

# Western Ghats Reptile Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Workshop

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There is an increased interest in understanding and defining threatened taxa using methods available at hand within local and global contexts. A cursory glance at any checklist or conservation oriented publication includes a paragraph or Table of threatened species within the site of study. This reference to threatened species invariably is to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species web site, which has until date more than 55,000 species in its record from around the world. Not all of the species on the site are threatened as a fair number of them are either species of Least Concern or Data Deficient. The process that leads to determining whether a species is threatened or not also provides an opportunity to understand how many are not threatened, therefore providing ample information to list both threatened and non-threatened species on that list.

India has been one of the pioneers in assessing the status of species compiling information and applying the IUCN categories and criteria since 1995. In 1997 the first national assessments were conducted in a series of Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshops as part of the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP) by Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) in collaboration with the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and funded by the WWF and USAID. The seven workshops conducted in 1997 laid the foundation for data compilation, assessments, and research and education follow-up for several groups of fauna and flora including all of the 400+ mammals, 450+ reptiles, 200+ amphibians, ~330 freshwater fishes, ~100 selected invertebrates, ~250 plants (including selected medicinal plants and all mangrove species), and other smaller groups of algae, pteridophytes and gymnosperms. Several different outcomes of these exercises resulted in field biologists either supporting or refuting the data and the assessments, leading to a continuously improved and better data sources. The basic assessments and the information thereof led to follow-up workshops at the South Asian regional level in the 2000s. Taxonomic networks have assisted these follow-up exercises immensely, with more youngsters taking part in field work, taxonomic quests and more recently phylogenetic studies to establish more current



A plenary session during the CAMP workshop



The snake working group hard at work

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**A break after 14-hour working days - at the NBNP**



**The Reptile assessment team in dappled light**

knowledge on our understanding of taxonomy, biogeography, distribution and threats.

The recently concluded assessment of the Western Ghats reptile fauna in Coimbatore (28 February to 4 March 2011) at Karl Kubel Institute shifted some of the established paradigms of our understanding of threatened reptiles as compared to the 1997 CAMP output. A total of 245 species of reptiles were assessed, several endemic to the Western Ghats, and others occurring in the Western Ghats or in southern India. Species endemic to the Eastern Ghats and peninsular India were also considered in the assessments. 40 participants with

expertise in the field represented 28 organizations in the assessments. While the 1997 Indian reptile CAMP had several well-established herpetologists of that era, the 2011 Western Ghats reptile CAMP workshop had a fairly young representation with a majority of the participants attending the CAMP workshop for the very first time; many of them having developed their expertise in this field since the first reptile CAMP workshop nearly 14 years ago!

And, as expected, information, knowledge base and trends in taxonomic details resulted in our understanding of reptiles in the 1997 CAMP vis-à-vis the 2011 CAMP. While

the earlier workshop showed several species either threatened or lacking data, the March 2011 exercise indicated a broad shift of our understanding of the threatened species into less threatened categories, namely Least Concern. The assessments are not yet complete, so it is unwise to reveal the statistics yet, but the results should be out sometime in the next 3 months.

So as a follow up of the workshop, consistency checks of the data are underway. Once that is completed, all working PDFs will be reviewed by all the participants to input data that were not compiled during the workshop. Since all the information were compiled on the online Species Information Service (SIS) database developed by the IUCN, the consistency checking and finalization is expected to be more systematic and rapid. Maps using ArcView were generated before the workshop based on the extensive information supplied by several participants and others who did not attend the CAMP workshop. Point locality data were digitized and polygons were defined after discussions in the working groups, which also gave a better idea of the species' distribution, extent of occurrence and area of occupancy, likely threats and therefore a more accurate assessment. These maps are being worked on and finalized currently, which will also be sent to the participants for finalization.

So, you can expect a final output in three to four months. Final outputs will include a complete account of information in the Threatened Taxa Monitoring System (TTMS) website at [www.southasianreptiles.org](http://www.southasianreptiles.org) where all point locality data, text, maps, etc. will be provided open access, hopefully by July 2011. Later in the year, around October, the IUCN Red List will publish the assessments for all endemic reptiles of the region on the [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) website.

