

## The Arabian Wonder Gecko Conservation Planning Workshop



The first Wonder Gecko Conservation Action Planning workshop was held on 13-14 December 2017 in Abu Dhabi, UAE at Hotel Mercure on Jabal Hafeet mountain. It involved stakeholders from the

various range emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The principle aim of this workshop was to assemble all the concerned agencies and experts on the Wonder Gecko to conduct a workshop at a national level

and draft a Conservation Action Plan that will guide conservation activities of the species over several years. The workshop was attended by 40 people and facilitated by Dr. Sanjay Molur of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group - South Asia Regional Resource Centre. The IUCN Red List assessment of the species status in the UAE set the tone for the workshop. The information pulled together from various experts on the species from the UAE laid the foundation for a revised assessment of the population as compared to the Least Concern status of the overall species on the Asian mainland. The UAE population was considered a phylogenetically distinct unit and the genetic studies



**Pritipal Soorae, the organizer, his colleagues from EAD and Sanjay Molur**



conducted by Spanish collaborators supported this move. Several brief presentations by experts from the different emirates updated the known status of the species and the influence of human development acting on its distribution and populations within UAE were established. The participants worked in several working groups including the Vision & Mission group, Research group, Conservation group and Education group. Within the context of conservation issues such as reintroduction, strategies and other relevant topics including the discussions and strategies of development were discussed. Policy and mainstreaming of the Wonder Gecko in the government development plans were discussed as part of the Education group. The report is underway and will be published soon. The Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi was the main organizer of the workshop.

**Working Groups**



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
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