

Welcome

During the past quarter, WAR focused its efforts on educating secondary school children in Ho Chi Minh City on wildlife protection. Content on wildlife protection was not only integrated into Biology Subject Grade 7 but also in extra curriculum activities. In addition, students and teachers kept visiting Cu Chi WRS and participating in the SOS Traveling Exhibition to learn about wildlife protection. Also in the past quarter, a few endangered species were successfully rescued and released back to the wild. WAR continued to re-populate native fresh water fish in order to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Vietnam.

This What's Up is dedicated to secondary school students, teachers and education managers, university students, individuals, companies and colleagues who keep supporting WAR in wildlife protection.

Your sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO

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A new component of SOS has just been launched in this academic year. Please see inside.



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Introducing wild species at Hon Me

With a total area of approximately 3ha, Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) is home to a wide range of wild species in the wild. A number of biodiversity surveys have been conducted at Hon Me WRS with a few new records for the area.

Based on results of those surveys, WAR is displaying species information and photos along nature walks in the Station. Currently some information on reptile had been displayed already. Visitors can use those information and photo to identify wild species they meet at Hon Me WRS. Visitors are also encouraged to report WAR on any new species of the area.

Release native fishes back to the wild



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In September, WAR supported 20 plus university students from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City to release nearly 500 individual native fishes including Siamese Flying Fish and Three-lined Mouth Brooders back into the Sai Gon River at Binh Loi Bridge, Binh Thanh District.

Since 2010, over 5000 individuals of different species of non-commercial native fish have been released in different canals of the Sai Gon River. This is one activity of the programme "Breeding and releasing native fish back to the wild". The programme aims to repopulate native fish in Ho Chi Minh City and encourage local people to use native fish in their aquarium.



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Rescues and releases of the quarter

During the third quarter, WAR rescued **47** individuals of 12 endangered species including Java pangolin, Mekong Snail-eating Turtle, Small Clawed Otter, Wreathed Hornbill, Impressed tortoise, Softshell Turtle, Malayan Snail Eating Turtle, Pangolin, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Barn Owl, and Yellow headed temple Turtle.

Also during this period, **28** individuals of 7 endangered species were released back to their suitable habitats, including Burmese ferret-badger, Yellow cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris, Black Eagle, and Black shouldered Kite.

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This endangered Elongated Tortoises was born in Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. It will be released back to the wild soon.



Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station



Cứu hộ rùa và thả về tự nhiên

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), July 2015 – Cu Chi WRS received 32 individual tortoises including 10 individual Mekong Snail-eating Turtles and 22 individual Yellow headed-Temple Turtles. These tortoises were victims of two illegal trading cases seized by the Ho Chi Minh City Forest Protection Department.

After spending 15 days at Cu Chi WRS, ten of the Mekong Snail-eating Turtles were successfully released to their suitable habitat at a branch of the Sai Gon river in Cu Chi District. The 22 Yellow headed-temple Turtles are now being taken care of at the station.

The Mekong snail-eating Turtle and Yellow headed-temple Turtle are categorised as Vulnerable (VU) and endangered (EN) respectively in the Vietnam Red Book. The populations of these turtles are decreasing steadily due to illegal hunting and trading for meat, medicine, and pet purposes.



Ness và Vicky visiting Cu Chi WRS with students and teachers.

“Buy No Rhino” Cycling to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station in aid of the Rhino

Ho Chi Minh City, 2nd September 2015, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station was honored to be a destination of Ness and Vicky, two sisters who are cycling across South East Asian countries in a journey entitled “Buy No Rhino”.

At Cu Chi WRS, Ness and Vicky talked to over 60 students and six teachers from An NhonTay and An Phu Secondary Schools who were visiting Cu Chi WRS.

The “Buy No Rhino” project will see Ness and Vicky cycle approximately 6,000km through seven countries in South East Asia including China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. The project aims to raise awareness about Rhino poaching and how rhino horn consumption could push rhino to the brink of extinction. Ness and Vicky hope that with their help the illegal trade of rhino horn will stop in the future.

Many people in Asian countries, including Vietnam, believe that rhino horn is a magical cure. In reality, rhino horn is composed of keratins, such as human’s hairs and nails. And thus there is no proof of the effectiveness of Rhino horn on human health.

Let’s COMMIT to say “NO” to Rhino horn poaching to save Rhinos.

Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Rescue more endangered wildlife

During the past quarter, Hon Me WRS received a few individuals of endangered wildlife including Stump-tailed Macaque, Pygmy Loris and Crested serpent Eagle. They all were victims of illegal trading cases those were seized by functional bodies, before being registered to Hon Me WRS.



