



HABITAT PRESERVATION PLAN - HPP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

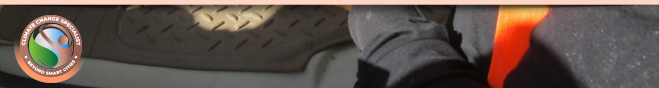
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RELOCATION OF SPINY-TAILED LIZARDS(DHUBS) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES



- Relocation of spiny - tailed lizards- Dhub
- Methodology
- Lizard Relocation Plan
- Results and Discussion



SPINY-TAILED LIZARDS (DHUB)



On a global level, the Spiny -tailed Lizard (Dhub) is listed as vulnerable under the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red list Category, and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. The National Biodiversity Plan of the state of Qatar 2004 lists about 26 species that are at various levels of risk, while the spiny -Tailed Lizard was not among the one listed.

To protect the existing species, it is recommended that the area be restricted from access or fenced off to a radius of 100 meters around the burrows. Additionally, a lizard relocation plan was prepared and implemented for the relocation of Lizard species to area approved by MOE as the competent authority.



SPINY-TAILED LIZARDS (DHUB)+



The spiny-tailed lizard locally known as the 'Dhub', belongs to the genus *Uromastix* of agamid lizards found in Africa and Asia. As the name implies, they are characterized by horizontal spines extending from the base of the tail to the end of the tail. They are also considered vulnerable species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The four phases of the relocation of spiny-tailed lizards is as follows,

Phase I. Survey and Classification of Burrows: burrows were surveyed, and categorized into active and non-active burrows;

Phase II. Lizard Relocation Plan: based on Phase I outcome, a plan was setup identifying methodologies of lizard capture and relocation;



SPINY-TAILED LIZARDS (DHUB)+



Phase III. Safe Capture and Characterization of Lizard Species: lizards were captured using the flooding technique, biometric data was collected, microchips were implanted, and safe refuge was provided for the captured species.

Phase IV. Resettlement of Species to Approved Natural Reserve: species were resettled at Al-Ariq Natural Reserve established under the provisions of Law No.1 of 2006. The success of resettlement will be assessed by subsequent follow-up through microchipping;

Phase V. Lizard Relocation Report: the report presents the complete methodologies adopted, physiological characteristics of captured species, resettlement activities, and overall conclusion of the study.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Survey results showed that a total of 15 burrows were distributed within two main locations of the project area. Burrow examination revealed that 8 out of the total number of burrows identified were inactive, while 7 burrows were active. The number of lizards successfully captured was 7, where 2 were identified as female, 1 as male, and 4 were undistinguishable by sex either because they were juvenile or subadults. The weight and length of the adult species ranged from 455-575 gm and 38-51 cm, respectively. The weight and length of the juvenile species ranged from 215-275 gm and 21-33 cm, respectively. Microchips were implanted within 5 of the captured species due to the small body size of one of the juvenile species.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS +

Captured species were resettled at Al-Ariq Natural Reserve, where artificial burrows were created by manual digging and placement of concrete slabs to serve as burrow roofing. Each of the captured species was introduced into its respective burrow, swiftly seeking refuge upon introduction. These shelters served as temporary burrows allowing lizards to establish their own burrows. Follow-up visit will be carried out to access the success of resettlement and adaptation of spiny-tailed lizards to their new habitats.

METHODOLOGY

This section of the document specifies the methodologies that were adopted through all phases of the work from field survey to safe capture and resettlement of species.

Survey and Classification of Burrows;
✓Surveying the Project project area and identifying lizard habitat localities;
✓Classifying active and non-active burrows within identified localities.

Lizard Relocation Plan;

✓Methodologies to be adopted for every aspect of the relocation process;
✓Timeline for executing the various phases.

METHODOLOGY +

Safe Capture and Characterization of Lizard Species;

Resettlement of Species to Al-Ariq Natural Reserve;

Lizard Relocation Report.



LIZARD RELOCATION PLAN

Following the identification of active and non-active burrows within the study area, a plan was setup detailing every aspect of the relocation process.

The lizard relocation plan was formulated to ensure lizard species were captured, preserved, transported, and resettled using sound scientific methodologies in agreement with regulatory provisions of the State of Qatar and international conventions in which Qatar is a signatory state member of. To meet the objective of this phase, the following measures were taken:

✓ Coordinating with concerned natural reserves for resettlement of lizard species within their boundaries;

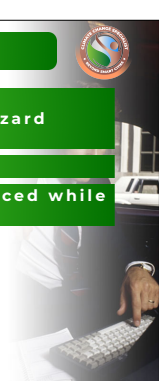


LIZARD RELOCATION PLAN+

✓ Review and adoption of the applicable methodologies for safe capture of lizards, lizard preservation, and resettlement;

✓ Timeline setup for executing activities;

✓ Identification of obstacles that could be faced while executing activities.



LIZARD RELOCATION PLAN+

The final lizard relocation plan contained the following details:

- ✓Description and geographic coordinates of active burrows;
- ✓Timeline for executing activities;
- ✓Lizard capture methodology;
- ✓Methodology for physiological characterization of lizards;
- ✓Methodology for microchipping of captured species;
- ✓Methodology for preservation of lizards in captivity;
- ✓Methodology for resettlement of lizards in Al-Ariq Natural Reserve

LIZARD RELOCATION PLAN+



Manual digging of burrows at Al-Ariq Natural Reserve.



CONCLUSION

The safe capture and preservation of spiny-tailed lizards from project area, and their subsequent resettlement at Al-Ariq Natural Reserve has been carried out with success. The project site is currently void of spiny-tailed lizards and is completely cleared for construction activities to resume. This work has ensured the protection of spiny-tailed lizards from construction and development activities, in line with the sustainable development objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030.