Registration Form and Contact Details

Please fill in the details below and send the completed document, as appropriate, to the Chairman of the Animals Committee or the Chairman of the Plants Committee.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of reviewer(s):

M. Griffin

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia

AC representative for Africa

Contact person:M.Griffin

Contact address:

P/B 13306

Windhoek

Namibia

Tel: 264 061 237553

Fax:264 061 237552

e-mail:ssaurus@iafrica.com.na

Taxon reviewed (including common and taxonomic names):

Python anchietae

(Namibian Dwarf python, Angolan python, Anchieta's python)

Please return your completed paper or electronic document to one of the below:

Margarita A. Clemente Muñoz
Presidenta del Comité de Flora CITES
Universidad de Córdoba / Jardin Botánico
Avenida de Linneo s/n
E-14004 CÓRDOBA
Spain / España / Espagne
email cr1clmum@uco.es

Thomas Althaus
Chair of the CITES Animals Committee
Federal Veterinary Office
Schwarzenburgstrasse 161
CH-3097 LIEBEFELD
Switzerland / Suiza / Suisse
email: thomas.althaus@bvet.admin.ch

Table 1 – Comments from reviewer on applicability of criteria for listing on Appendix I

CRITERON	NOTES
For your information,; for a species to fulfill the draft criteria for Appendix I it must meet the trade criteria and at least one of the criteria A-D.	**Whenever appropriate, indicate ways in which this criterion and definitions, explanations and guidelines could be improved and/or quantified to better suit this taxon and its relatives (If you need additional space, please use a separate sheet of paper).** For the following specific questions, if a point estimate is not available, please provide a likely range of values (e.g., "about 6,000 – 10,000 individuals") or some kind of rough estimate or inference (e.g., "likely to be less than 500 square kilometres"). Please try to make a numerical guess or give a verbal description and only use DNW (Do Not Know) if there is truly no information available on the quantity in question.
Trade Criterion **Is or may the species be affected by trade?**	Definition of species; "any species…..**or phenotype or genotype**.." Definition "geographically separate pops" – refer to "**portions" or segments**" rather than "parts" Definition "affected by trade" – indicate "international" once here but not elsewhere (Answer, yes– all pythons are in demand, and this species is now in trade)
A) The wild population is small, and is characterized by at least one of the following (see definitions below):	What was/is the estimated size of the population? Please include units of measurement.
	Definition is clear and appropriate (Answer , no , the species is low density but has a large distribution, so although species is "rare" the total pop is probably large)
A)(i) an observed, inferred or projected decline in the number of individuals or the area and quality of habitat; or	Definition of "decline" is clear and appropriate (Answer, inferred no- there is no reason to suspect any of these)
A)(ii) each sub-population being very small; or	What were/are the estimated sizes of the subpopulation(s)? Please include units of measurement.
	Definition is clear and appropriate Optimally, a definition based on density may be more appropriate i.e. optimal density (based on carrying capacity) vs. current density. But there is not enough info available to estimate this for this species. (Answer, inferred no)
A)(iii) a majority of individuals, during one or more life-history phases, being concentrated in one sub-population; or	Definition is clear and appropriate (Answer, no)

A)(iv) large short-term fluctuations in the number of individuals appropriate to measuring population size for the species concerned;	If the population was/is characterized by large short-term fluctuations in the numbers of individuals, what was/is the average magnitude in orders of magnitude? What was/is the average period of fluctuation in years?
	Definition clear and appropriate., but consider changing text to read "large short-term fluctuations in the number of individuals **required** to measure population size..". Perhaps "fluctuations" could be defined in terms of generation cycle (Answer, no)
A)(v) a high vulnerability due to the species' biology or behaviour (including migration). **ALSO REFER TO VULNERABILITY FACTORS AT END OF TABLE**	Definition clear and appropriate Regarding the list of vulnerability factors at end of table; low fecundity and low pop density are definite factors with this species, but are not judged to be "significant" issues at this time (except in the case of very localized extinctions) (Answer, no-densities are inferred to be low, but range is great, very rugged terrain and animal is secretive. No repeatable way to collect – animals are collected by "accident" See insertion to left
B) **The wild population has a restricted area of distribution and is characterized by at least one of the following** (see definitions below):	What was/is the estimated area of distribution? If listing on the basis of one or more sub-populations, what were/are the estimated areas of distribution of the subpopulation(s)? Please include units of measurement?
	Definitions appropriate and clear, except for "restricted" – which is open to interpretation ;perhaps a definition based on minimum, maximum and mean sizes of ranger of all species in that "group" –in this case all pythons- species at the smaller (range) end of the scale could be called restricted (Answer, no – species has an estimated 60,000km2 distribution)
B)(i) fragmentation or occurrence at very few locations; or	Definition appropriate and clear, but not quantitative. Ideally, a figure could be given e.g 20% of pop exists in fragmented pops. (Answer, fragmentation does exist naturally, but does not affect "most" of population
B)(ii) large fluctuations in the area of distribution or the number of sub-populations; or	Clear and appropriate, change to "large fluctuations **within** the area of distribution.."

