

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2025/081

Geneva, 23 June 2025

CONCERNING:

FIJI

Trade in specimens of *Brachylophus vitiensis* (Fiji crested iguana)

1. This Notification is being sent at the request of the CITES Management Authority of Fiji, which is seeking the cooperation of all Parties to achieve appropriate control of the international trade in specimens of *Brachylophus vitiensis* (Fiji Crested Iguana).
2. This species is endemic to the northwestern islands of Fiji. It was listed in Appendix I of CITES in June 1981 as part of a genus-wide listing of these unusual terrestrial reptiles that are endemic to Oceania. It is strictly protected in Fiji under the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002.
3. *Brachylophus vitiensis* is listed as Critically Endangered under criteria A2abce in the most recent (2012) assessment for the IUCN Red List.
4. Between 1983 and 2000, Fiji permitted the export of <20 live animals to *bona fide* zoos in Australia for captive breeding and public display purposes. In 1990, two captive-bred live animals were exported from Australia to a zoo in the United States of America.
5. Records in the CITES Trade Database of exporter reported trade of 120 live specimens from Fiji to Australia in 2010, and of 216 live specimens from Fiji to the United States in 2014 are both incorrect.
6. The CITES Trade Database contains no records of the legitimate trade of *Brachylophus vitiensis* into Europe. The first documented imports into Europe were from Mali between 2009 and 2011; however, no legal trade of the species has ever been conducted from Fiji to Mali. In 2014, three European specimens were exported to Uganda. Between 2017 and 2023, captive-bred live animals have been exported from Uganda to Japan, Canada, Indonesia, South Africa, and Thailand. It seems most likely that the founders of the lineage of specimens currently being traded internationally were obtained from the wild in Fiji without legal authority.
7. No facility is registered as an Appendix-I breeding facility for *Brachylophus vitiensis*.
8. The Government of Fiji has expressed the wish that, in order to benefit the conservation of the species to the greatest extent possible, international transfers of specimens of *Brachylophus vitiensis* (Fiji crested iguana) be authorized only if it can be demonstrated that their lineage can be traced back to specimens obtained in Fiji with legal authority.

9. Consequently, the Government of Fiji earnestly requests all Parties not to issue permits or certificates for import, export or re-export specimens of *Brachylophus vitiensis* (Fiji crested iguanas) without first consulting the CITES Management Authority of Fiji.