

This Monocellate Cobra is now enjoying its freedom life at Lo Go Xa Mat National Park after spending sometime at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station for rehabilitation.

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## Welcome

In this first quarter of the year, our conservation programme is accelerating its activities in different areas including a Sambar Deer survey in U Minh Ha National Park; three pre-surveys on Dugong, fresh water fishes and biodiversity in Tho Chu Island, Logo Xa Mat National Park and Nui Chua National Park respectively; and an orchid species was recorded for the first time in the South. We continue our efforts in educating and calling people to use native fishes for ornamental purposes and lucky releasing. The SOS travelling exhibition is about to have a summer vacation. Please read those stories inside.

From this issue, you are invited to **play a wildlife game with us** i.e. looking at a wildlife product and tell us which animal is the victim.

We are looking forward for your kindly supports to the Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

Thank you.  
*Khoi Nguyen Vu - WAR's CEO*

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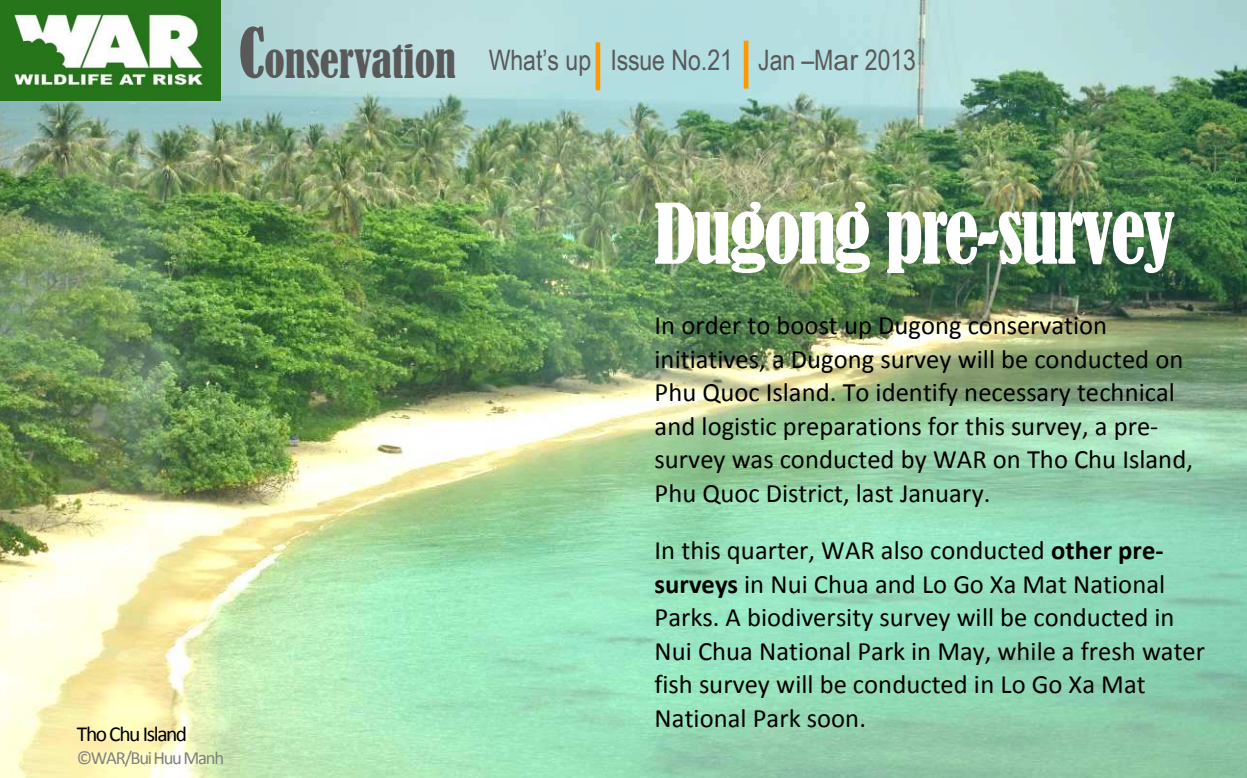
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Tho Chu Island  
©WAR/Bui Huu Manh

## Dugong pre-survey

In order to boost up Dugong conservation initiatives, a Dugong survey will be conducted on Phu Quoc Island. To identify necessary technical and logistic preparations for this survey, a pre-survey was conducted by WAR on Tho Chu Island, Phu Quoc District, last January.

