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Welcome

In this issue, you will learn about the uncovered illegal dugong trading activities on Phu Quoc Island and what happens when you report wildlife crime using WAR's hotline. The Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station (HMWRS) was officially opened and is able to rescue wildlife in the Mekong Delta Region. The other two wildlife rescue stations managed by WAR have once again been busy with rescue and release activities. WAR's SOS traveling exhibition was back to Ho Chi Minh City's secondary schools for the academic year 2012-2013. WAR latest contest, creating wildlife computer games was launched amongst secondary school as well.

WAR highly appreciates all the support it receives from individuals, companies and institutions for our wildlife conservation activities.



New born pangolin clings to its mother at Cu Chi WRS

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam

*This baby **Javan Pangolin** (*Manis javanica*) was born at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station in July. It will suckle and cling to the base of its mother tail for roughly 3 months. Both the mother and father were rescued from forest snares and are missing one leg, meaning they will never be returned to the wild. They were rescued by WAR and Ho Chi Minh City Forest Protection Department in August 2010. Please read more on [our website](#)).*

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Contact

Wildlife At Risk – WAR
202/10 Nguyen Xi St., Ward 26, Binh Thanh Dist., HCMC
Tel : +84 8 38997314, Fax : +848 3899 7316
Email : info@wildlifeatrisk.org, Website : www.wildlifeatrisk.org

Editor

Khoi Nguyen Vu – CEO
Compilations and layout
Huyen Do Thi Thanh – Wildlife Education Manager
Tay Quach Du – Wildlife Education Assistant

Contributeurs

Tay Quach Du, Simon Faithfull, Lam Le Xuan,
Manh Huu Bui, Cuong Nguyen Van, Lan Ho
Thi Kim, Thai Nguyen Thanh

Release native fishes to the wild



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Members of E-Green club release native fish to the wild

Ho Chi Minh City, 23th September 2012 - Instructed and supported by Wildlife at Risk (WAR), more than 37 members of the E-Green Club – Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry, rode bicycles to release native fishes to the wild. This activity aims to call for Ho Chi Minh residents to use native fishes for aquariums and to contribute to repopulating this species in the wildlife. It also draws public attention to help raise their awareness on conservation issues and environmental protection.

Starting from WAR's Head Office, E-Green members cycled through HCMC's major streets and came to the Nhieu Loc Canal, beside Dien Bien Phu 2 Bridge, Binh Thanh District where the native fishes were released, over 200 native Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*), a relatively common species. This rasbora species is able to live in seriously polluted water. It could also survive in small closed water sources during the dry season. As this fish feeds on organic matters, it is able to clean organic substances from domestic waste water.

To date, WAR has released over 1200 individuals of native fishes to the wild, including Fighting fish (*Betta splendens*), Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) and Croaking Gourami. These fishes were bred in the programme titled "Breeding and release native fishes to the wild" that was partly supported by LIN (Center for Community Development).



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Native Rasbora was released to the wild

Some new results of plant survey on Phu Quoc Island



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

Enkleia sp. of Phu Quoc Island – Up side down



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

Enkleia sp. of Phu Quoc Island - Front side leaves

With this preliminary evidence, this could be a new species of *Enkleia*, both of which belong to the family *Thymaleaceae*. An initial population of around 10 trees has been recorded at an elevation of 200m (a.s.l). WAR's consultant said: "It is true to say that this possible new species of plant found on Phu Quoc is very interesting and we need to conduct further studies". At the same time, another forest orchid *Gramatophyllum speciosum* was recorded and still lives on the tree *Tristaniopsis merguensis* at an elevation of 75m (a.s.l).

This is the second time, since 2006, WAR's consultant and Phu Quoc National Park' staff recorded this species in the wild. WAR believes that the protection to Phu Quoc's forest must be enhanced to help conserve the unique biodiversity of the island.

Kien Giang, September 2012 – Responding to a request from rangers of Phu Quoc National Park, helping identify a climbing tree with the fragrant scent of frankincense, WAR has sent a consultant to conduct a short trip and record a species of *Enkleia* sp. on September 2012. According to Pham Hoang Ho 1999, Vietnam has one species (*Enkleia siamensis*), and this grows up in the Phan Rang' region. However, the description of the Phan Rang' species is different from the one recently identified on Phu Quoc island.



