

# What's Up

A quartely newsletter

**WAR**  
WILDLIFE AT RISK

Welcome!

During the past first quarter, WAR cooperated with Rain Forest Trust and a technical assistance of Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) to organize a short field trip in February 2017 to Hon Khoai island (Ca Mau province). These kinds of research field trips, aiming for the preservation of biodiversity, have long been carried out and been organized between WAR and IEBR. WAR and the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Quality Management and Protection of Aquatic Resources joined forces to release sea turtles in Hon Cau Marine Protected Area in Binh Thuan province. WAR provided technical assistance for catching a crocodile in Dong Thap Muoi Ecological Reserve (Tien Giang province) and helped transfer it to a rescue center in U Minh Thuong National Park (Kien Giang province). WAR supported the Forest Ranger Department in Binh Duong province to save several wild animals that have been confiscated in illegal transportations and have been smuggled illegally. WAR wishes to express its gratitude to each person and every organization that supported and cooperated with WAR in its actions on wildlife preservation in the past!

Sincere Thanks!

**Nguyen Vu Khoi**  
Director

The Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) - an endemic species of Vietnam, which can only be found on Hon Khoai island, Ca Mau province - was just recently added to Cites Appendix I as well as the IUCN list. This achievement is also the result of not unimportant contributions of activists and scientists from Vietnam and around the world.

Ảnh: Xuân Lâm

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## Chief Editor

Nguyễn Vũ Khôi

## Editors

Lê Xuân Lâm  
JulianHuesmann

## Contact

Wildlife At Risk (WAR)

Tel: (+84) 8 3899 7314 - (+84) 8 3899 7315

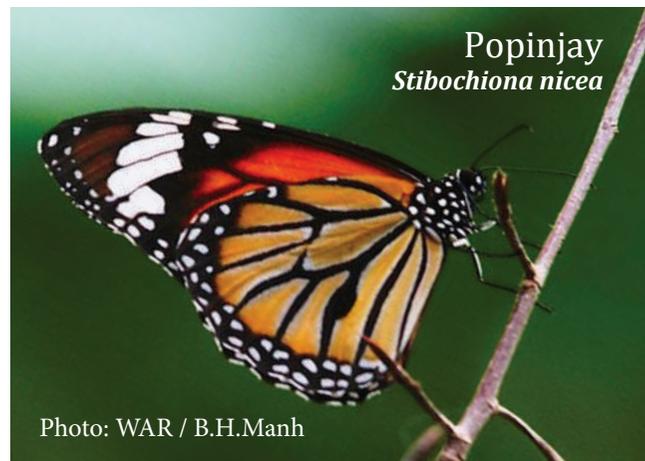
Fax: (+84) 8 3899 7316 / Email: info@wildlifeatrisk.org

Website: www.wildlifeatrisk.org

## Surveying biodiversity on Hon Khoai Island Ca Mau Province

In February 2017 WAR and the Institute for Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) organized a quick survey field trip to Hon Khoai island in Ca Mau province. This activity is part of the long cooperation program on biodiversity preservation between WAR and IEBR. At the same time, WAR is joining forces with The Rain Forest Trust and IEBR to propose a project for protecting the **Psychedelic Rock Gecko** (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) in Ca Mau province. This is an endemic species of Vietnam that has just been added to the Cites Appendix I and the IUCN list.

Aside from this endemic species on Hon Khoai island, the survey team recorded 21 bird species, among them the Oriental Hornbill (*Anthracceros albirostris*), an endangered species that needs to be protected and is listed in Vietnam's Red List 2017. Also 27 species of butterflies were recorded on the island. ►



## CONSERVATION BIODIVERSITY



In March 2017, WAR and IEBR's experts has conducted a short survey on mountaibnous area of Tay Con Linh - Vi Xuyen - Ha Giang province. More than 20 bat species and 40 insectivores (Rat/squirrels) has been recorded. Despite the bad weather with mist and heavy cloud, the survey team also record 32 birds species and 20 butterflies. Several interesting information from the herps recorde at the forest is under study of specialists of IEBR. Initial information reveal a record of two rare snake species on Ha Giang area after the first record of the species by Bourret on 1934 at Vietnam, around 80 years ago!

Biodiversity of Vietnam is certainly an interesting issue and this is also challenging to study and conservation rare and/or new species.

