

## Daboia mauritanica

**Taxonomic Authority:** (Duméril and Bibron, 1848)

**Synonyms:**

**Region:** 7

**Common Names:**

Atlasotter	German
Moorish Viper	English
Vipere de Mauretanie	French

**Order:** Ophidia

**Family:** Viperidae

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

### General Information

**Biome**  Terrestrial  Freshwater  Marine

#### **Geographic Range of species:**

This North African species ranges from northern Western Sahara, through most of Morocco and northern Algeria to northern Tunisia. It is found up to 2,300m asl.

#### **Habitat and Ecology Information:**

This species is found in rocky slopes and other areas in semi-arid and subhumid zones. It can be found in steppes, wadis, hedges and open woodlands. The females lay clutches of up to 21 eggs.

#### **Conservation Measures:**

There is a need to develop education programmes for the conservation of this species throughout its range. It is known from several protected areas in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

#### **Threats:**

This species is accidentally killed on roads and is persecuted when it is encountered. Animals may be sold as curios to tourists, and are displayed in animal exhibitions and used for snake charming.

#### **Species population information:**

It used to be relatively abundant, but it is now declining.

### Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Algeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morocco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunisia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Sahara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### FAO Marine Habitats

Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------	--------------	------------

### Major Lakes

### Major Rivers

### Upper Level Habitat Preferences

**Score**

1.4 Forest - Temperate	1
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
4.4 Grassland - Temperate	1
6 Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	1

### Lower Level Habitat Preferences

**Score**

### Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
3	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Cultural/scientific/leisure activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.1	Subsistence use/local trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.2	Sub-national/national trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.3	Regional/international trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Accidental mortality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Collision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2.2	Vehicle collision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Persecution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
2	Communication and Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.1	Formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:		
12. Handicrafts, jewellery, decorations, curios, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14. Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Primary forms removed from the wild</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other forms removed from the wild:</b>
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Source of specimens in commercial trade</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other source of specimens:</b>
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:</b>						Unknown
<b>Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:</b>						Unknown
<b>CITES:</b>	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 this species is probably in significant decline (but at a rate of less than 30% over ten years) because it is subject to persecution, accidental mortality and over-harvested, 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:

### Bibliography

- Herrmann, H.W., Joger, U. and Nilson, G., 1992, Phylogeny and systematics of viperine snakes. III.: Resurrection of the genus *Macrovipera* (Reuss, 1927) as suggested by biochemical evidence., *Amphibia-Reptilia*, , , 13, 375-392, ,
- McDiarmid, R.W., Campbell, J.A. and Touré, T.A., 1999, , , Snake species of the world. Vol. 1., , , 511 pp., Herpetologists' League,
- Schleich, H.H., Kästle, W. and Kabisch, K., 1996, , , Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa., , , 627 pp., Koeltz., Koenigstein.
- Spawls, S. and Branch, B., 1995, , , The Dangerous Snakes of Africa., , , 192 pp., Blandford., London.
- Stemmler, O. and Hotz, H., 1972, Bericht über eine herpetologische Sammelreise nach Marokko im Juli 1969., *Verh. Naturf. Ges. Basel*, , , 83(1), 125-160, ,
- Geniez, P., Mateo, J.-A. and Bons, J., 2000, A checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of Western Sahara (Amphibia, Reptilia)., *Herpetozoa*, , , 13(3/4):, 149-163, ,
- Bons, J. and Geniez, P., 1996, , , Amphibiens et Reptiles du Maroc (Sahara Occidental compris), *Atlas biogéographique.*, , , 320 pp., Assoc. Herpetol. Espanola., Barcelona
- Lenk, P., Kalyabina, S., Wink, M. and Joger, U., 2001, Evolutionary relationships among the true vipers (Reptilia, Viperidae) inferred from mitochondrial DNA sequences., *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, , , 19:, 94-104, ,