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# NEWS NOTES

## Man Arrested for Selling Monitor Skin Products

A local vendor at Matheran, a tourist spot in the Indian state of Maharashtra, was arrested and charged with illegally selling reptile skin products. Among the items confiscated were 72 monitor lizard (*Varanus* sp.) skins. The skins are believed to have been collected from somewhere in the Western Ghats.

Source: Press Trust of India 12 October 2009

## IUCN Reviews Status of Philippine Varanids

The Panay monitor (*Varanus mabitang*) has been listed as 'endangered' in the latest assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN cited a limited natural range of around 400 square km which is becoming increasingly fragmented for agricultural uses, as well as the continued hunting of this species, as causes of its decline. The related Gray's monitor (*V. olivaceus*) continues to be listed as 'vulnerable', though a review of the taxonomy of

populations recently discovered in the Northern Sierra Madre Range is needed. The IUCN also listed two Philippine members of the *V. salvator* species-complex (*V. marmoratus* and *V. cumingi*) as 'least concern' and the third (*V. nuchalis*) as 'near-threatened' and declining.

Source: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 3 November 2009, 4 November 2009

## Komodo Dragons Displayed at Phoenix Zoo

The Phoenix Zoo opened a new exhibit featuring a pair of Komodo dragons. The two siblings, named Ivan and Gaia, were hatched at the Cincinnati Zoo fifteen years earlier and originally sent off to separate facilities before being brought back together in Phoenix. Gaia made headlines at the Sedgwick County Zoo, Kansas in 2008 when she became the first North American dragon to produce young via parthenogenesis. The cost of the new \$1 million exhibit was paid for through private donations.

Source: Zoo and Aquarium Visitor News 11 November 2009



*Varanus gouldii*. Queensland.  
Photograph by  
**Andrzej Krzyzanowski**  
ajk@konstancin1.pl

## Announcement of the Second Annual Meeting of the “AG Warane“ of the DGHT

After the positive feedback from the first meeting held last April (see news note in *Biawak* 3[2]: 35), we are pleased to announce that the second annual meeting of the AG Warane is in preparation. The meeting will take place on 24 April 2010 in Hanau near Frankfurt. The meeting starts at 10.30 a.m.

### Location:

Cafe-Restaurant Sandelmühle  
Philipp-August-Schleissner-Weg 2a  
63452 Hanau

### Preliminary Program:

#### **Thomas Hörenberg** (Stuttgart):

“Keeping and breeding of Macrae’s tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*) and caesarean section in *V. (Odatria) tristis orientalis*” (in German).

#### **Klaus Wesiak** (Frankfurt) and **André Koch** (Bonn):

“Successful husbandry and first rearing of *Varanus juxtindicus* Böhme et al., 2002, with remarks on the development of juveniles of this rarely-kept endemic Solomon monitor species” (in German). See report in this issue of *Biawak* pp. 106-121.

#### **Monika Labes** (Germering):

“Report on the Husbandry and Breeding of *Varanus exanthematicus*” (in German).

#### **André Koch** (Bonn):

“News about Southeast Asian monitor lizards” (in German).

Further information and a detailed schedule of events can be found early in 2010 on the AG Warane homepage at [www.agwarane.de](http://www.agwarane.de), or contact Kay Uwe Dittmar (working group leader) at [dittmar@ag-warane.de](mailto:dittmar@ag-warane.de) or André Koch (scientific leader) at [a.koch.zfmk@uni-bonn.de](mailto:a.koch.zfmk@uni-bonn.de).



*Varanus niloticus* basking on deceased *Crocodylus niloticus*. Masai Mara, Kenya.  
Photograph by **Joseph Kimojino**