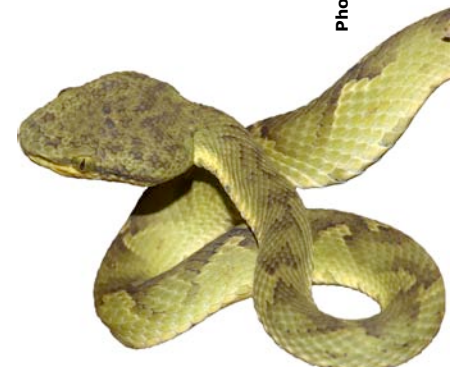
The Western Ghats reptile CAMP workshop is part of the global reptile assessments (GRA) of the IUCN SSC, similar to the global mammal and amphibian assessments. However, workshops to assess reptiles are more *ad hoc* depending on availability of funds. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) under the large grant awards to the Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society funded this workshop. Collaborators include Zoo Outreach Organisation, the South Asian Reptile Network and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia network, working along with the IUCN GRA.

## List of reptiles assessed during the CAMP workshop in Coimbatore in March 2011

<i>Ahaetulla dispar</i>	<i>Coronella brachyura</i>	<i>Kaestlea beddomei</i>	<i>Salea horsfieldii</i>
<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	<i>Cyrtodactylus nebulosus</i>	<i>Kaestlea bilineata</i>	<i>Sepsophis punctatus</i>
<i>Ahaetulla perroteti</i>	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	<i>Kaestlea palnica</i>	<i>Sibynophis subpunct</i>
<i>Ahaetulla pulverulenta</i>	<i>Dasia haliana</i>	<i>Kaestlea travancorica</i>	<i>Sitana ponticeriana</i>
<i>Amphiesma beddomei</i>	<i>Dasia subcaerulea</i>	<i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i>	<i>Sphenomorphus dussumieri</i>
<i>Amphiesma monticola</i>	<i>Dendrelaphis caudolineolatus</i>	<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i>	<i>Sphenomorphus indicus</i>
<i>Amphiesma stolatum</i>	<i>Dendrelaphis grandoculis</i>	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	<i>Teretrurus sanguineus</i>
<i>Argyrogena fasciolata</i>	<i>Dendrelaphis pictus</i>	<i>Lycodon flavomaculatus</i>	<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>
<i>Aretium schistosum</i>	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	<i>Lycodon striatus</i>	<i>Trimeresurus malabaricus</i>
<i>Barkudia insularis</i>	<i>Draco dussumieri</i>	<i>Lycodon travancoricus</i>	<i>Trimeresurus strigatus</i>
<i>Barkudia melanosticta</i>	<i>Dryocalamus gracilis</i>	<i>Lygosoma ashwamedhi</i>	<i>Typhlops beddomii</i>
<i>Boiga beddomei</i>	<i>Dryocalamus nympha</i>	<i>Lygosoma goaensis</i>	<i>Typhlops exiguus</i>
<i>Boiga ceylonensis</i>	<i>Echis carinatus</i>	<i>Lygosoma guentheri</i>	<i>Typhlops pammeces</i>
<i>Boiga dightoni</i>	<i>Elachistodon westermanni</i>	<i>Lygosoma lineata</i>	<i>Typhlops porrectus</i>
<i>Boiga forsteni</i>	<i>Eryx johnii</i>	<i>Lygosoma pruthi</i>	<i>Typhlops thurstoni</i>
<i>Boiga trigonata</i>	<i>Eryx whitakeri</i>	<i>Lygosoma punctata</i>	<i>Typhlops tindalli</i>
<i>Boiga wallachi</i>	<i>Eublepharis fuscus</i>	<i>Lygosoma vosmaeri</i>	<i>Uropeltis arcticeps</i>
<i>Brachyophidium rhodogaster</i>	<i>Eublepharis hardwickii</i>	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>	<i>Uropeltis beddomii</i>
<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	<i>Eurylepis poonaensis</i>	<i>Melanophidium bilineatum</i>	<i>Uropeltis broughami</i>
<i>Bungarus ceylonicus</i>	<i>Eutropis allapallensis</i>	<i>Melanophidium punctatum</i>	<i>Uropeltis ceylonensis</i>
<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	<i>Eutropis beddomii</i>	<i>Melanophidium wynaudente</i>	<i>Uropeltis dindigalensis</i>
<i>Bungarus sindanus</i>	<i>Eutropis bibronii</i>	<i>Naja naja</i>	<i>Uropeltis ellioti</i>
<i>Calliophis beddomei</i>	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>	<i>Oligodon affinis</i>	<i>Uropeltis liura</i>
<i>Calliophis bibroni</i>	<i>Eutropis clivicola</i>	<i>Oligodon arnensis</i>	<i>Uropeltis macrolepis</i>
<i>Calliophis melanurus</i>	<i>Eutropis gansi</i>	<i>Oligodon brevicauda</i>	<i>Uropeltis macrorhynchus</i>
<i>Calliophis nigrescens</i>	<i>Eutropis innotata</i>	<i>Oligodon nikhili</i>	<i>Uropeltis maculatus</i>
<i>Calotes andamanensis</i>	<i>Eutropis macularia</i>	<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	<i>Uropeltis myhendrae</i>
<i>Calotes aurantolabium</i>	<i>Eutropis nagarjuni</i>	<i>Oligodon travancorica</i>	<i>Uropeltis nitidus</i>
<i>Calotes calotes</i>	<i>Eutropis trivittata</i>	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	<i>Uropeltis ocellatus</i>