	(Answer, inferred no; species is rupicolous and this habitat may be more forgiving that more exposed habitats, so therefore, amount of required habitat would not be affected by short-term changes (fire, drought etc). Species is presumably already adapted to an arid habitat).
B)(iii) a high vulnerability due to the species' biology or behaviour (including migration); or **ALSO REFER TO VULNERABILITY FACTORS AT END OF TABLE**	Definition appropriate and clear Regarding the list of vulnerability factors at end of table; low fecundity and low pop density are definite factors with this species, but are not judged to be "significant" issues at this time (except in the case of very localized extinctions) (Answer, inferred no, species is highly secretive) See note to left
B)(iv) an observed, inferred or projected decrease in any one of the following:	Decrease needs clarifying – perhaps "significant decrease" – based on a proportion of a baseline total?? e.g. 1% would not be significant, but 20% would. (Answer, no- no data is available for this species)
• the area of distribution; or	Definition appropriate and clear (Answer, the species looses area of distribution and habitat all the time, e.g. mining, road building & construction. But it is a very minor loss (comparatively).
• the area of habitat; or	Same as above.
• the number of sub-populations; or	Definition clear and appropriate (Answer, inferred no- because no significantly large sections of habitat or range have been altered).
• the number of individuals; or	Clear and appropriate, although no specification is made on numbers. (Answer, inferred no)
• the quality of habitat; or	Clear and appropriate. (Answer, inferred no – habitat (rupicolous) is probably very robust, e.g. not affected by veld fires, low affect from over-grazing.
• the recruitment.	Clear and appropriate, although "decrease" is again problematic; pops will always cycle, as hatching season and season of highest mortality will probably not coincide

	(Answer, inferred no; the species is so "rare" that without evidence to the contrary, we can only assume a state of stasis.)
C) **A marked decline in population size in the wild, which has been either** (see definitions below):	Historical extent of decline - To what extent has the population or the area of distribution (please specify which) declined since historical times (i.e., going back 100 years or more if known; else based on whatever information is available)? (Ex. The ___ has declined down to ____% of the historical levels of ___ years ago.) Recent rate of decline - Characterize the recent (10-20 year) trends in population size or area of distribution (please specify which).
	Clear and appropriate (Answer, inferred no)
C)(i) observed as ongoing or as having occurred in the past (but with a potential to resume); or	Clear and appropriate (Answer, inferred no – species never monitored)
C)(ii) inferred or projected on the basis of any one of the following:	
• a decrease in area of habitat; or	Clear and appropriate, although see B4,1 & 2 above; there is a slow and insignificant amount lost due to development throughout the species' range. Ideally, this decrease could be quantified. (X% /year) The current rate and amount is not significant now, but theoretically, it will be problematic if the rate continues forever… (Answer,, habitat loss continues, but at current rates is considered to be "insignificant" e.g. much less than 1% /year)
• a decrease in quality of habitat; or	Clear and appropriate (Answer, inferred no- but there is no information on what is optimal or marginal habitat)
• levels or pattern of exploitation; or	Clear and appropriate (Answer, demand has increased (a function of increased interest in exotic reptiles, and increased proportions of people creating demand) , but the takeoff is considered

	to be “insignificant”, judging from availability on www).
• threats from extrinsic human-induced factors such as competition/predation by introduced species or the effects of hybridization, toxins and pollutants; or	Clear and appropriate (Answer, no – although threats have definitely increased, i.e more roads, more mining, more tourist lodge-building, grazing livestock; the overall population of people is increasing and they encroach on habitat. But I judge it to be ‘Insignificant” – but if the trend continues, there will be significant losses eventually.
• a decreasing recruitment	Clear and appropriate – although a quantification would be ideal (e.g. X%/year) – as it is still not clear what time scale we are working with i.e.in the short term, there are not “significant” decreases, but in the truly long term, as the factors above compound, there obviously will be significant changes. (Answer, inferred no – any inferred decreases are judged to be “insignificant”.. there is no information on this other than theoretical)
D) If not included in Appendix I, is likely to satisfy one or more of criteria A-C within 5 years?	Clear and appropriate (Answer, no- the species is not expected fulfill any criteria, A-D within the near future)

For criteria **A)(v)** and **B)(iii)**, please check which if any of the vulnerability factors listed below apply:

