

CoP17 Prop. 34. [Kenya] Inclusion of Mount Kenya Bush Viper *Atheris desaixi* in Appendix II

The Mount Kenya Bush Viper *Atheris desaixi* has a very restricted range in mid-altitude forests in Central Kenya. Population data are limited, but local snake collectors report declines in recent years. Habitat degradation and collection for illegal trade appear to be the main threats.

The species has been protected in Kenya since 1982, with wild collection and export prohibited. Despite this, the species is present in international trade, reportedly fetching high prices in Europe. It is relatively rare in captivity being favoured by specialist collectors.

Because all trade in wild specimens is theoretically already regulated by domestic legislation, the species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on Appendix II, but it may meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. It may be prudent for Kenya to consider proposing a listing in Appendix II with a zero quota at some time in the future, which would reflect the current prohibition of trade by the range State. Alternatively, Kenya could consider an Appendix III listing.

REJECT