<i>Calotes ellioti</i>	<i>Eutropis tytleri</i>	<i>Ophisops beddomei</i>	<i>Uropeltis petersi</i>
<i>Calotes grandisquamis</i>	<i>Geckoella albofasciatus</i>	<i>Ophisops jerdonii</i>	<i>Uropeltis phipsonii</i>
<i>Calotes nemoricola</i>	<i>Geckoella collegalensis</i>	<i>Ophisops leschenaultii</i>	<i>Uropeltis pulneyensis</i>
<i>Calotes rouxii</i>	<i>Geckoella deccanensis</i>	<i>Ophisops microlepis</i>	<i>Uropeltis rubrolineatus</i>
<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	<i>Geckoella jeyporensis</i>	<i>Ophisops minor</i>	<i>Uropeltis rubromaculatus</i>
<i>Chalcides pentadactylus</i>	<i>Gehyra mutilata</i>	<i>Otocryptis beddomii</i>	<i>Uropeltis smithi</i>
<i>Chamaeleo zeylanicus</i>	<i>Gongylophis conicus</i>	<i>Peltopelorus macrolepis</i>	<i>Uropeltis woodmasoni</i>
<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i>	<i>Grypotyphlops acutus</i>	<i>Platyceps ventromaculatus</i>	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
<i>Cnemaspis australis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus aaronbaueri</i>	<i>Platyplectrurus madurensis</i>	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i>
<i>Cnemaspis beddomei</i>	<i>Hemidactylus albofasciatus</i>	<i>Platyplectrurus trilineatus</i>	<i>Xylophis captaini</i>
<i>Cnemaspis boiei</i>	<i>Hemidactylus anamallensis</i>	<i>Plectrurus aureus</i>	<i>Xylophis perroteti</i>
<i>Cnemaspis goaensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus bowringii</i>	<i>Plectrurus canarius</i>	<i>Xylophis stenorhynchus</i>
<i>Cnemaspis gracilis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i>	<i>Plectrurus guentheri</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis heteropholis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i>	<i>Plectrurus perroteti</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis indica</i>	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	<i>Psammodynastes pulverulentus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis indraneildasii</i>	<i>Hemidactylus giganteus</i>	<i>Psammophilus blanfordanus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis jerdonii</i>	<i>Hemidactylus gracilis</i>	<i>Psammophilus dorsalis</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis kandiana</i>	<i>Hemidactylus graniticulus</i>	<i>Psammophilus condanarus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis kolhapurensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus gujaratensis</i>	<i>Psammophilus leithii</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis littoralis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus leschenaultii</i>	<i>Psammophilus longifrons</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis monticola</i>	<i>Hemidactylus maculatus</i>	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis mysoriensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus persicus</i>	<i>Python molurus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis nairi</i>	<i>Hemidactylus porbandarensis</i>	<i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis nilagirica</i>	<i>Hemidactylus prashadi</i>	<i>Rhabdops olivaceus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis ornata</i>	<i>Hemidactylus reticulatus</i>	<i>Rhinophis fergusonianus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis otai</i>	<i>Hemidactylus sataransensis</i>	<i>Rhinophis sanguineus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis sisparensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus scabriceps</i>	<i>Rhinophis travancoricus</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis tropidogaster</i>	<i>Hemidactylus subtriedrus</i>	<i>Riopa albopunctata</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis wynadensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus treutleri</i>	<i>Ristella beddomii</i>	
<i>Cnemaspis yercaudensis</i>	<i>Hemidactylus triedrus</i>	<i>Ristella guentheri</i>	
<i>Coelognathus helena</i>	<i>Hemiphyllodactylus aurantiacus</i>	<i>Ristella rurkii</i>	
<i>Coelognathus radiatus</i>	<i>Hemiphyllodactylus typus</i>	<i>Ristella travancorica</i>	
<i>Coluber bholanathi</i>	<i>Hypnale hypnale</i>	<i>Salea anamallayana</i>	
<i>Coluber gracilis</i>			



Photo credit Sanjay Sondhi



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