

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE ACT

CHAPTER 67:01

Act
16 of 1958
Amended by
14 of 1963

Current Authorised Pages

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CHAPTER 67:01

CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Game Sanctuaries.
4. Hunting etc., in Game Sanctuary.
5. Hunting protected animals.
6. Hunting etc., in state lands.
7. Hunting prohibited in close season.
8. Establishment and composition of Wild Life Conservation Committee.
9. Residents' Licences.
10. Special Game Licence in certain cases.
11. Vermin.
12. Powers of search and seizure.
13. Persons found offending.
14. Arrest without warrant.
15. Punishment for assaulting or resisting Game Warden.
16. Right of Game Warden to conduct case.
17. Acceptance by Game Warden of compensation for offence.
18. Exportation of animals.
19. Customs laws to apply to animals.
20. Penalties, fees etc., to be paid to Comptroller of Accounts.
21. Offences punishable summarily.
22. Penalties where no express penalty.
23. Appointment of Game Wardens and Honorary Game Wardens.
24. Regulations.

FIRST SCHEDULE.
SECOND SCHEDULE.
THIRD SCHEDULE.
FOURTH SCHEDULE.
FIFTH SCHEDULE.
SIXTH SCHEDULE.

CHAPTER 67:01

CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE ACT

16 of 1958. **An Act to make better provision for the Conservation of Wild Animal Life in Trinidad and Tobago.**

Commencement.
49/1963.

[15TH MARCH 1963]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Conservation of Wild Life Act.

Interpretation.
[14 of 1963].

2. In this Act—

“animal” means any mammal, bird or reptile and includes the eggs, carcase, meat, nest or young thereof; but does not include any domesticated animal or any animal which has been lawfully kept in captivity;

“Chief Game Warden” means the Conservator of Forests and includes any officer of the Forest Department authorised by him to act on his behalf;

Fifth Schedule.

“close season” means the period of the year specified in the Fifth Schedule;

“State Lands” includes—

(a) the waste or vacant lands of the State within Trinidad and Tobago; and

(b) all lands vested in the State whether by forfeiture, purchase or exchange and not dedicated to the public;

“Forest Reserve” means a Forest Reserve declared as such by the Land Regulations for the time being in force;

“Game Sanctuary” means any area declared to be a Game Sanctuary in accordance with section 3;

“Game Warden” means any person declared to be a Game Warden in accordance with section 23(1) and includes an Honorary Game Warden;

“gun” includes an air-gun, blow-pipe, set gun, sling-shot and any article from which any shot, bullet or other missile may be discharged;

“hunt” means killing, wounding, pursuing, capturing or molesting by any method, any animal, and also attempting to do

any of such things; and includes any act immediately directed at the killing or capture of any animal;

“protected animal” means any animal not specified or mentioned in the Second or Third Schedule. Second and Third Schedules.

3. (1) The areas, the boundaries of which are set forth in the First Schedule, are hereby declared to be Game Sanctuaries. Game Sanctuaries. First Schedule.

(2) The Chief Game Warden with the approval of the Minister may by Notification amend the First Schedule by adding thereto or deleting therefrom any area specified in such notice and may alter the limits and boundaries of any Game Sanctuary.

4. (1) Except as provided by sections 9 and 10 any person who— Hunting, etc. in Game Sanctuary.

- (a) hunts or is a member of a party engaged in hunting any animal in a Game Sanctuary; or
- (b) is found within a Game Sanctuary under circumstances showing that he was hunting any animal; or
- (c) takes any dog or knowingly permits any dog to enter or be in a Game Sanctuary for the purpose of hunting; or
- (d) carries in a Game Sanctuary any gun or other weapon or device capable of being used to hunt animals,

is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for three months.

(2) Any person found in a Game Sanctuary in possession of any animal shall be deemed to have hunted such animal in such Game Sanctuary unless the contrary be proved, the onus of which proof shall lie upon the person charged.

