

## Project Update: May 2016

In March and April 2016, we held 3 lectures about *Varanus griseus* and problems of its conservation for local people, school children and students in the city Shymkent and Almaty (Kazakhstan), in which 75 people attended.

From 4th-8th April 2016, two members of the group participated in the IUCN workshop on reptiles of Central Asia in Sankt-Petersburg (Russia). The latest data were presented about desert monitor in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for assess the IUCN criteria.

From April 25th to May 10th 2016 we undertook expeditionary travel in Northern Kyzylkum along the border with the Republic of Uzbekistan (Kyzylorda region). We conducted the oral survey of border guards and employee's anti-plague detachment about encounters with monitor, and the attitude of the local population to this species of reptile.

We published the brochure about *V. griseus* in Russian (500 copies). Brochures are being translated into Uzbek and Kazakh languages.



Lecture for local people on the desert monitor, the state of its populations and conservation problems on the basis of the Shymkent zoo