



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**WILDLIFE ACT**

**(CHAPTER 351)**

**(Original Enactment: Ordinance 5 of 1965)**

**REVISED EDITION 2000**

(30th December 2000)

*Prepared and Published by*

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT (CHAPTER 275)

Informal Consolidation – version in force from 1/6/2020

# Wildlife Act

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An Act for the protection, preservation and management of wildlife for the purposes of maintaining a healthy ecosystem and safeguarding public safety and health, and for related matters.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

[22nd October 1965]

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Wildlife Act.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“animal” includes any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate, whether of a wild nature or otherwise;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“animal-related business” means —

- (a) the operation of any place or establishment for the purpose of —
  - (i) using or holding animals for display, sport, entertainment, sale, breeding or conservation; or
  - (ii) the care, boarding, grooming, treatment, vaccination, inoculation, training or destruction of animals, for reward;

(b) the provision of any service relating to the care, boarding, grooming, treatment, vaccination, inoculation, training, transportation, capture or destruction of animals, for reward; or

(c) the operation of any animal rescue or welfare organisation or facility,

but does not include any business in respect of animals intended for consumption;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“authorised officer” means any person appointed under section 4(2) by the Director-General to be an authorised officer;

*[Deleted by Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

“Board” means the National Parks Board established by the repealed National Parks Act (Cap. 198A, 1991 Ed.) as in force before 1 July 1996 and continued by section 3 of the National Parks Board Act (Cap. 198A);

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

“conveyance” includes any vehicle, vessel, train, aircraft or other mode of transport;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“Director-General” means the Director-General, Wildlife Management appointed under section 4(1);

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

*[Deleted by Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“enforcement officer” means an authorised officer, a police officer or an officer of customs;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“limited liability partnership” has the meaning given by the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Cap. 163A);

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“officer of customs” has the meaning given by the Customs Act (Cap. 70);

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“owner” includes any person for the time being in charge of any wildlife (whether alive or dead), part of a wildlife, article, conveyance or other thing, and any person for the time being in occupation of any building;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“place” means any public or private place and includes —

- (a) any land, whether built on or not;
- (b) any body of water; and
- (c) any area, whether or not enclosed, and whether above-ground, underground or underwater;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“police officer” means a member of the Police Force or a special police officer, as defined in the Police Force Act (Cap. 235);

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“protected wildlife” means a wildlife that belongs to a protected wildlife species;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“protected wildlife species” means a wildlife species prescribed as a protected wildlife species for the purposes of this Act;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“reward” means any payment or other benefit (whether monetary or otherwise);

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“seized item” means any wildlife (whether dead or alive), part of a wildlife, article, conveyance or other thing seized by an enforcement officer under this Act;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“wildlife” means an animal that belongs to a wildlife species, and includes the young or egg of the animal;

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

“wildlife species” means any species of animals of a wild nature, but excludes domestic dogs and cats, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, domestic pigs and poultry.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Operation of other written laws**

**3.—(1)** To avoid doubt, nothing in this Act affects or limits the operation of the following written laws:

- (a) the Animals and Birds Act (Cap. 7);
- (b) the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act (Cap. 30C);
- (c) the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 41);
- (d) the Control of Vectors and Pesticides Act (Cap. 59);
- (e) the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Cap. 92A);
- (f) the Environmental Public Health Act (Cap. 95);
- (g) the Executive Condominium Housing Scheme Act (Cap. 99A);
- (h) the Fisheries Act (Cap. 111);
- (i) the Housing and Development Act (Cap. 129);
- (j) the HUDC Housing Estates Act (Cap. 131);
- (k) the Infectious Diseases Act (Cap. 137);
- (l) the Jurong Town Corporation Act (Cap. 150);
- (m) the Parks and Trees Act (Cap. 216);
- (n) the Public Utilities Act (Cap. 261);
- (o) the Sentosa Development Corporation Act (Cap. 291).

(2) To also avoid doubt, nothing in this Act affects a police officer’s powers or duties under the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68) or any other written law.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Appointment of Director-General and authorised officers**

4.—(1) The Board is responsible for the administration of this Act, and to that end, the Board must appoint an officer of the Board to be the Director-General, Wildlife Management.