5. (1) Except as provided by section 10 no person shall hunt or shall be a member of a party engaged in hunting any protected animal. Hunting protected animals.

(2) Any person who—

- (a) contravenes subsection (1); or
- (b) has in his possession the whole or any part of a protected animal,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for three months.

Hunting, etc. in
State Lands.

6. (1) Except as provided by sections 9 and 10 no person shall—

Second
Schedule.

- (a) hunt or be a member of a party engaged in hunting any animal specified in the Second Schedule, in State Lands; or
- (b) be found within State Lands under circumstances showing that he was hunting any such animal; or
- (c) take or knowingly permit any dog to enter or be in State Lands; or
- (d) carry in State Lands any gun or other weapon or device capable of being used to hunt such animals, save in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence issued by the Chief Game Warden (in this Act referred to as a State Game Licence).

(2) A State Game Licence shall be in the prescribed form, shall be valid for the period specified therein and shall not be transferable.

(3) Any person who obtains a State Game Licence issued under this section, and is found on State Lands in circumstances showing that he is hunting, shall on demand produce such licence for inspection by a Game Warden or constable, and in default thereof is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars.

(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) is liable to a fine of four hundred dollars or to imprisonment for three months and to be disqualified from holding or obtaining a State Game Licence for such period as the Magistrate thinks fit.

(5) Any person who, while disqualified from holding or obtaining a State Game Licence under subsection (4)—

- (a) hunts or is a member of a party engaged in hunting in State Lands; or
- (b) obtains or attempts to obtain a State Game Licence, is liable to a fine of two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

(6) A person convicted of an offence under subsection (5) shall, without prejudice to the power of the Court to order a longer period of disqualification, be disqualified for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of the conviction from holding or obtaining a State Game Licence, and on a second conviction for a like offence shall be permanently disqualified from holding or obtaining a State Game Licence.

(7) Any Game Warden may arrest without warrant any person found committing an offence under subsection (5).

7. (1) Except as provided under subsection (2) and section 10, no person shall hunt or be a member of a party engaged in hunting any animal during the close season.

Hunting prohibited in close season. [14 of 1963].

(2) The Chief Game Warden may, on such terms and conditions as he may think fit, on application made by the owner or custodian of dogs normally used for hunting, in writing, authorise such owner or custodian to exercise such dogs by pursuing agouti and deer in lands other than Forest Reserves and Game Sanctuaries during the close season.

(3) No person authorised to exercise dogs in the manner described in subsection (2) shall, while engaged in such pursuit, have in his possession any gun or other weapon or device for the capture or killing of any animal.

(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or subsection (3) is liable to a fine of two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months.

8. (1) There shall be established a Committee to be called the Wild Life Conservation Committee. The Committee shall consist of the Conservator of Forests as Chairman and not more than nine other members to be appointed by the Minister as follows:

Establishment and composition of Wild Life Conservation Committee.

- (a) one member to represent amateur hunters in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) one member to represent field naturalists in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (c) one member to represent the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service;
- (d) one member to represent the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago;
- (e) one member to represent the Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago;
- (f) one member to represent the interests of Cage Birds fanciers;
- (g) one member being a duly qualified ornithologist;
- (h) one member being a duly qualified zoologist;
- (i) one member to represent the Minister.

(2) Every member of the Committee shall, unless his

appointment is sooner determined by the Minister or he sooner resigns by notice in writing to the Minister, or he sooner dies, hold office for three years from the date of his appointment but shall be eligible for re-appointment from time to time.

(3) The Minister may appoint any person to act in the place of the Chairman or any other member of the Committee in the case of the absence or inability to act of such Chairman or other member.

(4) The Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the number of members constituting the Committee.

(5) The Committee shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

(6) The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the Minister on all matters pertaining to the conservation of wild life in Trinidad and Tobago.

Residents'
Licences.

