

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Specific species matters

Terrestrial species

Snakes (Serpentes spp.)

INFORMATION FROM BENIN, GHANA, HONDURAS, INDONESIA AND TOGO

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted four Decisions on *Snakes (Serpentes spp.)* as follows:

***Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo***

**17.276** *Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:*

- a) *Honduras: to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (Boa constrictor imperator);*
- b) *Benin: to implement the following measures for the Ball python (Python regius):*
  - i) *design and implement a management programme for the species;*
  - ii) *make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
  - iii) *strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems.*
- c) *Benin, Ghana and Togo: to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (Calabaria reinhardtii):*
  - i) *make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
  - ii) *improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species;*
- d) *Indonesia: to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (Morelia viridis) and the Boelen's python (Morelia boeleni); and*

- e) *Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of actions directed to them in this Decision, for transmission to, and review by the Animals Committee at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequent reporting by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee.*

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

**17.279** *The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276 and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**17.280** *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee submitted in accordance with Decision 17.279 and any other relevant information;*
- b) *make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of Decision 17.279 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.12 on Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes, if deemed necessary.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**17.283** *The Secretariat shall transmit the information provided by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo in accordance with Decision 17.278 to the Animals Committee for consideration at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. In March 2017, the Secretariat wrote to the CITES Management Authorities of Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo to remind them of the species- and country-specific measures for certain snake species contained in Decision 17.276, and encourage their reporting to the Animals Committee. It advised Benin, Ghana and Togo to coordinate their conservation efforts and management activities to the extent possible, and offered the five Parties assistance within the Secretariat's technical and financial means. In April 2018, the Secretariat wrote again to Benin, Ghana, Honduras and Togo, reminding them of the provisions in Decision 17.276.
4. At the time of writing of this document (May 2018), the Secretariat had received a report from Indonesia on its implementation of actions directed to it in Decision 17.176. This is presented in an Annex to the present document. The Secretariat notes that Indonesia submitted the same information to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting in the context of its implementation of Decision 17.278, which contains duplicative instructions (see document [SC69 Doc. 62](#)).
5. The Secretariat will inform the Animals Committee about any reports that it may receive from Benin, Ghana, Honduras or Togo concerning their implementation of Decision 17.276.
6. As already indicated in its comments in document [CoP17 Doc. 71](#), the Secretariat is of the view that the instructions directed to Benin, Ghana and Togo are somewhat akin to recommendations that the Animals Committee makes under its Review of Significant Trade, as outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*. The Decisions seem to have *de facto*, created procedures that are somewhat parallel to the Review of Significant Trade, but without the benefits to Benin, Ghana or Togo of the consultative and capacity-building approaches that are essential for the good conduct of the Review of Significant Trade. Decision 17.276 could potentially lead to confusion by range States, duplicative recommendations, or interference with the normal conduct of the well-established Review of Significant Trade process. The Secretariat notes in this regard that at its 29th meeting, the Animals

Committee did not select *Calabaria reinhardtii* or *Python regius* for its Review of Significant Trade, perhaps suggesting that the implementation of Article IV for the export of these species from Benin, Ghana and Togo does not, or no longer, pose problems.

#### Recommendations

7. The Animals Committee is invited to:
  - a) review the report from Indonesia concerning *Morelia viridis* and *Morelia boeleni* that was provided in accordance with Decision 17.276, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate; and
  - b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee concerning Benin, Ghana, Honduras or Togo, which did not provide the information requested from them in Decision 17.276.

Response from Indonesia concerning its implementation of Decision 17.276

## **Information of the Range States on Conservation, Sustainable Use and Trade of Snake in Indonesia**

**August 2017**

This report has been prepared by the CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority of Indonesia pursuant to Decision 17.276 and 17.278. Please direct all comments or inquiries to:

Directorate General of Ecosystem and Nature Conservation  
Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block VII, Manggala Wanabakti Building  
Jalan Gatot Subroto, Jakarta 10270, INDONESIA

E-mail : [macites@menlhk.go.id](mailto:macites@menlhk.go.id), [rksari@gmail.com](mailto:rksari@gmail.com), [nunuanugrah07@gmail.com](mailto:nunuanugrah07@gmail.com),  
[agnugroho@gmail.com](mailto:agnugroho@gmail.com), [sr.ratna@gmail.com](mailto:sr.ratna@gmail.com)  
Telefax : +62 21 5720 227

## **A. Snake Trade Conservation and Management**

Indonesia concerns the continuity of export of all species including snakes, thus put effort on the management of trade through quota system to satisfy Article IV of the CITES Convention, which meant demonstrating no detriment to the wild population.

