

BARBARY MACAQUE (*Macaca sylvanus*)



PROPOSAL: CoP17 Prop.13
European Union and Morocco.
Transfer *Macaca sylvanus* from
Appendix II to Appendix I in
accordance with Resolution
Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), Annex 1,
paragraph C i: a marked decline
in the population size in the
wild which has been observed
as ongoing or as having
occurred in the past (but with
potential to resume).

IFAW RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT

Biology and Distribution

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The Barbary macaque is the only species of the genus *Macaca* occurring in Africa and the only non-human primate which occurs north of the Sahara. Once common throughout northern Africa, an estimated 6,500 to 9,100 Barbary macaques are left in highly fragmented areas in Morocco and Algeria. In addition, there is a confined group of 200 introduced semi-wild Barbary macaques on the Rock of Gibraltar on the European continent.

The now isolated populations in Africa are limited to the Rif and the Middle and High Atlas Mountains in Morocco and the Grande and Petite Kabylie mountain region of Algeria. The total population in 1977 was still estimated at 23,000 individuals, of which 17,000 were in Morocco. The number in Morocco now stands at 6,000-7,000. Average population density has declined by 50-80% over the last 30 years.

While habitat loss and fragmentation are regarded as the main threat, the illegal trade in live macaques for the live pet trade is also a significant danger to the wild *M. sylvanus* population.

Protection Status

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The Barbary macaque has been categorized as Endangered in the IUCN Red List since 2008 based on an estimated population decline exceeding 50% over the last three generations (24 years). This decline is expected to continue in the future.

M. sylvanus has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1 July 1975 and is listed in Annex B of European Union Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97. The import of this species into the European Union from Algeria and Morocco is suspended under Article 4, paragraph 6 (b), of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97.

In Morocco, the capture, hunting, possession, sale and hawking of *M. sylvanus* is prohibited by law. Transfer of the species to Appendix I would



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allow for much higher penalties to be applied in cases of poaching or illegal trade under Moroccan Act No. 29-05. In Algeria, *M. sylvanus* is protected under Executive Decree No. 12-235. The law protects against organized searches and capture, or poisoning of the species.

In Morocco and Algeria measures have been taken to improve the conservation status of *M. sylvanus* and address its threats. An action plan for the conservation of Barbary macaques in Morocco was prepared in 2012. It sets out a timeframe and the actions needed to achieve its three objectives over the next 20 years: restoration of suitable/optimal macaque habitat, decrease in human pressure, and control of poaching and illegal trade.

Ifrane National Park, the stronghold of the species in the Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco, was created in 2004. The parks development plan strives for the maintenance of balanced ecosystems and the protection of species, including *M. sylvanus*, and their natural habitats. In collaboration with NGOs, anti-poaching and anti-trafficking projects,

as well as awareness-raising campaigns, have been implemented in the park and local communities. In Algeria several awareness-raising campaigns for the conservation of *M. sylvanus* have been carried out among a variety of stakeholders. Transfer of *M. Sylvanus* to Appendix I will support ongoing species management activities.

Consequences of Trade

Most of the *M. Sylvanus* specimens taken from the wild are for the international pet trade. Offtake for local purposes is relatively low. Most specimens seized are infants coming straight from the wild. Spain is the main entry point in Europe. No commercial legal trade in this species was reported between 2005 and 2014.

IFAW Recommendations

IFAW SUPPORTS the proposal from the European Union and Morocco to uplist Barbary macaques from Appendix II to Appendix I.