



KENYAN SAND BOA

(Eryx colubrinus)

ANIMAL FACTS

WILD LOCALITY:

Northeast Africa

HABITAT:

Variable Sandy Areas, such as Semi-Deserts, Scrubs, and Savannahs

LIFESTYLE:

Fossorial or Subterrestrial (under the substrate, or underground)

DIET:

Small Mammals, Lizards, Toads, etc (obligate carnivore)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

~ 20-30 years in human care (less in the wild)

ADULT SIZE:

~ Up to 28 inches long (female) ~ Up to 15 inches long (male)

ACTIVITY:

Nocturnal (mostly active at night)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Least Concern

THREATS:

Habitat Loss, Invasive Species, Climate Change, Importation, & General Human Influence

FUN FACTS:

The Kenyan Sand Boa is one of the world's smallest species of boa constrictor, and are typically no larger than 15-25 inches long. They are fossorial, meaning they usually are found just under the substrate (such as sand or loose soil.) They have tiny, unblinking eyes that are located on the top of their head to see more easily above the surface. However, when they hunt, their main two methods of detecting prey are via their sense of touch and smell. They can feel when animals scurry across the surface of the sand, and like all snakes, they smell with their flickering forked tongue. When the sand boa is ready to grab their prey, they quickly spring their head out of the soil and bite down, while simultaneously wrapping around the animal to constrict breathing. Once the prey they have caught is ready to eat, they swallow them whole.