

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-28 August 2019

LETTER FROM IUCN VIPER SPECIALIST GROUP IN SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSAL 32

This document has been submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to proposal CoP18 32.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*



IUCN VIPER SPECIALIST GROUP

Dr. Ivonne Higuero
CITES Secretary-General

UAE and México, February 22, 2019

Referring to the proposal submitted by I. R. Iran to include all populations of Spider Tailed Viper (*Pseudocerastes urarachnoides*) in App. II of CITES, and considering the uniqueness of the newly described species, the lack of information on life history and ecology, the considerable international trade pressure, and its conservations needs, the Viper Specialist Group (VSG) of SSC/IUCN strongly supports the proposal.

We believe that, alongside with the national efforts and attempts for the conservation of the species, the inclusion of the species in the CITES list would provide more support at international level to enable the proponent country to combat the illegal trade and harvesting to supply the international demand.

The VSG, invites the contracting parties and relevant CITES authorities to help such a magnificent species to survive, to prevent harm caused by international illegal trade under the CITES umbrella. Should you have any questions regarding this opinion, please do not hesitate to contact any of us (psoorae@wildlife-services.com or jjsigala@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Pritpal S. Sorae, M. S.
**Regional Coordinator for West Asia/
North Africa in the IUCN Viper Specialist Group**
Environmental Agency-Abu Dhabi, UAE

Firmado digitalmente por
J. Jesús Sigala Rodríguez
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J. Jesús Sigala-Rodríguez, Ph. D.
Co-Chair IUCN Viper Specialist Group
Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes
Aguascalientes, México