Quotas for all reptiles including snakes subject to export in Indonesia are carefully set up. Management Authority officers in each Province establish proposed harvest levels, in the field, where harvesting takes place, which are then reviewed and assessed further by CITES Scientific Authority (Indonesian Institute of Science, LIPI). Various parameters, including environmental conditions, are now used to set up quotas. In setting the quotas Scientific Authority involves individuals from a wide range of expertise, including scientists from other Research Organizations, Universities and NGOs. Once quotas are finalized LIPI submits them back to Directorate General of Ecosystem and Nature Conservation (CITES Management Authority), which then issues an annual decree on the national allowable harvest. The decree identifies the allowable harvest of each species down to the Province level.

Individual species harvest quotas are based on a range of available data, including information on the biology, population, and distribution of the species, general land-use and potential threats in specific areas. For example as a precautionary measure, quotas for the species in 2015 were reduced in response to extensive forest fires in Indonesia in 2015. The export quota is typically established as 90% of the total harvest: domestic trade is around 10% (Siswomartono, 1998).

The captive breed program for some species of snakes has been established. The company must be registered in the Indonesia CITES MA. The operation of captive bred company must also comply with national regulation, according to Government regulation No. 19/ Menhut-II/ 2005 concerning Captive Bred operation on wild fauna and flora.

## **B. Management and Monitoring**

### **1. Harvest Controls and Internal Trade Monitoring**

The provincial offices of the Management Authority (BKSDA) control and enforce harvest/ collection permits, and implement quota management and monitoring, for CITES-listed species in all administrative jurisdictions. In accordance with the Decree of the Minister of Forestry No. 447 of 2003 the BKSDA office will issue permits to collect species included in the quota list in the field based on the quota allocated for each respective province. All specimens harvested from the habitat are officially registered by the Sub-provincial Section Offices of BKSDA (Districts office of BKSDA) who then, report back to the provincial BKSDA.

For domestic transport, the specimens must be covered by permits issued by BKSDA or its Section Offices. To facilitate better control, the domestic transport permit is, started from January 2005, standardized throughout Indonesia. All permits (collection and domestic transport permits) are required to be reported to central level, which will improve monitoring of internal (domestic) trade. For international trade, there are already a limited numbers of import/ export points nominated for Indonesia's CITES trade (see CITES Notification 1999/79).

Monitoring the chain of custody between source regions and collection points within Indonesia is theoretically possible to a certain degree of accuracy. Each province is divided into a number of BKSDA jurisdictions which will be able to track the legality of the specimens.

Standardized domestic transport permits are issued by BKSDA, in which five separate copies must accompany internal shipments within Indonesia. In addition, there should be a monthly report by BKSDA offices to report levels of internal transport to the central Directorate General of Ecosystem and Nature Conservation (DG KSDAE) office (as the CITES MA). The five copies are: the first copy must follow the specimen; the second copy stays as the file of BKSDA; the third copy is sent to the central office (DG KSDAE) as the file for DG KSDAE and used for crosschecking with the original which is enclosed with application for export; the fourth copy is file for BKSDA destination and used for cross checking with the original when the shipment has arrived; and fifth copy is for the Section of BKSDA.

## **2. National Legislation and Trade Control**

The harvest and trade of all CITES Appendix II species, must be strictly controlled-in terms of harvest, domestic transport and export – by the DG KSDAE as the CITES Management Authority. This follows Decree of the Minister of Forestry Number 447/Kpts-II/2003 concerning the Administration Directive of Harvest and Capture and Distribution of the Specimens of Wild Plant and Animals Species. The annual national quota is set under this Decree by the Director General of KSDAE, and the Provincial Offices of the KSDAE (i.e. the BKSDA) issue harvest permits, whose totals cannot exceed the amounts which have been allocated as the provincial quota. Permits for domestic transport are also issued by the provincial office in accordance with the annual quota and with reference to harvest permits.