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Enkleia sp. of Phu Quoc Island – Adults tree



©WAR/Nguyen Tran Quoc Trung

Gramatophyllum speciosum – the biggest forest orchid species of the world on Phu Quoc Island

Rescue and release figures of the quarter

In this quarter, **82 individuals of 25 endangered** wildlife species were rescued including Northern White-cheeked Gibbons, Yellow-checked Crested Gibbons, Pygmy Loris, Indochinese Silver Langur, Stump Tailed Macaque, Pig Tailed Macaque, Small Asia Mongoose, Binturong, Civet, Bamboo Rat, Red Bellied Squirrel, Wild Pig, Sunda Pangolin, King Cobra, Monocellate Cobra, Indo-Chinese Rat Snake, Radiated Rat Snake, Burmese Python, Reticulated Python, Clouded Monitor, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle, Stripe-necked Leaf Turtle, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle, Elongated Tortoise and Giant Asian Pond Turtle.

At the same time, **64 individuals of 18 species** were released back to the wild including Yellow-checked Crested Gibbon, Asiatic Brush-tailed Porcupine, Civet, Red Bellied Squirrel, Bamboo Rat, Burmese Ferret-Badger, Wild Pig, Sunda Pangolin, Elongated Tortoise, Stripe-necked Leaf Turtle, Black Marsh Turtle, Giant Asian Pond Turtle, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle, Indo-Chinese Rat Snake, Reticulated Python, King Cobra, Monocellate Cobra and Clouded Monitor.

What's happen when you report wildlife crime using WAR's hotline?

**WAR's hotline:
0976 06 76 46**

When you call WAR's hotline to report on wildlife crime or any other issue related to wildlife, your case will be responded to immediately by one of our dedicated wildlife case workers.

If your report is about, **wildlife trade on the streets or in restaurants**, we will immediately contact the Forest Protection Department in that city where you saw this crime and ask them to check for and confiscate the wildlife if possible.

If your call is **about how to donate or hand over wildlife to our rescue stations**, our professional staff will call back immediately to guide you on how to hand it to us, and more importantly, how to take care of the wildlife while waiting to hand it to us.

Your call could save Vietnam's wildlife. Why wait! Let's work together and save the wildlife.



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

Local people call WAR's hotline then hand over endangered wildlife.

Call our hotline: 0976 06 76 46, anytime, any day of the week.

Illegal dugong trade activities on Phu Quoc Island uncovered

Kien Giang, 6th September 2012 – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) detected an **illegal trade network of dugongs** (*Dugong dugon*) that are classified as critically endangered in the Vietnam Red Book and other endangered marine wildlife on Phu Quoc Island. WAR immediately conducted an investigation then confirmed the information after a local residents on Phu Quoc island, Kien Giang province actively call WAR's hotline and informed that an individual dugong weighing about 100 kg was killed and sold to local restaurants.

After being caught and killed on the ship, the dugong was sold to an intermediary trader in Duong Dong Town who used to sell seafood at Duong Dong market, named Ms. Be. Dugong meat and skin was delivered directly to retail traders or restaurants on Phu Quoc Island with the retail prices ranging from 400,000 VND to 550,000 VND per kilogram for dugong meat. Also, around 200,000VND to 450,000 VND per kilogram is the ranged price of endangered Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) sold to restaurants on the island.



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

A piece of Dugong skin sold on Phu Quoc Island in August 2012

WAR highly appreciates and thanks the local people on Phu Quoc Island who have cooperated with WAR in the process of detecting this illegal trading network. We are looking forward to receiving wildlife crime reports to WAR's hotline at: **0976 06 76 46.**

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Local people hand over Pygmy Loris



The rescued Pygmy Loris

Last July, Mr. An Phu, a local resident from Thu Duc District, Ho Chi Minh City contacted WAR's hotline and voluntarily handed over a Pygmy Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) to the Cu Chi WRS. The Loris weighed 300 gram and had terrible skin loss on its front paw due to a type of a fungal disease. Mr. An Phu bought this loris because he felt so sorry for it. He really wanted WAR to receive the loris, successfully rehabilitate and release it back to the wild.

