

## WAR Newsletter

Issue 9: January – March 2009

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CEO: Nguyen Vu Khoi

### SOME GENERAL NEWS

WAR steps into this Year of the Buffalo with its commitments to operate several key projects that include: on-going support for Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre regarding the constant care and rescue of abused animals; support for the Mobile Team that patrols the streets of HCMC seeking to help eradicate the illegal wildlife trade; continuing to cooperate with Free The Bears on bear issues in the south of Vietnam involving 2 new bear sanctuaries at Hon Me in Kien Giang Province and at Cat Tien in Dong Nai Province. WAR also continues its mission on Phu Quoc Island with a conservation project that provides direct assistance to the Phu Quoc National Park in the form of conducting biological surveys, institutional capacity building, and raising public awareness for the need to conserve the endangered species of Vietnam.

### WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NEWS

#### Bear Sanctuaries and Rescued Bears in the Southern Region of Vietnam

Two new bear sanctuaries in the southern region of Vietnam are increasingly performing their functions of harbouring rescued and injured bears that have often suffered from years of confinement in small cages.

The new sanctuaries are a result of cooperation between WAR-Free The Bears (FTB) on one side, and local Vietnamese authorities and agencies on the other.



**Fig1. Asiatic Black Bear Relaxed Behaviour in the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary**

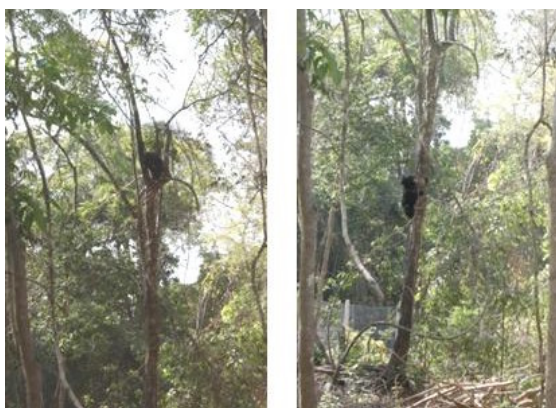
Recently, the sanctuary at Cat Tien welcomed three more sun bears that were transferred from the WAR Wildlife Rescue Centre at Cu Chi. These bears now have a new home in this semi-natural area where it is certain that they will have care, peace and enjoyment.

The WAR-FTB team is now constructing a new bear house with appropriate facilities at the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary. We urgently need sponsor support for this project. Any sponsors out there?



**Fig 2. New Bear House Under Construction at Cat Tien**

Due to the active enforcement and confiscation program currently being followed by the WAR-FPD cooperation, the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary is rapidly filling with rescued bears. WAR-FTB is taking the overflow to its other newly developing sanctuary at the Mekong Delta, where the first bear house is under a rush construction program.



**Fig 3. Asiatic Black Bears at the New Hon Me Facility in Kien Giang Province.**

At Hon Me, a 10 bear room in a new bear house connected directly to a training area is now ready to quarantine bears once animals are transferred to the Sanctuary. Within the Operations Centre, an office, examination room, and a water treatment control system have been installed. The site is also lucky to have a natural fresh water stream running directly through its centre. The Sanctuary employs a sonar system to save energy and to protect the local environment.



**Fig 4. One of the Newly Completed Facilities for Bear Quarantine at Hon Me – Mekong Delta.**

In fact, the design and construction of every new small feature of the new sanctuaries at both Cat Tien and Hon Me always consider the need to protect the natural environment as much as possible. Accordingly, all electrical systems used in the sanctuaries are environmentally friendly e.g energy saving lamps, and the use of sonar panels for hot water and the electricity needed for the safety fence systems.

## CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES ON PHU QUOC ISLAND

### New Surveys

In 2009, the WAR project on Phu Quoc Island began with a survey of small mammals and plants. Besides the objectives of exploring nature and developing the capacity of the Park's staff, this year the Project will also extend its work to promote more conservation awareness for local school children.



