Common Wildlife, their Parts & Products in Illegal Trade
Species identification guide

Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program
Wildlife Conservation Society-India
www.wcsindia.org
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KEYS TO USE THE GUIDE

Species Protected Under

Schedule Keys:

- Schedule I
- Schedule II
- Schedule III
- Schedule IV

The species are protected under Customs Act, 1962.
CITES- Appendix I, II & II.

IUCN STATUS:-
LC- Least Concern.; NT- Near Threatened;
VU- Vulnerable; EN- Endangered;
CR- Critically Endangered.

* Names of the species are mentioned as per
**Tiger**
*Panthera tigris*  
**EN/CITES I**

1. White hair on the inner ear lobe.
2. White ocular eye spot.
3. White maxillary cheeks.
5. Black ear lobe with white eyespot on the under surface.
6. White skin below mandible, chest & inner portions of the forelegs.
7. White belly.
8. Tail ending with a solid black band.

**Fake (dyed) skins:**
- Individual hair strands may have multiple colours.
- Color fades when rubbed with nail paint remover/warm lemon.

**Leopard**
*Panthera pardus*  
**EN/CITES I**

Leopard skin identification:
1. Yellow nasal patch without rosettes.
2. Coat color is pale to golden yellow.
4. Rosette patterns are non repetitive over large area.
5. White underbelly, with fading black spots.
6. Tail tip White.
SNOW LEOPARD  
*Panthera uncia*  
VU/CITES I

CLOUDED LEOPARD  
*Neofelis nebulosa*  
VU/CITES I

MARBLED CAT  
*Felis marmorata*  
NT/CITES I

LEOPARD CAT  
*Felis bengalensis*  
LC/CITES I

GOLDEN CAT  
*Felis temminckii*  
NT/CITES I

JUNGLE CAT  
*Felis chaus*  
LC/CITES II
Identifying features of mongoose hair brush:
1. Dorsal guard hair of mongooses have banding pattern unlike synthetic brushes.
2. When burnt, smells like burnt hair.
3. Microscopic characteristics of the hair can help identify mongoose species in laboratory.
SKIN & FUR
(OTHER MAMMALS)

Red Panda
*Alurus fulgens*  
EN/CITES I

Red Panda (Skin)
*Alurus fulgens*

Yellow Throated Marten
*Martes flavigula*  
LC/CITES III

Spotted Linsang
*Prionodon pardicolor*  
LC/CITES I

Large Indian Civet
*Viverra zibetha*  
LC/CITES III

Small Indian Civet
*Viverricula indica*  
LC/CITES III

Common Palm Civet
*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*  
LC/CITES III

Masked Palm Civet
*Paguma larvata*  
LC/CITES III
**Burmese Python**  
*Python bivittatus*  
VU/CITES II

**Indian Rock Python**  
*Python molurus*  
CITES I

**Indian Rat Snake**  
*Ptyas mucosus*  
CITES II

**Snake Skin and Snake Skin Bag**

**Crocodile**  
*Crocodylus sp.*  
LC/CITES I

**Crocodile Skin Products**

**Real Crocodile Skin Identification:**
1. Creases look natural with non repetitive pattern.
2. Different body regions (head, limbs) are not associated together.
3. Dorsal scales do not fold when pressure applied.

**Real Snake Skin Identification:**
1. Products have scaly texture.
2. Patterns are non repetitive and uneven over large surface area.
3. Tanned snake skin may have different colours. Hence should not be overlooked. (See snake skin & snake skin bag photo).

**Burn Test:** When burnt, reptile skin samples smell like burnt hair/nail since they are made of keratin.
Main purpose of the trade is:
- Scales used in traditional medicines.
- High demand for meat as food.
- Scales and skin for leather industry.

Two species of pangolins are found in India:
1. Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata)
2. Chinese Pangolin (Manis pentadactyla)

 فإذا لم تكن من العادات في استخدام الأدوية، فأنصحك بالتوجه إلى الدكاترة والطبيbus لمعرفة الدواء المناسب لنطقك.

