

CoP17 Prop. 39. [Madagascar] Inclusion of burrowing frogs *Scaphiophryne marmorata*, *S. boribory* and *S. spinosa* in Appendix II

Scaphiophryne boribory, *S. marmorata* and *S. spinosa*, known as burrowing frogs, are members of a genus endemic to Madagascar in which nine species are currently recognized. One species, *S. gottlebei*, was listed in Appendix II in 2003.

The three species considered here are reported to be at least locally common and relatively widely distributed. Habitat loss and degradation appear to be the main drivers of population declines, although the species are also harvested for the pet trade in seemingly low numbers, targeted mostly by specialist hobbyists due to their burrowing habits. All three species are nationally protected (2006-400 Category I and Class II) meaning trade is legal if there is evidence the specimens were harvested outside of protected areas, or a permit has been obtained for harvest within protected areas for scientific purposes.

All *Scaphiophryne* species appear similar and require guidance to differentiate; furthermore the recently split *S. spinosa* and *S. marmorata* are sometimes confused in trade. However, the three species in this proposal are relatively distinct from the other species in the genus, and therefore should be identifiable with guidance from the non-proposed *Scaphiophryne*, and the listed *S. gottlebei*.

REJECT