Collectors and exporters must be licensed and registered at the Directorate General of KSDAE in order to apply for CITES export permits. All shipments are verified and checked by the provincial office of KSDAE (BKSDA) whose officers are posted in the designated international ports.

Any violation to this regulation is sanctioned based on the provisions of the Government Regulation No. 8 of 1999 concerning Wild Animals and Plants Species Utilization, which is the implementation of the Act No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Resources and Their Ecosystems. The Government Regulation No. 8 of 1999 provides penalties for smuggling/ misdeclaration or trade that is not in accordance with the provision of the regulation and may be liable to imprisonment (in accordance with the Customs and Excise Law) and or fines of maximum IDR 250 million (about USD 27,000).

To combat illegal trade of wildlife including snakes, government of Indonesia also conduct several approach such as capacity building for relevant law enforcement officer (Ranger, Police, Custom, Quarantine, Judge, Private, etc), campaign/ public awareness, establishment of community based patrol, development of forensic technique, revision process of Act No. 5 of 1990 which one of the revision point is to increase in sanction/ penalty to create deterrent effect, strengthened partnership with local and international NGO as well as established bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

### **3. Protection of the species: Protected Areas and other Measures**

Harvest of any species within gazetted Protected Areas, is prohibited under Act No. 5 of 1990. Anybody entering or trespassing in Protected Areas without permits may be prosecuted. Despite some reports on encroachment into protected areas by local people, protected areas would be the perfect place to safeguard from illegal harvesting of any species. Most of primary forests as one of suitable habitat of snakes are located in protected area. Indonesia has gazetted total 521 units of protected areas covering about 27 million hectares (MoEF, 2016).

These are managed in several categories based on IUCN criteria, namely National Parks, Nature Reserves, Game Reserves and Recreational Parks. Other protected area categories managed by the Government of Indonesia include: Hunting Parks and Grand Forest Parks. Except Grand Forest Parks, all categories of protected areas are managed by central government (Ministry of Forestry), therefore they are under direct control of the Management Authority. Protected Areas in Indonesia are generally well-managed, in terms of the monetary and human resources that have been put in the management. However, in many instances, encroachment in the forms of wildlife poaching, illegal logging and land encroachment for shifting agriculture, has become major issue in the management effectiveness of Protected Areas. Therefore, the current resources have been utilized more to undertake enforcement.

The species target with regards to Decision 17.26:

### **C. Papuan Green Python (*Morelia viridis*)**

#### **1. Taxonomy**

Phylum : Chordata  
Sub Phylum : Vertebrata  
Class : Reptilia  
Ordo : Squamata  
Sub Ordo : Serpentes  
Family: Pythonidae  
Genus: *Morelia*  
Species: *Morelia viridis*

#### **2. Distribution, Population Size, Status and Trends**

*Morelia viridis* is widespread in all Papuan regions including several adjacent islands such as Aru, Yapen, Raja Ampat (Indonesia). Conservation status of *Morelia viridis* is protected under Indonesian law. The use of commercial purposes only allowed from captive breeding program of F2. The size of wild population is unknown, however this species is well recognized by locals as Ular Hijau.

#### **3. Sustainability of Harvest**

The wild harvest quota only allowed for parental stock ( $f_0$ ).

#### **4. Captive Breeding**

Trade of this species only allow from captive breeding facility. The captive bred companies are registered in the Indonesia CITES MA. Registration mechanism of the captive bred operation of CITES listed is according to Government regulation No. 19/Menhut-II/2005 concerning Captive Bred operation on wild fauna and flora.