Porcupine Quills

Porcupine Quill Product
Chital
Axix axis

Sambar
Rusa unicolor

Kashmir Stag
Cervus elaphus hanglu

Thamin/Brow-antlered Deer
Cervus eldii

Swamp Deer
Cervus duvaucelii ssp.

Black Buck
Antilope cervicapra

Chinkara
Gazella gazelle bennettii

Tibetan Gazelle
Procapra picticaudata
Horns and Antlers

Barking Deer/ Muntjac
*Muntiacus muntjak*  
LC

Serow
*Capricornis sumatraensis*  
VU/CITES I

Indian Gaur
*Bos gaurus*  
VU/CITES I

Asiatic Wild Buffalo
*Bubalus bubalis*  
EN/CITES III

Himalayan Ibex
*Capra ibex*  
LC/CITES III

Bharal
*Ovis nahura*  
LC/CITES III

Markhor
*Capra falconeri*  
NT/CITES I

Nyan
*Ovis hodgsoni*  
NT/CITES I
Real African Rhino horn under UV light

Fake Rhino Horn

Buffalo Horn Tips

Pressing heated pin against surface will cause a fake plastic horn to melt.

DNA analysis is the best method to identify real rhino horns.

Key Features of Rhino horn:

Texture is rough due to presence of hair on the horn. Feels rough when stroked top down with palm.

Colour varies from greyish brown to black.

Real rhino horn has a sunken hollow base, the fake horns are mostly solid with slightly sunken base.

Fake rhino horns are made up of buffalo horns, limb bone of cattle or wood.
**IVORY**

Identification of Real and Fake Ivory and its Products:

**Real Ivory**

When observed under UV light, the real ivory appears fluroscent white/blue but fake substitute appears dull blue.

Commonly used substitute for ivory are bones and plastic. Pressing a heated pin will cause a fake plastic ivory item to melt.

**Fake Ivory**

Schreger lines, *unique to elephant ivory*, are cross intersecting lines with a diamond shape between them.

Haversian canals are *found only in bones*, are tubes containing blood vessels. Polished bones has pits.
**Real canine**

Under X-ray scan, the real canine shows the presence of a pulp chamber inside the tooth.

**Fake canine**

With tigers becoming rare due to the high demand for their body parts, trade has shifted to leopard body parts.

**Tiger Claw**

The ridges are in curved lines.

**Tiger Claw Ornament**

The ridges are in straight lines.

**Note:** Pressing a heated pin against a fake plastic claw will cause it to melt.

**Bear Claws**

**Bear Claw Necklace**
MISCELLANEOUS WILDLIFE PARTS (MAMMALS & REPTILES)

**Tiger (Penis)**

**Bear (Gall Bladder)**

**Monitor Lizard**

*Varanus sp.*  
CITES I & II

**Dried Monitor Lizard Penis (Hatha Jodi)**

**Hatha Jodi**, is thought to be a “Tantrik Root”, that is falsely believed to bring wealth and prosperity. In fact, it is a dried sexual organ (hemi-penis) of monitor lizards, which looks like a dried bark or root of plant. Traders also mix plastic moulds of Hatha Jodi along with real organs to mislead investigators.

**Musk Deer**

*Moschus sp.*  
EN/CITES I

**Musk Pod**

**Musk** (*musk pod*), is a brownish wax-like secretion from the scent gland of male musk deer. It is used in traditional medicine. The musk pod is about the size of a walnut, and is situated between the abdomen and the genitals of the musk deer.
Great Indian Hornbill  
*Buceros bicornis*  
VU/CITES I

Oriental Pied Hornbill  
*Anthracoceros albirostris*  
LC/CITES II

Identifying naturally shed feathers:  
Naturally shed feathers can be distinguished from ones that are plucked by examining the base of the feathers

1. Naturally shed feathers have an empty feather core at the end.
2. Plucked feathers will have solid feather core and tissues at the end.
3. Although trade in naturally shed feathers is legal, hunting peacocks for their feathers is a punishable offence.

