

## Welcome

In this quarter the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station was extremely busy receiving more than 70 endangered animals, receiving for the first time, Malayan Flying Foxes. Also during the summer, a group of teenagers from Ho Chi Minh City join WAR to breed and release native fishes back to the wild, while other group enjoyed an exciting day trip to discover the forest of Dong Nai Nature and Culture Reserve.

For the first time, Vietnamese students from Le Ngoc Han Primary School in HCMC sponsored a rescued animal at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. This kind contribution is highly appreciated.

Next quarter, WAR's annual fundraising event will be hold in Melbourne, Australia. We would like to express our gratitude for everyone who has been supporting us in conserving Vietnam's unique wildlife.

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



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A native male Betta is creating a bubble nest (left), and the four-day-old fry of the native Betta

***Using native fishes for your aquarium or releasing only native fishes to the wild, you are contributing to saving Vietnam's Wildlife. Everyone can make a difference!***

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## Sai Gon teenagers help breed and release native fishes back to the wild

**Ho Chi Minh City, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011** – Twenty teenagers from Le Loi Scout Troop – National Vietnamese Scouting Committee released 100 native fighting fishes (*Betta imbellis*) to Cau Son canal, a tributary of Sai Gon river, under the guidance of Wildlife At Risk (WAR). Earlier, more than 200 native fighting fishes were also released to other tributary of the Sai Gon River in order to recover the fighting fish populations, which are increasing rare in Ho Chi Minh City. This activity also aims to raise awareness of nature conservation amongst teenagers in Ho Chi Minh City.

These teenagers also received fingerling-fighting fishes to raise and breed at home. Fry, which were born from those fishes, will be passed to other teenagers for raising or releasing to the wild.

According to Mr. Bui Huu Manh, Conservation Expert - WAR: *“Raising and breeding native fishes, especially the fighting fishes is pretty simple. Anyone can do it with careful instructions from WAR. This activity does not require much time and space, and at low cost. Well cared for, you will soon have many fry ready to be released to the wild after two or three months”.*

In the past months, many residents of Ho Chi Minh City also contacted WAR to receive native fishes for their home aquariums. HCMC residents and students who are interested in releasing or raising native fishes can contact WAR to get useful support and consultations.



Learn how to take care and release native fishes to the wild  
©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan



Preparing the area before releasing fishes  
©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan



Enjoy releasing native fishes  
©WAR/Huynh Quang Thien

## Survey in U Minh Thuong and Phu Quoc National Park last summer

In August 2011, a regular survey on fresh water fish and insects was conducted at U Minh Thuong and Phu Quoc National Park by WAR experts.

Results from this survey contribute to the biodiversity inventory of these national parks. Similar surveys will be conducted in the future.



Fresh water fish survey in U Minh Thuong National Park  
©WAR



Insect trap at Phu Quoc National Park.  
©WAR



Survey fresh water fishes at Duong Dong lake, Phu Quoc National Park.  
©WAR

## New distribution area of the Paradox Bow-fingered Gecko

Paradox Bow-fingered Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus paradoxus*) was known to be distributed in Phu Quoc Island, and Hon Chong, Kien Giang province. This species is thought to be distributed amongst rocky outcrops within the Kien Giang Biosphere, Hon Me, Kien Giang province.



©WAR

This Paradox Bow-fingered Gecko is living in the wild area of WAR's Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station, Kien Giang province.

## Rescue and Release

The WAR wildlife rescue team led by Mr. Lam - Field Manager of the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station has had three extremely busy months due to a high number of animals that were rescued and released.

*“Working with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and training, we have rescued more than 70 individuals from HCMC, Binh Duong and Tien Giang provinces. These rescued species included Moon Bears, Sun Bears, Golden-cheeked Gibbons, King Cobras, Monocellate Cobras, Elongated Tortoise and birds of prey”,* said Mr. Lam.

These rescued animals are being well taken care of by WAR staff. After being rehabilitated successfully, these endangered animals maybe released back to the wild.

In the past three months, many individuals of Elongated Tortoises and Pythons were released successfully to a beach of Nui Chua National Park, Ninh Thuan Province, and the forest of Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park, Lam Dong province.



©WAR/Simon Faithfull  
Mr Lam and the newly rescued King Cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*)



©WAR  
Release Elongated tortoise to Bi Doup Nui Ba forest

## Welcome unusual guests

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2011** – For the first time, Flying Foxes were registered to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. 11 Flying Foxes were rescued by the Forest Protection Department from Tien Giang Province (located in the Mekong Delta region).

Malayan Flying Foxes (*Pteropus vampyrus*) are strange hairy mammals with wings and hang upside down for most of the day – they are indeed bats commonly known as Fruit Bats. Flying Foxes are the largest bat species and have a wingspan reaching up to 1.8m. As their name suggests, their faces look fox-like and unlike most bats, Foxes do not hunt using “eco-location”, they have brilliant eyesight and sense of smell for locating their favourite food which include fruits, nectar and flowers.