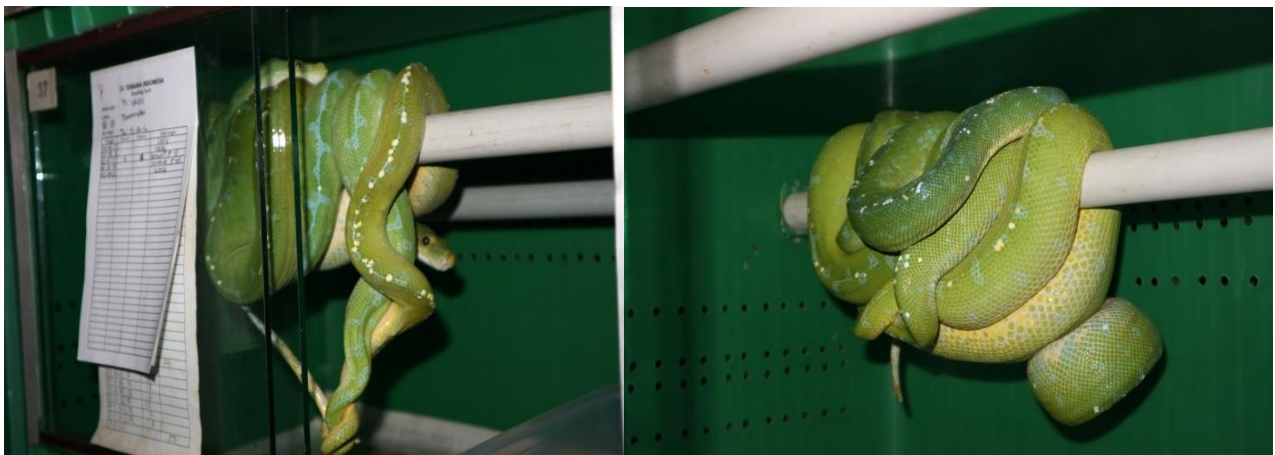
Captive breed effort of this species is not difficult, and successful captive breeding has been reported in several companies.



The facility of captive breeding  
Source : CITES Management Authority of Indonesia, 2017



Courtship and Copulation of *Morelia viridis*



Courtship and Copulation of *Morelia viridis*



Egg Deposition



The hatching rate of ranching program is 80%, survival rate ranged from 85 %. With this achievement, 100 individual as set in the national quota can be full filled only from 3-5 female of ranching program.

Removing eggs from deposition place (artificial nest) into incubator





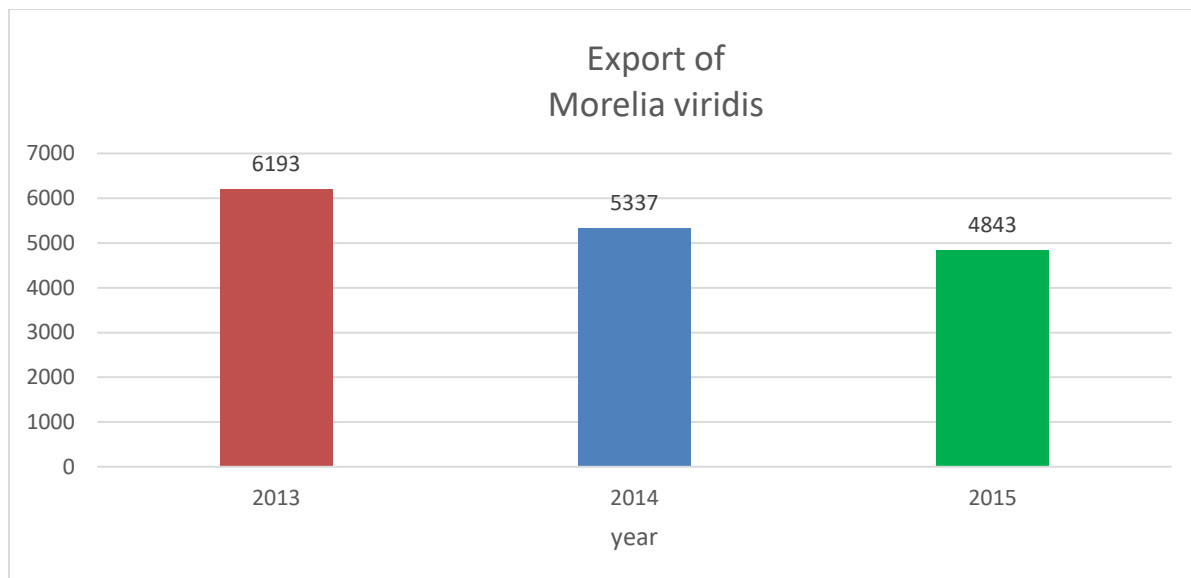
Hatchling *Morelia viridis*

For monitoring, the CITES Management Authority (MA) designed a tool to control and monitor the production of a company namely Maximum Estimated Production (MEP). MEP is an estimate of breeding success for a particular species, by a particular breeder over a forthcoming 1 year period. Each breeder has to submit MEP of this species and then the CITES MA subsequently checks those claims, taking into consideration the previous breeding success of the company, and the biological of the species concerned.



