

CoP17 Prop. 32 [Malaysia] Inclusion of Earless Monitor Lizard *Lanthanotidae* in Appendix I

The Earless Monitor Lizard *Lanthanotus borneensis* is endemic to Borneo, and afforded the highest degree of legal protection in its known (Malaysia, Indonesia) and possible (Brunei) range States. Historical collection records indicate the species is rare, while clutch sizes are generally small (<10 eggs). It has only been recorded from fewer than 10 restricted sites in the Malaysian State of Sarawak and Indonesia's West and East Kalimantan provinces. The location of five of these localities was publicized, resulting in a spurt in illegal collection and trade in 2012, with traders capitalizing on the lack of an international trade control mechanism. At least 95 specimens were offered for sale online by 35 individuals in 11 countries in Europe and the USA between May 2014–October 2015, with indications of trade also occurring in Southeast Asia, although neither range State has issued permits for collection or trade, nor for captive breeding.

The limited information available is insufficient to determine if the species meets the criteria for listing in Appendix I. However, with such rapid emergence of trade pressure, an Appendix I listing is the the most appropriate response to safeguard this species from illegal exploitation through engaging regulatory action by non-range States to complement the strict legal protection and trade prohibition already provided in range States.

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