9. (1) The Chief Game Warden may, on application made in writing, grant to any person who is ordinarily resident within State Lands or a Game Sanctuary, a licence (to be known as a Resident's Licence) to keep dogs, guns and other weapons or devices capable of being used to hunt animals while such person is so resident.

(2) A Resident's Licence shall be in the prescribed form and shall be valid for the period specified therein and shall not be transferable.

Special Game
Licence in
certain cases.

10. (1) The Chief Game Warden may upon such conditions as he thinks fit, grant licences (in this Act referred to as Special Game Licences) which shall entitle the holder to hunt any animal specified therein for any of the following purposes:

- (a) scientific research;
- (b) collection of specimens for zoological gardens, museums and similar institutions;
- (c) the eradication of animals declared to be vermin by section 11.

(2) A Special Game Licence issued for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) may authorise the hunting of any animal, whether in a Game Sanctuary or not.

Fourth
Schedule.

(3) A Special Game Licence granted under subsection (1) shall be in the form set forth in the Fourth Schedule and shall state the species, number and sex of each animal which may be

hunted and shall be limited as regards the period and area within which the hunting is to take place.

(4) The Chief Game Warden may suspend or cancel any Special Game Licence granted under subsection (1).

11. (1) The animals mentioned in the Third Schedule are hereby declared to be vermin. Vermin.
Third Schedule.

(2) Subject to sections 4 and 6, the owner or occupier of any lands, his agent or servant may, without licence of any kind, on such lands hunt and destroy any animal mentioned in the Third Schedule whether during the close season or not.

12. (1) If any Game Warden or constable has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any person has contravened any of the provisions of this Act he may— Powers of
search and
seizure.

- (a) require any such person to produce for inspection any animal in his possession or any licence or other document issued to him under this Act;
- (b) stop and search any person and any vehicle, boat or other conveyance in the possession of such person or in which such person happens to be, and open and search any baggage or other thing in his possession;
- (c) enter and search any tent, building or land in the occupation of any such person; but no dwelling house shall be entered without a warrant except in the presence and with the consent of the owner or occupier thereof;
- (d) seize any animal in the possession of any such person;
- (e) seize all guns, dogs, boats, vehicles or other equipment which he has cause to suspect was used in connection with any such contravention.

(2) When any person is convicted of an offence under this Act, any animal in respect of which the offence has been committed and all guns, dogs, boats, vehicles and other equipment used in the commission of such offence are liable to be forfeited to the State by order of the Magistrate or to be otherwise dealt with as to the Magistrate may seem just. Such forfeiture may be in addition to any other penalty or compensation prescribed for such offences.

(3) Where the carcase or meat of an animal is seized under this section, the Magistrate before whom such animal is brought,

shall, if in his opinion it cannot be adequately preserved, forthwith order the same to be tendered as an exhibit, and shall thereafter make such order with respect to its disposal as may seem to him just and reasonable.

Persons found offending.

13. Where any person is found committing an offence against this Act it shall be lawful for any other person to require such offender to give his name and place of abode, and in case the offender does not give his name or place of abode, or gives a name or place of abode that is false, such offender shall, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable under this Act, be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for thirty days.

Arrest without warrant.

14. Any Game Warden may arrest without warrant any person found committing an offence against this Act whose name or place of abode is unknown to him, and may detain such person at a Police Station until the name and place of abode of such person can be ascertained.

Punishment for assaulting or resisting Game Warden.

15. Any person who assaults, obstructs or resists any Game Warden in the execution of his duty is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for three months.

Right of Game Warden to conduct case.

16. Where any Game Warden makes a complaint against any person for an offence against this Act, any other Game Warden may appear on his behalf before a Magistrate who is hearing the said complaint and shall have the same privileges as to addressing the said Magistrate and as to examining any witnesses as if he were the complainant.

Acceptance by Game Warden of compensation for offence.