Two other Pygmy Loris were also handed over voluntarily to Cu Chi WRS in August 2012. One of the loris is in very bad condition but is now being well taken care by WAR's veterinarian and wildlife keepers at the station. The other is currently being rehabilitated for possible release back to the forest. Mrs. Dan Phuong, a local resident from Binh Thanh District, HCMC contacted WAR and handed these two lories after reading an article about WAR's rescue station.

WAR highly appreciates this action and encourages other people to hand over wildlife to our rescue stations.

However, WAR encourages everyone not to purchase wildlife for any purpose.



The Pygmy Loris handed over

Northern Buffed-cheeked Gibbon rescued from Central Highlands

Kon Tum, 15th August 2012 – A male Northern Buffed-cheeked Gibbon (*Nomascus annamensis*) weighing roughly 3.5kg in fairly good condition was successfully rescued from Kon Tum Province, Central Highlands of Vietnam.



The rescued gibbon enjoys its new comfortable facility at Cu Chi WRS

The gibbon was bought from minority people and kept as pet in Ward 2, Sa Thay Town, Kon Tum province. The local people who had kept the gibbon decided to hand it to Chu Mom Ray National Park. Kindly supported by the Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) and the International Primate Protection League (IPPL), the gibbon was successfully rescued and transferred to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. The gibbon is now being well taken care of by WAR staff at the station. It is also being rehabilitated so that it can be released back to its home forest in the central highlands.

This is the second time the DLF, Chu Mom Ray National Park have cooperated with WAR to rescue endangered wildlife. The male Northern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon that was rescued last May (2011) was also successfully released back to the forest of Chu Mom Ray National Park.

Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station officially goes to work



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

This Indochinese Slivered Langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*) was confiscated in July 2012, by the FPD of Kien Luong District, Kien Giang Province from local people who hunted it in the forest. This is the first time; WAR has ever rescued this species. The Langur is being cared for at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station.

Kien Giang, 27th July 2012 – Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station that is situated in Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province was successfully inaugurated. With a total area of three hectares, Hon Me WRS rescues bears and other endangered wildlife species found in the Mekong Delta region. At the Station, rescued wildlife receives good care and rehabilitation by WAR staff before being possibly released back to the wild.

Hon Me WRS was established in 2008, this part of the project was titled "Construction of a Bear Rescue Station" supported by WAR, Free the Bears (FTB) and the Brigitte Bardot Foundation. The Station was officially named "Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station" in January 2011 and is directly managed by WAR in cooperation with Kien Giang provincial, Forest Protection Department (FPD), with great support from Kien Giang Union of Friendship Organisation.

Currently, more than 50 individuals making up 15 different endangered species have been rescued and transferred to the Hon Me WRS. Most of them were transferred from Cu Chi WRS and Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. The others were confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade or handed voluntarily by local persons.

"The infrastructure improvement of the Hon Me WRS so that it is able to rescue different wildlife species is one effort of WAR to protect endangered wildlife from extinction. The strong support and cooperation of related bodies are fundamental for the operation of Hon Me WRS. We believe that with this cooperation, more and more wildlife will be successfully rescued in the coming time" - said Mr. Dominic Scriven, WAR's Trustee.

Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

Rescue and release, turtles and snakes

August 2012, Cat Tien and Wild Cat Rescue Station received three Giant Asian Pond Turtles, 1 Asian Leaf Turtle, 3 Indochinese Rat Snake and 1 Bocourt's Water Snake. These amazing reptiles were rescued by the Forest Protection Department, Cat Tien National Park.



©WAR/Nguyen Van Cuong

Giant Asian Pond Turtles were release to the nature

After receiving intensive care for one week at the station, these species were successfully released back to the Forest of Cat Tien National Park, where they belong.

Support WAR and its partners to keep Vietnams' wildlife, WILD.

SOS Travelling Exhibition back to secondary schools

Ho Chi Minh City, 20th August 2012 – The “SOS Travelling Exhibition - Education on wildlife product consumption” has officially restarted for school year 2012 - 2013 at Ba Dinh Secondary School, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City. More than 670 students and teachers participated in this exhibition during three days.