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Upgrading facilities

The Gibbon Rescue Area of about 240 m² have been being upgraded under financial support from the Douc Langur Foundation (DLF). In the coming time, some more enclosures will also be upgraded or enlarged to meet greater need for rescuing, according to Government's regulations on conservation policy for Mekong Delta River (QĐ 45/2014-QĐ-TTg).

Water is essential for Hon Me WRS activities. Although several big reservoirs were constructed to reserve rain water for dry season, the Station is still shortage of water for roughly two months during dry season. Under a partial support from the Mekong Brahmaputra Clean Development Fund, a well was drilled deep down under a thick layer of rock and fortunately hits the underground water. This is a great news for rescuing activities at Hon Me WRS. However, the Station will still keep containing and using rain water in order to save the ground water.



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SOS Programme

In this academic year 2015-2016, the programme entitled SOS - Wildlife consumption education is back to approximately 300 Secondary Schools in Ho Chi Minh City. In addition to the three main components including (1) SOS Traveling Exhibition, (2) visiting to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station and (3) Integrating wildlife protection into Biology Subject Grade 7, the SOS programme

includes one new component - integrating wildlife protection into extracurricular activities.

The SOS Programme was launched in December 2011 by WAR and HCMC Department of Education and Training and Forest Protection Department. The programme educates secondary school children on wildlife consumption and supports teachers to teach wildlife protection content in schools.

Component 2: Visiting Cu Chi WRS

Last September, Cu Chi WRS welcomed two batches of over 80 teachers and education managers from Tan Binh and Cu Chi District Departments of Education and Training. The visitors visited and learnt about endangered wildlife those that has been rescued at the station. In the future, more education managers, teachers and students from HCMC will visit Cu Chi WRS under WAR's support.

Component 1: SOS exhibition

Reactivated this September at Tran Quoc Toan Secondary School, District 9, the SOS Exhibition, which is a tent of over 60m2, containing games, models, images, and practical wildlife information will travel to approximately 30 secondary schools, targeting roughly 30 thousand students, in this academic year 2015. Guiding students around the tent are over 40 trained volunteer students.

Training for volunteers at SOS exhibition 2015-2016

Last September, over 40 volunteer students from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City were trained by WAR to guide secondary school students at the SOS Exhibition.

During the four-day training, the volunteers were equipped with adequate knowledge and skills on wildlife protection and game facilitation so that every volunteer is ready and confident to guide children effectively through the SOS exhibition.



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SOS Programme

Component 3: Integrating wildlife protection into Biology Subject Grade 7

With strong support from Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training, approximately 300 State Secondary Schools in HCMC committed to continue teaching wildlife protection in ten lessons of Biology Subject, Grade 7, in the academic year 2015-2016. WAR also provided an updated set of teaching aids including photos, short video clips for all those secondary schools. (See Publication in page 9 for further information).

New – Component 4: Intergrate wildlife protection into extracurricular class

Early September 2015, the Ho Chi Minh City DOET decided that every secondary school in Ho Chi Minh City would conduct at least one extracurricular activity on wildlife protection theme in the academic year 2015-2016. In order to support teachers conducting this extracurricular activity, WAR provided a detailed guideline and information on how to conduct an extracurricular activity on wildlife theme to all over 300 secondary schools in the city. In this academic year, WAR will provide intensive support to 35 secondary schools of Tan Binh and Cu Chi District to conduct the extracurricular activities.

Each of those 35 secondary schools will install a bulletin on wildlife protection full of wildlife information and photos. A contest on wildlife protection will be launched among every student of those 35 secondary schools. WAR will work closely with those schools to organise a launch and then a consolidating ceremony of the contest in each schools. Plenty of gifts with wildlife messages will be distributed to all students.

"I COMMIT to protect wildlife" campaign

Last August, WAR launched a campaign entitled "I COMMIT to protect wildlife". In this campaign, every person who takes part in any WAR's activity and commits to protect wildlife will take a photo with a wildlife sign carrying the slogan "I COMMIT to protect wildlife".

By taking this photo, that person pledges not to consume illegal wildlife products and to take part in protecting wildlife. So far, the campaign has drawn great attention from everyone who took part in WAR's activity such as teachers and students of the Canadian International School, secondary school students, university students, and teachers and education manager from Tan Binh District.



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Environmental Communication

Dong nai, July 2015, WAR supported Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve (DNCNR) to conduct a training course on “Skills to conduct Environmental Communication activities for local people”. Approximately 30 locals and officers of DNCNR who are from 22 to 55 years old took part in the training. Community Green Clubs is an initiative of DNCNR for local people to learn and exchange experience on nature protection.

