



WORKSHOP ON

PERCEPTIONS OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OF TODAY'S YOUTH IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA WITH A FOCUS ON MONITOR LIZARDS

ORGANIZED BY: ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION SOCIETY
IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION (SSC), MONITOR LIZARD SPECIALIST GROUP (MLSG)

AIM OF THE WORKSHOPS

- To create awareness among today's youth about the importance of wildlife conservation.
- To focus on the ecological role, conservation aspects and illegal trade of monitor lizards.
- To ensure a better and sustainable future through co-existence between man and wild-life.

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website: <https://www.eaesociety.org>

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/amphibians-reptiles/monitor-lizard>

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

(29th July to 2nd August 2019)

29th July, Hooghly

- Visits:
1. Bejoy Narayan Mahavidyalaya, Itachuna
 2. Sree Narayan Institution (HS), Itachuna
 3. Interview survey of local people in nearby villages

30th July 2019, Bankura

- Visits:
1. Sonamukhi College, Sonamukhi
 2. Dhulai R.K.M Vidyamandir, Sonamukhi
 3. Interview survey of local and tribal villagers

31st July 2019, Purulia

- Visits:
1. Achhruram Memorial College, Jhalda, Purulia
 2. Bamnia Vivekananda Vidyapith (HS)
 3. Interview survey of local and tribal villagers

1st Aug 2019, Birbhum

- Visits:
1. Suri Vidyasagar College, Suri
 2. Interview survey of santhal tribal villagers

2nd Aug 2019, Howrah

- Visits:
1. Gangadharpur Sikshan Mandir (college), Howrah
 2. Gangadharpur High School
 3. Interview survey of farmers in agricultural areas

ORGANIZING TEAM

Shreya Bhattacharya, IUCN-SSC-MLSG, India

Dr. Jaspal Singh, Patron, EAE Society, India

Ravi Kumar Gangwar, President, EAE Society, India

Ram Das, Secretary, EAE Society, India

Neha Singh, Head, W.E. Division, EAE Society, India

Santanu Mahato, Member, EAE Society, India

Dr. André Koch, Co-chair, IUCN-SSC-MLSG, Germany

Dr. Mark Auliya, Co-chair, IUCN-SSC-MLSG, Germany

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Background

Four species of monitor lizards are native to India, i.e.

1. Bengal Monitor Lizard
(*Varanus bengalensis*)



2. Water Monitor Lizard
(*Varanus salvator*)



3. Yellow Monitor Lizard
(*Varanus flavescens*)



4. Desert Monitor Lizard
(*Varanus griseus*)



(Image sources: Internet)

Even though these species are strictly protected in India, they are widely hunted and subjected to domestic use (meat, oil) and derivatives commercially traded (i.e., leather, medicines, and witchcraft among others) in several parts of the country. Apart from the effects of modernization like habitat encroachment, deforestation and filling up of wetlands for agriculture, construction and other purposes on a regular basis, the exploitation of monitor lizards is considered another threat for the long-term survival of these iconic reptile species.

All these species are strictly protected under Schedule I, Part II of Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972, and violation of the Act can yield an imprisonment from 3 to 7 years, along with a fine of 10,000 INR

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