**Fig 5. WAR Places a High Priority on the Awareness Education of Local School Children. They are the Future.**

### Awareness Sponsor Needed!

The first Phu Quoc Island biological survey in the field has yielded 3 additional species of bats, which are *Hipposiderus cineraceus*, *Hipposiderus pomona* and *Rhinolophus cf. bornensis*.





**Fig 6. *H. cineraceus* – *H. pomona* and *Rh. cf. bornensis***

A survey produced a list of 14 small mammals (squirrels, tree shrews and rats). Several specimens still require further study, but by comparing recent finds to the small mammal list of previous surveys conducted by different groups in the 1990s and at the very beginning of the 2000s, this list of the small mammals has identified up to 4 more species that inhabit the Park.



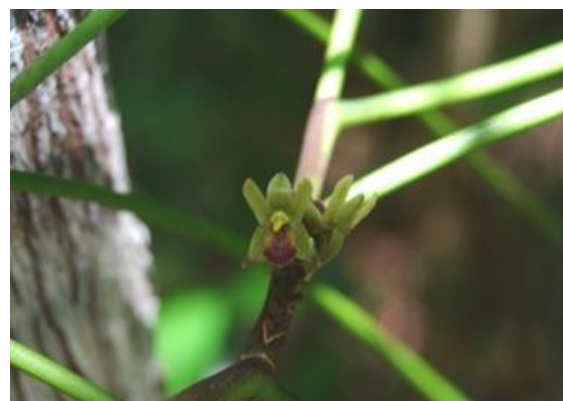
**Figs. 6 and 7. Survey Pictures of a Tree Shrew (above) and a Squirrel (top right).**

**Being rescued can be so exhausting!**



A survey of the orchids of Phu Quoc Island recorded 4 more species for the Island that include, from top to bottom below:

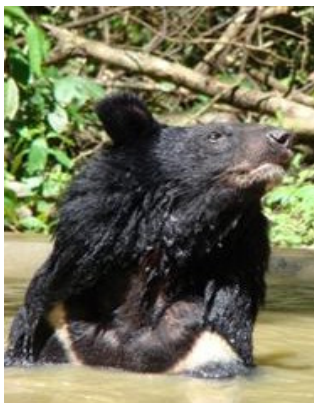
**Figs. 8-11 (from top to bottom): *Acriopsis javanica*; *Luisia brachystachys*; *Podochilus intermedia*, and a *Dendrobium* sp.**





### Replanting Seedlings of Endangered Plant Species of Phu Quoc Island

One of promising positive actions towards protecting the nature of the beautiful island of Phu Quoc has been the cultivation of 500 seedlings of a local endangered species, *Dipterocarpus intricatus*. These seedlings are now ready for planting in May 2009, once the rainy season starts on the Island. The actions of planting the seedlings will have a double effect by firstly conserving a species and secondly by raising public awareness.



### Bear of the Month

**'BOSUN'**

**Rescued from a tiny cage. Now enjoying life at the WAR-FTB Cat Tien Sanctuary.**

### A WAR Wildlife Warrior

**NAME:** Le Thanh Binh

**JOB:** Husbandry Officer

**LOCATION:** Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre



### Le Thanh Binh, Husbandry Officer – Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre

Mr Binh is a local man who has lived in the Cu Chi area for most of his life. He is adept at assisting with all new construction activities in the Centre. He has also developed into an exceptional animal keeper during 2007. Mr Binh is now handling bears and gibbons and shows a great interest in caring for all species held at the Centre.

### CU CHI WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE

#### Transferring Animals

New facilities for both bears and otters have almost been completed during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year. The facilities will provide good accommodation for animals while providing a stronger message to



visitors in terms of new education about the need to preserve the endangered species of Vietnam. The Rescue Centre staff is always busy receiving and releasing animals back into the wild. In particular, receiving big animals such as bears or leopards, takes more time in preparation and to transport the animals to the Centre. Once again we remind potential donors of the dire need for a suitable vehicle to transport the animals.



**Fig 12. WAR Staff Undertakes a Sedation of a Bear before Transferring it to the Cu Chi Rescue Centre**

March 2009 was the 'Month of Rescued Bears' for the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre. Staff were busy transferring 3 sun bears from the Centre to a semi-natural area of the Cat Tien National Park.

