



**Wildlife At Risk**

Statement of receipts and payments  
for the year ended 30 June 2014

## **PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT**

### **Background**

Wildlife At Risk (WAR) is dedicated to protecting the biodiversity of Vietnam by combating the illegal wildlife trade, raising environmental awareness and promoting the conservation of endangered species and their habitats.

WAR is a non-profit organization, registered in Delaware on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2003. It is based in Ho Chi Minh City ("HCMC") and active throughout the southern provinces of Vietnam.

Vietnam's wildlife faces a desperate fight for survival in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Without urgent intervention, many of the country's endangered species will soon be wiped out. They are being driven to extinction by habitat loss, hunting, pollution and, above all, the flourishing illegal wildlife trade. WAR aims to reduce the pressure on Vietnam's threatened biodiversity by helping to build local capacity to implement legislation, raise environmental awareness and develop alternatives to the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Responding to specific priorities identified by local government, and working with appropriate specialists and project partners, WAR focuses on three interlocking themes:

- Enforcement – Action to reduce the exploitation of endangered species and to support the confiscation, rehabilitation and possible release of illegal traded wildlife;
- Raising awareness – Influencing behaviour, changing attitudes to wildlife and promoting sustainable use of natural resources; and
- Protection in the wild – In site conservation to safeguard specific endangered species and their habitats.

## WILDLIFE AT RISK - ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-2014

### Overview

The focus of the last 12 months has been on increasing public awareness of Wildlife at Risk's (WAR's) work and biodiversity conservation. This has been achieved primarily through upgrading the wildlife education centre at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) and activities that involve students and local people in protecting and caring for wildlife.

Continuing to maintain the wildlife rescue centres and providing technical solutions for law enforcement authorities' makes WAR become one of the most experienced NGOs in the field of wildlife rescue in Vietnam. Due to WAR's experience there is a great demand from local partners for assistance with their wildlife rescue activities and staff training. There has been a sharp increase in confiscated wildlife and voluntarily handed in wildlife to WAR's wildlife rescue centres. This reflects both trust from the communities in WAR's work and also their expertise and reputation in these areas. Through the regular release of wildlife it is possible that the biodiversity and species population can be both protected and conserved.

WAR has continued to follow up its previous ground work in the area with several public awareness projects to educate young people and raise awareness of local communities. One outstanding outcome of the mission to raise public awareness is the increasing number of WAR volunteers. Also a success has been the acceptance of the training curriculum in biology by grade 7 teachers at secondary schools as directed by the Department of Training and Education in Ho Chi Minh City.

The following figures reflect the impact of WAR's activities on natural conservation in Vietnam and also the challenges faced by the organisation during the period July 2013 to June 2014:

- **Approximately 1,300 heads of 60 types of wildlife** have been transferred to the Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) at CCWRS and Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station (HMWRS) in Kien Giang province. The figure reflects a 2.5 times increase compared to the previous twelve months (*July 2012 – June 2013*). This increase has placed challenges on WAR in its effort to continue to save wildlife and conserve diversity of species.
- **Nearly 2,000 heads of fresh water fish** have been released back into the Saigon River and her tributaries. This activity received interest from young students and illustrates the positive action of conservation by the students. WAR will continue this captive breeding programme for conservation in order to save wildlife and protect the biodiversity of Vietnam.
- **About 1,200 individual wildlife** have been released back to the wild from various WAR rescue stations.
- Up to June 2014, at least 7 mammals which include small-clawed otter, java pangolin, Yellow-cheeked gibbon, Stump-tailed macaque, Elongated tortoise, Yellow-headed temple turtle and Leopard cat have been successfully breeding at our WRS and many of them have been released back to the wild. This is remarkable for WAR's staffs in their effort to work and save wildlife, particularly in the last 12 months, with three of the species successfully breeding.

