

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS HELD IN KENYA

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Following a successful seminar in Nairobi 2007, the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) hosted three regional workshops, in Meru, Kitale and Kisumu respectively, during June and July 2008.

The main theme of these workshops was "The Care, Health and Welfare of Captive Reptiles" but attention was also paid to *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, with particular reference to the global decline of amphibians.

The workshops started with a morning of lectures on the biology of reptiles and amphibians, law and ethics, captive management, welfare, health and diseases. Each afternoon was devoted to practical work. Participants were shown how to assess captive animals in terms of their legal status, management, welfare and health. They then divided into groups and carried out such appraisals themselves, the results of which were then reported to the whole meeting.

This series of workshops was a unique opportunity to provide both theoretical and practical training to nearly one hundred Kenyans from different walks of life – staff of NMK and other government bodies, university researchers, education officers, biologists, a veterinarian, reptile-keepers and fieldworkers.

Literature was provided by various organisations, including the British Herpetological Society, the British Chelonia Group, the British Veterinary Association, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). Course Notes and publicity material were designed and produced by Miss Sally Dowsett.

Full reports of these workshops are in preparation. Further information is available from the organisers: Mrs Damaris Rotich, National Museums of Kenya, PO Box 40658 Nairobi, Kenya, e-mail: drotich@museums.or.ke or Professor John/Mrs Margaret E Cooper, School of Veterinary Medicine, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad& Tobago, e-mail: NGAGI2@gmail.com.

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