These unusual mammals are protected under Vietnamese Law and are currently listed as “Vulnerable (VN)” in the Red Book of Vietnam. Unless actions are taken to preserve this unique animal they could soon be endangered.

The rescued Flying Foxes are now receiving good care. They will be rehabilitated and maybe released back to the wild. You can come and visit these unusual guests at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station any day of the week.



©WAR

## New viewing platform to comfort visitors at Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary

A new viewing platform has just been reconstructed at the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary to replace for the old and weak platform. This platform allows visitors to observe the rescued Moon Bears in the semi-wild forest enclosure from a different angle. Visitors can easily observe bears climbing trees and foraging in the forest looking for food.

You are allowed to walk up this watching platform any time while you are there.



©WAR

## Exciting day out at Dong Nai Nature and Culture Reserve

**Ho Chi Minh City, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011** – 25 children aged 12-15 years old who are members of the “I love Nature Club and Young Media Club” spent an exciting day to discover the unique nature of Dong Nai Nature and Culture Reserve. The study tour is an opportunity for the students to experience the nature and highly appreciate its natural resources and commit towards nature protection and conservation. University students and journalists also participated in this trip.

The children were totally excited searching for tracks of forest animals and learning about essential functions of forest ecosystems. The students also learnt about the precious values of this forest during the war. Visiting the nursery garden is a new experience to most of the participants; they were astonished with various forest trees and seedlings that they have never seen before. The students were inspired to learn how hard the Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve staff work to protect the forest and its wildlife.

This study tour is a part of the program entitled “Take part in nature protection” implemented by WAR and Khan Quang Do Magazine from June 2010.



©WAR

Seeking for animal tracks in the forest



©WAR

Learning about native trees (left) and taking home the seedlings to plant in their gardens.



©WAR

## Take part in nature protection

From July to September 2011, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) continued collaborating with Khan Quang Do magazine to conduct the “Take part in nature protection” program that was launched in June 2011. Children aged 12 to 15 years old who are members of the “I Love Nature” club and “Young Media” have been participating in following activities:

- Watching films and discussing about the illegal wildlife trade.
- Play different roles in the decision making process on wildlife conservation.
- Learn about different careers related to wildlife protection.
- Design exhibits on wildlife trade and consumption.

This program “Take part in nature protection” includes various forms of activities that are attractive, exciting and useful for the students. It not only provides knowledge and skills about wildlife protection for the students but also gives them the opportunity to practice the necessary skills such as: teamwork, analyze and synthesize information and presentation skills.

WAR is looking forward for to further supporting the students and conducting more exciting activities for them.



©WAR

# Vietnamese students sponsor newly born gibbon

The Golden-Cheeked Gibbon born at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) on 31<sup>st</sup> June 2011 has just been sponsored by students of Le Ngoc Han Primary School of Ho Chi Minh City.

Many international schools have been sponsoring animals at CCWRS, but this is the first time, a Vietnamese school has sponsored an animal at CCWRS. The donated funds are highly appreciated. Wildlife At Risk (WAR) appreciates everyone's kind donations to the continuation of our work.

## Annual fundraising event to be held in Melbourne, Australia

On the 6<sup>th</sup> October, WAR's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraising event will be held at the Electric Ladyland Bar in Melbourne. The event aims to raise awareness and funds to support the ongoing protection of Vietnam's Endangered Wildlife.

Everyone is invited to this special and worthwhile event please contact Jules Cronin at [julescronin66@hotmail.com](mailto:julescronin66@hotmail.com)



©WAR/Jules Cronin

## Volunteering at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Volunteer program at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station is an opportunity for anyone to help WAR save Vietnam's endangered wildlife and learn about species conservation. This program was established in 2010 and many volunteers have enjoyed and learnt from our dedicated wildlife team the joys of being a wildlife keeper.



1. Volunteers are able to interact with some species and learn about Vietnam's Endangered Wildlife.



3. Feed the rescued wildlife



4. Many hands make light work



2. Help preparing food and enrichment for the wildlife



5. Volunteers supporting us in many other ways such as creating toys for wildlife or planting food plants in the garden, and more.



## Indochinese Tiger

*(Panthera tigris corbetti)*

Also known as Corbett's Tiger named after the famous hunter turned conservationist "Jim Corbett". This subspecies of tiger is found in South East Asia. It can weigh up to 190kg and reach 2.8m in length. Their prey consists of ungulate species such as sambar deer, wild pig and serow. Tigers will also feed on macaques, muntjac deer, porcupines and hog-badgers.

This mighty creature could be extinct in Vietnam in next decade unless intensive conservation programs are strictly applied. Due to habitat lost and the illegal wildlife trade and consumption, this animal is now a globally endangered species.

Stop using tiger products. Save the tiger before it's too late.