X____ low fecundity
____ slow growth rate
____ high age at first maturity
____ distorted age, size or sex ratio
____ complex social structure
____ extensive migratory behaviour
____ strong aggregating behaviour (e.g., schooling)
_X___ low population density (for sessile or semi-sessile species)
____ specialized niche requirements (e.g. diet and habitat)
____ species associations such as symbiosis and other forms of co-dependency
__X__ fragmentation and habitat loss
____ reduced genetic diversity
____ depensation (prone to continuing decline, even in the absence of exploitation)
____ high degree of endemism
____ threats from disease
____ threats from invasive species
____ threats from rapid environmental change (e.g. climate regime shifts)
____ selectivity of removals (that may compromise recruitment)
____ Other (please specify)

HIGH MARKET VALUE

ALSO, THIS SPECIES IS NOT SESSILE OR SEMI-SESSILE, BUT THE LOW DENSITY IS STILL AN IMPORTANT FACTOR –

BECAUSE THE REMOVAL OF A FEW
SPECIMENS COULD LEAD TO
LOCALIZED EXTINCTIONS

Table 2 – Comments from reviewer on applicability of criteria for listing on Appendix II

Criterion	NOTES
For your information; for a species to fulfill the draft criteria for Appendix II it must meet at least one of the criteria A-D.	**Whenever appropriate, indicate ways in which this criterion and definitions, explanations and guidelines could be improved and/or quantified to better suit this taxon and its relatives (If you need additional space, please use a separate sheet of paper).**
Trade Criterion **Is or may the species be affected by trade?**	Clear and appropriate (Answer, yes, all species in the family are potentially traded, and this species is a high-value species, much in demand)
A) It is known, or can be inferred, that the regulation of trade in the species is necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future. **ALSO REFER TO VULNERABILITY FACTORS AT END OF TABLE**	Define "near future"; 5 years would work with this species. Otherwise clear and appropriate (Answer, no, trade is not YET a significant factor, and it is not expected to increase; demand will be increasingly taken up by captive-bred specimens) See insertion to left
B) It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that harvesting of specimens from the wild for international trade has, or may have, a detrimental impact on the species by either: **ALSO REFER TO VULNERABILITY FACTORS AT END OF TABLE**	Generally clear and appropriate, however I recommend an insertion to read-"..a detrimental impact on the species , **sub-populations or localized populations**…" See insertion to left
B)(i) Exceeding, over an extended period, the level that can be continued to perpetuity.	Clear and appropriate

		(Answer, it is difficult to imagine any amount of collecting to impact on the species – because this species is not purposefully collected – only opportunistically. But we do worry about localized extinctions, so if "sub-populations or localized populations" as above is used, then the answer is yes for this species).
B)(ii)	Reducing it to a population level at which its survival would be threatened by other influences.	Clear and appropriate, but again thinking in terms of "sub-populations or localized populations" (as above). (Answer, yes, some populations are inferred to be in "marginal habitat" (wi9thout definition), so these existing populations may be adversely affected by the removal of a very few animals).
C)	**The specimens of the species in the form in which they are traded resemble specimens of a species included in Appendix II under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 2(a), or in Appendix I, such that a non-expert, with reasonable effort, is unlikely to be able to distinguish between them.**	Clear and appropriate (Answer, this is not a significant issue with P. anchietae)
D)	**There are compelling reasons, other than those given in C to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved.**	I HAVE READ THIS MORE THAN 50 TIMES, AND I STILL DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANS. SHOULD THE LAST PART READ "…CURRENTLY- LISTED SPECIES IS ACHIEVED **AND/ OR MAINTAINED**." ? Is this the appropriate place to list OTHER reasons to list a species? For instance, for Python anchietae' 1) an open market could result in habitat destruction (collecting methods) which could also impact other non-target species 2) encourages business which is fundamentally unethical and immoral. 3) Allowing trade in this one species could undermine national policy on not allowing ANY trade in reptiles

For criteria **A)** and **B)**, please check which if any of the vulnerability factors listed below apply:

___X_ low fecundity
____ slow growth rate
____ high age at first maturity
____ distorted age, size or sex ratio
____ complex social structure
____ extensive migratory behaviour

____ strong aggregating behaviour (e.g., schooling)
____X low population density (for sessile or semi-sessile species)
____ specialized niche requirements (e.g. diet and habitat)
____ species associations such as symbiosis and other forms of co-dependency
__X__ fragmentation and habitat loss
____ reduced genetic diversity
____ depensation (prone to continuing decline, even in the absence of exploitation)
____ high degree of endemism
____ threats from disease
____ threats from invasive species
_____ threats from rapid environmental change (e.g. climate regime shifts)
_____ selectivity of removals (that may compromise recruitment)
____ Other (please specify)

HIGH MARKET VALUE

ALSO, PYTHON ANCHIETAE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A SESSILE OR SEMI-SESSILE SPECIES, BUT THE **LOW DENSITY** IS STILL AN IMPORTANT FACTOR – BECAUSE THIS CAN EASILY LEAD TO LOCALIZED EXTINCTIONS IF A FEW ANIMALS ARE REMOVED