(2) The Director-General may, subject to the directions of the Board, appoint any of the following persons to be an authorised officer for the purpose of assisting the Director-General in administering and carrying out the provisions of this Act or any other written law which confers powers on the Director-General:

- (a) an employee of the Board;
- (b) an employee of another statutory authority;
- (c) a public officer;
- (d) an auxiliary police officer appointed under the Police Force Act (Cap. 235).

(3) The Director-General may delegate the exercise of all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Director-General by any provision of this Act or any other written law (except the power of delegation conferred by this subsection) to an authorised officer; and any reference in the provision of this Act or any other written law to the Director-General includes a reference to such an authorised officer.

(4) Any delegation under subsection (3) may be general or in a particular case and may be subject to such conditions or limitations as set out in this Act or as the Board may specify.

(5) The Director-General may, for any reason that appears to him to be sufficient, at any time revoke a person's appointment as an authorised officer.

(6) A person mentioned in subsection (2)(d) who is appointed as an authorised officer does not, by virtue only of the appointment, become an employee or agent of the Board.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

**Authorised officers are public servants and public officers**

**4A.** Without affecting sections 20 and 21 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 (Act 5 of 2018), an authorised officer —

- (a) is taken to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code (Cap. 224) when performing a function or exercising a power under this Act; and
- (b) is, in relation to the administration, assessment, collection or enforcement of payment of a composition sum under this Act, taken to be a public officer for the purposes of the Financial Procedure Act (Cap. 109); and section 20 of that Act applies to the authorised officer even though the authorised officer is not or was not in the employment of the Government.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

**Director-General’s written approvals under Act**

**5.—(1)** The Director-General may give a written approval under this Act —

- (a) generally, or to a particular person or a particular class of persons;
- (b) subject to any condition the Director-General thinks fit; and
- (c) in any form or manner the Director-General thinks fit (including by publishing the written approval and the conditions of the approval on the Board’s official website).

(2) In this section, “official website”, for the Board, means the Board’s official website at <https://www.nparks.gov.sg> or any other website prescribed as the Board’s official website for the purposes of this section.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

**Feeding of wildlife**

**5A.—(1)** A person must not intentionally feed any wildlife in any place unless the person has the Director-General’s written approval to do so.



(2) A person who has the Director-General's written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) for a first offence, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; and

(b) for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Releasing of wildlife**

**5B.**—(1) A person must not intentionally release any wildlife in any place unless the person has the Director-General's written approval to do so.

(2) A person who has the Director-General's written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Killing, trapping, taking or keeping of wildlife**

**5C.**—(1) A person must not intentionally kill, trap, take or keep any wildlife in any place unless the person has the Director-General's written approval to do so.

(2) A person who has the Director-General's written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) in the case where the offence is committed in respect of a protected wildlife, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both; and

(b) in any other case —

- (i) where the person commits the offence in the course of carrying on, or employment or purported employment with, an animal-related business, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; and
- (ii) in any other case —
  - (A) for a first offence, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; and
  - (B) for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Defence of property**

6.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall make it unlawful for the occupier or person in charge of any land to kill, trap or take any wildlife found damaging or destroying the crops or any other property thereon.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(2) In any prosecution under this Act, the onus of proof of the fact that any wildlife was found damaging or destroying crops or other property shall be upon the person alleging the fact.

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*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Setting of spring guns, etc.**

7.—(1) A person must not, for the purpose of killing, trapping or taking any wildlife, set, place or prepare in any place any spring gun, engine, pitfall sharpened stake, snare trap or other device which is likely to endanger human life, or cause grievous hurt to any individual, unless the person has the Director-General's written approval to do so.

(2) A person who has the Director-General's written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) In this section, “snare trap” means any type of trap which uses a noose to ensnare a wildlife or is activated by a trigger to entrap the wildlife.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Sale or export of wildlife**

**8.—**(1) A person must not offer for sale, sell or export any wildlife (whether alive or dead), or any part of a wildlife, unless the person has the Director-General’s written approval to do so.

(2) A person who has the Director-General’s written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) in the case where the offence is committed in respect of a protected wildlife, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both; and
- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Import of wildlife**

**9.—**(1) A person must not import into Singapore any living wildlife unless the person has the Director-General’s written approval to do so.

