

Law and Wildlife

BiLL (Birds through a Legal Lens)

Legal Rules Applicable to the Trade of African Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has permanent sovereignty over its natural resources, including grey parrots and all birds in general. It has the right to freely dispose of, explore, and exploit them, but also has the duty to protect and preserve the environment for present and future generations.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT PROTECTION STATUS IN DRC

Capture of wild African Grey Parrots (AGPs) is permitted in the DRC as long as the following permits and certificates are granted:



Trade of wild and captive bred AGPs within the DRC is permitted as long as the following criteria are fulfilled:



Import, export, or re-export of wild and captive bred AGPs is permitted as long as the following criteria are fulfilled:



There are at least 16 types of **illegal activities** described in the DRC legislation that relate to illegal capture and trade of AGPs. The sanctions could go up to 60 months of imprisonment and from 1 thousand to 25 million CF of monetary penalty.

The following **authorities** deal with several aspects of the trade of AGPs in DRC:

Legislative authorities:

Parliament, Minister of Environment, Provincial Governments

- Establish list of totally and partially protected species
- Establish the fundamental principles and implementing rules concerning forestry and the protection of the environment and tourism

Management Authorities:

Ministry of Environment and Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN)

- In charge of the administrative procedures required for legal capture, captive breeding, and trade of AGPs, including CITES permits

Enforcement Authorities:

Judicial Police (CITES MA, Hunting Officers), Customs (DGDA) and Congolese Trade Control Office (OCC)

- In charge of the observance and compliance of the rules related to nature conservation and wildlife trade