17. (1) The Minister may, by writing under his hand, empower a Game Warden—

- (a) to accept from any person admitting the commission of any offence against this Act, the fine for which does not exceed two hundred dollars, a sum of money not exceeding two hundred dollars by way of compensation for such offence; and
- (b) when any property has been seized as liable to forfeiture, to release the same on payment of the value thereof as estimated by the Game Warden.

(2) A Game Warden acting under subsection (1) shall issue

to the person admitting an offence a receipt for all monies paid by way of compensation or value.

(3) On payment of such sum of money, or such value or both, as the case may be, to the Game Warden, such person, if in custody shall be discharged, the property if seized shall be released, and no other proceedings shall be taken against such person or property in respect of the offence.

(4) All money received under this section shall be paid to the Comptroller of Accounts who shall place the same to the credit of the general revenue.

18. (1) No animal shall be exported or carried coastwise without the written permission of the Chief Game Warden.

Exportation of animals.

(2) Any person who exports or brings any animal to any quay or other place to be shipped for exportation or to be carried coastwise without the written permission of the Chief Game Warden is liable to a fine of two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable under this Act.

19. All provisions of the Customs Ordinance relating to uncustomed and prohibited goods and proceedings for breaches of the law relating thereto, shall apply as fully and effectually to animals prohibited to be exported or carried coastwise under and by virtue of that Ordinance.

Customs Laws to apply to animals. Ch. 32 No. 2. (1950 Ed.).

20. Subject to section 21 all penalties, compensation and other monies recovered under this Act and all fees received in respect of licences granted or issued under this Act shall be paid to the Comptroller of Accounts who shall place the same to the credit of the general revenue.

Penalties, fees, etc., to be paid to Comptroller of Accounts.

21. All offences against this Act shall be punishable on summary conviction before a Magistrate who may direct that any portion not exceeding one-half of the penalty imposed shall be paid and awarded to any person other than a Game Warden or constable who had given information which led to the conviction of the offender, provided that such person be not an accessory.

Offences punishable summarily.

22. Any person guilty of an offence against this Act for which no penalty is expressly provided is liable to a fine of two hundred dollars.

Penalties where no express penalty.

L.R.O. 1/1980

Appointment of
Game Wardens
and Honorary
Game
Wardens.
Sixth Schedule.

23. (1) The holders of the offices mentioned in the Sixth Schedule are hereby declared to be Game Wardens for all the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Minister may from time to time by notice published in the *Gazette* appoint fit and proper persons to be Honorary Game Wardens for the purpose of assisting in the carrying out of this Act.

(3) An Honorary Game Warden shall have all the powers conferred by this Act upon a Game Warden.

Regulations.
Second and
Third Schedule.

24. (1) The Minister may make regulations—

- (a) altering and amending the Second or Third Schedule by adding thereto, or removing therefrom, the name of any animal and may apply any such alteration to the whole of Trinidad and Tobago or confine it to any district or other area thereof;
- (b) prescribing conditions as to the numbers or sex of any animal which may be hunted in lands other than Game Sanctuaries generally or in any such lands in particular;
- (c) prohibiting or limiting at any time for the whole of Trinidad and Tobago or any part thereof any method employed for hunting any animal which appears to him unduly destructive or improper;
- (d) prescribing forms and making provisions for the issue of, and fees for, licences under this Act;
- (e) restricting or imposing conditions for the keeping of any animals in captivity;
- (f) prohibiting the sale or purchase of the meat of any animal;
- (g) providing generally for the better carrying out of the objects of this Act;
- (h) prescribing penalties not exceeding two hundred dollars on summary conviction for the contravention of any regulation.

(2) The Conservation of Wild Life Regulations (formerly contained in a Schedule to this Act) shall be deemed to be made under subsection (1) and may be amended or revoked under this section.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 3.
[141/1968].

GAME SANCTUARIES

1. *Northern Range Game Sanctuary*
Portion B—The Boundaries are those of Portion B of the Northern Range Reserve as proclaimed in *Gazette*, Proclamation No. 8 of 1922 dated 2nd February 1922.

