

CoP17 Prop. 29. [Viet Nam and European Union] Inclusion of *Cnemaspis psychedelica* in Appendix I

The Psychedelic Rock Gecko *Cnemaspis psychedelica* is known from an extremely restricted range on a small group of islands south of Viet Nam. The species has low productivity, laying a single clutch of two eggs once a year. In November 2015, a survey estimated the effective population size as 200-240 mature individuals.

The species is in demand for the pet trade where it commands a high price. First described in 2010, live individuals have been offered for sale since 2013. Currently there are no protection measures in place for this species or its habitat, although trapping and exportation is only allowed by permit. Due to the small island range, relatively small population and ease of poaching due to sedentary habits, the species is particularly vulnerable to exploitation. The species meets the criteria for inclusion within Appendix I and this should result in improved regulation of illegal international trade in the species. Viet Nam is encouraged to provide protection for the species in its national legislation so as to support effective implementation of this listing.

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