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Welcome students to SOS Tent

With WAR’s message, “Say no to illegal wildlife products”, the SOS travelling exhibition aims to educate children on wildlife product consumption and encourage them to take part in saving Vietnam’s endangered wildlife. Children visiting the SOS educational tent saw, but also heard, touched and interacted with the exhibits and videos about wildlife consumption.

The SOS exhibition was launched in December (2011) in the cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training and HCMC Forest Protection Department. More than 15,000 students aged 12-15 years old and teachers from 36 secondary schools in Ho Chi Minh City have participated in the exhibition in academic year 2011-2012. In this school year, the SOS exhibition will travel to secondary schools of District 5 and 6, targeting roughly 15,000 students and teachers.



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

University volunteers training

Before the re-opening of the SOS exhibition, more than 30 volunteers from different universities across HCMC who guide the students at the exhibition were carefully trained. They are now ready to help secondary school students visiting and learning at the exhibition.

Discovering the nature of Can Gio Biosphere Reserve

Ho Chi Minh City, 15th July 2012 –Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in cooperation with Khan Quang Do Magazine successfully conducted a one-day study tour titled “Discover the nature of Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve” for about 30 children aged 11 to 15 years old from the “I Love Nature” Club and “Young Media” Club – Khan Quang Do magazine. After the trip, the children understood more about the mangrove ecosystem, highly appreciated the nature and committed to practice positive behaviours towards nature and wildlife.



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

Members of “I Love Nature” club discover Can Gio Mangrove Forest

Children were excited with various creative activities and games during the trip, including searching for animal tracks, researching snails, collecting the fruits of *Bakau Minyak* – a dominant plant species in the mangrove forest, observing bats hanging from trees and learning about oyster and crab farms. The trip was an interesting and memorable experience to all participants.



©WAR/Quach Du Tay

Students learnt about the value of nature

Take part in Nature protection

A project update

July 2012 – Forty children from I love Nature Club and Young Media Club learnt about the importance of wildlife and how to write articles about nature.

August 2012 - September 2012 – Members of the, I love Nature Club learnt about threats to wildlife and how to explain and persuade other people to stop negative behaviours and practice positive ones, in order to protect the nature and wildlife. They also learnt about Bear species.

September 2012 – A contest on creating computer games for secondary school students were launched. The contest will last for three months from September to November 2012. (Read more about this contest on our website at [here](#))

Donations and supports

This quarter, WAR continues receiving precious supports from Individuals and institutions.

27th July – Students from **International School of South Sai Gon Pearl** created drawings that were sold at the Silent Auction at the school. All money raised from selling these drawings was kindly donated towards WAR's activities. We would like to express our sincere thanks to these students and the school for their generous support.

August 2012 - Osprey once again donated towards WAR's conservation activities throughout Vietnam. WAR highly appreciates Osprey for its generous annual support.

16th July 2012 - Two Vietnamese high school students aged 17, from the NIVA International School in Thailand, **Bui Thanh Tung and Bui Ngo Thanh Truc**, spent one week voluntarily clean aquariums and feeding native fishes in the programme titled "Breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild" at WAR's headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City. Previously, the two students also attended WAR's paying volunteer programme at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. WAR highly appreciates this action and encourages other students as well as public to join WAR and save endangered wildlife.

September 2012 - Year 12 students from the British International School AP2 Campus, who visited the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) in May, have actively fundraised by holding a dancing competition, where students voted for their favourite teacher to dance in front of the whole school. This fun competition raised over 12,000,000vnd and will eventually go towards to upgrade of the wildlife education centre at CCWRS.



©WAR/Quach Du Tay

High school students voluntarily clean aquariums and feeding native fishes



©WAR/Quach Du Tay

International School Students donate to help WAR

Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)

The gaur is an extremely large mammal with a strong and muscular built body. Large males or bulls can weigh up to 1,500kg. The gaur is a herbivore and feeds on fresh grasses, leaves and other vegetation. Gaur spent most of the daytime feeding.

Where gaurs are not disturbed, they are basically diurnal. But in other areas suffering from human impact, they have to venture out of the forest searching for food at night, which can lead to human-gaur conflict.

Gaur are listed as endangered in the Vietnam Red Book. The number of Gaurs in Vietnam has steadily reduced due to illegal hunting, trading and forest destruction.

