

The Wild Life (Protection) Licensing (Additional Matters for Consideration) Rules, 2024

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The Wild Life (Protection) Licensing (Additional Matters for Consideration) Rules, 2024, were notified recently by central government, marking the first revision since 1983.



[ref-DownToEarth]

Key provisions:

Exclusion of Certain Species:

- The revised rules **exclude certain species** from the licensing process for wildlife trade.
- The government notification specifies guidelines for snake venom, captive animals, trophy animals, and stuffed animals.

Previous Licensing Restrictions:

- The **rules from 1983** prohibited issuing licenses for trading in wild animals categorized under **Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II** under the **Wildlife Protection Act 1972**.
- Licenses were granted in exceptional cases with the **prior approval of the central government**.

Revised Guidelines:

- Under the new guidelines, **licenses** related to wild **animals specified in Schedule I to the Wildlife Protection Act** will not be granted except with the previous consultation of the central government.
- The rules emphasize the need for **considering the capacity of applicants** in terms of facilities, equipment, and feasibility of premises.
- **Source and manner of obtaining supplies**, existing licences in the concerned area, and implications on hunting or trade must be considered before granting a licence.

Unclear Exclusion of Schedule II Species:

- The notification **does not clarify** why restrictions on **Schedule II species** have been lifted.

- The 2022 amendment rationalized Wildlife Protection Act schedules, with **Schedule II still containing crucial species** of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Revised Wildlife Protection Act Schedules:

- The **schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act** were rationalized in an amendment in 2022.
 - The **original law had six schedules**, including specific categories for endangered species, non-endangered species, vermin, and plant species.
- **Schedule I** includes animals requiring **utmost protection**.
- **Schedule II** has species needing **comparatively lower protection**.
- **Plant species** are listed under **Schedule III**.
- **Schedule IV** is dedicated to species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**).

Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - Schedule II Species:

- Birds such as sparrows, bulbul, ducks, geese, owls, kites, eagles, falcons, and prinias.
- Reptiles such as snakes and turtles.
- Mammals including deer, hare, rats, langur.
- Amphibians like geckos and frogs.

Other key facts:

Global Seizures of Flora and Fauna:

- According to the World Wildlife Report 2020, around **6,000 species of flora and fauna were seized globally from 1999-2018**.