In this quarter, WAR also conducted **other pre-surveys** in Nui Chua and Lo Go Xa Mat National Parks. A biodiversity survey will be conducted in Nui Chua National Park in May, while a fresh water fish survey will be conducted in Lo Go Xa Mat National Park soon.

## Sambar Deer Survey



Sam Bar Deer  
©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

**March 2013** - WAR supported U Minh Thuong National Park to conduct a survey on wild Sambar Deer in U Minh Ha National Park. The survey aims to learn about situation of wild Sambar Deer in U Minh Ha National Park. Base on the survey result, solutions to repopulate wild Sambar Deer populations in U Minh Thuong National Park will be initiated. More than 100 individuals of Sambar Deers, numerous footprints and dungs were recorded in the survey. The survey will be conducted again in rainy season to better understand this species. Result of the survey and initiative for repopulating Sambar Deer species in U Minh Thuong National Park will be revealed then.



Releasing fishes to Ben Cat River  
©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

## Releasing more native fishes

**March 2013** – Twenty students from University of Science, University of Economic, Marketing University and University of Agriculture and Forestry came together to release about 200 native fishes to the wild and to learn about how to breed and raise native fishes for aquarium.

The 200 individuals of Fighting Fish and Three-lined Rasbora were released to Ben Cat River- a tributary of Sai Gon River, Binh Thanh District. This is the nine time, native fishes have been released to the wild, which adds up to over 1500 individuals of native fishes released to different tributaries of Sai Gon River. WAR strongly encourages local people to use native fishes for ornamental purposes and lucky releasing.



Learn about native fishes at WAR's office in HCMC  
©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan



## Support National Park set up native fish aquariums

WAR provided technical supports and necessary equipments for U Minh Thuong National Park to set up fresh water fish aquariums. Native fishes and native aquatic weeds those are potential for ornamental purposes were collected in the National Park and raised in those aquariums. These aquariums are now being displayed for visitors and students who visit U Minh Thuong National Park in order to call them using native fishes and native aquatic weeds for ornamental purposes and lucky releasing.

This is one activity of the programme titled “Breeding and releasing native fishes back to the wild”, started in 2010 by WAR.



Epidendroideae recorded at U Minh Thuong National Park  
©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

## Epidendroideae recorded for the first time in the south

Epidendroideae (*Pachystoma pubescens*) (Hậu khẩu lông) was known as an orchid species distributed in the south of Vietnam. However, no body knows exactly it's distribution areas.

During a quick survey in U Minh Thuong National Park last March, the species was recorded by WAR staff.



Habitat of the Epidendroideae  
©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



## Rescue and release

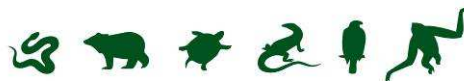
- In this quarter, **51** individuals of 10 endangered wildlife species were rescued including Leopard Cat, Pygmy Loris, Small-clawed Otter, Large Indian Civet, Asian Palm Civet, Bengal Monitor, Burmese Ferret-badger, Lesser Whistling-duck, Black Winged Kite and Barn Owl.
- At the same time, **46** individuals of 8 species were released back to the wild including Small-clawed Otter, Asian Palm Civet, Burmese Ferret-Badger, Radiated Rat Snake, Monocellate Cobra, Bengal Monitor, Lesser Whistling-Duck, and Black-winged Kite.

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam

### Leopard Cat Rescued

These two healthy Leopard Cats were handed voluntarily to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station this March by a local people who bought them from a road side vendor four months ago. The Leopard Cats are now in safe hands and getting ready to be released to the wild soon.

07.03.2013



WAR does not encourage purchasing wildlife for any purpose, including handing it to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station.

Purchasing wildlife creates a demand for wildlife trade and thus more wildlife will be hunted for sale, and more wildlife will be in the danger of extinction.

## Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

In this quarter, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) leads all three WAR's rescue facilities in the number of wildlife individuals rescued and released. Cu Chi WRS is also a favourite place for many visitors and students to learn about wildlife, wildlife rescue activities and wildlife conservation.

*Cu Chi WRS welcomes tourist, student and anyone who is interested in learning about wildlife rescuing and releasing activities.*

### Bengal Monitor released

Six individuals of Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) confiscated from an illegal trade in Binh Duong province were successfully released to the forest of Lo Go Xa Mat National Park, Tay Ninh Province last February. The Bengal Monitor is listed in Vietnam Red Book as Endangered species (EN) and is protected under Vietnam Law.



22.02.2013



## Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

In this quarter, ten individuals of porcupine were released to the semi wild area of Hon Me WRS. This **soft releasing** helps the porcupines to get used to the nature environment and be fully rehabilitated before being released to its suitable habitats. Some individuals of the Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons are also soft released to the semi wild area of the station. The processes provide useful information and knowledge for the future releasing.

Hon Me WRS was happy to welcome a **baby Stump-tailed Macaque** (*Macaca arctoides*) born at the station this March.



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

## Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo above and guess what species is victim of the illegal wildlife trade and consumption?  
Please go to page 8 for correct answer.

## Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

You are welcome to visit Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station to earn exciting experience with Bear, Leopard and other rescued wildlife here.

This Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) is now enjoying her freedom life in the jungle of Cat Tien National Park. In May 2012, the civet was rescued from an illegal hunting by Da Houai District Forest Protection Department, Lam Dong Province.



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



## Competition on initiating ideas for wildlife computer games

**Ho Chi Minh City, dated 13<sup>rd</sup> January 2013** – The awarding ceremony praising 17 best ideas of the competition on initiating ideas for wildlife computer games entitled “Call of the Forest”, was successfully implemented by WAR in cooperation with Khan Quang Do magazine.

With the message “*Saving Vietnam’s endangered wildlife*”, the contest lasted from 5<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012, received more than 400 entries. “*Through innocent and creative eyes of children, wild nature was captured in a vivid way in those game ideas. The computer games developed from those ideas will be educative exciting and attractive for secondary school children*”, said Mr.Cuong Nguyen Khac, Editor in Chief of Khan Quang Do Magazine.

The idea titled “Hero of the forest” of Anh Nguyen Phuong, a 14 years old girl from Nguyen Du Secondary School, Ho Chi Minh City was given the first prize. This game idea and other best ideas are being developed into computer games and will be uploaded onto WAR’s website for everyone to play in this April.



Anh Nguyen Phuong receiving the first prize  
©WAR/KQD/Trong Nghia

## SOS Travelling Exhibition school year 2012-2013

The SOS Travelling Exhibition is wholeheartedly welcome by secondary school students anywhere it comes. Many children wishes that their friends in other classes and other schools could enjoy the tent, just like them.



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

In the second semester of school year 2012-2013, over 7,000 children aged 12 - 15 years old and teachers from six secondary schools in District 6 enthusiastically participated in the SOS Travelling Exhibition, adding up to about 15,000 secondary school students in Ho Chi Minh City being educated about wildlife consumption in academic year 2012-2013.

Launched in December 2011 in cooperation with HCMC Department of Education and Training and HCMC Forest Protection Department, the SOS Travelling Exhibition has been travelling to 48 secondary schools, targeted approximate 30,000 secondary school students and teachers. Please contact Huyen Do Thi Thanh – WAR’s Wildlife Education Manager at [Huyen.dtt@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:Huyen.dtt@wildlifeatrisk.org) for further information and supports for this exciting SOS Traveling Tent.

## Year 4 BIS visited Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Over 120 students of Year 4 from British International School (BIS) spend an exciting time at Cu Chi WRS this March. At Cu Chi WRS, they observed the wildlife, learnt stories of different animals and discussed on how the wildlife should be protected. After the trip, many children are willing to take actions to help WAR protect endangered wildlife.



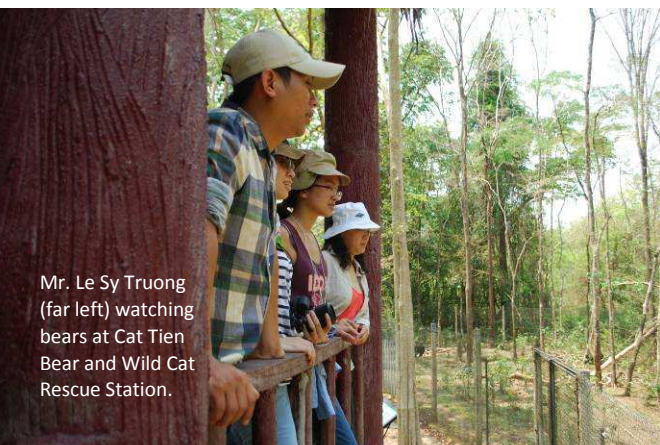
©WAR/Le Xuan Lam





**Year 4 students from British International School (BIS)** raised fund by having a spellathon and donated to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. The cash helps to feed all gibbons at Cu Chi WRS for at least a month. WAR is highly appreciated this support and donation.

**Talisman staff Mr. Le Sy Truong** donated cash to purchase food for rescued bears at Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. WAR is grateful for this precious donation.



Mr. Le Sy Truong (far left) watching bears at Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station.

## Le Ngoc Han is growing up

Thanks to children from Le Ngoc Han Primary School



*Le Ngoc Han - four months old*

### Profile

**Given name:** Le Ngoc Han (named by sponsor)

**Scientific name:** Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon

**Gender:** Female

**DOB:** 31 May 2011

**Birth place:** Cu Chi WRS

**Sponsor:** Le Ngoc Han Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City on 15 Sept 2011

**Parent:** Confiscated from an illegal captivity in Binh Duong Province.

Le Ngoc Han is now one year and ten months old. Just like all other Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons at her age, her beautiful bright yellow fur is turning into black.

In the next two years, she will be sexual maturity and her fur's colour changes again. At that time, Miss Le Ngoc Han will have a bright yellow fur, while all male Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons at her age will keep the black fur for the whole life.

It might take several months for a Gibbon to complete its fur's colour changing.

**WAR extremely thanks and highly appreciates the kind donations from students of Le Ngoc Han Primary School in 2011 and 2012. Your donation makes change to at least one life of this beautiful endangered gibbon.**



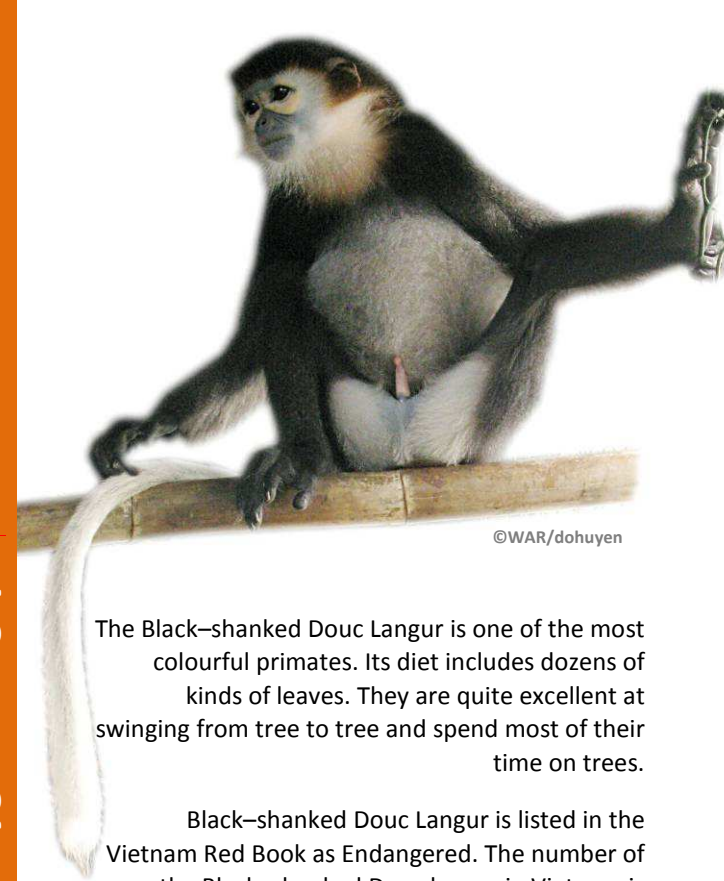
Le Ngoc Han – One year and ten months old. The yellow fur is turning into black.  
©WAR/Le Xuan Lam





## Black-shanked Douc Langur

*Pygathrix nigripes*



©WAR/dohuyen

The Black-shanked Douc Langur is one of the most colourful primates. Its diet includes dozens of kinds of leaves. They are quite excellent at swinging from tree to tree and spend most of their time on trees.

Black-shanked Douc Langur is listed in the Vietnam Red Book as Endangered. The number of the Black-shanked Douc langur in Vietnam is steadily declined due to illegal hunting for pet, meat and medicine. Deforestation is also a main threat to this species.

**Many people believe that eating penis of this species and some other wildlife could help them to have a better sex. There is no scientific proof for this. Do not harm this beautiful creature only because of a rumour.**

