

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION 549.02**REPTILES (PROTECTION) REGULATIONS**

11th August, 1992

LEGAL NOTICE 76 of 1992, as amended by Legal Notice 426 of 2007.

- 1.** The title of these regulations is the Reptiles (Protection) Regulations. Title.
- 2.** In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires: Definitions.
- "Act" means the Environment Protection Act; Cap. 549.
- "Director" means the Director responsible for the environment, and includes any officer in his Department who is authorized by him to act on his behalf;
- "export" means the taking out of Malta of any specimen;
- "import" means the bringing into Malta of any specimen;
- "Minister" means the Minister responsible for the environment;
- "person" includes any person or body of persons acting under the instructions of any employer, master or owner;
- "specimen" means any reptile specified in the Schedule, of whatever species, whether living or dead, whether whole or in part, whether in the original form or after having undergone any transformation, wherever found in the Maltese islands and their territorial waters;
- "take" means to remove from the natural habitat.
- 3.** The species of reptiles listed in the Schedule are declared to be species of reptiles protected for the purpose of the Act. Declaration.
- 4.** (1) The Director shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of these regulations. Administrative authority.
- (2) The Director shall have such rights of inspection as are listed in the Act.
- (3) The Minister may at any time order the Commissioner of Police to take such immediate action as may be required to prevent any person from acting in contravention of these regulations.
- 5.** (1) The species of reptiles declared to be protected under the Act shall be those listed in the Schedule. Protection of species.
- (2) No person shall pursue, take or attempt to take, kill or attempt to kill, possess, sell by any method, buy, exchange, import or export any of the species, or any part or derivative of such species, listed in the Schedule.
- (3) Any person who shall possess a marine turtle prior to the coming into force of these regulations shall register such marine turtle with the Director responsible for fisheries within three months from the publication of these regulations.
- (4) Any marine turtle accidentally caught by fishermen during

their normal fishing activities and landed at the fish market in Valletta, shall be surrendered immediately to the Director responsible for fisheries who shall then dispose of it for scientific purposes only, and in such cases, the fisherman shall be compensated for any loss of tackle or income as fixed from time to time by the Director responsible for fisheries.

Documentary evidence.

6. Any person who has in his possession any specimen the import of which is subject to these or other regulations, shall retain in his possession and until such time as that specimen remains in his possession, all permits, certificates and licences relative to the import of that specimen.

Scientific studies.

7. (1) The Director may issue permits for the taking and keeping of any species listed in the Schedule if such applications are intended for *bona fide* scientific studies or other similar purpose.

(2) All such permits shall lapse at the end of the calendar year, and have to be renewed prior to the beginning of the following year.

Biological identity.

8. The Director may prohibit the importation of any species of reptiles if, in his opinion, such trade can lead to the endangering of the biological identity of these islands or their territorial waters.

Offences and penalties.
Amended by:
L.N. 426 of 2007.

9. (1) Any person who shall take, kill, possess, sell by any method, buy, exchange, import or export any specimen in contravention of these regulations, and any person who contravenes any restriction, prohibition or requirement imposed by or under these regulations, and any person who conspires or attempts, or aids, abets, counsels or procures any other person to commit any of the above offences, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who commits an offence against these regulations shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) of not less than fifty-eight euro and twenty-three cents (€58.23) for a first offence, and not more than two hundred and thirty-two euro and ninety-four cents (€232.94) for each subsequent offence, which fine shall in each case apply to each specimen involved.

SCHEDULE

Scientific name	Common name	Maltese name
REPTILIA	REPTILES	RETIILI
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leathersack turtle	Fekruna sewda
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	Fekruna
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	Fekruna hadranija
<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	Moorish gecko	Wizgħa tal-kampanja
<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>	Turkish gecko	Wizgħa tad-djar
<i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i>	Chamaleon	Kamaleonte
<i>Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis</i>	Filflawall lizard	Gremxula ta' Filfla
<i>Podarcis filfolensis maltensis</i>	Maltese wall lizard	Gremxula ta' Malta
<i>Podarcis filfolensis kielselbasachi</i>	St. Paul's Island wall lizard	Gremxula tal-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl
<i>Podarcis filfolensis generalensis</i>	Fungus Rock wall lizard	Gremxula tal-blata tal-General
<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>	Ocellated skink	Xahmet l-art
<i>Coluber algirus</i>	Algerian whip snake	Serp Ahdar
<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i>	Western whip snake	Serp Iswed
<i>Elaphesitula</i>	Leopard snake	Lifgħa
<i>Telescopus fallax</i>	Cat snake	Teleskopus