

CoP17 Prop. 27 [Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, and United States of America] Inclusion of all species of African Pygmy Chameleons in the genera *Rhampholeon* and *Rieppeleon* in Appendix II

CoP17 Prop. 28 [Kenya] Inclusion of all species of African Pygmy Chameleons in the genera *Rhampholeon* and *Rieppeleon* in Appendix II

Rhampholeon spp. (22 species) are more vulnerable than *Rieppeleon* spp. (three species) due to restricted ranges and more specialized habitat requirements while national protection of the species in range States is limited. *Rhampholeon* and *Rieppeleon* species are sought after for the exotic pet market and although only some individual species have been recorded in trade, it is likely that more are present but only identified to the genus level as distinguishing between the various species can be difficult and there are also reports of misidentification in trade.

Shipments labelled "assorted pygmy chameleons" containing wild-caught *Rhampholeon* spp. have included the CITES-listed *B. spinosum* (*Rh. spinosus*) and it might be argued on this basis that the other species meet the criteria for inclusion in Annex 2b. As all other chameleon species are already listed in the Appendices, inclusion of these two genera in Appendix II would facilitate monitoring and enforcement of trade in the whole family and reduce the possibility of look-alike issues or illegal trade.

ACCEPT