smooth, shiny scales.

### Bengal Monitor Lizard

*Varanus bengalensis*



©Arunkumud

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I



### Desert Monitor Lizard

*Varanus griseus*

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I



©Kudaibergen Amirekul



### Water Monitor Lizard

*Varanus salvator*



©Dan Lundberg

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I



### Yellow Monitor Lizard

*Varanus flavescens*



© Muzina Shanghai

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Arid/Desert, forest, freshwater.

**Threats:** Traded for meat, skin, fat, and genitalia.

**Identification:** Characteristic long neck and forked tongue. The Bengal monitor (*V. bengalensis*) has granular scales on the top of its head. The Desert monitor (*V. griseus*) has yellowish skin with dark bands. The Water monitor (*V. salvator*) is a large lizard characterised by black scales and yellow ocelli (eye-like spots). The skin of the Yellow monitor (*V. flavescens*) has a distinct, smaller-scaled appearance and yellowish-golden colouration.

**Parts:** Male genitalia are used for religious beliefs, sold as plant products (Hatha jodi). Meat is consumed and traded. The skin products are recognisable by their intricate, mosaic-like scale patterns.

## Indian Star Tortoise

*Geochelone elegans*



©M Kooragamage

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Dry forest, scrublands, grasslands

**Threats:** Pet trade.

**Identification:** Easily identified by the highly domed shell with a star-like radiating pattern on each scute (A large, hard, plate-like scale made of keratin like that forms the protective outer layer of the shell). The base colour is dark brown or black with yellow or cream-colored lines.

## Black Pond Turtle

*Geoclemys hamiltonii*



©Jonathan (JC) Carpenter

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule II



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater wetlands (inland), forest, grassland

**Threats:** Pet trade, meat, & traditional medicine.

**Identification:** Easily identifiable by its flattened, dark carapace covered in prominent yellow or white spots. The shell has three distinct keels (A raised ridge or line that runs lengthwise down the shell, often used for identification. It can be single, paired, or one of three prominent ridges). The head and neck are also covered in yellow or white spots.

## Indian Flapshell Turtle

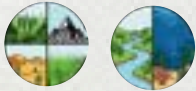
*Lissemys punctata*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater wetlands (inland)

**Threats:** Meat & traditional medicine.

**Identification:** A softshell turtle with a round olive green carapace with dark yellow blotches. Its key identifier is the presence of skin flaps on its plastron (underside), which can cover its limbs when it retracts into its shell.

## Leith's Softshell Turtle

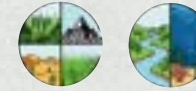
*Nilssononia leithii*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater wetlands (inland)

**Threats:** Meat, parts & pet trade.

**Identification:** Distinguished by its soft, leathery shell, which lacks bony scutes. The shell is typically brownish-grey with a characteristic spot pattern and smooth texture. The snout is long and tubular.

**Parts:** The soft, cartilaginous shell is the primary identifier. The bones from the carapace are also used in illegal trade. The cartilaginous calipee is traded in dry form, often labelled as dry fish.

## Indian Roofed Turtle

*Pangshura tecta*

©Gaell Mainguy



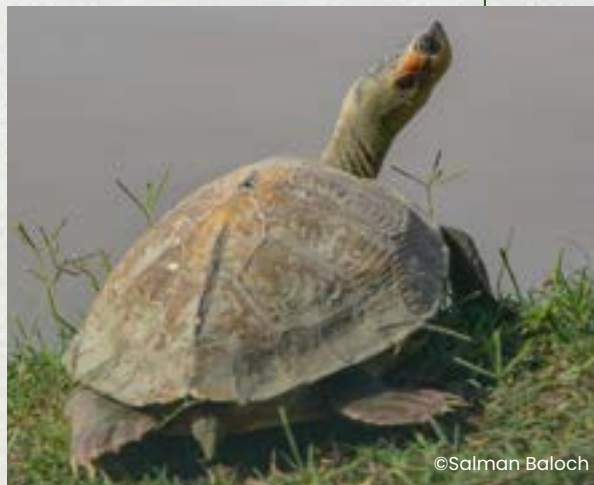
**Conservation Status:**  
WIPA- Schedule I



## Brown Roofed Turtle

*Pangshura smithii*

**Conservation Status:**  
WIPA- Schedule II



©Salman Baloch

## Indian Tent Turtle

*Pangshura tentoria*

©K S Gopi Sundar



**Conservation Status:**  
WIPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater wetlands (inland)

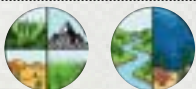
**Threats:** Pet trade & meat.

**Identification:** The Roofed Turtle (*P. tecta*) has a prominent red spot on its head and a 'roofed' or highly domed shell with a strong keel. The Brown Roofed Turtle (*P. smithii*) has a flatter, brown shell with a less prominent keel with fine yellow stripes on its head and neck. Identified by the prominent, tent-like keel running along the back of its shell. Indian Tent turtle (*P. tentoria*), the shell is typically brown with a distinctive orange or red stripe on the keel and on the carapace.

**Red-crowned Roofed Turtle***Batagur kachuga*

©Hari Arcw

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater wetlands (inland).

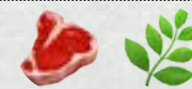
**Threats:** Meat & pet trade.

**Identification:** Adults have a flattened shell. Males develop bright red and blue markings on their heads and necks during the breeding season. The species is identifiable by its vibrant red head with yellow and white markings.

**Indian Jackal***Canis aureus indicus*

©Balaji Venkatesh S

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Desert, grasslands, forests, savanna.

**Threats:** Traded for skin, hair, tails, & meat.

**Identification:** A small to medium-sized canid with a tawny-golden coat, its slender build, and its bushy tail with a black tip.

**Parts:** Hair from the tail or body is a common derivative, often used for paint brushes. Jackal tails are also traded for various superstitious beliefs. Jackal skin, often used for decorative purposes, is identifiable by its thick, coarse texture and tan to yellowish-brown colouration.

**Asiatic Black Bear***Ursus thibetanus*

©Dr. Raju Kasambe

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, mountainous areas, shrubland, grassland.

**Threats:** Bear bile (for traditional medicine), meat, paws (for food), & skins.

**Identification:** A medium-sized bear with glossy black fur, large ears, and a distinct white V-shaped patch on its chest.

**Parts:** Gall bladders (containing bile) are the most common derivatives. Bear paws are often traded whole, with claws and pads still attached.

**Sloth Bear***Melursus ursinus*

©Subhadra Devi

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, grasslands, shrubland, savanna.

**Threats:** Traded for bile, paws, meat, skin, & for dancing bears.

**Identification:** Identified by its long, shaggy dark brown or black coat, long muzzle, and a distinctive white U or Y-shaped mark on its chest.

**Parts:** Gall bladders and paws are common derivatives. The long claws and shaggy hair are unique identifiers of the paws.

## Indian Leopard

*Panthera pardus fusca*



©Raja Bandi

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, savanna, grassland, shrubland, rocky areas.

**Threats:** Traded for skin, bones, claws, teeth, & meat.

**Identification:** The most common derivatives are skin, bones, claws, and teeth. The skin is identifiable by its distinctive rosette patterns, which are unique to each animal. The bones are often traded as a substitute for tiger bones in traditional medicine.

