

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) Society
<b>Project Title:</b>	Enhancing knowledge about the conservation status of globally threatened species in the Western Ghats, with a particular emphasis on reptiles
<b>Date of Report:</b>	31 December 2014
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**CEPF Region:** Western Ghats

**Strategic Direction:** 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action

**Grant Amount:** \$111925.00

**Project Dates:** January 2009-September 2014

### Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

**Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO):** This is the parent organization from which WILD was formed in 1999. WILD and ZOO work hand-in-hand and collaborate on all projects as the two complement skills and resources. ZOO and WILD collaborate on all projects including assessments through Conservation Assessment and Management Planning, hands-on training workshops on lesser known fauna, education training and activities, publications, networking, lobbying, representing IUCN's specialist groups in the region, etc.

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):** Founded in 1948, IUCN brings together states, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership. As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels. The Global Reptile Assessment of the Reptile Assessment Unit, part of the IUCN Species Programme, helped with the assessments of endemic and non-endemic reptiles of the Western Ghats and peninsular India.

**South Asian Reptile Network (SARN):** This network was established in 1997 as a result of the recommendation from the Indian Reptile Conservation Assessment & Management Plan Workshop participants and will be the key partner for Western Ghats reptile assessments. It is currently co-chaired by Sanjay Molur and late Dr. S. Bhupathy. The network has more than 200 members from South Asia and at least 40 members are familiar with reptiles of the Western Ghats. Resources from the network helped build the data base, experts were identified from the network for the CAMP/GRA workshop and follow-up.

Biodiversity Research and Conservation (BRaCons): This organisation was established in 2005 by Drs. Chelmala Srinivasulu and Bhargavi Srinivasulu. They worked closely with WILD in compiling and analysing the data, and developing maps.

Indian Institute of Science – Centre for Ecological Sciences (IISc - CES) Bangalore: Kartik Shankar's Lab provided data from their ongoing field work on reptiles of Western Ghats funded by CEPF

Several other collaborators, such as, individuals from the Zoological Survey of India for reptile assessments. NGOs and government organisations and individuals working on reptiles of Western Ghats contributed to species data compilation, assessments and dissemination of findings as well as outreach.

A number of Editors and Reviewers on the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* editorial board contributed to the journal component of the project.

In addition to the above organizations, 30 Institutes/organizations hosted or co-organised the training / education program series conducted in five states of the Western Ghats. The list of institutes is provided in the report submitted by Dr. B.A. Daniel (*Involving Community, Stakeholders and Journalists for the Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity and Reptiles of Western Ghats through Education, Training and Follow up of the Assessment Projects*)

Individual contributors:

Dr C. Srinivasulu, Professor, Osmania University, Hyderabad

Dr. Bhargavi Srinivasulu, Research Associate, Osmania University, Hyderabad

Dr. Neelesh Dahanukar, INSPIRE fellow, IISER, Pune, Maharashtra

Ms. Payal B. Molur, Wildlife Educator, Go Wild, Coimbatore

Mr. Aditya Srinivasulu, Volunteer, Hyderabad

## Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

The Reptile assessment addresses

Priority 2.1: "Monitor and assess the conservation status of globally threatened species with an emphasis on lesser-known organisms such as reptiles and fish", using "standardized and quantitative criteria" (i.e., the Red List assessment criteria) and conducting the activity "throughout the Western Ghats."

The CEPF Investment Priority 2.1 was achieved through a five day conservation assessment and management plan (CAMP) workshop based on IUCN Red List Criteria and Categories.

Preliminary data was compiled prior to the workshop on the Species Information System of IUCN. Peer review and evaluation post workshop and ratification by the global Red List focal points for reptiles were conducted and the assessments with maps uploaded on to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. A document on the conservation assessment and management plan of reptiles in the Western Ghats with details was developed and has been submitted along with this report. The project contributed to conserving highly threatened reptile species by proposing recommendations that will trigger research, monitoring and conservation.

Investment Priority 2.3: "Evaluate the existing protected area network for adequate globally threatened species representation." The distribution data from the assessments were used to identify protected area gaps in the Western Ghats, which is being compiled for publication. This data will eventually be used to populate Key Biodiversity Areas.

