



EXOTIC REPTILES IN ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN INDIA

Kenya sand boa
Gongylophis colubrinus

1.5 to 3 feet



An identification poster on exotic snakes and lizard species found in illegal wildlife trade in India. The naturally occurring countries of origin for these reptiles are outside India. Trade of these is regulated under the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES.

Snakes and lizards belonging to the order Squamata of Class Reptilia are among the most trafficked vertebrates worldwide and are coveted in the illegal pet trade. There is also a growing illegal market for exotic pets, including exotic reptiles, in India. Trade in many of these is illegal and/or threatens their conservation in their native country, potentially disrupting fragile ecosystems. This poster highlights a few commonly traded exotic reptiles in India, whose trade is either prohibited or regulated. Protecting them is not just a legal duty, but a global conservation imperative.

KNOW THE LAW:

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 of India prohibits hunting, trade and other exploitation of listed native reptile species. After the amendment to the Act in 2022, the exotic reptiles as listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) have been included in the Schedule IV, regulating their possession and trade.

Argentine black and white tegu
Salvator merianae

3 to 4.5 feet



Bearded dragon
Pogona

1.5 to 2 feet

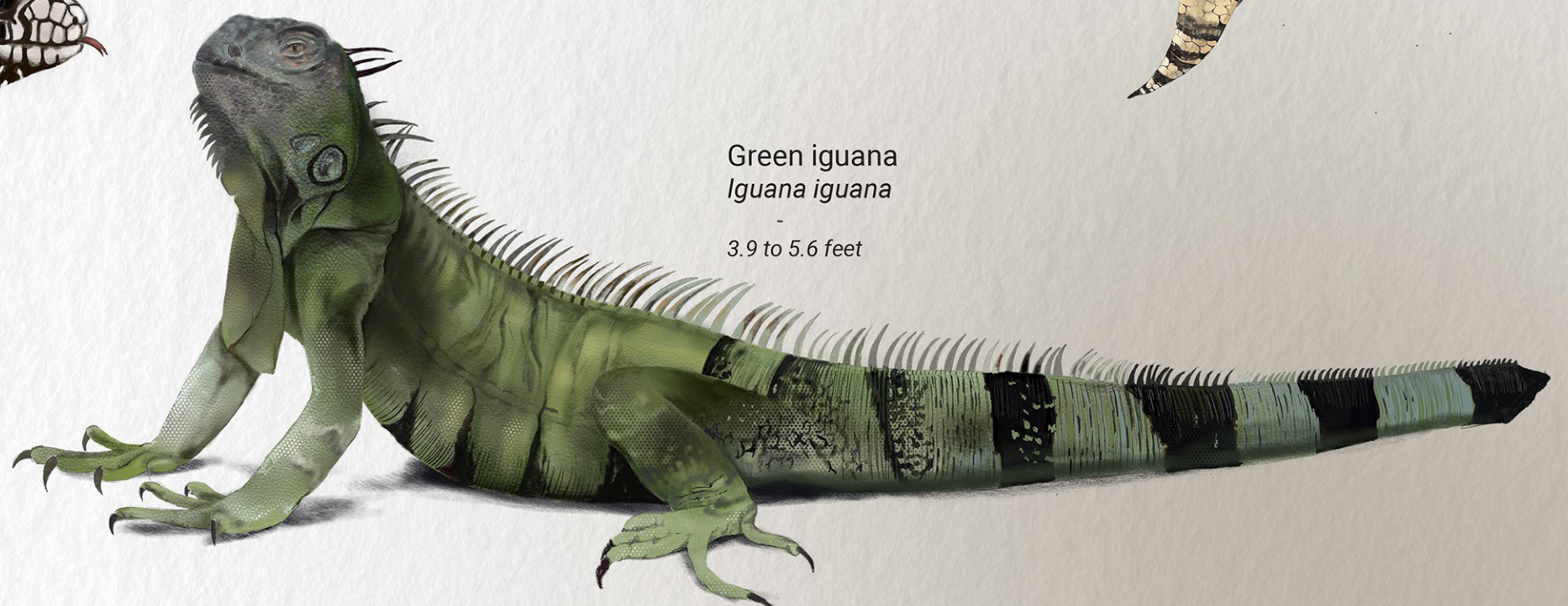


Blue - tongued skink
Tiliqua

1.5 to 2 feet

Green iguana
Iguana iguana

3.9 to 5.6 feet



Yellow anaconda
Eunectes notaeus

12 to 15 feet



Northern white-lipped python
Leiopython albertisii

6 to 7 feet



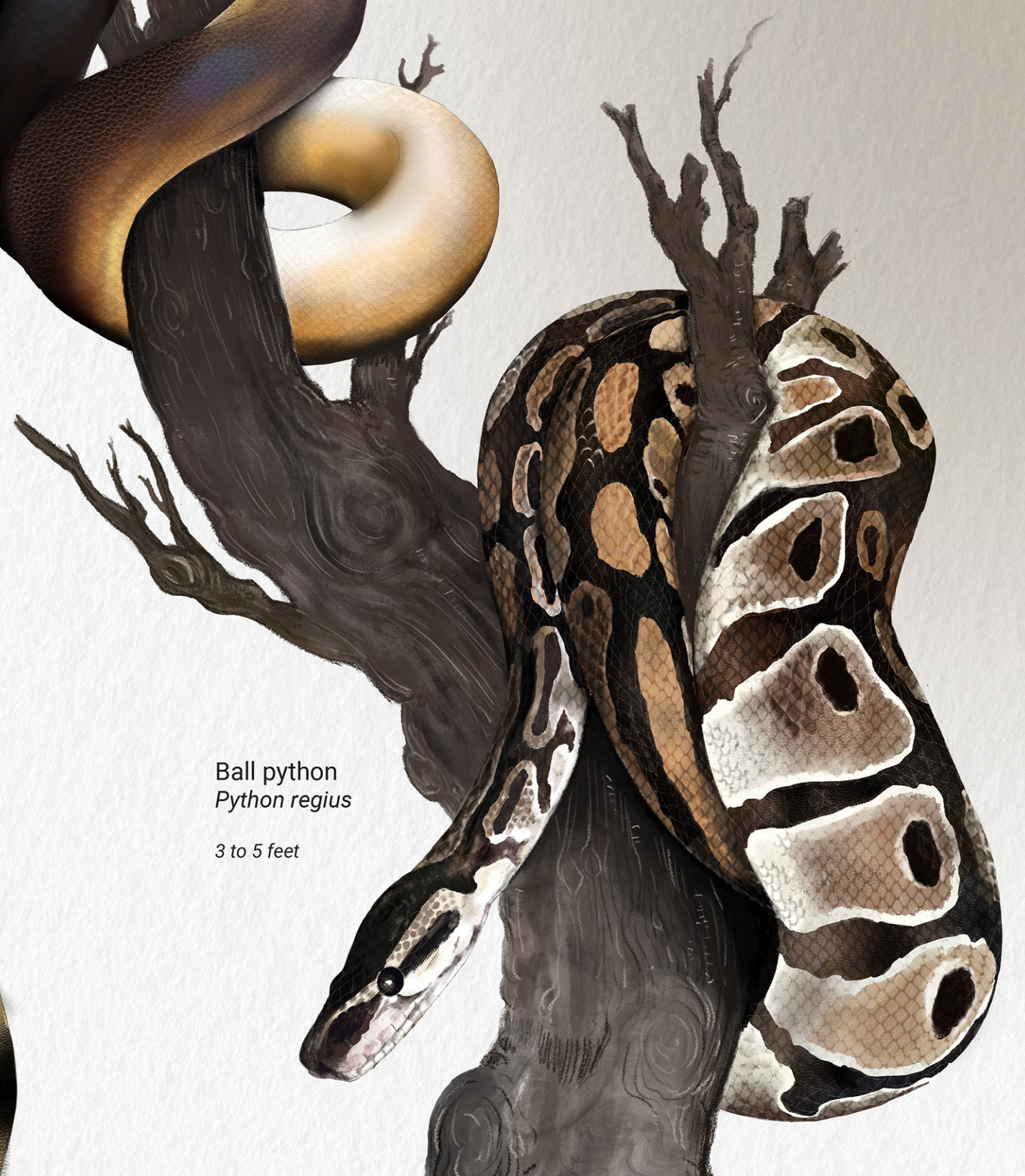
Pied ball python
Python regius

3 to 5 feet



Ball python
Python regius

3 to 5 feet



Green anaconda
Eunectes murinus

30 feet



YOU CAN HELP:

- Do not keep a legally protected reptile species as a pet.
- Support wildlife conservation and protection initiatives.

CONTACT WWF-India, 172 B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi -110003; Website: www.wwfindia.net ; Email: wildlifetradecontrol@wwfindia.net

REFERENCES: Mark O'Shea 2018. Lizards of the world. Princeton University Press, pg. 240; Mark O'Shea. 2023. The book of snakes. University of Chicago Press, pg. 656 pg.

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