## Bengal Tiger

*Panthera tigris tigris*



©Derrickbrutel

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



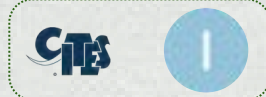
**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, Savanna, Shrubland, Grassland, Wetlands (inland), Marine Coastal/Supratidal

**Threats:** Traded for skins, bones, claws, teeth, & meat.

**Identification:** The most common derivatives are skin, bones, claws, and teeth. The skin is identifiable by its distinctive vertical black stripes on an orange-to-yellow-ochre coat. These stripe patterns are unique to each tiger, much like a human fingerprint. The teeth and claws are made into trinkets and amulets, and the bones are often traded internationally for use in traditional medicine.

**Asiatic Golden Cat***Catopuma temminckii*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, rocky areas, shrubland, grassland.

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, bones, & meat.

**Identification:** A medium-sized cat with a solid-colored coat that can be golden, reddish-brown, or dark grey. Some individuals may have spotted patterns. Look for the distinct white and black lines on the face.

**Marbled Cat***Pardofelis marmorata*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, & bones.

**Identification:** A small cat with a long, bushy tail. The coat is light grey or brownish-grey with large, irregularly shaped blotches in a marbled pattern.

**Leopard Cat***Prionailurus bengalensis*

©Tambako the Jaguar



**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, grasslands, shrubland

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, & meat.

**Identification:** A small wild cat with a coat pattern resembling a leopard, with black or brownish spots (forming a rosette) on a yellowish-brown background. It also has the two prominent white stripes running from the eyes to the forehead.

**Parts:** Skin is the most common derivative, easily identifiable by the distinctive rosette pattern.

**Asiatic Elephant***Elephas maximus*

©Yathin S Krishnappa



**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, shrublands, grasslands.

**Threats:** Traded for Ivory, skin, hair, & meat.

**Identification:** While live animals are massive with characteristic greyish, wrinkled skin, trade often involves their derivatives. Ivory, whether in the form of raw tusks or carved items, is the most common part of the illegal trade. Authentic ivory can be identified by its colour (often off-white or yellowish), its texture (it has a distinct grain), and the presence of Schreger lines—a unique crisscross or herringbone pattern visible on the cross-section of the tusk. Elephant tail hair is also used in jewellery.

## Indian Pangolin

*Manis crassicaudata*

©USFWS Headquarters



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, grasslands, arid regions.

**Threats:** Traded for scales (for traditional medicine) & meat.

**Identification:** Their body is covered in large, overlapping, keratin scales. Larger scales compared to the Chinese pangolin, thick-set build with a shorter tail relative to body length. Scales are brown with a smooth surface.

## Chinese Pangolin

*Manis pentadactyla*

©BunnyTailGra22



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, grasslands.

**Threats:** Traded for scales (for traditional medicine) & meat.

**Identification:** Smaller, more pointed scales compared to Indian pangolin, more slender build with longer tail relative to body length. Scales are brown with a smooth surface. It has a distinct and prominent ear pinna.

**Wild Pig***Sus scrofa*

©JP Bennett

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule II

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Forest, grassland, wetlands.

**Threats:** Meat, tusks, & bristles.

**Identification:** A medium-sized mammal with a strong, compact body. They are typically dark grey to brown with a coarse hair coat.

**Parts:** Tusks, often used for decorative purposes, and bristles in brushes are common derivatives.

**Indian Porcupine***Hystrix indica*

©Rufus46

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, rocky areas, grasslands.

**Threats:** traded for meat, and quills for decorative purposes & traditional medicine.

**Identification:** A large rodent with a body covered in sharp quills.

**Parts:** Quills are the most commonly traded derivative after meat. They are long, black and white.

\*Defensive quills

## Bengal Slow Loris

*Nycticebus bengalensis*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPА- Schedule I



## Grey Slender Loris

*Loris lydekkerianus*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPА- Schedule I



©Dr. K.A.I. Nekaris

**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical forests, plantations, scrublands.

**Threats:** Pet trade, traditional medicine, Black magic & tourist photo props.

**Identification:** Small primates with large forward-facing eyes and no tail. Bengal Slow Loris: Thick, woolly fur with a distinctive dark stripe running from head to back and dark rings around eyes. Moves slowly and deliberately. Grey Slender Loris: Much thinner build with longer, more slender limbs, greyish fur, and extremely large eyes relative to body size. More agile than a slow loris.

\*only Slow Loris's are venomous

**Western Hoolock Gibbons***Hoolock hoolock*

©ChintamaniVik



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest

**Threats:** Pet trade & meat.

**Identification:** A primate without a tail. Males are black with a prominent white brow ridge, and females are light grey or brownish with rings around their eyes.

**Malayan Giant Squirrel***Ratufa bicolor*

©Green Baron Pro

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest

**Threats:** Pet trade & meat.

**Identification:** A large bicoloured squirrel, with a black upper body, head, and tail, and a creamy-white or light brown underbelly.

## Hill Myna

*Gracula religiosa*



©Khan Mashuk Ahmed

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests, particularly in hilly areas.

**Threats:** Pet trade (highly valued for its ability to mimic human speech).

**Identification:** A glossy black bird with a bright orange beak and fleshy yellow patches (wattles) on its face.

## Parakeets

*Psittacula spp.*



©Dick Daniels

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule II



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests, woodlands, urban parks.

**Threats:** Pet trade.

**Identification:** Most species are predominantly green with a long tail and distinctive loud calls.

\*CITES- Range is from not listed to Appendix II

**Indian Peafowl***Pavo cristatus*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I

 N/A

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests, scrublands, cultivated areas.

**Threats:** Traded for feathers, meat, & the pet trade.

**Identification:** The Indian peafowl is easily identified by the male's vibrant, iridescent plumage and long tail feathers. These feathers are traded both legally and illegally.

**Indian Bullfrog***Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule II

 II

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Freshwater **Type:** Marshes, ponds, and paddy fields.

**Threats:** Pet trade & meat.

**Identification:** A large frog with a broad head and a pointed snout. The skin is smooth, and the dorsum is a mottled olive green to yellow-green. In males, the vocal sacs are cobalt blue.

## Tarantulas

*Poecilotheria spp.*



© Lindarayar

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule II



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests, often found on trees or in burrows.

**Threats:** Pet trade.

**Identification:** Many sought-after species have intricate and distinct patterns on their legs and abdomens. These patterns can be used to identify specific species.

\*Their bite can cause pain, swelling, and muscle cramps

\*\*IUCN status varies by species. A few species are listed as Critically Endangered (CR)

## Sea Fans

*Octocorallia spp.*



© WTI

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**

**Day cycle:**

**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Marine **Type:** Coral reefs.

**Threats:** Aquariums, jewellery (derivative), & curios.

**Identification:** Sea fans are a type of soft coral that form fan-like or net-like structures, and are often a vibrant red, yellow, or purple colour.

\*IUCN: Indian octocoral species have not been assessed

**Sea Cucumber***Holothuroidea (Class)*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:**

**Feeding:** Plankton, algae, and decomposing material

**Day cycle:**

**Risks:**

**Habitat:** Marine **Type:** Seabed of various depths.

**Threats:** Food & traditional medicine..

**Identification:** A leathery-skinned echinoderm. They are traded whole, either fresh, dried, or frozen. The dried form is often called bêche-de-mer or trepang. Identification can be challenging due to the large number of species and varying appearances, but generally, they feel soft and "squishy" to the touch when alive. When dried, they become rigid and can be dark brown to black.