The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) addresses Investment Priority 2.4: “Support interdisciplinary efforts to analyze and disseminate biodiversity data”. The journal provided an excellent platform to disseminate all findings and actions from the Western Ghats hotspot. Mentoring first time authors and inexperienced authors by the editors of JoTT enhanced the dissemination through scientific peer reviewed publication.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

- Identification and network of subject experts and other stakeholders
- CAMP workshop with subject experts to analyse the status of reptiles of Western Ghats and peninsular India
- List showing Red List status of reptiles listed on the Wildlife Protection Act (Appendix 3).
- Developed fold-out on select reptiles of Western Ghats for dissemination of results of the reptile assessments (See attachment in Project Components section).
- Publication of 69 articles and 821 pages in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* on projects conducted in the Western Ghats (Appendix 2)

**Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

**The long-term objectives of this project are to:**

1. Ensure long-term sustainable conservation efforts for reptile fauna of the Western Ghats.
2. Assess the global status assessments of reptiles endemic to the Western Ghats, and regional status for non-endemics.
3. Identify individual reptile species or species groups, habitats and regions that face the greatest threats.
4. Develop action plans to mitigate the threats to species and habitats.
5. Provide the data necessary to fill gaps in knowledge in critical areas such as distribution and geographical patterns and severity of threats to reptile communities throughout the Western Ghats.
6. Provide capacity building in red listing to reptile biologists in the region to promote better field studies, identify conservation needs, plan conservation actions and implement management strategies.
7. Rapidly publish peer reviewed findings from the CEPF Western Ghats projects.
8. Promote actions taken in the Western Ghats ecosystem through the CEPF grants in a timely manner for the state and central governments to take action both immediately and in the long-run through timely publications.
9. This project combined with other related projects in CEPF grants for Western Ghats will provide clear plans for ecosystem management.
10. Provide a solid platform for revising the listing of reptile species on the schedules of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act.
11. Fill knowledge gaps in regions identified by the ecosystem profile.
12. Develop priorities and identification of critical habitats within the key biodiversity area.
13. Review priorities for refining of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.
14. Identify threatened reptile species in single locations and develop action plans as promulgated by the Alliance for Zero Extinction
15. Provide substantial inputs to the Indian government and the UN to identify critical sites within Western Ghats as Heritage Sites.

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

1. The IUCN Red List assessments provide a platform to understand the status of reptiles in the Western Ghats. Based on this several long-term actions can be initiated, one of the most important ones being monitoring the status. Once this is set up, perhaps with the

- involvement of the MoEFCC, the process will be set in place for long term sustainability of the taxonomic group in the region.
2. Global status assessments of endemic reptile fauna is completed with information on distribution, threats and use & trade.
  3. Broadly identified regions within Western Ghats that have the most threatened species (See 2.4.3 of the CAMP report).
  4. Since the assessments are the first step, it is intended to follow up these assessments with prioritization workshop/s wherein specific action plans for individual species or groups will be identified to mitigate threats to populations and habitats.
  5. The Results of the CAMP assessments provide information on existing knowledge and gaps on distribution and geographical patterns and severity of threats to reptile communities throughout the Western Ghats
  6. The CAMP workshop built initial capacity in red listing to reptile biologists in the region to promote better field studies, identify conservation needs, plan conservation actions and implement management strategies.
  7. Rapidly published peer reviewed findings from the CEPF Western Ghats projects (69 articles and 821 pages – url provided, Appendix 2)
  8. The results of this project will add to the overall Western Ghats prioritization of species and sites when analysed with all the CEPF projects. This action step intended for the publications in the Journal of Threatened Taxa has been taken from the editorial office end in distributing the Western Ghats articles to many forest department officers and rangers. In some instances, for example, the CEPF project on Vertebrates of Meghamalai landscape, collaborators from SACON and WILD approached the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for detailed discussions and a workshop was also planned. Unfortunately due to the untimely demise of a key player, the workshop was stalled.
  9. Our involvement with other CEPF grantees at this stage has been for the assessments and education outreach only. Collaborations with other CEF projects include the Reptile grant provided to CES, IISc, and to the freshwater/reptile outreach grant provided to ZOO. It is intended that in future the organizations will work together to promote the long-term goal.
  10. Provided a list showing the Red List status of reptile species included on the schedules of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act.
  11. The knowledge on reptiles has been identified as a huge gap in the Western Ghats ecosystem profile. These assessments have provided an understanding on the details of the gaps such as data deficiencies in distribution, taxonomy and threats. This has provided a basis for a better focus on resolving these gaps, especially taxonomy.
  12. KBA prioritization has not yet been undertaken for reptiles. Again, this is one of the actions planned for in the future.
  13. The results of the CAMP assessments can be used for prioritization of critical habitats, KBAs and inform any action to be taken under NBSAP.
  14. The CAMP assessments inform no Alliance for Zero Extinction reptiles species as per current taxonomic knowledge.
  15. Inputs on reptiles in Western Ghats have been provided to the UN World Heritage Site Committee.

**Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

1. Provide information on the distribution, habitat, ecology, threats, conservation status and livelihood values for 265 species of reptiles, both endemic and nonendemic.
2. Provide training for up to 40 reptile biologists in the process of threat assessments, mapping of species distribution and prioritization of conservation action and livelihood needs.
3. Build capacity to enable participants to become assessors of biodiversity using the internationally accepted method of IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the comprehensive database.

4. Provide wider participation for the trained biologists to input into the revision of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act schedules
5. Provide wider participation in reviewing assessments submitted to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
6. Provide knowledge and expertise for comprehensive conservation priorities, holistic planning and implementation of management strategies for immediate action.
7. Provide stakeholders as well as project partners to prioritize actions and to influence short-term and long-term conservation policy decisions, promote sustainability and livelihood concerns as applicable.
8. This project fulfils the UNDP's "Countdown 2010" objectives in identifying and promoting biodiversity conservation efforts through action, education, implementation and obligations to the Conservation of Biological Diversity ratified by India.
9. Provide key inputs, through findings from literature and other studies compiled in the database and maps, to the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bengaluru, for the reptile field surveys.
10. The monthly peer-reviewed online open access scientific publication, Journal of Threatened Taxa, will provide a quality, speedy and regular platform for all scientific articles emanating from the different projects of CEPF small and large grants for the Western Ghats.
11. Provide a mechanism for CEPF, through easy accessibility and wide circulation and interest generated by the journal, to evaluate the outreach and impact of the various projects
12. Provide CEPF, through the journal and its publications, the value of investments in the various projects as well as this project proposed here.

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

1. A Conservation Assessment and Management Plan report has provided relevant information on the distribution, habitat, ecology, threats, conservation status and livelihood values for 227 species of reptiles, which include 195 species from within the Western Ghats and the rest from other areas of southern India, both endemic and non-endemic (Appendix 1) This knowledge will inform holistic planning and conservation strategies to ensure appropriate and immediate action to conserve Indian reptiles
2. The CAMP workshop provided initial capacity building in red listing to 40 reptile biologists in the region to promote better field studies, identify conservation needs, plan conservation actions and implement management strategies.
3. Capacity building of participants to become assessors of biodiversity using the internationally accepted method of IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the comprehensive database was undertaken in two workshops – the training workshop in collaboration with the freshwater assessments in January 2010 where a few select individuals who were identified as assessors were trained; and the actual CAMP workshop when the assessments were conducted, where the first day was used to provide technical knowhow in Red Listing, the use of SIS and mapping through presentations and the actual assessments were used as on-the-job training in Red Listing, use of SIS and mapping for the more than 35 participants.
4. The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 lists approximately over 300 species of reptiles with some inconsistencies in taxonomy and repetitions in different schedules. The CAMP assessments have not yet been used in informing revisions to the WPA. Most of the snakes, turtles and crocodiles were already on the WPA. Given that there is some confusion in taxonomy of some of the groups like snakes, geckos, skinks and other tetrapods, it is too early to determine how the species can be included in the WPA. This needs to be thought out clearly and well before any new proposals for additions to the WPA are to be made as from experience it is easy to add than to delete from the existing lists.
5. The CAMP methodology allowed for wider participation in reviewing the status of reptiles in Western Ghats and peninsular India for updating the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

6. The South Asian Reptile Network members have knowledge and expertise for comprehensive conservation priorities, holistic planning and implementation of management strategies for immediate action.
7. Relevant educational materials such as brochures and posters were brought out to create awareness among educators, stakeholders and policy makers regarding the plight of reptiles in the Western Ghats.
8. The results of this project are continuously being used to fulfill the AICHI 2020 targets.
9. A compilation of results from the CAMP assessment was provided to Centre for Ecological Studies, Bengaluru.
10. The monthly peer-reviewed online open access scientific publication, Journal of Threatened Taxa, provided a quality, speedy and regular platform for all scientific articles emanating from the different projects of CEPF small/large grants and other studies in the Western Ghats. (821 pages  
[http://zooreach.org/ZOO\\_WILD\\_Activities/2014/Reptile\\_Assessment.htm](http://zooreach.org/ZOO_WILD_Activities/2014/Reptile_Assessment.htm); Appendix 2)
11. It was intended that most of the CEPF Western Ghats grantees would publish their findings in scientific publications. And it was proposed that since the Journal of Threatened Taxa existed as an open-access peer reviewed monthly international journal, publication in it would guarantee a wide circulation and therefore wide interest in CEPF's activities in the hotspot. This however did not work out the way it was intended, hence a request for publishing non-CEPF funded works was sought and followed through. Of those CEPF funded projects published in JoTT, wide circulation among stakeholders and constant citations have ensured the usefulness of scientific publications, especially in JoTT. Further, the Digital Object Identifier has also helped in making this access even greater around the world.
12. As stated above, this action has not been met with fully.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** NA

