Daboia deserti

Region: 7

Taxonomic Authority: (Anderson, 1892)

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Desert Viper	English
Vipere du desert	French

Order: Ophidia

Family: Viperidae

Notes on taxonomy: This species is included in Daboia following Lenk et al. (2001). It is uncertain that Daboia deserti and D. mauritanica are separate species.

General Information

Biome ☑ Terrestrial ☐ Freshwater ☐ Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This North African species ranges in a narrow band from northwestern Algeria, through central Tunisia to northwestern Libya. The distribution is incompletely known and the species may also occur in Morocco. It is found up to 700m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species is generally found on rocky slopes with sparse vegetation. It can also be found in semi-desert, steppe and caves. The female lays up to 20 eggs.

Conservation Measures:

It exists in national parks in Tunisia (e.g., Buhedma National Park).

Threats:

There is major international trade in this species for medicinal use (both traditional and international). It is directly persecuted in parts of its range and is commonly used by venom researchers and snake charmers.

Species population information:

It is a rare species that is not known to be common in its range.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Algeria	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Morocco	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tunisia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

FAO Marine Habitats

Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

		Score
4.5	Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1
6	Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	1
8.4	Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present)	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
3	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	☑	☑	☑
3.2	Medicine	☑	☑	☑
3.2.1	Subsistence use/local trade	☑	☑	☑
3.2.2	Sub-national/national trade	☑	☑	☑
3.2.3	Regional/international trade	☑	☑	☑
3.5	Cultural/scientific/leisure activities	☑	☑	☑
3.5.3	Regional/international trade	☑	☑	☑
5	Persecution	☑	☑	☑
5.2	Other	☑	☑	☑

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
2	Communication and Education	☐	☑
2.2	Awareness	☐	☑
3	Research actions	☐	☑
3.1	Taxonomy	☐	☑
3.2	Population numbers and range	☐	☑
3.3	Biology and Ecology	☐	☑
3.4	Habitat status	☐	☑
3.5	Threats	☐	☑
3.8	Conservation measures	☐	☑
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	☐	☑
4	Habitat and site-based actions	☑	☐
4.4	Protected areas	☑	☐
4.4.2	Establishment	☑	☐

4.4.3 Management ☑ ☐

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	*Other purpose:*
3. Medicine - human and veterinary	☑	☑	☑	
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	☐	☑	☑	
14. Research	☐	☑	☑	

Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	*Other forms removed from the wild:*
1. Whole animal/plant	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	*Other source of specimens:*
Wild	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years: Unknown

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES: Not listed

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Near Threatened (NT) ☐ Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Near Threatened because its Extent of Occurrence is probably not much greater than 20,000 km2, and its population is probably declining due to over-harvesting and persecution, thus making the species close to qualifying for Vulnerable.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing **Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jose Antonio Mateo Miras, Ulrich Joger, Juan Pleguezuelos, Tahar Slimani

Notes on Red listing:

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