\*IUCN: Assessed species range from LC to EN. Many commercial species: VU or EN.

\*\*CITES: Most not listed; high-value species in Appendix II.

**Seahorses***Hippocampus spp.*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule I**

**Habitat:**

**Feeding:** Small crustaceans

**Day cycle:**

**Risks:**

**Habitat:** Marine **Type:** Coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds.

**Threats:** Traditional medicine, aquariums, & curios.

**Identification:** Derivatives are primarily dried specimens. Identification focuses on their unique horse-like head, prehensile tail, and bony plates. Dried seahorses are brittle, often traded in large numbers.

\* IUCN: Varies by species, but many are Vulnerable (VU) or Endangered (EN)

**Barca Snakehead***Channa barca*

©WCCB

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule II**

**Habitat:****Feeding:**

Small fish, crustaceans, worms, pellets

**Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Freshwater **Type:** Wetlands, swamps, ponds**Threats:** Aquarium trade.

**Identification:** Barca has distinctive large, black spots on the head and body, and the broad, dark, and white/orange margins on its fins.

Stewartii has several smaller black spots on sides of the body and a red pectoral fin (the one on the sides) with black colored bars.

Aurantimaculata has large, irregular, orange blotches on the upper half of its dark brown to black body, and five broad, bright black vertical bands, with a distinct black blotch at the base.

\*Not listed in CITES despite extensive illegal trade.

**Sharks***N/A (Species vary)*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA-**

**Habitat:****Feeding:**

Plankton to hunting fish, seals, &amp; carcasses

**Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Marine **Type:** All oceans, from coastal waters to the deep sea.**Threats:** Meat & fins for shark fin soup (deriv).

**Identification:** Many species are consumed along with other marine species. Fins are mostly traded dried. They are recognisable by their triangular shape and cartilaginous structure. The internal cartilage rays are a key identifier, and they are typically traded with the skin removed. Fin colour and size can vary widely.

\*Some in Schedule I and Schedule II; most are not listed.

\*\*CITES: Most not listed; some species in Appendix I-II.

\*\*\*IUCN: Assessed species range from LC to CR.

**Red Vanda***Renanthera imschootiana*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule III



**Habitat:** Epiphytic on tree trunks at 1000-2000m altitude. **Type:** Tropical forests with moderate to high rainfall.

**Threats:** Ornamental horticulture, traditional medicine, & state flower displays.

**Identification:** Epiphytic orchid with woody stems up to 1m long, oblong leaves, distinctive bright red flowers with red spots and yellow markings. Flowering occurs March-September.

**Blue Vanda, Blue Orchid***Vanda coerulea*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule III



**Habitat:** Epiphytic on deciduous trees at 900-1500m elevation. **Type:** Himalayan forests requiring high light levels.

**Threats:** Ornamental horticulture, orchid breeding, & research applications.

**Identification:** Medium to large epiphytic orchid with bluish-purple tessellated flowers (4 inches across). Multiple flowers (20-30) on branched spikes. White and pink forms also occur.

**Fairrie's Paphiopedilum***Paphiopedilum fairrie anum*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLP A- Schedule IV

**Drury's Paphiopedilum***Paphiopedilum druryi*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLP A- Schedule IV

**Lady's Slipper Orchid***Paphiopedilum venustum*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLP A- Schedule IV



**Habitat:** Humid forests, rocky cliffs, forest valleys.

**Type:** Tropical/temperate forests.

**Threats:** Ornamental horticulture (illegal collection by private collectors).

**Identification:** Distinctive pouch-shaped lip (slipper) flowers. *P. fairrie anum*: striped petals in greens/purples; *P. druryi*: pale yellow lip, single flower on hairy scape; *P. venustum*: a green-striped white upper sepal, and a prominent pouch with dark green veins. All have characteristic trap-pollination mechanisms.

**Beddome's Cycad***Cycas beddomei*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule III



**Habitat:** Dry scrublands and brush-covered hills.

**Type:** Arid/Semi-arid regions.

**Threats:** Traditional medicine, food preparation, and ornamental horticulture.

**Identification:** Solitary erect stems with 20-30 pinnate leaves (90cm long) in crown. Male cones ovoid (30cm long), female cones open with pink-brown sporophylls. Fire-resistant underground stems.

**Exotic Species**

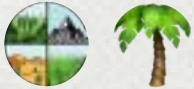
Pages	Taxonomic Group
50-76	Reptiles
77-97	Mammals
98-104	Aves
105-107	Amphibians
108-109	Invertebrates

**Crested Gecko, Eyelash Gecko***Correlophus ciliatus*

© Lennart Hudel

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- N/A

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests (canopy)**Threats:** Pet trade, & traditional medicine.

**Identification:** Medium-sized gecko (20–25 cm total length including tail). Distinctive hair-like projections above the eyes resembling eyelashes. Has a crest running from each eye along the head and back to the tail base. No eyelids - covered by transparent scale. Wedge-shaped head. Colour varies greatly: grey, brown, red, orange, yellow, with three wild morphs (pattern-less, white-fringed, tiger).

**Day Geckos***Phelsuma spp.*

© Charles J. Sharp

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:****Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical forests**Threats:** Pet trade.

**Identification:** Small to large geckos (6.5–30 cm). Active during the day, unlike most geckos. Brightly colored - typically bright green body with red, blue, or yellow markings. No eyelids - eyes covered by transparent fixed plate. Vocalise with squeaks, clicks, barks, and croaks (only lizards to produce complex sounds).

\*IUCN- LC to EX (Least Concern to Extinct, varies by species)

## Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman

*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



## Schneider's Dwarf Caiman

*Paleosuchus trigonatus*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



© Maël Dewynter

**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Wetlands (inland).

**Threats:** Pet trade

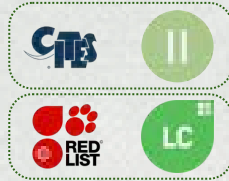
**Identification:** Smallest among crocodylians, heavily armoured skin, no bony ridge on forehead. Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman: notably domed skull and the presence of bony plates on the upper eyelids. The dorsal scutes are less prominent, and its snout is short and upturned. Schneider's Dwarf Caiman: triangular-shaped head and a smooth frontal region without bony eyelid plates. It has a less-flexible, heavily ossified tail with prominent, laterally projecting scutes.

## Common Green Iguana

*Iguana iguana*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Grand Cayman Blue Iguanas

*Cyclura lewisi*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV

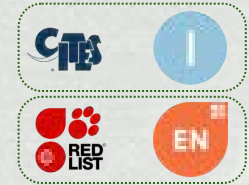


## Fiji Banded Iguanas

*Brachylophus bulabula*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Tropical forests, often near water sources.

**Threats:** Pet trade, meat, & skin.

**Identification:** Large lizards with a prominent dewlap and a spiny crest along their back. Their appearance varies widely by species. Common Green Iguanas are primarily green with smooth scales. Blue Iguanas are large, heavily built, and grey-blue. Fiji Banded Iguanas are slender and bright green with white or pale blue bands.

**Black and white tegu***Salvator merianae*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPAs - Schedule IV**

**Red tegu***Salvator rufescens*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPAs - Schedule IV**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests, savannas, and arid grasslands.

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, & meat.