**Species Conserved:** NA

**Corridors Created:** NA

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

Challenges

Lack of adequate surveys and poor progress in reptile taxonomy are the two major challenges facing reptile knowledge in the Western Ghats.

Success stories

1. Assessment and mapping of all Western Ghats reptiles.
2. Identification and networking of reptile researchers.
3. Inclusion of threat status assessments for several species of Western Ghats reptiles on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for the very first time. Of the 227 species assessed in total, 185 were assessed for the first time; a total of 108 Western Ghats endemics of which 92 were assessed for the first time; 47 peninsular endemics of which 35 assessed for the first time; 68 South Asian species assessed of which 54 for the first time.
4. Encouraging and mentoring young conservation and research professionals in publishing high quality and relevant peer-reviewed papers in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.
5. Increased exposure of activities and publications on the Western Ghats internationally.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

The Reptile assessment results on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species got published with unexpected delay and hence we had to wait for long time to get the final results for inclusion in the resource materials. However, it did not affect the components of the project.

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

### **Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Freely and widely available comprehensive database on 227 species of reptiles covering aspects such as taxonomy, synonyms, systematics, distribution (point localities and polygon maps), habitat, ecology, threats, utilization, livelihoods values, conservation measures (in place and/or needed), current and recent work, experts and references.

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

**1.1** The latest IUCN Species Information System (SIS) database including data on the taxonomy, systematics, synonyms, distribution, habitat, ecology, threats, utilization, livelihoods values, conservation measures, and references for reptiles of the Western Ghats has been made available on the internet, published as a report (See Appendix 1) and CD-Roms along with information on recent studies and experts are available.

**1.2** Digital GIS maps showing distribution records of reptiles in the Western Ghats have been made available on the internet and CD-Roms.

### **Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

The status of all endemic and non-endemic species of reptiles of the western Ghats assessed according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species categories and criteria has been made available free of cost on the internet and CD-Roms.

### **Component 2 Actual at Completion**

**2.1** The latest version of IUCN's Red list of Threatened Species with global assessments containing supporting data and IUCN Red List categories for all Western Ghats endemic reptiles has been made available freely on the IUCN Red List web site <http://www.iucnredlist.org> and also in WILD/ZOO's South Asian Threatened Taxa Monitoring System site <http://www.southasiantaxa.org>

**2.2** The latest version of IUCN's Red list of Threatened Species with global assessments containing supporting data and IUCN Red List categories for all Western Ghats non-endemic reptiles is made available freely on the IUCN Red List web site <http://www.iucnredlist.org> and also in WILD/ZOO's South Asian Threatened Taxa Monitoring System site <http://www.southasiantaxa.org>

**2.3** The regional assessments for Western Ghats biogeographic region of non-endemic reptiles containing data and regional IUCN Red List categories is made available freely on the WILD website <http://www.southasiantaxa.org>.

### **Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Provide training to 40 researchers in the use of IUCN's Species Information Service (SIS), a data entry system for IUCN's species database, and the use of IUCN's Global and Regional Red List Categories and Criteria.

### **Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

**3.1** Enhanced the existing capacity in 40 South Asian Reptile Network members in using the IUCN's SIS database for species information management, in the use and application of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and in creating digital maps of species distribution in the Western Ghats through a training workshop in January 2010 (along with freshwater biodiversity assessment trainees) and in the CAMP workshop in 2011.

**Component 4 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Areas for reptile conservation priority within the Key Biodiversity Areas of Western Ghats will be identified, utilization and sustainability values will be described, and the information will be made available on IUCN Red List site, the South Asian Threatened Taxa Monitoring System site and other publications.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

**4.1** All of the above have been included in the reptile assessments and made available on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the South Asian Threatened Taxa Monitoring System site. The KBA sites have not been delimited as was done with freshwater assessments. Generic areas of endemism and threats have been indicated in maps in the Report. We intend to develop KBA priority for reptiles soon through the actions of the South Asian Reptile Network (SARN).