2. *Valencia Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—Valencia Road.
E.—Oropouche River, exclusive of alienated land to the west thereof.
S.—Quare River, exclusive of alienated lands to the north thereof.
W.—Oropouche Vega Road, exclusive of alienated lands to the east thereof.

3. *Central Range Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—Boundary of Central Range Reserve from pillar 4A to Cumuto Road.
E.—Cumuto Road and Brasso-Tamana Road.
S.—Brasso-Tamana Road.
W.—Boundary of Central Range Reserve from pillar 4A to Brasso-Tamana Road.

4. *Trinity Hills Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—Northern boundary of the Móruga Reserve eastwards to the private road of the Trinidad Leaseholds Limited.
E.—Trinidad Leaseholds Limited private road from where it enters Moruga Reserve until it reaches the eastern boundary of the Trinity Hills Reserve, thence the Reserve boundary to the sea.
S.—The sea.
W.—The eastern boundary of Cat's Hill Reserve, from the northern boundary of the Moruga Reserve, a line joining the south-eastern corner of the Reserve to the north-western corner of the Trinity Hills Reserve thence the western boundary of the Trinity Hills Reserve and its prolongation to the sea.

L.R.O. 1/1980

5. *Southern Watershed Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—The northern boundary of the Southern Watershed Reserve.
E.—The Morne Diable Road and its continuation to the sea.
S.—The sea.
W.—The Quinam Road and its continuation to the sea.
6. *Little Tobago Game Sanctuary*
The whole island.
7. *Saut d'Eau Game Sanctuary*
The whole island of Saut d'Eau also called Maravaca, situate near the North Coast of Trinidad.
8. *Soldado Rock Game Sanctuary* in the Serpent's Mouth, off Icacos Point.
9. *Caroni Swamp Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—By the southern bank of the Blue River from the western bank of No. 2 (North and South) drain to the western bank of No. 4 (North and South) drain.
E.—By the western bank of No. 2 (North and South) drain.
S.—By a line demarcated by stakes running from the western bank of No. 4 (North and South) drain to the western bank of No. 2 (North and South) drain.
W.—By the western bank of No. 4 (North and South) drain.
10. *Kronstadt Island Game Sanctuary*
The whole island.
11. *Morne L'Enfer Game Sanctuary*
Boundaries—
N.—By the Forest Reserve Main Road.
E.—By Bungalow and No. 20 Road.
S.—By Blue Basin and No. 31 Road.
W.—By New Camp Road.
12. *Bush Bush Wild Life Sanctuary*
Comprising 3,840 acres of the Nariva Swamp and bounded as follows:
All that area of the Nariva Swamp comprising 3,840 acres and bounded as follows:
On the East from a point located 4,000 lks. from the

45 m.m. on the Manzanilla Road, on a bearing of approximately 255 degrees (having co-ordinates based on the Cassini Soldner Projection of 305,500 lks. N. and 592,770 E.) thence by a cut and staked line running in a direction of bearing 165 degrees for a distance of 1½ miles.

Thence on the South, by a cut and staked line running in a direction of 255 degrees for a distance of 4 miles;

Thence on the West, by a cut and staked line running in a direction of 345 degrees for a distance of 1½ miles;

Thence on the North, by a cut and staked line running in a direction of 75 degrees for a distance of 4 miles to the point of starting.

Section 6.

*SECOND SCHEDULE

PART I

Animals—

- Alligator or Cayman
- Lizards
- Agouti
- Armadillo (Tattoo)
- Deer (*in Trinidad only*)
- Lappe
- Quenk (Peccary or Wild Hog)

PART II

Birds—

- Amazona Amazonica Amazonica*, Lim or Common Amazon Parrot
- Charadriidae*—All birds belonging to the Family *Charadriidae* or Plovers (including Petit Collier, Gros Collier, Pluviers)
- Corbeau, Common Town (*Coragyps*)
- Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus olivaceus* and *Phalacrocorax auritus*)
- Cranes, (*Ardea herodias* and *Ardea cocoi*)
- Ducks, Ouikiki (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

*This Schedule has been amended by the following G.Ns.: 178/1971, 143/1972, 126/1973, 170/1973, 195/1973, 42/1974, 158/1974, 159/1974, 125/1975, 126/1975, 140/1975, 150/1977.