**Identification:** Black and White Tegu: Large lizard with a distinct black and white speckled pattern. Red Tegu: Large lizard with a reddish-brown colour that intensifies with age.

**Parts:** Skin and leather products from both species will show their characteristic scale patterns.

## Ornate Spiny-Tailed Lizard

*Uromastyx ornata*



©Quartl

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Mali Spiny-Tailed Lizard

*Uromastyx maliensis*



©David George

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Saharan Spiny-Tailed Lizard

*Uromastyx geyri*



©Manfred Werner - Tsui

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## North African Spiny-Tailed Lizard



*Uromastyx acanthinura*





©Chrifest

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**  **Feeding:** 

**Day cycle:**  **Risks:** 

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Shrubland, Rocky, arid, or desert regions (inland cliffs, mountain peaks).

**Threats:** Pet trade and traditional medicines.

**Identification:** Stocky, heavily built lizards with a distinctive, club-like spiny tail.

Ornate Spiny-Tailed Lizard: Males display brilliant shades of green, blue, and red with a network of yellow spots and bands. Females are typically duller in colour.

Saharan Spiny-Tailed Lizard: Known for its two vibrant colour phases: a bright, neon pumpkin orange/red phase and a neon yellow phase, often with little to no pattern.

Mali Spiny-Tailed Lizard: More subtle colouration, ranging from light to dark grey. Males frequently develop a striking jet-black body with vibrant yellow markings on their back.

North African Spiny-Tailed Lizard: A larger species, its colouration can be mottled with shades of red, orange, green, and yellow over a grey base. They are often noted for their powerful, spiky tails.




## Nile Monitor Lizard



*Varanus niloticus*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**   **Feeding:** 

**Day cycle:**  **Risks:** 

**Habitat:** Freshwater **Type:** Savannas, grasslands, and forests, always near a permanent water source.

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin/leather, & bushmeat.

**Identification:** A large, powerful lizard with a long, laterally compressed tail. The body is black or dark brown with distinctive yellow or cream-colored spots and bands. The tail is banded with black and yellow. Yellow markings often form a V-shaped pattern on the neck and back.

**Parts:** Skin and leather products from the Nile are often used for bags, belts, and other accessories.

\*Their bite can cause swelling and blood thinning.

**Green Anaconda***Eunectes murinus*

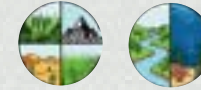
©Barloventomagico

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPAs - Schedule IV**

**Yellow Anaconda***Eunectes notaeus*

©Bernard Dupont

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPAs - Schedule IV**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Forest, Swamps, marshes, and slow-moving rivers.

**Threats:** Pet trade, skin, & meat

**Identification:** Large, non-venomous constrictors known for their immense size and aquatic lifestyle. Their eyes and nostrils are positioned on top of their heads to aid in hunting while submerged.

Green Anaconda: The heaviest weighing snake in the world, with an olive-green to brown body patterned with circular black markings.

Yellow Anaconda: Smaller than the green anaconda, with a yellowish-green body covered in dark brown or black saddles, blotches, and streaks.

\*Constricting species

**Ball Python, Royal Python***Python regius*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- Schedule IV**

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Grasslands, savannas, open forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade, meat, & skin

**Identification:** Stocky, medium-sized snake (3-6 feet). Typically has a black or dark brown body with light brown/tan blotches and a white or cream belly. The most notable trait is their tendency to curl into a tight ball with their head centred when threatened. It can also be found in various colour morphs, but the overall pattern remains the same.

**Corn Snake, Red Rat Snake***Pantherophis guttatus*

**Conservation Status:**  
**WLPA- N/A**



N/A

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest, woodlands, rocky hillsides, meadows, agricultural fields, and also found in urban areas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** A slender, colourful snake (3-6 feet). They are typically orange or brownish-yellow with a pattern of black-bordered blotches. A unique V-shaped marking is present on their head.

## Kenyan Sand Boa

*Gongylophis colubrinus*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Semi-desert regions, scrub savannah, and rock outcroppings.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Heavily built snake with a small head and eyes located on top of the head for burrowing. Colour patterns vary, but are typically characterised by a yellow or orange background with dark brown splotches.

## Green Tree Python

*Morelia viridis*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Lowland tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** A slender, bright green snake with a prehensile tail. Juveniles are typically yellow or red.

\*Constricting species

### California kingsnake *Lampropeltis californiae*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A

N/A



### Mexican kingsnake *Lampropeltis mexicana*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A

N/A



©Danny Siwek

### Black kingsnake *Lampropeltis nigra*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A

N/A



©Amdubois01

**Habitat:** **Feeding:**   
**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Deserts, grasslands, forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Named for their habit of preying on other snakes, including venomous ones. The California Kingsnake is typically black or dark brown with distinct white or yellowish bands, but striped morphs are also common. The Mexican Kingsnake often has a greyish or light-brown body with prominent red or orange blotches, sometimes bordered in black. The Black Kingsnake is generally a solid black or dark brown, with some individuals showing faint white or yellow speckles that can fade with age.

### Hagen's Pit Viper

*Trimeresurus hageni*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



©Jeremy P.

### Wagler's Pit Viper

*Tropidolaemus wagleri*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA-



©FunkyHumanBeing

### White-lipped Tree Viper

*Trimeresurus albolabris*



©Thomas H Brown

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forest (often near water bodies)

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** All are characterised by a broad, triangular head, slender neck, and heat-sensing pits on the snout. Their colour patterns vary: *T. hageni* is green or brown; *T. wagleri* has bold black-and-yellow bands; and *T. albolabris* is a vibrant green with a distinct white stripe along the lip and body

## African Spurred Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise

*Centrochelys sulcata*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Arid grasslands, savannas, thorn scrublands.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** The largest mainland tortoise in the world, characterised by prominent, spur-like scutes on its thighs and a sandy, brownish shell.

## Chaco Tortoise, Argentine Tortoise

*Chelonoidis chilensis*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Dry forests, shrublands, grasslands.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Small to medium-sized tortoise with a brownish-yellow carapace that can have a dark pattern on each scute. The shell is slightly serrated at the rim.

## Yellow-Footed Tortoise

*Chelonoidis denticulatus*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical forests, savannas

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** A large land tortoise with a domed, brownish-black shell. The most distinctive feature is the presence of bright yellow to orange scales on the legs and head.

## Pancake Tortoise

*Malacochersus tornieri*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Savanna, shrubland, arid thornbrush and rocky outcrops.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** A small tortoise with a distinctively flat and flexible shell that allows it to hide in narrow rock crevices. The shell is brown with a radiating pattern.

## Red-Eared Slider

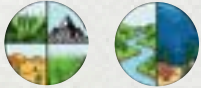
*Trachemys scripta elegans*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Slow-moving ponds, lakes, rivers, marshes.

**Threats:** Pet trade & meat.

**Identification:** Named for its distinctive red stripe behind each of its eyes. They have an olive-brown carapace with yellow lines and a yellow plastron with dark markings.

\*Invasive species

## Serval Cat

*Leptailurus serval*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Grasslands and savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** The Serval is a slender, medium-sized cat with a spotted coat, very large ears, and the longest legs of any cat relative to its body size.