**4.2** Peer reviewed publications related to reptile distributions, analyses of threats, status and key priority conservation sites will be published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. Popular articles will be published in Current Conservation.

**Component 5 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Offer the services of the monthly online peer-reviewed open access *Journal of Threatened Taxa* for publishing technical outcomes on taxonomy, wildlife research, natural history and conservation from work done in the Western Ghats. The publication is available free of cost and widely distributed through the Internet.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion:**

**5.1** Encouraged and published 69 articles amounting to 821 pages pertaining to Western Ghats new descriptions, biodiversity, assessments, inventories, checklists, habitat and ecological status, veterinary issues, diseases, conservation actions, priority settings, etc. in the monthly *Journal of Threatened Taxa* at <http://www.threatenedtaxa.org> (See Appendix 2).

**5.2** Published rapidly and for free, scientific and technical outcomes of all grantees approved by CEPF small and large grants programmes in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* after peer-review at <http://www.threatenedtaxa.org>. Of the 69 articles 18 were from CEPF-funded grants.

**5.3** All publications are available on Cross Ref service by obtaining Digital Object Identifier number for wide distribution and dissemination of the scientific and technical outcomes in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

**5.4** A special theme "Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot" was established to publish manuscripts rapidly within one month of final acceptance. Under this theme, 821 pages of Western Ghats Special Series articles were supported by the project, within 26 issues of JoTT.

**5.5** Provided tutoring and skills in scientific writing to the authors of 12 articles by CEPF Western Ghats grantees. The level of tutoring varied with some needing only basic English language editing and others with statistical and scientific writing help.

**Component 6 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Conservation planning and sustainable management of reptiles proposed in this project by stakeholders in the Western Ghats region is improved by application of the results of this project.

**Component 6 Actual at Completion:**

**6.1** Representatives from key stakeholder organisations in the government, civil society, and private sectors in the Western Ghats region were made familiar with the results and potential applications of the biodiversity assessments, and the availability of a high quality and efficient scientific peer-reviewed journal. Through the education outreach workshops and individual contacts several organizations and stakeholders were made familiar with the results. This is still

ongoing. Once the scientific analysis is completed and published in JoTT that will also be circulated to all stakeholders through our networks.

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

All components of the project have been carried out except for the publications on the reptiles peer reviewed publications related to reptile distributions, analyses of threats, status and key priority conservation sites that will be published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. Popular articles will be published in Current Conservation. This has not affected the overall impact of the project.

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

This Report is accompanied by the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Report with background, results, Western Ghats Endemic Reptile Point locality information and Species Accounts on both endemic and non-endemic species of reptiles resulting from the project. The species accounts include information on taxonomy, geographic range, population, habitat & ecology, major threats, use & trade and conservation measures along with a map (Appendix 1).

The peer reviewed publications by CEPF grantees and articles (69) on Western Ghats eco-region are also available for download on the Journal of Threatened Taxa site and the list of articles along with relevant links are give below (Appendix 2).

Download softcopies from:

Pocket field guide: Reptiles of the Western Ghats

[http://zooreach.org/ZOO\\_WILD\\_Activities/2014/Reptile\\_Assessment.htm](http://zooreach.org/ZOO_WILD_Activities/2014/Reptile_Assessment.htm)

## **Lessons Learned**

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

1. Many more studies are required to understand the reptiles of Western Ghats as 32% are categorized as Data Deficient as per the IUCN guidelines.
2. There is a need for training more young professionals in the systematic study of reptiles in order to make informed conservation decisions.
3. The data gap combined with lack of species-specific conservation measures is an area to be prioritized for early action.
4. There is a need for effective management and education to protect reptiles from falling prey to superstitions, beliefs and man-animal conflicts.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

The project had two main components – (1) Western Ghats reptile assessments, and (2) CEPF-Western Ghats publications in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