## 5. Trade data

Export of *Morelia viridis* live specimen from Indonesia from year 2013-2015.



Source : CITES Management Authority of Indonesia, 2017

## D. Boelens Python (*Morelia boeleni*)

### 1. Taxonomy

Phylum : Chordata  
Sub Phylum : Vertebrata  
Class : Reptilia  
Ordo : Squamata  
Sub Ordo : Serpentes  
Family: Pythonidae  
Genus: *Morelia*  
Species: *Morelia boeleni*

### 2. Distribution, Population Size, Status and Trends

The species is strictly distributed in the highlands of Wamena (Cyclops Mt.) of Papua Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (more than 1000 m asl). In Papua (Wamena), Boelen python usually was found in the habitat type of Rhododendron forest in elevation about 2000 m asl. The species mostly preys on mammals, bird, lizards.

The size of wild population is unknown, however this species is well recognized by locals in Wamena as Ular Hitam. This species is not protected under Indonesian law (PP 7), however the revision of the law is on going which uplisted this species into list of protected species (LIPI 2017).

### 3. Sustainability of Harvest

The wild harvest quota only allowed for parental stock (f0).

#### 4. Captive Breeding

Trade of this species only allow from captive breeding facility. The captive bred companies are registered in the Indonesia CITES MA. Although the captive breed effort of this species is difficult, the effort to initiate the program is important.

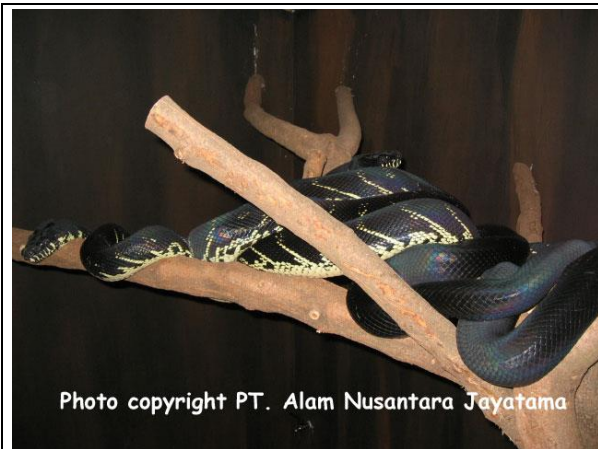


Photo copyright PT. Alam Nusantara Jayatama



Photo copyright PT. Alam Nusantara Jayatama

A pair of Boelens Python

The hatching rate of ranching program is 90%, survival rate ranged from 80 to 90%. With this achievement, 100 individual as set in the national quota can be full filled only from 3-5 female of ranching program.