During the three days training, a series of exciting and practical activities were conducted in order to equip participants with necessary skills so that they could organise environmental communication activities/campaigns for local people. During the training course each Green Club developed a particular plan of action on environmental communication. The trained participants will train their Club’s members and get them ready to conduct communication activities for local people in their village.

Global Youth Summit – Action for Earth

Global Youth Summit 2015 – Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City, 12th August 2015, WAR delivered a key presentation about biodiversity protection at the Global Youth Summit Summer 2015 at Ho Chi Minh City (GYS 2015). Over 600 youth from five ASEAN countries were excited to learn about biodiversity as well as threats to the natural world of Vietnam. The session drew strong attention from ASEAN delegates, leaders and visitors to the summit. The presentation brought up practical information and knowledge on Vietnam’s biodiversity which encouraged participants to take part in its protection.

A WAR representative was also a judge of the contest on Innovative Solutions for Environment organised at the end of the Summit.



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Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo and guess who is the victim



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WAR would like to express our sincere acknowledgement to every individual and company who support WAR in wildlife protection.

The Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) provided continuous supports in wildlife rescuing activities.

Over 40 volunteer students from different universities in HCMC who represent WAR to educate secondary school students at the SOS Traveling Exhibition.

The British Council (BC) invited WAR to participate in its Summer Fair 2015, last July. WAR conducted several wildlife games and fund raising activities at this exciting fair. Over 2,600 children and parents visited WAR's booth. And approximately 1,600 students enjoyed wildlife games organised by WAR staff and volunteers at the event.



Hundreds of volunteers and visitors at Cu Chi WRS who learnt and support wildlife with WAR.



Canadian International School (CIS) provided WAR an opportunity to educate and raise funds for wildlife at its NGO Fair, last August. WAR's booth had quite a few interactive games which were played by over 500 children. Over 100 students and teachers also made a serious commitment to wildlife protection by taking a photo with a wildlife model with WAR.

Update teaching aid tool on wildlife protection for Biology Subject Grade 7

The teaching aid tool was transferred onto a 16GB USB and distributed to nearly 300 secondary schools in HCMC at the beginning of this academic year.

In addition, ten short video clips and over 500 live photos of Vietnamese wildlife supported ten lessons of Biology Subject Grade 7, the USB also included an update set of over 150 photos of threatened wildlife. A highlight of the update is the 38 best electronic lectures from the contest on developing electronic lectures for integrating wildlife protection for Biology Subject Grade 7. In addition, 26 short video clips on wildlife protection produced by campers at WAR's Wildlife Summer Camp 2015 were also included in this USB.

This updated teaching aid tool will help teachers to teach wildlife protection in Biology Subject Grade 7 in an effective and exciting manner. WAR looks forward to comments and suggestions in order to update the tool for the next academic year.



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Smuggling of endangered wildlife products from Africa

From 13th to 26th August 2015, three incidents of smuggling of 3.8 tons of ivory, 4 tons of pangolin scales and 120kg of rhino horn were seized at Tien Sa Harbor, Da Nang City. All of the wildlife products originated from Africa, having gone through Malaysia before being imported in Vietnam.

These are the three biggest illegal wildlife trading cases that have been caught in Vietnam so far this year. The total value of the three cases is over hundreds of billions VND. According to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), elephant, rhino and pangolin are strictly protected and it's prohibited to trade any products of those species. The cases are now being further investigated and waiting to be brought to court.

Many people believe in the magical powers of rhino horn and pangolin scale. However, there is no scientific proof for this. Consuming ivory, Rhino Horn and Pangolin scales are illegal. Stop consuming ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scale to protect wildlife from **extinction**.





Moon Bear



The Moon Bear and Sun Bear are two bear species that exist in Vietnam. Moon Bear is named for the bright "V" shape on its chest while Sun Bear is named for its "U" shape.

Moon Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) have an excellent sense of smell and can sniff out insects and their other food. Moon Bears feed on insects, small animals, eggs, nut and fruit. Honey, bees and young bees are its favourite food. Bears are strongest in the wild. It often lives alone. After a gestation of three months, the female gives birth to 1-3 cubs.

In Vietnam today, the number of captured bears for bile exploitation is much larger than in the wild. In captivity Moon Bears are not able to breed. Therefore, all captured bears come from illegal poaching. Habitat loss due to forest destruction, together with illegal bear poaching, capturing and trading have pushed bears to the brink of extinction. Moon Bear is categorised as Critically Endanger (CR) in the Vietnam Red Book.

Let's commit to say No to bear bile and other illegal products from Moon bears to protect them from extinction.