(2) A person who has the Director-General’s written approval mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the conditions of the approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Wildlife-related measures for development or works**

**10.**—(1) The Director-General may direct a person to implement, in respect of any development or works being carried out, or to be carried out, by or on behalf of the person, any wildlife-related measure that the Director-General considers necessary to safeguard —

- (a) the health, welfare or safety of any wildlife or class of wildlife;
- (b) public health or safety in relation to wildlife; or
- (c) the health of the ecosystem.

(2) A direction under subsection (1) in respect of any development or works —

- (a) must be in writing; and
- (b) may be given at any time before the commencement or completion of the development or works.

(3) A person who receives a direction under subsection (1) must comply with that direction.

(4) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(5) In this section, “development or works” includes —

- (a) the erection, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of any building, structure, road or path;
- (b) the breaking up or opening of, or the boring under, any road, land or other place in connection with the construction, inspection, maintenance or removal of any works;

- (c) piling, demolition, land clearance or dredging works; and
- (d) any other works of engineering construction.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

**Power to remove wildlife traps, etc.**

**10A.—**(1) An authorised officer may, after giving reasonable notice in writing to the owner or occupier of any place, enter the place at a reasonable time to —

- (a) inspect the place for any unattended or unauthorised wildlife trap; or
- (b) remove or dismantle any unattended or unauthorised wildlife trap in the place.

(2) An authorised officer may —

- (a) subject to subsection (1), without notice to any person, remove or dismantle any unattended or unauthorised wildlife trap in any place; and
- (b) without notice to any person, dispose of the unattended or unauthorised wildlife trap in any manner the authorised officer thinks fit.

(3) No compensation is payable to anyone for any wildlife trap removed, dismantled or disposed of under this section.

(4) Nothing in this section makes it obligatory for an authorised officer to inspect any place for, or remove or dismantle, any unattended or unauthorised wildlife trap.

(5) A reference in this section to an unauthorised wildlife trap is a reference to a wildlife trap that is set, placed or prepared in any place in contravention of section 5C(1) or 7(1).

(6) In this section, “wildlife trap” means a trap set, placed or prepared in any place for the purpose of killing, trapping or taking any wildlife.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

**Conviction under other law**

**11.**—(1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent the prosecution, conviction and punishment of any person according to the provisions of any other written law for the time being in force in Singapore.

(2) No person shall be punished more than once for the same offence.

[10]

**Powers of search, etc.**

**11A.**—(1) For the purpose of ascertaining whether any offence under this Act has been or is being committed —

(a) any authorised officer or police officer may, without warrant, enter any place in which any wildlife is kept, or is suspected to be kept, and search the place and any person in the place; and

(b) any authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs may, without warrant, stop and enter any conveyance used, or suspected to be used, for carrying wildlife, and search the conveyance and any person in the conveyance.

(2) The following persons must provide all necessary assistance and information required by an enforcement officer acting in respect of a place or conveyance under subsection (1):

(a) the owner or occupier of the place;

(b) the owner or person in charge of the conveyance;

(c) any person found in the place or conveyance;

(d) the owner of any wildlife found in the place or conveyance.

(3) An enforcement officer acting in respect of a place or conveyance under subsection (1) may —

(a) if the circumstances so warrant, remove anything obstructing the enforcement officer's entry to the place or conveyance or break open any door, window, lock,

fastener, hold, compartment, box, container or any other thing;

- (b) take any photograph or audio or video recording that the enforcement officer considers necessary of the place or conveyance (including any person and anything in the place or conveyance); and
- (c) examine any wildlife (whether alive or dead), or any part of a wildlife, found in the place or conveyance.

(4) No compensation is payable to any person in respect of any damage to the person's property caused or occasioned by any act authorised by subsection (3)(a) or (c).