Hornbill casque/ ivory (a decorative growth on the upper mandible of the beak), has cultural importance in many communities in the north-east region of India. Hunting hornbills for their “casque” is a direct threat to hornbill populations.

Indian Peafowl  
*Pavo cristatus*  
LC/CITES III

Plucked feathers with tissue at the end.

Ends chopped off to avoid detection
India harbors 28 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises, of which more than 80% are threatened with extinction. Recent reports indicate that turtles are illegally collected from the wild across India and transported to south-east Asian countries from eastern India (especially Kolkata) and north-eastern India via Bangladesh. The Indian Soft-shell (Flapshell) Turtle is a commonly traded species for meat. Other species like Indian star tortoise, Spotted Black Terrapin, Eastern Hill Terrapin and Roofed turtles are traded as popular pets.
Indian Black Turtle  
*Melanochelys trijuga*  
NT/CITES II

Brown Roofed Turtle  
*Pangshura smithii*  
NT/CITES II

Elongated Tortoise  
*Indotestudo elongata*  
EN/CITES II

Indian Star Tortoise  
*Geochelone elegans*  
VU/CITES II

Indian Soft-shelled Turtle  
*Lissemys punctata*  
LC/CITES II

Ganges Soft-shelled Turtle  
*Trionyx gangeticus*  
EN/CITES I

Peacock Soft-shelled Turtle  
*Trionyx hurum*  
VU/CITES I

Narrow-headed Soft-shell Turtle  
*Chitra indica*  
EN/CITES II
The Tokay gecko trade has arisen recently. It is primarily driven by false claims of miracle cures and high monetary gains. Both the claims are likely a hoax. North Eastern states of India are most susceptible to illegal trade of Tokays.

The Red Sand Boa is a common snake often illegally carried by snake charmers. It’s blunt tail resembles its head, and has given rise to the myth of it being a “Two Headed Snake.” Lately it is also illegally traded, for many believe it has mystical powers to detect hidden treasures, bring prosperity and cures diseases. These are mere superstitions.
Vine Snake
*Ahaetulla sp.*

Ornamental Flying Snake
*Chrysopalea ornata*

Bronzeback Tree Snake
*Dendrelaphis sp.*

Russell’s Viper (Venomous)
*Vipera russellii*

Spectacled Cobra (Venomous)
*Naja naja*

Monocled Cobra (Venomous)
*Naja kaouthia*

Seized Venom Jars

Snake venom is usually traded in dried form. Dried venom resembles small crystals which are amber-yellowish or whitish in color.
LIVE TRADE (BIRDS)

Rose-ringed Parakeet
*Psittacula krameri*  
LC/CITES II

Alexandrine Parakeet
*Psittacula eupatria*  
NT/CITES III

Red-breasted Parakeet
*Psittacula alexandri*  
NT/CITES III

Slaty-headed Parakeet
*Psittacula himalayana*  
LC/CITES II

Barn Owl
*Tyto alba*  
LC/CITES II

Indian Eagle Owl
*Bubo bengalensis*  
LC/CITES II
LIVE TRADE
(BIRDS)

White-rumped Munia
Lonchura striata  LC

Green Munia
Amendava formosa  VU/CITES II

Black-headed Munia
Lonchura malacca  LC

Red Avadavat
Amendava amendava  LC

Scaly-breasted Munia
Lonchura punctulata  LC

Chestnut Munia
Lonchura atricapilla  LC
Hill Myna
*Gracula religiosa*  
LC/CITES II

Brahminy Starling
*Sturnia pagodarum*  
LC

Red-whiskered Bulbul
*Pycnonotus jocosus*  
LC

Slow Loris
*Nycticebus bengalensis*  
VU/CITES I

Rhesus Macaque
*Macaca mulatta*  
LC/CITES II
EXOTIC SPECIES
(MAMMALS & REPTILES)