Another 2 Asiatic black bears weighing in at more than 100kgs per bear were also to the Cu Chi Centre soon afterwards.



**Fig 13. Moving Big Black Bears Requires the Dedicated Expertise of the Trained WAR Staff.**

### A WAR Wildlife Warrior

**NAME:** Tran Anh Tu

**JOB:** Husbandry Officer

**LOCATION:** Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre



**Tran Anh Tu, Husbandry Officer – Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre**

Mr Tu is another local man from Cu Chi who has also lived in the region all his life. He has been working at CCWRC for 1 year and is the newest member of the animal husbandry staff. Mr Tu has special expertise with Otters.

### NEW WAR WEBSITE

In order to bring more information to readers on its activities and results, WAR is currently engaged in updating and upgrading its website. The process is using mostly voluntary labour, so the completion will take a little time; however we hope it will be worth the wait.

The main idea behind the new website is to make it more user friendly. Depending on a reader's interests, there should be some good reading coming up about current WAR projects and how to become a volunteer to help with our great cause to

protect the endangered species of Vietnam.

## WAR MOBILE TEAM

### WAR's Cavalry!



**Fig 14. Mobile Team on the Job!**

The WAR-HCMC FPD Mobile Team is out finding animals traded illegally on the streets and served at some restaurants in HCMC. WAR and FPD-HCMC are calling for your assistance to inform us of the address of any restaurants and street locations where you can find illegal trading or abuse of wildlife. Please call us on: (08 – 3 9106126 or 08 – 3 8592620).



**Fig 15. Members of the Mobile Patrol Marching to Victory Against the Poachers.**



**Heads or  
Tails?**

**Who said I  
was a tasty  
morsel?**

## Saved From the Dinner Table by the Gallant Mobile Team



Are bath times always so difficult?

## A WAR Wildlife Warrior

**Name:** Dao Van Hoang

**Job:** Creative Designer

**Location:** WAR HQ

**How long with WAR:** Since February 2008



**Why Hoang likes working with WAR:** 'WAR is a small organization, but carries out very well focused projects aimed at conserving the endangered wildlife of Vietnam. WAR comprises pure passionate people and hard-nosed conservationists, each with a clear mission to play a part in helping to save some endangered species and habitats. WAR is filled with people who believe in what they do. WAR is a place to share ideas and gain a perspective on a healthy environment.'





## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The aim of WAR is to provide Protection, Enforcement and Awareness to conserve the endangered wildlife of Vietnam.

**YES!!! I would love to become a member or WAR and fight to save the endangered wildlife of Vietnam! I wish to receive a WAR hat and T-shirt and the Quarterly WAR Newsletters updating me about WAR's work.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

- ☐ I would like to become a member for ONE year for USD100.
- ☐ I would like to become a member for FIVE years for USD450.

Bankers' cheques are accepted in USD, AUD, GBP

Please make them payable to 'Wildlife At Risk (WAR)'

**Address:** Minh Dao House, 161/1A Nguyen Van Thu Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Or contact Ms Lien, WAR Coordinator, at [lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org) if you'd like to register on line and pay via electronic transfer.



**Hey Mum, do I need braces?**



**Great! Back to the wild! Ladies look out!**



## CORPORATE SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY

The aim of WAR is to provide Protection, Enforcement and Awareness to conserve the endangered wildlife of Vietnam.

**YES!!!**

**I would love to become a WAR Corporate Sponsor and fight to save the endangered wildlife of Vietnam!**

**I wish to have my company listed in the Sponsor's Page of the WAR Website and in the WAR Quarterly Newsletter.**



Contact **Chris**, Acting Trustee, at [chris@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:chris@wildlifeatrisk.org) for details of sponsorship opportunities.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



**Get your whole company involved!**

### CURRENT SPONSORS

**(For a detailed list of caring donors please see the war website)**

**Key Sponsor:** Dominic Scriven, OBE

**Sponsors:** Star Corporate Vietnam, Aardwolf Industries, Peter Dinning, HSBC, British Business Group Vietnam.