(5) A person in charge of a conveyance who, without reasonable excuse, does not stop the conveyance when required to do so by an enforcement officer under subsection (1)(b) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Powers of seizure, etc.**

**11B.**—(1) Where an authorised officer or a police officer has reason to believe that an offence under this Act has been committed or is being committed, or where an officer of customs has reason to believe that an offence under this Act relating to import or export has been or is being committed, the authorised officer, police officer or officer of customs may seize the following:

- (a) any wildlife (whether alive or dead), part of a wildlife, or article being the subject matter of the offence;
- (b) any article or conveyance with which, or by means of which, the offence is reasonably suspected to be, or have been, committed;
- (c) any food or drink which accompanies a seized wildlife;
- (d) any other thing which appears to be or to contain evidence of the offence.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), when any wildlife, article, conveyance or other thing is seized under subsection (1), the enforcement officer who seized it must —

(a) arrange for the seized item to be removed to and detained in a compound, enclosure or other place determined by the Director-General or an authorised officer for that purpose; and

(b) report the seizure and detention to a Magistrate.

(3) The Magistrate may order the further detention or the release of the seized item.

(4) Where the seized item is perishable, the Director-General or an authorised officer may dispose of it in any manner the Director-General or authorised officer thinks fit.

(5) The Director-General or an authorised officer may subject the seized item to any examination or analysis that the Director-General or authorised officer (as the case may be) considers necessary for the purposes of this Act.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Enforcement officer's assistants**

**11C.** An enforcement officer may be accompanied or assisted by persons necessary for the exercise of the enforcement officer's powers under section 10A, 11A or 11B.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Power to arrest without warrant**

**12.—(1)** Any police officer, officer of customs or authorised officer may stop and arrest without warrant any person who within his view commits an offence under this Act.

*[16/2000]*

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(2) Such person shall not be arrested if he satisfies the police officer, officer of customs or authorised officer as to his name and residence in Singapore and that he does not intend to abscond.

[11

*[16/2000]*



- (3) Any person who, without reasonable excuse —
- (a) refuses or fails to comply with a request of a police officer, an officer of customs or an authorised officer under this section for the person's name and residence in Singapore; or
  - (b) in response to the request, gives a name that is false in a material particular, or gives an address other than the person's full and correct residential address,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(4) A police officer, an officer of customs or an authorised officer making an arrest under subsection (1) must not restrain the person arrested more than is necessary to prevent the person's escape.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

(5) A person arrested under this section may be detained until his name and address are correctly ascertained except that a person so arrested must not be detained longer than is permitted by written law and is necessary for bringing him before a court unless the order of a court for his detention is obtained.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

### **Powers of examination**

**12A.**—(1) For the purpose of investigating any offence under this Act, the Director-General or an authorised officer may —

- (a) examine orally any person supposed to be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case; and
- (b) by written order require any person within the limits of Singapore, who appears to be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case, to attend before the Director-General or authorised officer.

(2) The person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is bound to state truly the facts and circumstances with which the person is acquainted concerning the case except only that the person may decline to make,

with regard to any fact or circumstance, a statement which would have a tendency to expose the person to a criminal charge or to penalty or forfeiture.

(3) A statement made by any person examined under this section must —

- (a) be reduced to writing;
- (b) be read over to the person;
- (c) if the person does not understand English, be interpreted in a language that the person understands; and
- (d) after correction (if necessary), be signed by the person.

(4) If any person fails to attend before the Director-General or an authorised officer as required by an order under subsection (1)(b), the Director-General or authorised officer may report the failure to a Magistrate who may issue a warrant to secure the attendance of that person as required by the order.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

### **Powers to require information, etc., about contraventions**

**12B.**—(1) Where it appears to the Director-General or an authorised officer that there may have been a contravention of any provision of this Act, the Director-General or authorised officer may serve an information notice to require any person who appears to him to be acquainted with the circumstances of the case to furnish the Director-General or authorised officer (as the case may be), within such time as may be specified in the notice, with information relating to that case in the possession or within the knowledge of that person.

(2) An information notice under subsection (1) must be complied with by giving the required information in writing to the Director-General or authorised officer, as the case may be.