Common Marmoset
*Callithrix jacchus ssp.*
*LC/CITES II*

African Pygmy Hedgehog
*Atelerix albiventris*  
*LC*

*Exotic, but often confused with protected species.*

Common Snapping Turtle
*Chelydra serpentina*  
*LC/CITES III*

Red-eared Slider Turtle
*Trachemys scripta elegans*

*Exotic, but often confused with protected species.*

Ball Python
*Python regius*  
*LC/CITES II*

Green Iguana
*Iguana iguana*  
*LC/CITES II*
EXOTIC SPECIES
(BIRDS)

African Grey Parrot
Psittacus erithacus
EN/CITES I

Yellow Crested Cockatoo
Cacatua sulphurea
CR/CITES I

Macaws
CITES I

Amazon Parrots
CITES I

Javan Sparrow
Lonchura oryzivora
EN/CITES II

Lorikeets
EN/CITES I
Sea Horse (All)  
*Hippocampus sp.*  CITES II

Corals  
All Species  CITES II

Glory of India  
*Conus milneedwardsi*  LC

Spider Conch  
*Lambis sp.*  CITES II

Trumpet Shell  
*Charonia tritonis*

Turban Shell  
*Turbo marmoratus*
Giant Clam
*Tridacna maxima*  
CITES II

Sponges
All Species

Horse Hoof’s Clam
*Hippopus hippopus*

Sea Cucumber
All *Holothurian*  
CITES III

Cowrie(s)
*Cypraea sp.*
Evidence Collection:
- Hand Gloves
- Vial
- Ethanol
- Vacutainer

Evidence Observation:
- Magnifying Glass
- Torch
- UV Laser Pointer
- Lighter
- Pin
- Measuring Tape
- Weighing Scale

Documentation:
- Letter Pad
- Pen
- Camera
- GPS Device
SAMPLE COLLECTION QUICK GUIDE

For Collection of Meat/Skin Piece

1. Take a screw cap vial (<100ml/g capacity).

2. Fill it halfway with Silica Gel & cover with filter paper or fill 2/3rd with 100% (absolute) Ethanol (Ethyl Alcohol).

3. Place piece of meat/skin in the vial & label with suspected species, place of collection and date.

For Collection of Blood Sample

- Collect blood in a vacutainer tube and store at 4°C.
- Make a thick smear of blood on glass slide.

Sealing of Evidence

Place evidence in a cardboard box, wrap in a muslin/cotton cloth, stitch all sides and seal with hot wax (resin/lac) with official stamp of forwarding authority.

Label with signature of the veterinary doctor. Mention in the Search & Seizure Memo.

Key documents to be sent with samples are:

