

Mission statement

Knowledge of the conservation status of monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp.) is essential for the formulation of appropriate conservation measures that would also support the protection of demarcated ecosystems. In gaining this knowledge, it is elementary to work hand in hand with national authorities and local communities.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we wish to have greatly

Technical advice: (1) support CITES authorities, customs officers and other organisations entrusted with law enforcement and conservation of monitor lizards worldwide by providing expert knowledge from our Specialist Group.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. Of 81 recognised species, currently 53 have been assessed and reviewed by several MLSG members. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. We commented on and improved a proposal for an application by a Dutch-Indonesian student to the National Geographic early career grant, with the aim to prepare a PhD project with exploratory trips to New Guinea to evaluate the conservation status of *Varanus macraei*, which is a target-species of the international pet trade. We also wrote an endorsement letter for our MLSG member K.M. Mijanur Rahman for a project on *Varanus* spp. from Bangladesh for a National Geographic Society Request for Proposals (RFP) grant. (KSR #12)

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