(3) The Director-General or an authorised officer may serve a production notice to require any person who is reasonably believed to have any document or article in the person's possession, custody or control relating to the contravention mentioned in subsection (1) to

produce that document or article within the time specified in the notice.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(4) A person who is served an information notice under subsection (1) may decline to furnish the required information if it would have a tendency to expose the person to a criminal charge or to penalty or forfeiture.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(4A) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with an information notice under subsection (1), or a production notice under subsection (3), shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

(5) If any person —

- (a) makes any statement purporting to comply with a requirement of an information notice which the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) recklessly makes such a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular,

the person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Forfeiture by court in criminal proceedings**

**12C.**—(1) A court may, in proceedings where a person is tried for an offence under this Act, order that a seized item in connection with the offence be forfeited to the Director-General if —

- (a) where the seized item is a conveyance — the person is convicted of the offence and the conveyance is proved to have been used in the commission of the offence; or
- (b) where the seized item is not a conveyance — the court is satisfied that the offence has been committed and that the seized item was the subject matter, or used (or intended to

have been used) in the commission, or constitutes evidence, of the offence.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a conveyance which —

(a) is of more than 200 tons net; or

(b) is an aircraft or a train belonging to a person carrying on a regular passenger service to and from Singapore by means of that aircraft or train.

(3) The court may consider the question of forfeiture under subsection (1) on its own motion if no party raises the question in the proceedings before the court.

(4) A conveyance mentioned in subsection (1)(a) must not be forfeited under that provision if its owner establishes that the conveyance was unlawfully in the possession of another person without the consent of the owner.

(5) The court may make an order under subsection (1)(b) for the forfeiture of any seized item despite that no person is convicted of the offence.

(6) The court must order the release of a seized item to the owner of or the person entitled to the seized item if —

(a) the court, having regard to the circumstances of the case, does not think it fit to order the forfeiture of the seized item under subsection (1);

(b) the requirements of subsection (1)(a) or (b) (as the case may be) are not met; or

(c) the seized item is a conveyance mentioned in subsection (2) or (4).

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Forfeiture in other circumstances**

**12D.**—(1) Where section 12C does not apply, the Director-General must give the person from whom the item was seized and the owner (if known) of the item a written notice requiring any claim for the item to be made in accordance with subsection (2) within the time specified in the notice.

(2) A person who wishes to claim a seized item mentioned in subsection (1) (called in this section the claimant) must submit, either personally or through an authorised agent, a written claim (containing the basis of the claimant's claim) to the Director-General.

(3) On receiving the written claim under subsection (2), the Director-General may direct that the seized item be released to the claimant or refer the matter to a court for decision.

(4) If no claim is received for the seized item within the period stated in the notice mentioned in subsection (1) —

- (a) in the case where the seized item is a conveyance, the Director-General must refer the matter to a court for decision; or
- (b) in any other case, the seized item is forfeited to the Director-General.

(5) If the owner of a seized item (other than a conveyance) mentioned in subsection (1) consents to its disposal by the Director-General, the seized item is forfeited to the Director-General.

(6) In this section, “authorised agent”, for a claimant, means a person who is designated in writing by the claimant as the claimant's authorised agent for the purposes of this section.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Director-General's powers after forfeiture**

**12E.**—(1) Where any item is forfeited to the Director-General under section 12C or 12D, the Director-General may —

- (a) in the case where the item is a wildlife which was imported or introduced into Singapore in a conveyance in contravention of this Act, direct the owner of the conveyance to repatriate the wildlife to the place from which the wildlife was imported or introduced into Singapore or any other place designated by the Director-General; or
- (b) dispose of the item in any manner the Director-General thinks fit.

(2) The owner of a conveyance who is directed to repatriate a wildlife under subsection (1)(a) must, at that owner's own expense, arrange for —

- (a) the repatriation of the wildlife in accordance with the direction; and
- (b) the proper care and maintenance of the wildlife during the repatriation.

(3) A person is not required to comply with subsection (2) in respect of a direction made under subsection (1)(a) unless the direction is made within —

- (a) 12 months after the date on which the wildlife mentioned in the direction was imported or introduced into Singapore; or
- (b) 6 months after the date on which proceedings for the offence in connection with that importation or introduction are concluded or the date on which the offence is compounded,

whichever is the later.

(4) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

## **Expenses**

**12F.**—(1) The following persons are responsible for any expenses incurred by the Director-General or any enforcement officer for the seizure, detention, storage, housing, maintenance, transport, repatriation or disposal of any seized item:

- (a) in the case where the item is a wildlife which was imported or introduced into Singapore in contravention of this Act, the owner and the importer of the wildlife (jointly and severally);
- (b) in the case where the item is a wildlife which was being exported from Singapore in contravention of this Act, the

owner and the exporter of the wildlife (jointly and severally);

(c) in any other case, the owner of the item.