1. Copy of POR/FIR (for wildlife offence)
2. Copy of seizure memo (for wildlife offence)
3. Copy of panchnama (for wildlife offence)
4. Name of suspected species
5. Name of name preservative (ethanol or silica gel)
6. Image and of dead animal (if available).
7. Place of collection of the samples either GPS location or village, district, state.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N</th>
<th>Section/Offence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Section 9 r/w 51(1)</strong>– Hunting of animals in Schedule II Part I, Schedule III and IV</td>
<td>Upto 3 years punishment or fine upto Rs 25,000</td>
<td>JMFC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2.  | **Section 9 r/w51(1)**- Hunting of animals in Schedule I and Schedule II Part II | **First Conviction:** Not less than 3 years and not more than 7 years imprisonment and fine not less than Rs 10,000  
**Second/subsequent offence:** Not less than 3 years and not more than 7 years imprisonment and fine not less than Rs 25,000 | JMFC                |
| 3.  | **Section 9 r/w51(1C)** – Hunting animals in the tiger reserve                   | **First Conviction:** Not less than 3 years and upto 7 years imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs 50,000 and upto Rs 2 lakh.  
**Second/subsequent conviction:** Not less than 7 years imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs 5 Lakh and upto Rs 50 lakh. | JMFC                |
<p>|     | <strong>Section 27 r/w 51(1)</strong> - Restriction on entry into a Sanctuary                 | Imprisonment upto 3 years or fine upto Rs 25,000                                        | JMFC                |
|     | <strong>Section 29 r/w51(1)</strong> - Destruction, etc. in a sanctuary prohibited without permit |                                                                                        |                     |</p>
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<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Section 31 r/w 51(1)</strong>- Prohibition of entry into a sanctuary with weapon</td>
<td>Upto 3 years punishment or fine upto Rs 25,000 (In case Arms Act, 1959 is involved, the arms license is</td>
<td>JMFC</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 32 r/w 51(1)</strong> – Ban on use of injurious substances</td>
<td>cancelled and the person cannot apply for a fresh license for 5 years.)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>Section 39 r/w 51(1)</strong>– Wild animals, etc. to be government property</td>
<td>In case of Schedule I &amp; Schedule II Part II species, not less than 3 years and upto 7 years imprisonment and fine not less than Rs 10,000. In case of Schedule II Part II, Schedule III and IV species, not more than 3 years or fine upto Rs 25,000</td>
<td>JMFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><strong>Section 42 r/w 51</strong> – Certificate of ownership</td>
<td>In case of Schedule I &amp; Schedule II Part II species, not less than 3 years and upto 7 years imprisonment and fine not less than Rs 10,000. In case of Schedule II Part II, Schedule III and IV species, not more than 3 years or fine upto Rs 25,000</td>
<td>JMFC</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 44 r/w 51</strong>– Dealings in trophy and animal articles without license prohibited of animals in Schedule II Part I, Schedule III and Schedule IV</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 48 r/w 51</strong> – Purchase of animal, etc. by licensee</td>
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<td><strong>Section 48A r/w 51</strong> – Restriction on transportation of wild life</td>
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| 6.  | **Section 49 r/w 51** – Purchase of captive animal, etc. by a person other than a licensee  
**Section 49B r/w 51** – Dealing in trophies, animal articles, etc. of Schedule I and Schedule II Part II animals | In case of Schedule I & Schedule II Part II species, not less than 3 years and upto 7 years imprisonment and fine not less than Rs 10,000.  
In case of Schedule II Part II, Schedule III and IV species, not more than 3 years or fine upto Rs 25,000 | JMFC              |
| 7.  | **Chapter VA** – Prohibition of trade or commerce in trophies, animal articles, etc. derived from Scheduled animals | Not less than 3 years imprisonment and upto 7 years and fine not less than Rs 10,000                                                                                                                                 | JMFC              |
| 8.  | **Section 52r/w 51** – Attempts and abetment                                    | Same punishment as the offence attempted or abetted.                                                                                                                                                                   | —                 |

**Note:** When a person commits an offence in relation to the core area of a tiger reserve or where the offence relate to hunting in the tiger reserve –

*First conviction is punishable with not less than 3 years upto 7 years imprisonment and also a fine not less than Rs 50,000 and not more than Rs 2 lakh. In case of repeat offenders, imprisonment for not less than 7 years and fine not less than 5 lakh rupees and not more than Rs 50 lakh.*

The above indicated sections are the main sections to be added to the WLOR/Complaint. Add all relevant definitions and section numbers in addition to the main section mentioned in the table.

**References:**
- The Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- www.cites.org
- www.iucnredlist.org
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>WLPA</th>
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<td>02</td>
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<td>Grey Mongoose</td>
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<td>Small Indian Mongoose</td>
<td>Herpestes javanicus</td>
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<td>Himalayan Black Bear</td>
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<td>Smooth-coated Otter</td>
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<td>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</td>
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<td>Python molurus</td>
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<td>I</td>
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*II/P II denotes: Schedule II, Part II.*
For further assistance on wildlife enforcement contact
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau,
Eastern Region:
Kolkata: +91-33-22878698,
Guwahati: +91-361-2332709

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