## Northern Common Cuscus

*Phalanger orientalis*



©Colin Trainor

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



## Common Spotted Cuscus

*Spilocuscus maculatus*



©JJ Harrison

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests and woodlands.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Cuscuses are marsupials with thick fur and prehensile tails. The Northern Common Cuscus is typically a solid colour (white, black, or red-brown), while the Common Spotted Cuscus has a spotted coat.

## Matschie's tree-kangaroo

*Dendrolagus matschiei*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



N/A



## Red Kangaroo

*Macropus rufus*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



N/A



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests (Matschie's), Deserts and grasslands (Red).

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Matschie's tree-kangaroos are distinguished by their reddish-brown fur and a long tail.

The Red Kangaroo is Australia's largest kangaroo, known for its reddish-brown coat and powerful hind legs used for hopping.

\*Matschie's are arboreal, and they also have a weaker bite force compared to Red Kangaroo.

## Sugar Gliders

*Petaurus breviceps*




**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A

 N/A



©MUSE

**Habitat:**  **Feeding:**   
**Day cycle:**  **Risks:** 

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Forests and woodlands.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Sugar Gliders are small possums known for the gliding membrane that extends from their wrist to their ankle, allowing them to glide between trees.

## Meerkat

*Suricata suricatta*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A

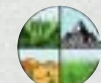



 N/A



©Warriorwoman531



**Habitat:**  **Feeding:**   
**Day cycle:**  **Risks:** 

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Savannas, grasslands, and deserts.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Meerkats are small mongooses with slender bodies, a pointed snout, and a distinct black patch around their eyes. They are often seen standing upright on their hind legs.

## Tufted Capuchin, Black-capped Capuchin

*Cebus apella*

©Victor Engmark



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



## White-fronted Capuchin (Humboldt's)

*Cebus albifrons*

©Whaldener Endo



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests, savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** The Tufted Capuchin is identifiable by the prominent tufts or ridges of hair on its head. The White-fronted Capuchin has a lighter forehead, often with a white or cream-colored band above its eyes.

## Siamang Gibbon

*Symphalangus syndactylus*



©Ucumari

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Agile Gibbon

*Hylobates agilis*



©Klaus Rudloff

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Small, tail-less apes known for their long arms and loud calls. The Siamang Gibbon is easily identified by its large, black inflatable throat sac. The Agile Gibbon has black or brownish fur and white markings on its brow, hands, and feet.

## Celebes Crested Macaque

*Macaca nigra*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



## Northern Pig-tailed Macaque

*Macaca leonina*



**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

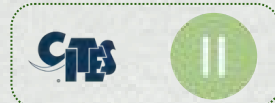
**Identification:** The Celebes Crested Macaque is distinguished by its all-black fur, prominent crest of hair on its head, and a short, stubby tail. The Northern Pig-tailed Macaque has brownish fur and a short tail that is often curled over its back like a pig's tail.

## Common Marmoset

*Callithrix jacchus*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV

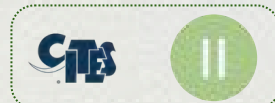


## Pygmy Marmoset

*Callithrix pygmaea*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Black-pencilled Marmoset

*Callithrix penicillata*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests and secondary forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Marmosets are small monkeys with long tails and claws rather than nails. The Common Marmoset has long, white ear tufts and mottled brownish-grey fur. The Pygmy Marmoset is one of the world's smallest monkeys, characterised by its tawny-coloured fur and distinctive mane-like appearance. The Black-pencilled Marmoset has black fur with a matching tuft by its ears, and a white spot on its brow.

## Bolivian Squirrel Monkey

*Saimiri boliviensis*



©Sylvère Corre

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Guianan Squirrel Monkey

*Saimiri sciureus*



©Joachim S. Müller

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

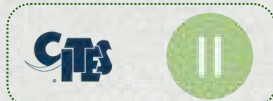
**Identification:** Squirrel monkeys are small, slender monkeys with short, dense fur, often with a white mask around their eyes. The Bolivian Squirrel Monkey has a black cap on its head, while the Guianan Squirrel Monkey has a grey cap.

## Black-chinned emperor tamarin

*Saguinus imperator imperator*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Golden-handed or Red-handed Tamarin

*Saguinus midas*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Golden-headed Lion Tamarin

*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests, savannas, and lowland forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Small primates with long tails and claw-like nails. Their appearance varies widely by species. The Black-chinned emperor tamarin has a striking, long, white "moustache," the Golden-handed Tamarin has black bodies and golden hands, and the Golden-headed Lion Tamarin has a black body with a prominent golden mane.

## Rock Hyrax, Cape Hyrax

*Procavia capensis*



©Bernard Dupont

### Conservation Status:

WLPA- N/A



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Rocky outcrops, arid regions, savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade and traditional medicine.

**Identification:** Small, compact mammal (4-5 kg) with thick grey-brown fur and a distinctive dorsal gland patch surrounded by contrasting colored hairs. Has prominent tusk-like upper incisors and short, rounded ears.

## Three-toed Sloth

*Bradypus tridactylus*



©Brian Gratwicke

### Conservation Status:

WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** They are most easily identified by the three large claws on each of their front limbs and their extremely slow, deliberate movements. Their shaggy, brown-grey fur often appears green due to the symbiotic algae that grows on it.

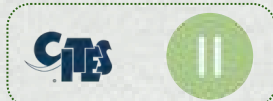
## Umbrella Cockatoo

*Cacatua alba*



©Viajar24h

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



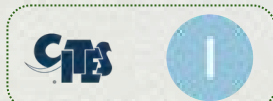
## Yellow-crested Cockatoo

*Cacatua sulphurea*



©Mahbob Yusof

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Citron-crested Cockatoo

*Cacatua citrinocristata*



©Doug Janson

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:** **Feeding:**

**Day cycle:** **Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical forests and mangroves.

**Threats:** Pet trade

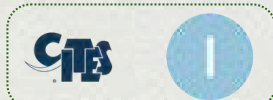
**Identification:** Large parrots with prominent retractable crests. Umbrella Cockatoo: All-white with a broad white crest and dark grey to black beak. Yellow-crested Cockatoo: White body with a bright yellow crest that can be raised when excited or alarmed. Citron-crested Cockatoo: White body with an orange-yellow crest, smaller than the Yellow-crested Cockatoo and with orange ear patches.

**Blue-and-yellow Macaw***Ara ararauna*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV

**Scarlet Macaw***Ara macao*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV

**Hyacinth Macaw***Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests and savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Macaws are large, brightly-colored parrots with long tail feathers and powerful, hooked beaks. Their faces are often bare with distinct feather patterns. The Blue-and-yellow Macaw is known for its vibrant blue and yellow plumage, while the Scarlet Macaw is primarily scarlet red with yellow and blue wing feathers. The Hyacinth Macaw is a striking bird with a deep blue colour, accompanied by yellow skin around its eyes and at the base of its beak.

## Congo African Grey Parrot

*Psittacus erithacus*



©Another Seb

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



## Timneh African Grey Parrot

*Psittacus timneh*



©Manguy

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests and savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade (highly valued for intelligence and speaking ability).

**Identification:** Medium-sized grey parrots.

Congo African Grey: Lighter grey body with bright red tail feathers and black beak. Timneh African Grey: Darker grey body with maroon tail feathers and horn-colored upper mandible.

## Birds of Paradise

*Paradisaeidae and other species*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Tropical rainforests.