(2) If the amount of the expenses mentioned in subsection (1) is not paid by the person responsible for the expenses under that subsection within 14 days after demand, the amount may be reported to a Magistrate's Court or a District Court and recovered in the same manner as if it were a fine imposed by a Magistrate's Court or a District Court.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Obstruction**

**12G.**—(1) A person commits an offence if the person, without reasonable excuse, obstructs or hinders the Director-General or an enforcement officer in the exercise of any power or performance of any function under this Act.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Offences by employee or agent**

**12H.**—(1) Where an offence under this Act is committed by an employee (in the course of employment) or an agent (in the course of acting as an agent) of a person (called in this section the defendant), the defendant shall be guilty of that same offence as is the employee or agent (as the case may be), and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly if the defendant —

- (a) consented or connived to effect the commission of the offence;
- (b) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence by the employee or agent; or
- (c) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence by the employee or agent (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all

reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence.

(2) The defendant may rely on a defence that would be available to the employee or agent if the employee or agent were charged with the offence with which the defendant is charged and, in doing so, the defendant bears the same burden of proof that the employee or agent would bear.

(3) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect —

- (a) the application of Chapters V and VA of the Penal Code, the Evidence Act (Cap. 97) or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence; or
- (b) the liability of an employee or agent for an offence under this Act, and applies whether or not the employee or agent is convicted of the offence.

(4) A reference in this section to an employee or agent of a defendant does not include —

- (a) where the defendant is a corporation, an individual mentioned in section 12I(2)(a) in relation to a corporation; or
- (b) where the defendant is an unincorporated association or a partnership, an individual mentioned in section 12J(2)(a) in relation to an unincorporated association or a partnership.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Offences by corporations**

**12I.**—(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of a corporation in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that —

- (a) an officer, employee or agent of the corporation engaged in that conduct within the scope of his actual or apparent authority; and
  - (b) the officer, employee or agent had that state of mind,
- is evidence that the corporation had that state of mind.



(2) Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, a person —

(a) who is —

- (i) an officer of the corporation; or
- (ii) an individual involved in the management of the corporation and in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the commission of the offence; and

(b) who —

- (i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;
- (ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence by the corporation; or
- (iii) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence by the corporation (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

shall be guilty of that same offence as is the corporation, and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.

(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the corporation if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof that the corporation would bear.

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

- (a) Chapters V and VA of the Penal Code; or
- (b) the Evidence Act or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) does not affect the liability of the corporation for an offence under this Act, and applies whether or not the corporation is convicted of the offence.

(6) In this section —

“corporation” includes a limited liability partnership;

“officer”, in relation to a corporation, means any director, partner, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the corporation, and includes —

- (a) any person purporting to act in any such capacity; and
- (b) for a corporation whose affairs are managed by its members, any of those members as if the member were a director of the corporation;

“state of mind” of a person includes —

- (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
- (b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Offences by unincorporated associations or partnerships**

**12J.**—(1) Where, in a proceeding for an offence under this Act, it is necessary to prove the state of mind of an unincorporated association or a partnership in relation to a particular conduct, evidence that —

- (a) an employee or agent of the unincorporated association or partnership engaged in that conduct within the scope of his actual or apparent authority; and
- (b) the employee or agent had that state of mind,

is evidence that the unincorporated association or partnership had that state of mind.

(2) Where an unincorporated association or a partnership commits an offence under this Act, a person —

- (a) who is —
  - (i) an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body;
  - (ii) a partner in the partnership; or

(iii) an individual involved in the management of the unincorporated association or partnership and in a position to influence the conduct of the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be) in relation to the commission of the offence; and

(b) who —

- (i) consented or connived, or conspired with others, to effect the commission of the offence;
- (ii) is in any other way, whether by act or omission, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership; or
- (iii) knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence by the unincorporated association or partnership (or an offence of the same type) would be or is being committed, and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop the commission of that offence,

shall be guilty of that same offence as is the unincorporated association or partnership (as the case may be), and shall be liable on conviction to be punished accordingly.

