

# Coexisting with **MONITOR LIZARDS**



**Scientific name** *Varanus niloticus*



*Native range of Nile monitor lizards*

## **Africa's longest lizard**

Nile monitors can grow to a **length of more than two metres**.

## **Opportunistic scavengers**

Monitor lizards are **carnivorous**, eating a variety of small animals including birds, frogs, other lizards and rodents. They will also scavenge an easy meal wherever possible.

## **Very agile**

Monitor lizards have long claws and a flexible body. They can **run quickly, climb trees and even swim**. They also have a great sense of smell and good eyesight.

## **Loners with large territories**

Since they are **solitary animals** and need a lot of space, chances are you will only find one monitor lizard in a given area.

## **Burrowing and basking**

Monitor lizards will retreat into a burrow or a hole in the ground when they are threatened or need some downtime. They can also be seen **lying in the sun**; they do this to raise their body temperatures.

## **Wary when approached**

These lizards will **avoid contact with people** and often run away when humans walk near them. They are rarely aggressive unless threatened or cornered.

The genus *Varanus* is internationally protected under CITES Appendix II and the National Parks and Wildlife Act of Malawi.

# Ways to live happily with **MONITOR LIZARDS**



**Monitor lizards are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. They help clear up dead animals and can reduce pests around houses. They may look intimidating but in reality pose little threat to human safety provided we respect them.**

## **Give them space**

Monitor lizards do not want to attack humans; you may find that their first instinct is to move away from people. If given space and a way out, they will usually avoid interacting with people. However, if you approach them aggressively, corner them and try to touch them, they may defend themselves with claws and a whip-like tail.

## **Share space, when possible**

They will be eating rodent pests and may help protect your stores. As they scavenge, clearing up old and rotting animals, they help keep the environment clean.

## **Keep chickens and young livestock secured**

Monitor lizards may pose a risk to your small animals. Create a safe place for chickens to forage and sleep so you can protect them from monitor lizards.

## **Ensure pools and ponds have a way for lizards to get out**

Monitor lizards like to swim and are attracted to large bodies of water. Sometimes they will get stuck in swimming pools. To prevent this, ensure water levels are high enough for them to climb out or place large branches or logs as ladders.

# Kuyanjana (kukhalira limodzi) ndi **N'GAZI / ABULUZI**



**Scientific name** *Varanus niloticus*



## **Buluzi wantali kwambiri mu dziko la la Africa**

Abuluzi amtundu uwu amatalika mulingo wamamitazi awiri.

## **Amasaka**

Abuluzi awa amadya nyama monga mbalame, achule, abuluzi anzawo ndi mbewa. Kuphatikiza apo akapeza chakudya paliponse amadya.

## **Amathamanga**

Abuluzi awa ali ndi zikhadabo zazitali komanso thupi lopepuka. Amathamanga, kukwera mitengo ndi kusambila. Alinso ndi kunukhiza kwa mphamvu ndi kuthekera kuona patali.

## **Amakhala mmalo awokha**

Amakhala pawokha ndipo amafunika malo ambiri, Mkothekera kupezeka buluzi mmodzi pamalo.

## **Kubisala ndi kuothera dzuwa**

Abuluzi amathawira kubwenje akakhala pachiwopsezo kapena akafuna kupuma komanso amakhala padzuwa kuti atenthetse matupi awo.

## **Tcheru**

Amapewa kuyandikana ndi anthu ndipo amathawa ngati anthu abwera pafupi. Alibe chipongwe pokhapokha ngati awopsezedwa kapena kusawutsidwa.

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# Njira zoyanjanilana ndi **N'GAZI / ABULUZI**



**Abuluzi ambiri ndi ofunikila ku chilengedwe. Amathandiza kuchotsa zinyama zakufa zomwe zawola komanso kuchepetsa tizilombo mnyumba. Amawoneka ngati osowetsa mtendere koma chilungamo nchakuti palibe vuto lomwe angawopseze nalo munthu bola kupewa.**

## **Pelekani mpata**

Abuluzi safuna kupanga chipongwe munthu; muwona kuti choyambilira iwo ndikuthawa pakafika munthu. Ngati apatsidwa mpata amapewa kukhala pafupi ndi munthu. Koma ngati achitidwa chipongwe kapena kufuna kuwagwira amaziteteteza okha ndi zikhadabo pokala, ndi kukwapula ndi ntchira wake.

## **Pelekani mpata ngati nkotheke**

Amakhala akudya mbewa ndi tizilombo komanso kuthandiza kuteteza malo akatundu wanu. Pamene akusaka, kuchotsa zinyama zakufa, ndiye kuti malo akusamalika.

## **Sungani ndi kuteteza nkuku ndi ziweto**

Akhoza kubweletsa chiwopsezo ku ziweto zanu. Kukonza malo otetezeka ankhuku okhala ndi ogona ndiye kuti mwateteza ku abuluzi.

## **Wonetsetsani kuti malo aDamu, Damu losambamo ndi malo ena osungila madzi ali ndi njira zoti abuluzi atha kutulukilamo**

Abuluzi amakonda kusambira ndipo amakhala ndi chikoka ndi madzi ambiri. Nthawi zina amakanilila m'damu losamba. Kupewa izi wonetsetsani kuti mulingo wamadzi ndi wautali kuti akhoza kutulukamo kapena ikani masamba kapena dzikuni zikhale ngati makweleru.