**Threats:** Feathers for ceremonial headdresses, the pet trade.

**Identification:** Birds of Paradise are a family of birds known for their spectacular male plumage and elaborate courtship rituals. Males typically have vibrant, iridescent feathers and are often black with various combinations of brilliant blue, yellow, green, or red. Females are generally drabber in colour.

\*IUCN: LC to VU (Least Concern to Vulnerable, varies by species)

## Cranwell's Horned Frog (Pacman frogs)

*Ceratophrys cranwelli*



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- N/A



N/A



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Dry grasslands and savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

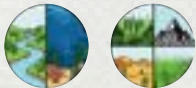
**Identification:** This species has a large, rounded body and an extremely wide mouth. They are a dull green or brown colour with darker markings and small, horn-like projections above their eyes.

**Oriental Fire-bellied Newt***Hypselotriton orientalis*

©Mark Dumont

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- N/A

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Freshwater **Type:** Ponds, streams, and wetlands.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** This small newt is easily identified by its smooth, dark brown to black dorsal skin and a vibrant orange or red-colored belly with irregular black splotches. They have a pointed snout and a relatively long tail.

\*Poisonous: Tetrodotoxin

**Axolotl***Ambystoma mexicanum*

©Seánín Óg

**Conservation Status:**

WLPA- Schedule IV

**Habitat:****Feeding:****Day cycle:****Risks:**

**Habitat:** Freshwater **Type:** Freshwater lakes and canals.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Axolotls are a type of salamander that exhibits paedomorphism, retaining larval characteristics as reproductively mature adults. They are distinguished by their frilly, feathery external gills that protrude from the sides of their head and a prominent fin that runs down their back. Wild individuals are typically a dark, mottled brown, while captive-bred versions come in various colours like pink, white, and gold.

## Tarantulas

*Brachypelma spp.*

©Igor Balashov



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Terrestrial **Type:** Grasslands, scrublands, and tropical forests.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** Tarantulas in these genera are large, hairy spiders. *Brachypelma* species, such as the famous Mexican Red-knee tarantula, are distinguished by their black bodies and bright, contrasting red or orange markings on their legs.

\*IUCN: LC to EN (Least Concern to Endangered, varies by species)

\*\*Mildly venomous; urticating hairs cause irritation.

## Emperor Scorpion

*Pandinus imperator*

©Jan Ebr & Ivana Ebrová



**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule IV



**Habitat:**



**Feeding:**



**Day cycle:**



**Risks:**



**Habitat:** Freshwater **Type:** Tropical rainforests and savannas.

**Threats:** Pet trade

**Identification:** This is one of the largest species of scorpions. It is easily recognized by its glossy black body, large claws, and a relatively small tail with a venomous stinger at the tip.

## Wildlife Article Identification Guide

Pages	Content
112-121	Flagship
122-125	Lesser-Known
126-128	Black Magic
129-131	Marine

Test Type	How It Identifies
<b>Burn Test</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Burnt hair/keratin smell, chars slowly</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Chemical/plastic smell, melts quickly</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Tiger claws, mongoose hair, porcupine quills, all smell like burnt hair</p>
<b>Microscopy</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Natural patterns visible (Schreger lines, hair scales, bone structure)</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Uniform appearance, no natural structure</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Ivory shows cross-hatch lines; pangolin scales show growth rings</p>

<b>DNA Testing</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Genetic markers confirm the exact species</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> No match or shows different species</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Confirms if bones are tiger/leopard (often mislabelled); distinguishes Indian vs Chinese pangolin</p>
<b>Measurement</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Dimensions match known species ranges</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Wrong sizes, inconsistent measurements</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Tiger canines 7-10 cm. If a small tooth sold as a tiger, it is fake/mislabelled</p>
<b>Visual Exam</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Natural asymmetry, irregular patterns, hair follicles visible</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Printed/painted patterns, uniform/symmetric, paint on surface only</p>
<b>UV Light</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Specific fluorescence</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Bright white glow or no fluorescence, UV dye markers visible</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Elephant ivory glows pale blue; plastic/resin shows bright white or no glow</p>
<b>Chemical Test</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Expected organic reactions</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> No reaction with acid, plastic melts with heat</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Sea fans fizz with acid; bear bile has specific UDCA levels</p>
<b>Physical Test</b>	<p><b>Original:</b> Correct weight/density, hollow bones are light, X-ray shows bone structure</p> <p><b>Fake:</b> Wrong weight, solid structure, no internal bone</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Wild pig tusks are hollow (very light); tiger claws have bone inside visible in X-ray</p>

# Bengal Tiger

## SKIN/PELT

**Key ID:** Unique vertical black stripes on orange/tan base; asymmetrical pattern; stripes visible on skin beneath fur; 2-4 cm hair length

**Traded as:** Rugs, wall décor, clothing, upholstery, ceremonial robes



## WLPA Sched I



# Panthera tigris tigris

## TEETH

**Key ID:** Canines 7-10 cm, conical; white/cream; natural root cavity; enamel 2-3mm thick; oval cross-section

**Traded as:** Gold-mounted pendants, amulets, jewelry



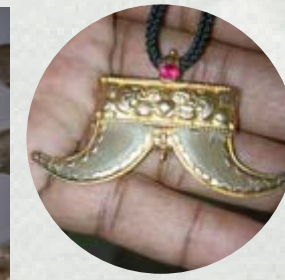
## BONES

**Key ID:** Wine (dark amber, bones visible); Glue (brown, sticky, brick form); Powder (packets/pills); Skull 30-35 cm; femur 35-40 cm; density 1.6-1.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Traded as:** "Health tonics," "bone strengthening wine," TCM medicines

### Detection Tips

- High seizure: tiger reserves, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar borders
- X-ray all suspicious jewellery/pendants
- Products may NOT mention "tiger" on labels
- Disguised as "traditional medicine" or "health supplements"
- Check for natural stripe variation (not uniform printing)



## CLAWS

**Key ID:** Curved 5-7 cm; bone (ungual phalanx) visible in X-ray; dark gray/black with translucent base; smooth keratin surface; 18 total (5 front, 4 rear each), retractable type.

**Traded as:** Pendants, amulets, talismans

### Original:

- Asymmetric stripes
- Bone in X-ray (claws)
- Keratin smell (burn test)
- Tail size is equivalent to body size

### FAKE:

- Printed/symmetric patterns
- Paint on surface only
- Chemical/plastic smell
- Wrong dimensions

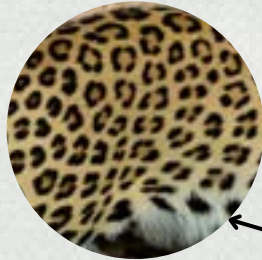
# INDIAN LEOPARD

# *Panthera pardus fusca*

## SKIN/PELT

**Key ID:** ROSETTES (circular spots with light centres) on golden-yellow base; 2-4 cm rosette diameter; white belly with solid black spots; 1-2 cm hair

**Traded as:** Rugs, wall hangings, decorative items, ceremonial use



## WLPA Sched I



## TEETH

**Key ID:** Canines 4-6 cm (smaller than tiger 7-10 cm); laterally flattened; ivory-white; enamel 1.5-2 mm thick; oval cross-section

**Traded as:** Pendants, amulets, jewelry



## BONES

**Key ID:** Skull 20-25 cm (smaller than tiger); femur 28-32 cm; slender build; often sold as "tiger bone"; density 1.4-1.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>; ground into powder