(3) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may rely on a defence that would be available to the unincorporated association or partnership if it were charged with the offence with which the person is charged and, in doing so, the person bears the same burden of proof as the unincorporated association or partnership would bear.

(4) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the application of —

- (a) Chapters V and VA of the Penal Code; or
- (b) the Evidence Act or any other law or practice regarding the admissibility of evidence.

(5) To avoid doubt, subsection (2) does not affect the liability of an unincorporated association or a partnership for an offence under this

Act, and applies whether or not the unincorporated association or partnership is convicted of the offence.

(6) In this section —

“officer”, in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, and includes —

(a) any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of a committee of the unincorporated association; and

(b) any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner;

“state of mind” of a person includes —

(a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and

(b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Composition of offences**

**12K.—**(1) The Director-General or an authorised officer may compound any offence under this Act that is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:

(a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;

(b) \$2,000.

(2) On payment of the sum of money, no further proceedings are to be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) All sums collected under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Jurisdiction of courts**

**12L.** Despite the Criminal Procedure Code, a District Court or a Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and has power to impose the full punishment for that offence.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Reward to informer**

**13.** The court may direct any fine or any portion of any fine imposed or levied under this Act to be paid to the informer.

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### **Fees, etc., payable to Board**

**14.** All fees, charges and moneys collected under this Act (except composition sums) must be paid to the Board.

*[Act 10 of 2019 wef 01/04/2019]*

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Form and giving of notices and other documents**

**15.—(1)** All notices and other documents of any nature that the Director-General is empowered to give under this Act may —

(a) be in any form the Director-General thinks fit; and

(b) subject to the direction of the Director-General, be given by an authorised officer on behalf of the Director-General.

(2) Where any notice or document mentioned in subsection (1) requires authentication, the signature (or an official facsimile of the signature) of the Director-General or an authorised officer affixed to the notice or document is sufficient authentication.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Inaccuracies in notices and other documents**

**16.—(1)** A misnomer or an inaccurate description of any wildlife, person, place, article or conveyance named or described in any notice or other document prepared, issued or served under, by reason of or for the purposes of this Act does not in any way affect the operation of this Act as respects that wildlife, person, place, article or conveyance if that wildlife, person, place, article or conveyance is so designated in the notice or other document as to be identifiable.

(2) Proceedings taken under or by reason of this Act are not invalid for want of form.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Evidence**

**17.** A document purporting to be under the hand of the Director-General or an enforcement officer on any matter or thing in connection with the administration or enforcement of, or any investigation carried out under, this Act is admissible as evidence in any proceedings under this Act and is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the document.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Protection from personal liability**

**18.** No liability shall lie against the Director-General or an enforcement officer, or any person acting under the direction of the Director-General or an enforcement officer, for anything which is done or purported to be done, or omitted to be done, in good faith and with reasonable care in —

- (a) the exercise or purported exercise of any power under this Act; or
- (b) the performance or purported performance of any function under this Act.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

### **Service of documents**

**19.—(1)** A document that is permitted or required by this Act to be served on a person may be served as described in this section.

(2) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on an individual may be served —

- (a) by giving it to the individual personally;
- (b) by sending it by prepaid registered post to the address specified by the individual for the service of documents or, if no address is so specified, the individual's residential address or business address;

- (c) by leaving it at the individual's residential address with an adult apparently resident there, or at the individual's business address with an adult apparently employed there;
- (d) by affixing a copy of the document in a conspicuous place at the individual's residential address or business address;
- (e) by sending it by fax to the fax number last known to the person giving or serving the document as the fax number for the service of documents on the individual; or
- (f) by sending it by email to the individual's last email address.

(3) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership) may be served —

- (a) by giving it to any partner or other similar officer of the partnership;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the partnership's business address;
- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the partnership's business address; or
- (d) by sending it by email to the partnership's last email address.

