



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་གི་རྒྱུ་ལྷན་ཁྲིམས་པོ་དང་རང་བཞིན་ཐོན་སྐྱེད་ལྷན་ཁྲིམས་
ནགས་ཚལ་དང་སྒོང་ཀ་ཞབས་དྲོག་ལས་ཁུངས།

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND PARK SERVICES
DIRECTOR



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September 22, 2025

Public Notification on Prohibition of Private Keeping of Wild Animals

The Department of Forests & Park Services (DoFPS) hereby notifies the general public that the private keeping of wild animals is strictly prohibited under the laws of Bhutan. This prohibition applies to all wild animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates, whether native or exotic.

Under the Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 2023, it is unlawful to capture, collect, possess, breed, raise, or trade wild fauna listed under Schedule I, II, and III, except for purposes specifically authorized such as scientific research, conservation, or population management. The Act also prescribes penalties for violations of these provisions, including fines, confiscation of animals and equipment, and, in the case of Schedule I species, criminal liability ranging from misdemeanors to fourth-degree felonies depending on the severity of the offence.

Individuals who currently hold wild animals or their parts without authorization are directed to voluntarily surrender them to the nearest Forest Office. The Department will ensure humane rescue and rehabilitation of surrendered animals.

The Department further informs that any person found illegally keeping or trading wild animals will be subject to strict legal action as provided for in the Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 2023. Members of the public are encouraged to report such violations to the nearest Division, Park, or Range Office.

This notification is issued in the public interest to protect Bhutan's biodiversity and to uphold the Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 2023.

(Karma Tenzin)
Director-DoFPS