◀ Photo: WAR / N.V.Khoi

# What's Up

## BẢO TỒN ĐA DẠNG SINH HỌC

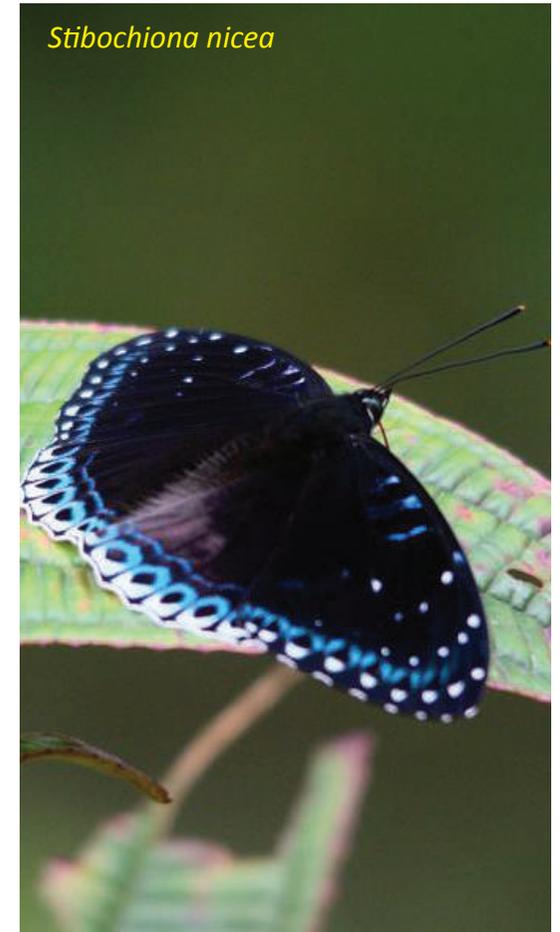


Photo: WAR / B.H.Manh ▲

◀ Photo: WAR / N.V.Khoi

## Several Bat Species on Mountainous Area of TAY CON LINH - Ha Giang province.

Photo: WAR / N.V.Khoi



## Supporting authorities releasing sea turtles

On the 3rd March 2017, WAR cooperated with the Ho Chi Minh Department of Quality Management and Aquatic Resources to release two sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) into the sea of Hon Cau Marine Protected Area in Binh Thuan province. Before releasing them, they were undergoing a check-up by WAR's veterinarian and attach a tag on them. Happy smiles could be seen on the faces of the "wildlife warriors". The Management Board of Hon Cau marine Protected Area actively supported the activity of releasing the turtles.

WAR's staff attaching a special tag before releasing the turtle back to nature



The happy smile of a "wildlife warrior" at the sea of Hon Cau Marine Protected Area

Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam



"I am at home" !



Supporting authorities

LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Transferring a crocodile to a vcenter in U Minh Thượng National Park

WAR received a plea for assistance from the Management Board of Dong Thap Muoi Ecological Reserve in Tien Giang province. Just recently in March WAR sent staff with experience in dealing with reptiles, for catching, conducting check-ups, taking care of and transferring a Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus cf. siamensis*) from Dong Thap Muoi Ecological Reserve (Tien Giang province) to a center for rescuing, preserving and growing biological life forms – U Minh Thuong National Park – Kien Giang Province. All technical procedures and equipment for catching and transferring are completely safety for man and wildlife. This activity was highly appreciated by all local agencies.



▲ The crocodile was tied up with the right equipment before transferring



▲ The crocodile was brought to a rescue center in U Minh Thuong



Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam

## Caring

4 Burmese Ferret-badgers (*Melogale personata*)

4 Oriental Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*)

and 2 individuals of the Sunbeam (*Xenopeltis unicolor*)

During the past quarter, WAR received four Burmese Ferret-badgers (*Melogale personata*), four Oriental Rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*) and two Sunbeam snakes (*Xenopeltis unicolor*). The wildlife have been discovered and confiscated by authorities of Binh Duong province in cases of illegal smuggling. Presently they are being taken care of by WAR's veterinarians and warmly treated by experienced staff. After regaining their strength, the wildlife will be released into the wild.



WAR's staff taking care of a snake ▲  
Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam



Saved Burmese Ferret-badgers ▲  
Photo: WAR / L.T.Vuong

PROTECTING WILDLIFE TODAY IS PROTECTING  
OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT TOMORROW!

## Practical experience for university students

Also during the past quarter, WAR's staff welcomed 30 students and their lecturers of the Environmental Studies Department of Ho Chi Minh City University for Technology at our conservation facility and guided them around the area. Through practical experience the students could see with their eyes how wild animals are cared and protected with the purpose of conservation. Furthermore, they were instructed on how to take soil samples and how to test for minerals and quality of the soil. Therefore, a method for transforming infertile soil, contributing to environmental protection, can be derived. Practical field trips are part of the cooperation program between WAR and the Forestry Science Institute of Southern Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City.



The lecturer instructing students how to take soil samples ▲



Students taking soil samples for analyzing its components. ▲



Students visiting the semi-natural enclosure for turtle breeding ▲  
Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam

## Building breeding enclosures and basic facilities for conservation



System for incinerating animal carcasses ▲



Staff building walkway ▲



Area for keeping monitor lizards ▲  
Photo: WAR / L.X.Lam

The monitor lizards' enclosure, which has been finished recently, comprises an area of approximately 21m<sup>2</sup>. It is now ready to be used for wildlife breeding. The main walkways leading to all enclosures have been completed, based on certain topography and flooding in the rainy season so the water can flow away. At the same time a natural shelter has been created for all animals in need of a shelter. A system to bury infected and sick animals, has been built to guarantee the safety of the environment. All of these actions and activities aim for the general purpose of conservation biodiversity.

Let's act and do something for our living environment around us!

## *Acknowledgements*

- ▶ We sincerely thank Osprey Pack for cooperating with WAR and supporting us in preserving wild animals during the past years.
- ▶ We also would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank IPPL for supporting WAR during the past years in rescuing Vietnam's endangered primate species.
- ▶ We would like to thank the Cologne Zoo – Germany to support WAR and contribute technical advices to our practical work in Vietnam.
- ▶ Special thanks you to Dr. Jana L. Skornickova of Singapore Botanic Gardern and Professor Leonid. V. Averyanov of Russian Academy of Science – Kama-rov Botanical Instituite on their technical assistances on botany issues.

**THANK YOU!**

