

CoP17 Prop. 35. [Kenya] Inclusion of Kenya Horned Viper *Bitis worthingtoni* in Appendix II

The Kenyan Horned Viper *Bitis worthingtoni* is endemic to Kenya, occurring in high altitude grassland and scrub with a limited and patchy distribution. The species is described as relatively rare with population depletions inferred based on habitat loss and degradation and suggested through collection, although there are no population or density estimates. A high-value species, it appears to be the target of specialist collectors.

The species has been protected in Kenya since 1982, prohibiting collection from the wild and export. All trade in wild specimens from Kenya is therefore illegal.

Because all trade in wild specimens is theoretically already fully regulated, the species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on Appendix II and, unlike *A. desaixi* above, it is unclear if it meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Kenya may wish to consider an Appendix III listing.

REJECT