**Traded as:** TCM "tiger bone" substitute, powders, tonics

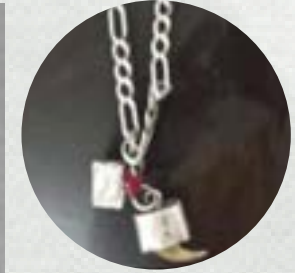
### Detection Tips

- ROSETTES = Leopard
- Smaller parts overall vs tiger
- Central India hotspots (MP, Maharashtra, Western Ghats)
- Often mislabeled as tiger for higher prices
- Check pattern on belly: leopard has solid spots

## CLAWS

**Key ID:** 3-5 cm (smaller than tiger); sharply curved; light grey colour; dark gray/black with translucent base, hollow base 8-12 mm diameter; retractable type; smooth surface

**Traded as:** Jewellery, pendants, brass settings, amulets



### Original:

- Rosettes with light centers
- Golden-yellow base color
- Bone in X-ray (claws)
- Keratin smell (burn test)
- Tail size is equivalent to body size

### Fake:

- Printed/symmetric patterns
- Paint on surface only
- Resin claws
- Wrong dimensions

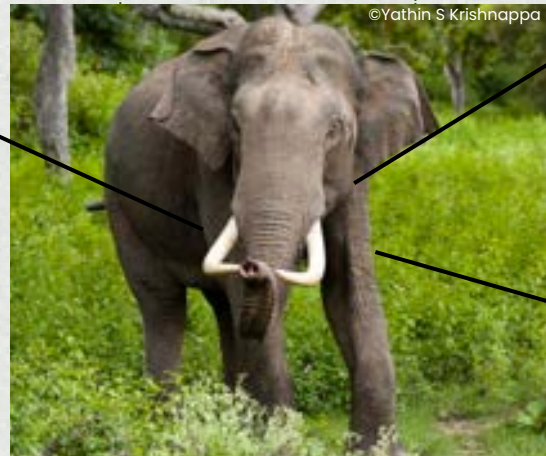
# Asiatic Elephant

# *Elephas maximus*

## IVORY/TUSKS

**Key ID:** Schreger lines (cross-hatch) at 90-115° angle; males 1-2m, females 15-30cm; creamy white to yellow; 60% mineral, 40% organic; UV fluorescence pale blue

**Traded as:** Carved idols, jewelry, decorative items, religious figures



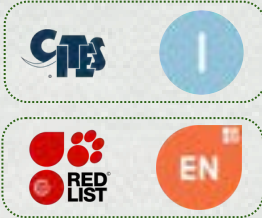
## BONES & MOLARS

**Key ID:** Molars 20-30 cm with 9-12 ridges (Asian); skull with air chambers; femur >1 meter; density ~2.0 g/cm³; unmistakable scale

**Traded as:** Carved items, TCM bone powder, decorative pieces



## WLPA Sched I



## SKIN

**Key ID:** 2.5-4 cm thickness (thickest mammal); deep polygonal wrinkles; grey to brown; sparse coarse bristles; distinctive mud-crack pattern

**Traded as:** Leather goods, drums, & blood beads

### Original:

- Schreger lines present
- UV pale blue fluorescence
- Heavy for size
- Natural growth rings

### Fake:

- No Schreger pattern
- Plastic/resin (hot pin test)
- Wrong angle (mammoth)
- Uniform density

### Detection Tips

- Schreger angle: 90-115° = elephant; >115° = mammoth
- UV light test for ivory authentication
- Northeast India to China, Myanmar routes
- Carved ivory in religious idol form
- Skin thickness diagnostic (2.5-4 cm)



©USFWS Headquarters

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



©BunnyTailGra22

**Conservation Status:**  
WLPA- Schedule I



## SCALES

**Key ID:** 13 longitudinal rows on the body; 5 longitudinal rows on the dorsal side of the tail; Scales: broad, yellowish-brown; Body length: 40-65 cm; Tail: shorter, thicker; Colour: pale tan to brown

**Traded as:** TCM (powdered), whole scales, "medicinal" pills



© WTI

### Detection Tips

- COUNT SCALE ROWS - most reliable field method
- Indian pangolin: 13 rows (body) + 5 rows (tail)
- Chinese pangolin: 15-18 rows (body)
- Both species are heavily trafficked
- DNA testing critical for court

### Common Fakes:

- Fish scales (wrong structure)
- Synthetic keratin
- Carved wood/plastic

## SCALES

**Key ID:** 15-18 longitudinal rows on the body (MORE than Indian); Narrower scales than the Indian; Colour: darker brown to black-brown; Body: slightly larger; Tail: longer, thinner

**Traded as:** Rugs, wall décor, clothing, upholstery, ceremonial robes



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### Forensic Tests (Both Species):

- Count longitudinal scale rows (DEFINITIVE field test)
- DNA sequencing (cytochrome-b gene)
- Scale morphometry (size, shape measurements)
- Microscopy (scale structure)

## Sloth Bear Key ID:

Black shaggy coat;  
White/yellow V-shaped chest mark;  
Long snout, no upper incisors; Large curved claws (7-10 cm).



## WLPA Sched I



## Asiatic Black Key ID:

Black coat; White crescent "moon" on chest; Larger ears than sloth bear; Shorter snout.

### GALL BLADDER/BILE

**Key ID:** Small sac (5-10cm); fresh = dark green/black; dried = hard wrinkled; bile = golden-yellow; contains UDCA (ursodeoxycholic acid) - Asiatic Black 47-76% UDCA (HIGHEST), Sloth 1-8%



**Traded as:** Dried gall bladders, "bear bile wine", pills/powders, TCM products, beauty products

### PAWS/CLAWS

**Key ID:** 5 toes with non-retractable claws; 15-25 cm length; large leathery pad (plantigrade); Sloth: long claws 8-10 cm (digging); Asiatic: shorter 5-7 cm (climbing) both species have large powerful claws



**Traded as:** Jewellery, pendants, necklaces, decorative items

### Detection Tips

- Bile in medicine bottles (labelled "herbs")
- Paws frozen in food shipments
- Gall bladders dried/flattened
- Parts mixed with legal animal products
- Parcels labelled "traditional medicine"

### SKIN/FUR

**Key ID:** Sloth = shaggy unkempt black fur with debris, V/Y chest mark, long snout, dome-shaped body; Asiatic Black = smooth glossy jet-black coat, crescent moon chest mark, large Mickey Mouse ears, short dark snout, compact build



**Traded as:** Rugs, wall hangings, decorative items

FLAGSHIP

FLAGSHIP



## WLPA Sched II



### TUSKS

**Key ID:** Type: Canine teeth (4 total: 2 upper 'whettters' + 2 lower 'cutters')

- Lower tusks (most valuable): Curved upward, 5-15 cm exposed length (can reach 20 cm in old males)
- Upper tusks: Semicircular curve, shorter (typically 6-12 cm), sharpened lower tusks
- Structure: Hollow with thin walls (root end open); lightweight for size
- Cross-section: Lower tusks = triangular; Upper tusks = trapezoidal
- Colour: Yellowish-white to cream ivory; can stain brown/tan with age
- Surface: Smooth; enamel on underside and two narrow lateral ridges

