

## Project Update: June 2012

We distributed questionnaires to NGOs, protected area system in the anti-plague stations, as well as among the population. In a survey of new data on the meetings with the grey monitors. From 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 we did a survey Kyzylkum sands in the South-Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda regions of Kazakhstan. Along 300 km of road routes we found five live grey monitor and three lizards which had died under the wheels of cars on the dirt road. On 40 km of hiking trails we found traces of two monitors. A female monitor (total length of the body with a tail - 126 cm) was rescued from a deep dry well where the animal had lived for more than 2 weeks and was doomed to perish without our intervention. A meeting was held with the head of the Department of Environmental Protection of South-Kazakhstan region in Shymkent. An agreement was made on cooperation in the promotion and protection of the grey monitor lizard. There was a competition for best photo or picture of gray monitor lizard.



Left: Saved from certain death a female of the grey monitor: we got it out of a deep dry well, where she spent more than two weeks and was doomed to starvation. Right: This lizard was killed by a car. Unfortunately, drivers are often under pressure monitors specifically because of the negative attitude towards these reptiles most of the local population.