Photo Pt. Alam Nusantara Jayatama

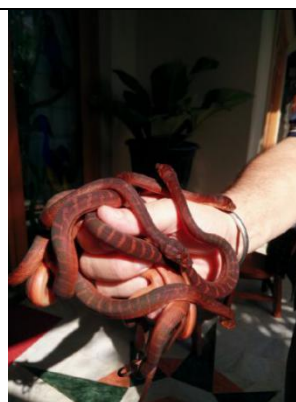


Photo PT. Alam Nusantara Jayatama

Courtship and Copulation



Hatching of Boelen Python

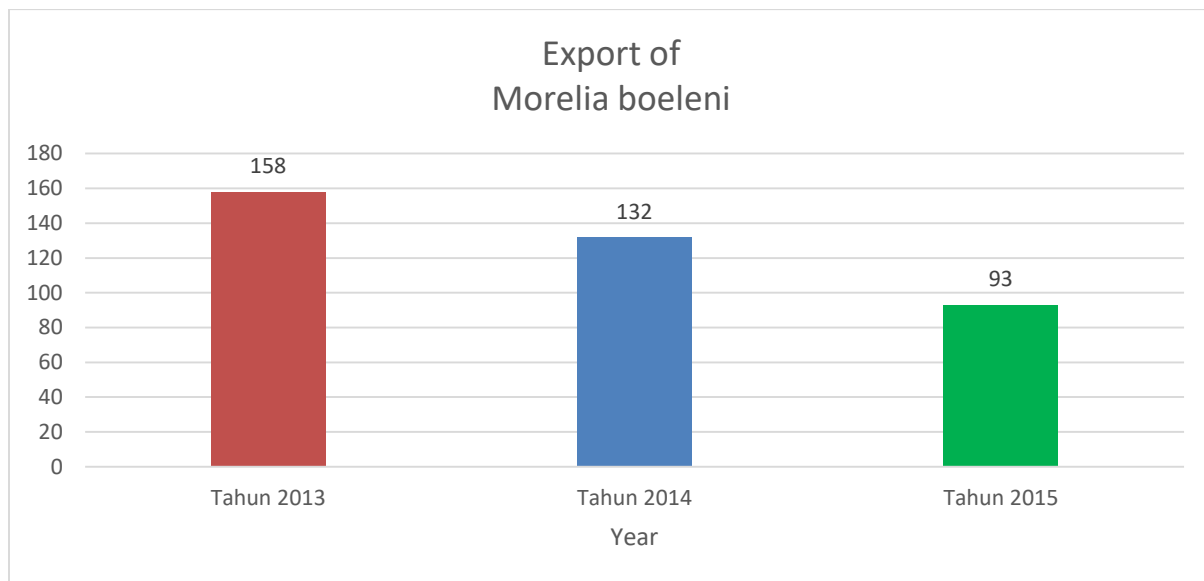


Babies of Boelen Python, one week after hatching

For monitoring, the CITES Management Authority (MA) designed a tool to control and monitor the production of a company namely Maximum Estimated Production (MEP). MEP is an estimate of breeding success for a particular species, by a particular breeder over a forthcoming 1 year period. Each breeder has to submit MEP of this species and then the CITES MA subsequently checks those claims, taking into consideration the previous breeding success of the company, and the biological of the species concerned.

## 5. Trade data

Export of *Morelia boeleni* live specimen from Indonesia from year 2013 to 2015.



Source : CITES Management Authority of Indonesia, 2017

## E. Law enforcement Effort

1. Data cases/ confiscation and legal process.

The table below illustrate law enforcement effort on Green Tree Python (*Morelia viridis*) during 2012-2017.

No.	Date	Wildlife	Specimen Type	Total Individu	Location	Crime Type	Legal Process
1	8/22/2012	Green Tree Python	Live	13	Jakarta	Online Trade	Verdicted
2	7/6/2015	Green Tree Python	Live	30	Jakarta	Online Trade	Verdicted
3	4/15/2016	Green Tree Python	Live	3	Sorong	Trading	Verdicted
4	5/16/2017	Green Tree Python	live	3	Tangerang	smuggling	Process
5	6/19/2017	Green Tree Python	Live	10	Jakarta	smuggling	Process

(Source: MoEF & WCS-IP)



## 2. Documentation.



Confiscated specimens of *Morelia viridis* in Soekarno Hatta Airport (2017)

## F. Contact Details of any Relevant Experts

1. Dr. Amir Hamidy: Research Centre of Biology Indonesian Institute of Sciences, email: hamidyamir@gmail.com, biologi@mail.lipi.go.id.
2. Mrs. Mumpuni: Research Centre of Biology Indonesian Institute of Sciences, email: mumpuni.sc@gmail.com, biologi@mail.lipi.go.id.
3. Mr. Awal Riyanto: Research Centre of Biology Indonesian Institute of Sciences, email: awal\_lizards@yahoo.com, biologi@mail.lipi.go.id.
4. Ms. Ratna Kusuma Sari, Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation for CITES MA Indonesia, email: macites@menlhk.go.id, subditkonvensi.kkh@gmail.com
5. Agung Nugroho, Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation for CITES MA Indonesia, email: macites@menlhk.go.id, subditkonvensi.kkh@gmail.com