

# MONITOR LIZARD



*Photo courtesy: Carlos Delgado*

ILLEGAL  
WILDLIFE  
TRADE

# BEHAVIOUR & BIOLOGY

*DNA* A large lizard with a massive body, strong legs and scaly, leathery skin. Their tail is long and powerful, almost twice as long as the body and is used in weapon in defence or offence.

*DNA* Primary prey includes a variety of invertebrates, vertebrate prey includes snakes, rodents, lizards, frogs and fish.

*DNA* Active predators who take shelter in burrows or dug up crevices.



*DNA* Local superstitions believe that consuming the meat of the monitor lizard gives you strength and sexual virility. Also that rubbing an extract of oil from the monitor lizard on your knees makes you strong.

**THIS IS A MYTH WITH NO SCIENTIFIC PROOF.**



Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act

# ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CATEGORY

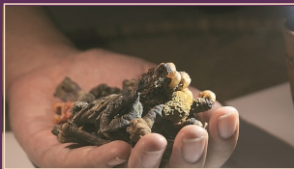


**MEAT** (consumption of its meat locally)



**SUPERSTITION**

(myths that consumption of its meat and certain parts provide sexual stimulation, and/or can relieve pain in joints)



# SOURCE ..... TRANSIT ..... CONSUMER



Local hunter sets up a trap in the forest around his/her home. You cannot catch a monitor lizard without basic knowledge about its habitat and behaviour. These hunters are knowledgeable about their whereabouts and know how to find them.

Once caught, the animal is killed, meat and specific parts taken out



This is then sold to the local dealer

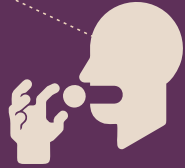
Meat is bought by a dhaba or gym





Cooked and served as a dish,

bought and eaten by a customer



**THERE IS NO EFFECT ON THE CONSUMER'S BODY**



Certain parts of the monitor lizard are traded to Bangkok or Malaysia for use in traditional medical cures that have no scientific basis whatsoever.

# PEOPLE, PLACES & PROPS



Forest or rural fringes



Local hunter



Trap



Knife to kill the animal



Local dealer



Dhaba owner



Gym owner



Kitchen



Utensils



Hotel or gym



Consumer



Money