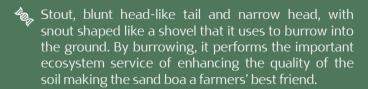
RED SAND BOA



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

BEHAVIOUR & BIOLOGY





- Mostly found under mounds, buried rocks and bricks, gardens, rat holes, caves and agricultural land.
- People falsely believe that it is a two headed snake, and therefore use it to perform rituals that have no proven effect. It is also falsely believed that the consumption of its meat has high medicinal value.
- Con-men who deal in the illegal trade of sand boas often approach farmers and promise them crores of rupees to dig up their cropland in search of these shy snakes. The farmer agrees, they dig up his field, find a snake or two but then the con-man escapes and pays the farmer nothing, cheating him out of his harvest too.



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CATEGORY



SUPERSTITION

(used in superstitions and rituals to remove curses, snake is also rented out to astrologers or snake charmers who claim to read your future with it)









MEAT (consumption of its meat locally)





SOURCE TRANSIT CONSUMER

SCENARIO 1: SUPERSTITION





They dig up the field and destroy the crops, find 2 snakes.





Con-man disappears leaving the farmer stranded with no crops

Con-man sells snake to local dealer





Local dealer stores the snakes in buckets or drums in his home

Astrologer / mantravadi rents out snake from local dealer









Consumer pays astrologer to perform ritual and read his / her future

SCENARIO 2: SUPERSTITION



Farmer approached by con-man and promised lots of money

They dig up the field and destroy the crops, find 2 snakes.





Con-man disappears leaving the farmer stranded with no crops

Con-man force feeds the snake iron and mercury balls to increase its weight because it will fetch him a greater price













Con-man sells snake to local dealer

Local dealer sells the red sand boa to a snake charmer











snake charmer sells the meat to customer based on a superstitior that it will bring them luck



PEOPLE, PLACES & PROPS

SCENARIO 1 & 2







equipment





Con-man





8

Mercury/

iron balls







Weighing

scale

Killing the snake to take meat