(4) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership) or an unincorporated association may be served —

- (a) by giving it to the secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or unincorporated association, or the limited liability partnership's manager;
- (b) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the body corporate's or unincorporated association's registered office or principal office in Singapore;
- (c) by sending it by fax to the fax number used at the body corporate's or unincorporated association's registered office or principal office in Singapore; or

- (d) by sending it by email to the body corporate's or unincorporated association's last email address.
- (5) Service of a document under this section takes effect —
- (a) if the document is sent by fax and a notification of successful transmission is received, on the day of transmission;
  - (b) if the document is sent by email, at the time that the email becomes capable of being retrieved by the person to whom it is sent; and
  - (c) if the document is sent by prepaid registered post, 2 days after the day the document was posted (even if it is returned undelivered).
- (6) However, service of any document under this Act on a person by email may be effected only with the person's prior consent to service in that way.
- (7) This section does not apply to documents to be served in proceedings in court.
- (8) In this section —
- “business address” means —
- (a) in the case of an individual, the individual's usual or last known place of business in Singapore; or
  - (b) in the case of a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership), the partnership's principal or last known place of business in Singapore;
- “last email address” means the last email address given by the addressee concerned to the person giving or serving the document as the email address for the service of documents under this Act;
- “residential address” means an individual's usual or last known place of residence in Singapore.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*



## Exemption

**20.** The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, exempt any person, place or wildlife, or any class of persons, places or wildlife, from all or any of the provisions of this Act, either generally or in a particular case and subject to any condition the Minister may impose.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

## Rules

**21.—(1)** The Minister may make rules necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

(2) In particular, the Minister may make rules for all or any of the following:

- (a) the control, registration or management of wildlife or any class of wildlife;
- (b) procedures for the inspection of places or conveyances under this Act;
- (c) applications for the Director-General's approval under this Act and related procedures;
- (d) the prescribing of fees for the purposes of this Act;
- (e) the prescribing of anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act.

(3) Rules made under this section may —

- (a) prescribe the offences under this Act that may be compounded; and
- (b) provide that the contravention of any provision of the rules shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or with both.

*[Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

## THE SCHEDULE

*[Deleted by Act 18 of 2020 wef 01/06/2020]*

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

### WILDLIFE ACT (CHAPTER 351)

*formerly known as the Wild Animals and Birds Act*

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Wild Animals and Birds Act. It is not part of the Act.

#### **1. Ordinance 5 of 1965 — Wild Animals and Birds Ordinance 1965**

Date of First Reading : 17 November 1964  
(Bill No. 37/64 published on  
11 December 1964)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 16 June 1965

Date of commencement : 22 October 1965

#### **2. 1970 Revised Edition — Wild Animals and Birds Act (Cap. 296)**

Date of operation : 31 August 1971

#### **3. G. N. No. S 122/1974 — Wild Animals and Birds Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 1974**

Date of commencement : 19 April 1974

#### **4. 1985 Revised Edition — Wild Animals and Birds Act**

Date of operation : 30 March 1987

#### **5. G. N. No. S 570/1991 — Wild Animals and Birds Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 1991**

Date of commencement : 20 December 1991

#### **6. Act 16 of 2000 — Agri-food and Veterinary Authority Act 2000** (Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading : 21 February 2000  
(Bill No. 11/2000 published on  
22 February 2000)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 17 March 2000

Date of commencement : 1 April 2000

#### **7. 2000 Revised Edition — Wild Animals and Birds Act**

Date of operation : 30 December 2000

**8. Act 10 of 2019 — National Parks Board (Amendment) Act 2019**

Date of First Reading : 15 January 2019 (Bill No. 4/2019 published on 15 January 2019)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 12 February 2019

Date of commencement : 1 April 2019

**9. Act 18 of 2020 — Wild Animals and Birds (Amendment) Act 2020**

Date of First Reading : 6 March 2020 (Bill No. 15/2020 published on 6 March 2020)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 25 March 2020

Date of commencement : 1 June 2020

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**WILDLIFE ACT**  
**(CHAPTER 351)**

The following provisions in the 1985 Revised Edition of the Wild Animals and Birds Act have been renumbered by the Law Revision Commissioners in this 2000 Revised Edition.

This Comparative Table is provided for the convenience of users. It is not part of the Wild Animals and Birds Act.

<b>2000 Ed.</b>	<b>1985 Ed.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>3A</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10—(1) and (2)</b>	<b>9—(1)</b>
<b>(3)</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>11—(1) and (2)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>12—(1) and (2)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>