

**CoP17 Prop. 33. [China, Viet Nam, and European Union] Transfer of *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* from Appendix II to Appendix I**

The Chinese Crocodile Lizard *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* population is estimated at 950 individuals in China and fewer than 100 in Viet Nam, with fragmented subpopulations and substantial population declines recorded over the last 30 years, largely as a result of collection for the international pet trade and domestically for food and traditional medicine. New research suggests the Viet Nam population to be a distinct subspecies.

Most recorded international trade is of captive-bred animals. As the species is challenging to keep and breed in captivity, it is unlikely that existing captive breeding can sufficiently supply international demand. Furthermore, there have been reports of mis-labelling of wild-caught specimens as captive-bred in both China and Viet Nam. There is also allegedly demand for wild-caught specimens to refresh captive bloodlines.

The Chinese Crocodile Lizard is a Class I protected species in China, meaning no unauthorized collection or trade is allowed, while in Viet Nam the species is not explicitly protected.

The species appears to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and a listing could result in improved regulation of international trade in the species. Viet Nam is encouraged to provide protection for the species within its national legislation so as to support this while the adoption of a regulatory mechanism for captive-bred and ranched specimens is essential to complement this listing, given the existing deliberate mis-declaration. Pilot studies indicate isotopic analysis to differentiate wild-caught from captive-bred specimens could be developed as an enforcement tool.

**ACCEPT**