1. Western Ghats Reptile Assessments: This was done through a process called Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshop process established by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) of the SSC IUCN. As preparation for the CAMP workshop, three potential assessors were identified and were provided training in Red Listing (RL), mapping (GIS) and in the Species Information System (SIS) of the IUCN Red List in a collaborative training workshop along with the freshwater assessments conducted by ZOO/WILD and IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit with support from CEPF. The three assessors were assigned species from the checklist of reptiles known for the region and basic information was compiled from the literature, preliminary maps developed and draft assessments made in preparation for the CAMP workshop. Unpublished data from experts in the field were gathered through a 'Biological Information Sheet' circulated before the CAMP. At the CAMP workshop the compiled information was evaluated by taxon based working groups and taxon information, assessments and maps were verified through a peer-review process. Post CAMP workshop the data was circulated amongst experts from the workshop and those who could not attend for finalization. The results from the CAMP assessments were conveyed to the Reptile Red List Assessment focal point who verified the assessments against the Red List Criteria and Category guidelines. Justification, validation and other queries, if any, were addressed at this point and the final assessments were submitted to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for updating the database. Results from the assessments were used for protected area analysis (ongoing), developing outreach materials, and for overall analysis for publication in scientific peer-reviewed journal (ongoing). The assessments were also included in the Threatened Taxa Monitoring System database maintained by ZOO/WILD and conveyed also to the Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal.

2. CEPF-Western Ghats publications in the Journal of Threatened Taxa: The objectives of the Journal were circulated to all CEPF Western Ghats grantees encouraging them to submit articles from their work for publication after due peer-review process. Submissions were then subjected to the usual Journal's processes including peer review and the finally accepted ones were sent to one of the members of the specially constituted editorial team for the Western Ghats Special Series for final acceptance and publication. While it was hoped this system would be utilized by most grantees, only a few published prompting us to request the CEPF if we could publish non-CEPF funded Western Ghats projects under the same support, which was kindly agreed upon. The same process was followed and manuscripts accepted were processed for publication in a concurrent issue of the Journal of Threatened Taxa. Authors needing help with respect to better English writing, statistical analysis and scientific presentation were mentored to improve the manuscript for consideration. At the end of the project 821 pages from 69 publications were printed as part of the Western Ghats Special Series in 26 issues.

***Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

The strong network and the collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organization and the South Asian Reptile Network, individual subject experts and NGOs in addition to the prior experience in conducting IUCN Red List Assessments was of utmost value and contributed immensely to project implementation.

The experience in professional publication of a monthly peer-reviewed open access international journal contributed to successful and regular publication of Western Ghats articles in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. An experienced editorial board and English language editors helped with mentoring authors when needed.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community***

None.

## Additional Funding

***Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.***

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
None			

***\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A*** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B*** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C*** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

## Sustainability/Replicability

***Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.***

The assessments from the reptile workshop have provided baseline and updated data for conservation planning and subsequent education projects to be taken up by WILD/ZOO/SARN for implementation in the Western Ghats hotspot. The gaps that the project identified will help prioritise research needs for various network members to pursue. The scientific and technical publications will enhance knowledge and status of conservation and research on Western Ghats biodiversity for members of several taxonomic and interdisciplinary networks to benefit from and formulate strategies.

This project has provided a perfect platform for training in various components to build the country's expertise in these areas. Local scientific, amateur and student communities will benefit from the results if this project.

New information to update reptile assessments carried out by ZOO in 1997 in India, especially from the Western Ghats and the species database that is now current has been used to update species assessments for the region and also provides updates for Western Ghats endemic species updated assessments for WILD's Threatened Taxa Monitoring System database ([www.southasianntaxa.org](http://www.southasianntaxa.org)) and to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The database on reptile assessments including maps will be updated on a regular basis. Members of the reptile network involved in studies are the main sources of information for the updates. The training in the use of the Red List and understanding the intricacies of assessments has provided a good base for data collection. The updated information has been communicated to the IUCN Red List at regular frequency for taking appropriate action. Conservation agencies and policy makers have been updated of rapid changes in assessments and knowledge of species status to take appropriate measures in action and management plans of habitats and species.

The CEPF funded project on Freshwater Biodiversity Unit's assessments of freshwater diversity in the Western Ghats in collaboration with WILD and ZOO have complemented each other and addressed investment priority 2.1 listed by the CEPF Western Ghats Ecosystem Profile.

WILD and ZOO has used the data to integrate results of assessments into regional, national and local policies and conservation protocols, and interact with the state and national governments and forest departments to implement recommendations and plan strategic actions. Communities will be benefited from the findings through the education projects conducted regularly by WILD and ZOO.

The *Journal of Threatened Taxa* will continue to scope for special themes such as Western Ghats biodiversity conservation and bridge the gap between research/planning and conservation/action through rapid dissemination of peer-reviewed contributions. The success of this project will provide replicability in other hotspot regions to either initiate such journals for speedy publication of important findings for conservation, or allow for the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* to provide the service.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

None.

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

Not applicable

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

None.

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

### CEPF Global Targets

### (Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to May 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	NA			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NA			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NA			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NA			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NA			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**

