



本署檔號 Our Ref.: AF CON 07/24
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9 July 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Amendments to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance

Further to our circular letter No. ES01/17 of 24 January 2017 concerning the amendments to Appendices I and II as adopted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES¹, I write to inform you of the corresponding legislative amendments made to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, Cap. 586 (“the Ordinance”). The legislative amendments also include 1) some endangered species that have been added to Appendix III to CITES, and 2) amendments to Convention Instruments and Exemption Order.

The amendments were published in the Gazette on 8 June 2018 and the new controls will become effective on **1 November 2018**. Please refer to the Gazette for details of the amendments:-

Website : <https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20182223/es220182223114.pdf>, and
<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20182223/es220182223115.pdf>

You may also refer to the following link for circular letter No. ES01/17: http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_end/files/ES01_17e.pdf, for amendments to Appendices I and II adopted at CoP17. Examples of newly scheduled species include four species of sharks (silky shark and thresher sharks), devil rays, *Dalbergia* species and some turtles. Moreover, African grey parrot, pangolins and some alligator lizards are scheduled in Appendix I.

When the above new controls take effect, all newly scheduled species will be subject to licensing control. According to the Ordinance, unless exempted or otherwise specified, the import, introduction from the sea, export, re-export or possession of endangered species, whether alive, dead, its parts or derivatives, requires a licence issued in advance by this department.

Traders in possession for commercial purposes of stock of the newly scheduled species which were acquired legally before 2 January 2017² are required to declare to this department their stock on or before **31 October 2018** so as to allow for the export or re-export of the stock after the commencement of the new control.

¹ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

² For the four species of sharks and devil rays, the dates of legally acquired stock are 4 October 2017 and 4 April 2017, respectively.

Under the new controls, a Licence to Possess must be obtained within the 3-month grace period which ends on **31 January 2019** for possession of the following specimens for commercial purpose:

- 1) live specimens of wild origin of newly scheduled Appendix II species which were legally acquired after 2 January 2017; or
- 2) specimens of newly scheduled Appendix I species which were legally acquired after 2 January 2017; or
- 3) legally acquired specimens of species transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I, such as African grey parrot and pangolins.

If you have any enquiries regarding the above, please give us an e-mail at hk_cites@afcd.gov.hk, fax at 2376 3749 or contact our officers listed below:

For enquiries about plants – Ms. Bonnie PANG (Tel. 2150 6968)

For enquiries about animals – Mr. Horace IU (Tel. 2150 6969)

Summary of Important date	Event
31 October 2018	Deadline for registration of stock of newly scheduled species
1 November 2018	New controls take effect
31 January 2019	End of grace period for obtaining Licence to Possess under new controls

Yours faithfully,



(Boris KWAN)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation