



Welcome

This quarter, WAR is happy to announce the winners from the drawing contest in memory of the Javan Rhino and other Vietnamese Endangered species. WAR also conducted a survey identifying the consumption of wild animal products in Ho Chi Minh City.

A total of 11 hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and one green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) weighing between 3.8 – 27 kgs were being kept at Suoi Tien on display for the general public. Representatives from Suoi Tien Cultural Tourist Park were eventually persuaded by local governmental officials to hand the endangered turtles over to WAR staff to be successfully transferred to the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) on 20th June 2011.

WAR would like to thank the ongoing support of all its donors and encourages everyone to support us in the effort to Save Vietnams' Unique Wildlife and its environment.

Nguyen Vu Khoi – CEO, Wildlife At Risk (WAR)

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Dendrobium sp.
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi



Arundina sp.
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Biodiversity survey from Ba To district – Quang Ngai province

Ho Chi Minh City, 15th June 2011 - Wildlife At Risk (WAR) announces the results of its latest biodiversity survey from Ba To district, Quang Ngai province. The survey was conducted in two weeks by WAR in cooperation with national and international experts in various fields of fresh water fish, insects, amphibian and reptile species, mammals and plants.

Preliminary results have recorded nearly 60 species of amphibians and reptiles in BaTo district, 32 species of mammal (including 15 species of bats) and 52 species of dragonflies. Notably, Taylor's bug-eyed frog (*Theلودerma stellatum*) – an endangered species found on the IUCN Red List, and Yellow-spotted Spadefoot Toad – an endemic species for Viet Nam. Some endangered species of mammal were also recorded during the survey, such as Gibbon (*Nomascus* sp.), Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonine*).

"The list of animals and plants were found after two weeks surveying this area high-lighting the great potential for biodiversity in Quang Ngai Province. We hope that the findings of WAR will contribute to conservation and academic research", said Mr. Nguyen Vu Khoi, WAR's director.

The recent survey in Quang Ngai is one of the annual conservation survey activities of WAR. Modifications, additional records are anticipated.



Yellow-spotted Spadefoot Toad - *Leptobranchium xanthospilum*
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi



Heliophorus ila
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi



Taylor's bug-eyed frog - *Theلودerma stellatum*
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi



Research team at Ba To District
© WAR

Releasing native fish to Sai Gon River again

Ho Chi Minh City, 29th June 2011 – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in cooperation with Khan Quang Do Magazine have conducted the quarterly activity “Releasing native fish back to the wild”. Over 100 native fighting fish (*Betta imbellis*) were released to Ben Cat River, Binh Thanh District, a tributary of Sai Gon River. This activity was carried out by 17 members of “I love nature” Club – aged from 12 to 15. Journalists from Ho Chi Minh City also joined this activity.

WAR has been “Breeding and releasing native fish back to the wild” since February 2010. This aims to help raise awareness of students and residents about native species protection and contribute directly to nature conservation.

Mr. Bui Huu Manh, Conservation officer, said: *“Ben Cat River is bigger than Cau Son canal where native fish were released before. This place is chosen to release fish in order to understand the survival ability of this species in different habitats. This will be evaluated in the future.”*



Member of “I love nature” Club released fish to the wild
© WAR/ Do Thi Hong Hoa

WAR welcomes Ambassador

The Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) welcomed WAR Ambassador, Jules Cronin back to Vietnam with donors from last October's fundraiser in Melbourne.

WAR would like to thank Jules and all our donors for their ongoing support towards our work here in Vietnam saving endangered species from the illegal wildlife trade.

WAR is planning another fundraiser in October. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jules Cronin at: julescronin66@hotmail.com



www.wildlifeatrisk.org



Jacqui Morley, Lucienne Agius, Kathy Cronin and Jules Cronin

Cultivation for Conservation – Endangered Species Project

Tuesday 7th June, Year 5 students from the British International School (Tu Xuong Campus) visited the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) once again. They had bought and grown fruit trees to donate to the rescue centre to provide a sustainable environment for the rescued wildlife that are housed at the station.

During their visit they planted their trees using hoes and their bare hands, it was quite an experience for some of them. Some children, kindly, bought further enrichment items for the moon bears that included fruit jams, peanut butter honey) that they were able to smear all around the moon bear's enclosure.

Whilst the children were rubbing the jam all over the enclosure the bears, which were safely tucked inside, the bears were banging loudly with excitement. “Arthur” one of the rescued bears in the next enclosure jumped up into the air with excitement! It's true to say, “bears really do love honey”.

The students from Year 5 also sold a variety of merchandise on behalf of WAR and managed to raise over 7,000,000 Vietnamese Dong, so thank you very much to all those who bought our merchandise and your ongoing support for Vietnam's Endangered Wildlife.



Students from BIS planted grown fruit trees at CCWRS
© BIS

Unexpected arrival at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Staff at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station were amazed when one of their confiscated endangered Yellow-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*) gave birth.

The female gibbon was confiscated by the forest protection department of Binh Duong Province and transferred to the rescue station on 7th March 2011.

WAR's Veterinary Surgeon Mr. Nguyen Thanh Thai said, *"We are so pleased for our newest arrival that was born on the 31st May, the young gibbon is doing well, becoming stronger each day and her mum is doing a fantastic job raising her"*.

Yellow-cheeked gibbons are "endangered" species in Vietnam due to deforestation, illegal trading and hunting with an estimated wild population of 25,000 individuals.



Baby gibbon born at CCWRS
© WAR/ Nguyen Thanh Thai

WAR rescues 5 more bears

14th June 2011, staff from the Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station joined local Forest Protection staff to rescue and transfer five new bears.

This dedicated team took the long drive to Bien Hoa City on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City where they visited the Buu Long Tourist Centre and found three Moon Bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) and two Sun Bears (*Helarctos malayanus*) that were being kept in small dirty cages and used as entertainment for tourists.

Mr. Nguyen Van Cuong, Field Manager at the Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station said, *"I am very happy to rescue five more bears and bring them to our centre for rehabilitation and I hope soon they will play with our other bears and enjoy the forest"*.

Cuong has also stated that the Buu Long Tourist Centre had these bears since 2005 and estimates them to be around 12 years old.

Both species of bear are classified as "Endangered" species and protected under Vietnamese Law. The rescue centre is now home to 23 bears, 1 Asian Leopard, 1 Leopard Cat, 3 Crocodiles and 3 Peahens.



A Moon Bear on display for the general public at the Buu Long Tourist Centre.

© WAR/ Nguyen Van Cuong



Gate of Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary
© WAR/ Nguyen Van Cuong

Further construction in Cat Tien to help our wildlife

Over the last several months, WAR's wildlife rescue station in Cat Tien National Park has had a serious makeover. The construction team under the supervision of WAR management has refurbished the perimeter fence, built brand new "bear climbing frames" inside the 1.2 ha forest sanctuary, allowing the bears to climb up high and observe their semi-wild surroundings.

WAR has also developed new exciting information signs that aim to educate visitors about Moon Bears and Sun Bears and conservation in general. There is also a brand new visitor platform filled with information that will allow visitors to observe and photograph the bears in a semi-wild enclosure and watch them interacting and behaving how bears should.

Support WAR - Bears belong in the forest, not in bile farms

The higher the education level, the more wild animals are consumed

Ho Chi Minh City, 23rd May 2011 – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) announces the latest findings on consumption of wild animal products in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). These findings are the results of a survey, which was carried out on 4000 HCMC residents who are the current consumers and nearly 3600 secondary school students in HCMC from August 2010 to April 2011. The survey which was in cooperation between WAR and the Faculty of Biology, University of Science HCMC is the first attempt that aims to understand more clearly about the consumption of wild animal products of residents and the younger generation of HCMC.

In the survey, HCMC residents from various age groups, professions, education levels, working positions and students were selected randomly to answer questions relating to their usage of wild animal products; their knowledge about endangered species, ecosystems, roles of wild animals, threats to wild animals, wild animal trade and the ways to protect wild animals; their attitudes



Primates are hunted for wildlife speciality dishes
© dohuyen



Bear paws in rice wine
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

towards wild animals and wild animal protection, and their receptiveness to different types of media.

According to this survey, over half of the surveyed residents who live and work in HCMC have used wild animal products. Usage of wild animal as a food source is the most common among other purposes of using wild animals. Middle-aged men (36-45 years old), government officers, and people with higher education levels have a tendency to consume wild animal products more than other age groups, people with lower social working position, and people with a lower education level. The consumption of wild animal products of HCMC people seems to have a tendency to increase in the future.

Ms. Huyen Do Thi Thanh, Wildlife Education Manager, confirms that: *“Initiatives aim to prevent illegal wild animal trade should target the consumers. Effective education programs for younger generations will be a sustainable and long-term effective solution. These programs will be a priority for WAR.”*

“Mendel Arboretum” – a playground of students who are interested in Biology

Ho Chi Minh City, 9th April 2011, the final round of the contest “Mendel Arboretum” – the playground of students who are interested in Biology was attractive and successfully conducted by the academic club of the Faculty of Biology, University of Science HCMC (HCMUS) and many other sponsors. Wildlife At Risk (WAR) provided technical support and awarded teams that competed in the final round.

Over one hundred and fifty teams from 15 different universities, colleges and high-schools competed in attractive rounds such as: multiple choices questions, Mendel is reading book, Mendel is selecting beans and Mendel is doing research... since March 2011.

Around 200 people participated in the final round including University leaders, business-men, university students and the media.

As a result, the first prize was awarded to “Ngu Quai” team from HCMUS. During this contest, Wildlife At Risk awarded encouragement scholarships for three students from the Faculty of Biology, HCMUS who had the highest study score and contributed to activities about wildlife protection and environmental protection.



“Ngu Quai” team from HCMUS received first prize
© WAR/ Do Thi Hong Hoa

Humans are a friend of Javan Rhinos

Ho Chi Minh City, 1st June 2011

- The award ceremony of the drawing contest on the conservation of the Javan Rhino and Vietnams' endangered species entitled "Treasures of the Forest" was successfully conducted by WAR and Red Scarf (Khan Quang Do) magazine.



More than 400 participants, including children, members of themed clubs – Red Scarf magazine, representatives of Ho Chi Minh City and District Department of Education and Trainings, conservation leaders and staff, leaders and staff of Wildlife At Risk and Khan Quang Do magazine, local people and local media.

This contest was conducted from 23rd March until 20th May 2011. More than 1000 impressive and attractive paintings were sent to the contest.

The first prize was given to the painting entitled "Humans are a friend of the Javan Rhino" belonging to Le Tran Truc Linh - 12 year-old-student from Ho Chi Minh City. This painting was inspired by the case of the death rhino in Cat Tien National Park, May 2010. The author expects that humans, especially children take part in protecting the Javan Rhino and be a friend towards other wildlife.

The 50 best paintings were displayed from 1st to 5th June 2011 at "The Cultural

Product and Services Festival 2011 - Vietculture 2011", that was organised by Saigon Cultural Products Corporation and Tuoi Tre magazine, at Phu Tho Stadium. In the future, WAR plans to maintain various communication and education activities for children aged 11 to 15 years old in order to raise their awareness and motivate them towards wildlife protection.

The first prize belonging to Le Tran Truc Linh – 12 year-old-student

© WAR



Five green clubs operate successfully at secondary schools in Phu Quoc

Phu Quoc Island, March to May 2011

– The first five "Green Clubs" were operating actively and successfully at five secondary schools (SS) on Phu Quoc Island, namely "Green Planet" at Cua Duong SS, "Green Forest" at Cua Can SS and Bai Bon SS, "Green Pigeon" at Bai Thom SS and 'Green Life" at Ganh Dau SS. This is an extracurricular activity that gives students a chance to learn about the environment and help students to

improve their knowledge and skills about nature in a pleasant and fun setting. This activity is in cooperation between Wildlife At Risk (WAR), Phu Quoc National Park and Phu Quoc Department of Education and Training.

At the launch of these clubs, students had a good awareness of natural resource protection and volunteered to participate in the Green Club in order to learn more about the environment and wildlife of Phu Quoc National Park.

Members of each club joined in a one-day trip to study and discover beautiful animals and plants at Phu Quoc National Park. The field trip was guided by staff from Phu Quoc National Park who were trained by WAR staff.

WAR and Phu Quoc National Park are looking forward to ongoing support to maintain these effective Green Clubs and expand Green Clubs at other secondary schools on Phu Quoc Island.

Students discuss about the value of nature

© WAR



The launch of Green Club at Cua Can SS
© WAR





This binturong was confiscated by Forest Protection Officials from Lo Go Xa Mat National Park, Tay Ninh Province and transferred to the Cu Chi WRS on 23rd April, 2011. This is the first Binturong to be rescued and transferred to CCWRS.

© WAR/ Ho Thi Kim Lan

Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*)

This strange looking mammal also known as the “Asian Bearcat” is part of *Viverridae* family, which includes civets and genets. Binturongs are actually the largest species of civet, many of which are hunted for wildlife speciality dishes.

Binturongs are a nocturnal species meaning they are active at nighttime and can be found high up in trees using their prehensile tails for balance. Their diet mainly consists of fruit but they will eat eggs, insects and even small mammals such as rodents and reptiles.

In Vietnam, Binturongs are classified as an “endangered” species due to loss of habitat or deforestation but also the illegal wildlife trade.

Visit the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) to see our rescued Binturong.