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Ducks, Wild (except Bahama Pintails) (*Poecilonetta bahamensis*, *Anas Bahamensis*, *Dafila acuta*, *Dafila bahamensis*), Muscovy (*Cairina moschata*)
 Heron, Blackcrowned Night or Crabier Batali (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
 Heron, Boatbilled or Crabier Bec Plat (*Cochlearius*)
 Heron, Yellowcrowned Night or Crabier a Croissant (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
 Ibis, Scarlet—(Flamant or Flamingo) (*Guara rubra*)
Rallidae—All birds belonging to the Family *Rallidae* (Coots, Rails, Waterfowl and *their allies*)
 Ramier or pigeon (all kinds)
Scolopacidae—All birds belonging to the Family *Scolopacidae* or Snipes and Sand Pipers (Snipes, Curlews, Sand Pipers, White-wings, Yellow-legs, Godwits, Sanderlings)

PART III

Regulation 5.

CAGE BIRDS

Cage birds which may be captured or kept captive by cage
 Chicki-Chong or Bullfinch (*Oryzoborus angloensis*)
 Cravat (*Tanagra trinitatis*)
 Finch, Yellow-bellied
 Parakeet (*Ferpus passerinus*)
 Picoplat (*Spermophila intermedia*)
 Semp (*Tanagra violacea*)
 Ring Neck
 Chat or Nun (*Spermophila bouvronides*)

Section 11.
[126/1973].

THIRD SCHEDULE

List of animals declared as vermin

1. Bats
2. Mapipire Balsin or Fer de Lance (*Bothrops atrox*)
3. Mapipire Zanana or Bushmaster (*Lanthesis muta*)
4. Mice
5. Mongoose
6. Rats
7. Snakes, Coral (*Micrurus spp.*)
8. Squirrels
9. Yellow-tails (*Ostinops decumanus*)
10. Manicou (*Opossum*)
11. Green Parrot
12. Cocrico (*Ortalis ruficanda ruficanda*)

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Section 10.

FORM OF SPECIAL GAME LICENCE

THE CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE ACT

Licence is hereby granted toof (address)

....., to hunt the following animals: (occupation or profession) (species, number and sex)*

at theGame Sanctuary or (describe area of State Lands)

from theday ofto theday of

....., 19..... *delete where inapplicable.

Chief Game Warden

FIFTH SCHEDULE

Section 2.

CLOSE SEASON

<i>Period</i>	<i>Places</i>
From 1st April to 30th September	Throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

SIXTH SCHEDULE

Section 23.

- Assistant Conservators of Forests
- Forest Supervisors
- Forest Officers
- Wardens
- Assistant Wardens

L.R.O. 1/1980

Ward Officers, as follows:

County of St. George

The Principal Ward Officer, Arima
The Ward Officer, San Rafael
The Ward Officer, St. Joseph and Tunapuna
The Ward Officer, Arouca-Caura
The Principal Ward Officer, Blanchisseuse
The Ward Officer, Brasso Seco
The Ward Officer, San Juan-Santa Cruz
The Ward Officer, St. Ann's-Maraval
The Ward Officer, Diego Martin-Mucurapo
The Ward Officer, Carenage-Chaguaramas

Eastern Counties

The Ward Officer, Valencia
The Principal Ward Officer, Biche
The Ward Officer, Grande Riviere

Counties of Victoria and St. Patrick

The Principal Ward Officer, Moruga
The Ward Officer, Siparia

Ward of Tobago

The Ward Officer, Roxborough
