

Wildlife At Risk

Statement of receipts and payments
for the year ended 30 June 2015



PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Background

Wildlife At Risk ("WAR") is dedicated to protecting the biodiversity of Vietnam by combating the illegal wildlife trade, raising environmental awareness and promoting the conservation of endangered species and their habitats.

WAR is a non-profit organization, registered in Delaware on 5th October 2003. It is based in Ho Chi Minh City ("HCMC") and active throughout the southern provinces of Vietnam.

Vietnam's wildlife faces a desperate fight for survival in the 21st century. Without urgent intervention, many of the country's endangered species will soon be wiped out. They are being driven to extinction by habitat loss, hunting, pollution and, above all, the flourishing illegal wildlife trade. WAR aims to reduce the pressure on Vietnam's threatened biodiversity by helping to build local capacity to implement legislation, raise environmental awareness and develop alternatives to the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Responding to specific priorities identified by local government, and working with appropriate specialists and project partners, WAR focuses on three interlocking themes:

- Enforcement – Action to reduce the exploitation of endangered species and to support the confiscation, rehabilitation and possible release of illegal traded wildlife;
- Raising awareness – Influencing behaviour, changing attitudes to wildlife and promoting sustainable use of natural resources; and
- Protection in the wild – In site conservation to safeguard specific endangered species and their habitats.

WILDLIFE AT RISK – ANNUAL REVIEW 2014 – 2015

Overview

The main focusing of Wildlife At Risk from this year is Biodiversity conservation and Raising public awareness on conservation. WAR has reached several successes on wildlife conservation over the past 12 months from July 2014 to June 2015. Twenty (20) endangered wildlife born at our rescue centres and most had been released to the wild. Beside this direct contribute to protection wildlife and conservation biodiversity, WAR has continued focus on public awareness on conservation. Messages on biodiversity conservation are regularly transferred to communities through public events such as wildlife photos exhibitions or programs with students and release news of biodiversity findings on WAR website and to local public media. WAR still keeps its position as one of the most experienced NGOs in the field of wildlife rescue in Vietnam. Due to WAR's experience there is a great demand from local partners for assistance with their wildlife rescue activities and staff training. Through the regular release of wildlife it is possible that the biodiversity and species population can be both protected and conserved.

WAR has continued to follow up its previous ground work in the area with several public awareness projects to educate young people and raise awareness of local communities.

The following figures reflect the impact of WAR's activities on natural conservation in Vietnam and also the challenges faced by the organisation during the period July 2014 to June 2015:

- **Approximately 1,600 heads of 50 types of wildlife** have been transferred to the Wildlife Rescue Station ("WRS") at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station ("CCWRS") and Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station ("HMWRS") in Kien Giang province. 93% of the wildlife had been released after a period of rehabilitation. The figure has a slightly increase compare to the previous 12 months. WAR is still facing challenges of rescue wildlife.
- **Approximately 1,500 heads of fresh water fish** have been released back into the Saigon River and her tributaries. This activity still received interests from young students and illustrates the positive action of conservation by the students. The captive breeding programme for conservation will enhance conserve the biodiversity of Vietnam.
- Within the last 12 months, wildlife breeding successfully at WAR rescue centre include: small-clawed otter, leopard cat, Black bear, yellow-cheeked gibbon, pangolin, elongated tortoise, yellow head temple turtle. Several offspring of the wildlife are released back to the wild in appropriate habitat. The others are considering and finding suitable habitat and/or facility to release/transfer. Activity of captive breeding for conservation at WAR facility is direct contribution to conservation and biodiversity.

- A model of ex-situ conservation of gecko are experimental one at our wildlife rescue center to ensure a resources for any lost of species in future due to development activities. Initial positive signal is an optimistic promise to our efforts. The model to be kept and run in the next 12 months for further information.

WAR is now calling for support and co-operation from various communities:

- This year, more than 40 students from Ho Chi Minh city, Hanoi and other provinces visited Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station to help maintain the wildlife rescue facilities by planting more than 100 fruit trees and vegetable.
- Approximately **1,700 visitors and students** visited CCWRS.
- **14,000 students** from 12 secondary schools in HCMC have benefited from participation in our SOS exhibition tent project where wildlife education is the central topic.
- **4 trips for biodiversity surveys** have been conducted at Bi Doup National park of Lam Dong province and Hon Khoai island of Ca Mau province. WAR has cooperated with young Vietnamese scientists of The Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources to implement the surveys. The aim of these surveys is to contribute to species distribution by releasing wildlife from the rescue centres. It also helps to enhance knowledge and information on biodiversity for wildlife education and by raising public awareness of the surveyed areas and in Vietnam in general. A remarkable point of the biodiversity survey in this year is an action of amending on breeding facilities at the WRS to be more close to natural system.

All results and information on WAR's activities have been being released on our website at www.wildlifeatrisk.org

The overall budget for 2014 – 2015 is approximately USD592,456 of which USD341,036 has been spent on WAR's enforcement missions across wildlife rescue stations at CCWRS and HMWRS. USD121,361 has been used on public awareness projects and nearly USD74,690 has been used for biodiversity surveys and captive conservation, highlighting our commitment to Vietnam's wildlife and their habitats. The remaining budget was spent on administration. Again, the budget was increased this year which meant we were able to save more wildlife and protect more biodiversity through by all means. The increased budget has also helped WAR develop in scope and scale over the last 12 months.

The new registration of WAR to work in Vietnam for the next 5 years had been granted (2015-2020). This will support to our efforts to implement long term plan to conserve biodiversity of Vietnam. WAR continues to build on its positive working relationship with the Forestry Protection Department ("FPD") in Ho Chi Minh City, Kien Giang and throughout Vietnam, as well as with the city/province Union of Friendship Organisation. In addition, WAR received support from international experts, volunteers for biological surveys on the subject of conservation and biodiversity protection highlighting WAR's commitment towards Vietnam's unique biodiversity.

