

Protected Species Regulation (2021)

(Extract of Unofficial Translation)

Given that Article 22 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives states that the State shall undertake and promote desirable economic and social goals through ecologically balanced sustainable development and shall take measures necessary to foster conservation, prevent pollution, the extinction of any species and ecological degradation from any such goals, this regulation is constituted for the purpose of pursuing this undertaking pursuant to Article 4 (a) of Law 4/93 (Environmental Protection and Preservation Act). The main objectives of this Regulation include to protect and identify species, ecosystems and benefit from their services, to establish effective guidelines for protection in a consultative and transparent process, protect internationally endangered species, strengthening cooperation, prevent harm to species and species ecosystems, and enable research of protected species. The Regulation is implemented by Environmental Protection Agency. The announcement to protect species shall include the local name, English name, scientific name, including the genus, species or taxa. And the protected species are included at Annex 1 of the Regulation, where amendments to the Annex 1 is required to be made provided that new species are protected. The Environmental Protection Agency is required to maintain a database of the protected species, and Environmental Protection Agency is also required to formulate species management plans. The Regulation provides for exemptions where a species may carry a disease or pose threat and destroying such will not constitute to harming the species. Special permit is required pursuant to the Regulation for captivity in special condition, use of species parts for cultural purposes and for education and research. Provisions for confiscated species include Environmental Protection Agency having to prepare a report and deciding on the confiscated species within 7 days of its confiscation. The Regulation requires all rehabilitation centres to be registered. Through this Regulation, a national endangered species criterion is to be developed, and classification of species to the said criteria is to be undertaken as well.