**Traded as:** Trophy tusks (mounted pairs); Traditional amulets; Knife/tool handles; Jewellery (pendants, earrings)

#### Detection Tips

- Weight test: Genuine tusks very light (hollow); plastics heavier
- Grain: Natural growth striations (like wood grain) visible on surface
- Hot needle test: Ivory chars/burns with organic smell; plastic melts with chemical odour.
- UV light: No special fluorescence (unlike synthetics: UV dye markers)
- Microscopy: Dentine tubule structure visible



### SKIN/PELT

**Key ID:** Colour: Golden-brown to sandy yellow; darker dorsal stripe

- Hair: Short (2-3 cm), dense underfur with longer guard hairs (4-6 cm)
- Tail: Bushy, 20-30 cm, with black tip
- Size: Medium pelt, ~80-100 cm body length
- Pattern: Grizzled appearance from mixed colour hair bands

**Traded as:** Raw pelts/skins; Traditional/ceremonial costumes; Decorative rugs/wall hangings; Trim for garments

#### Detection Tips:

- Microscopic hair analysis (medulla pattern), DNA testing, canine skull/claw remnants if present
- Genuine: Natural golden-brown, guard hairs present, black-tipped tail, medium skin thickness
- Fake: Dog pelts, dyed fox/coyote fur, synthetic fur (uniform, plastic backing)





WLPA Sched II WLPA Sched I & II



**HAIR/BRUSH**

**Key ID:**

- Colour: Grizzled grey-brown with banded hairs (light-dark-light)
- Texture: Very fine, soft, springy; Length: 1-3 cm; Tips: Tapered/pointed

**Traded as:** Artist brushes (watercolour), cosmetic brushes, shaving brushes

**Detection Tips:**

- Microscopy (cuticle scale pattern), burn test (organic smell vs plastic)
- Genuine: Grey-brown banded, fine diameter, excellent spring, tapered tips
- Fake: Synthetic taklon, squirrel/sable hair, goat hair



**CALIPEE**

**Key ID:** Cartilaginous tissue connecting shell;

- Fresh: yellowish-green gelatinous
- Dried: brown/amber brittle pieces (5-30 cm)

**Traded as:** TCM ingredient, turtle soup, 'health tonics', dried 'seafood'

**Detection Tips:**

- 'Cryptic trade' - looks like brittle fragments; Destinations: China/Hong Kong;
- Lab tests: microscopy, DNA
- Genuine: Cartilage structure, irregular pieces, yellowish-green/brown-amber
- Fake: Gelatin, other cartilage, plant substitutes, fish swim bladder



LESSER KNOWN

LESSER KNOWN



**WLPA Sched I**



**HATHA JODI - Monitor Lizard Hemipenis**

**Key ID:**

- Twin cylindrical structures (3-8 cm each), resembling clasped hands;
- Dried: dark brown/black, wrinkled, spinose surface

**Traded as:** Tantric/occult practices, wealth/luck amulets, black magic

**Detection Tips:**

- Burn test (organic vs plant), magnification (reptilian tissue), DNA testable
- Genuine: Paired structure, spinose, organic
- Fake: Plant roots, resin casts, carved wood



**INDRAJAL**

**Key ID:**

- Fan-shaped colony (15-60 cm); P
- Purple/red/yellow when alive; white/beige dried;
- Flexible, fresh, brittle dried

**Traded as:** Tantric rituals ('Indrajal'), decorative items, curio shops

**Detection Tips:**

- Acid test ( $\text{CaCO}_3$  fizzes), microscopy (polyp structure, sclerites)
- Net-like/fan-like; red/yellow/purple; fragile calcareous skeleton
- Resin/plastic - heavy, uniform colour, no branching pores



BLACK MAGIC

BLACK MAGIC



### WLPA Sched I



## QUILLS

### Key ID:

- Length: 15-40 cm; Black/white banded rings;
- Hollow keratin
- Sharp pointed tip

**Traded as:** Folklore medicine (stomach ailments), decorative crafts, jewellery

### Detection Tips:

- Weight test (lightweight/hollow), burn test (keratin = burnt hair smell)
- Real: Black & white banded; hollow base; sharp taper
- Fake: Bamboo/plastic rods painted; solid, not hollow



## DRIED PRODUCTS (BÊCHE-DE-MER)

### Key ID:

- Fresh: Soft, cylindrical, 10-30 cm, dark brown/black;
- Dried (beche-de-mer): Shrivelled, black/brown, hard, 5-20 cm

**Traded as:** Dried 'beche-de-mer' (海参), TCM, luxury food delicacy, supplements

### Detection Tips:

- Visual check (body wall), DNA barcoding (COI gene); Destinations: China/Hong Kong/Singapore.
- Real: Cylindrical, leathery; papillae (warts); rigid when dry
- Fake: Molded rubber - uniform texture, cuts easily

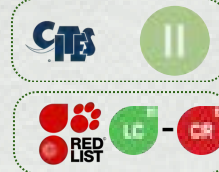


# Sea Horses *Hippocampus spp.*

# Sharks *N/A (Species vary)*



WLPA Sched I



## DRIED PRODUCTS

### Key ID:

- Size: 5–30 cm;
- Horse-like head, curved body, prehensile tail;
- Body: Bony plates/rings (not scales);
- Dried: Pale tan/white, rigid, curved

**Traded as:** TCM, dried specimens, powders/pills, curios

### Detection Tips:

- Count body rings (11 trunk + 30–50 tail); Coronet shape (species-specific); DNA barcoding (COI, cytochrome b)
- Real: Body rings, horse-shaped head, coronet (species-specific), prehensile tail
- Fake: Resin replicas, pipefish (straight body)



## FINS & PRODUCTS

### Key ID:

- Structure: Cartilaginous (flexible fresh);
- Types: Dorsal (most valuable), pectoral, pelvic, anal, caudal;
- Dried: Pale yellow/brown, rigid, 10–80 cm

**Traded as:** Shark fin soup, dried fins, fin needles (processed cartilage), TCM; Also: liver oil (squalene), skin (leather), teeth, meat

### Detection Tips:

- Visual (parallel fin needles, cartilage); DNA barcoding (COI, ND2 genes) critical for species ID; Destinations: Hong Kong/China/Singapore
- Real: Cartilage, parallel fin needles, natural colour gradient, dermal denticles
- Fake: Artificial needles (gelatin, polymers), fish gelatin



## Editorial Note

This Wildlife Identification & Seizure Field Guide has been developed as a practical reference for law enforcement personnel involved in the detection, identification, and seizure of trafficked wildlife. It consolidates key visual and descriptive cues for species most frequently encountered in illegal trade, alongside relevant legal references from the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES regulations.

The guide focuses on priority species identified through seizure records and trade intelligence, those most trafficked or of highest enforcement significance. The content has been carefully curated to balance scientific accuracy, legal relevance, and field practicality, enabling officers to make informed decisions during real-time operations.

While this edition presents a select list of species, the illegal trade landscape is dynamic. The guide will evolve to include additional taxa and reflect emerging trends in wildlife trafficking.



The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a leading wildlife conservation action institution, dedicated to protecting India's wildlife and their habitats. Founded in 1998, it works in partnership with local communities, IPOs and governments to manage emerging wildlife challenges, implement conservation strategies in protecting species and landscapes and work for the welfare of individual wild animals in distress. WTI strives to prevent and/or mitigate threats to the country's natural heritage through practical, on-ground solutions that drive meaningful and lasting conservation impact.



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