

## Welcome

In this What's Up, you will see how hundreds of species recorded for the first time in the forest of Ba To, Quang Ngai – Central Vietnam. All our three wildlife rescue stations were busy with their rescue and release activities. International schools throughout HCMC were busy learning and acting for Vietnam's wildlife and a new species of fresh water fish was successfully bred and released for the occasion of "International Day for Biodiversity".

We are extremely grateful to receive generous support from companies, organisations and individuals. We are looking forward to working with you to fight against the illegal wildlife trade and biodiversity loss. Together we can all save Vietnam's wildlife.

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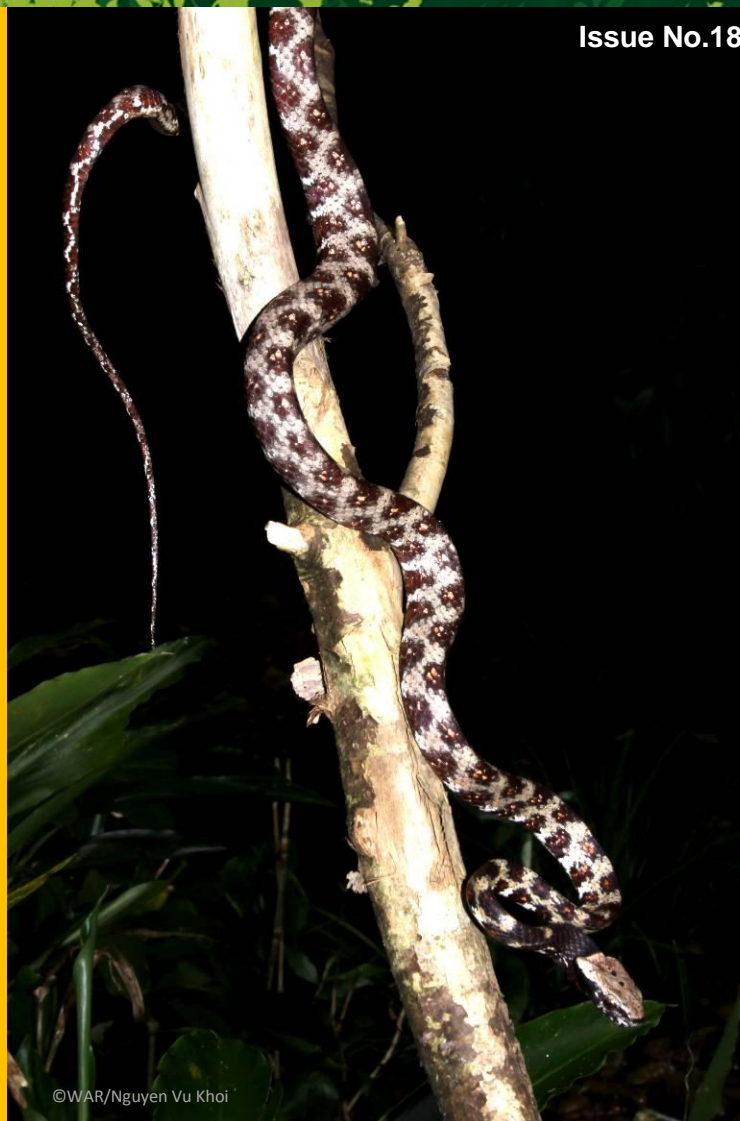
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*This Bourret's Cat Snake (Boiga bourreti) was found for the first time in the deep forests of Ba To District, Quang Ngai Province. Described in 2004, this species has been recorded in Kon Tum and Quang Binh Provinces (central highland and central provinces respectively) so far. This is one result of a biodiversity survey conducted by WAR this June.*

*Read more inside...*

*Our website has just been upgraded. Please visit us at the same address:*

**[www.wildlifeatrisk.org](http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org)**



White-banded Wolf snake (*Dinodon sp. cf. septentrionails*) that has been recorded from Cao Bang to Hue province has now been found in Quang Ngai province.

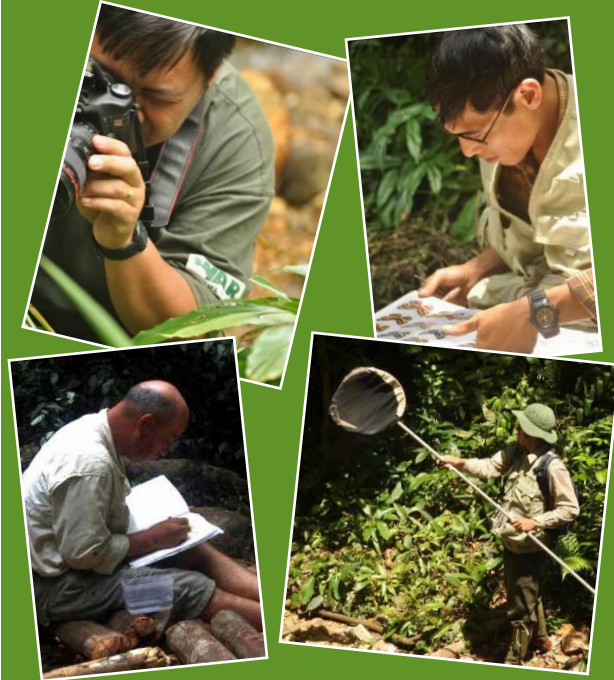


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## Hundreds of species recorded for Quang Ngai Province

**Quang Ngai, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012** – Many new species were recorded for the first time in the forest of Ba To district, Quang Ngai province, including 55 plants species and approximately 200 species of animals including butterfly, moth, fresh-water fish, amphibians, lizards, snakes, stag beetles (Lucanidae), long-horned beetles (Cemrabycidae) and other insects. Some of these are interesting for science. These are the initial results of WAR's biodiversity survey in this area. This is the second time WAR has conducted a biodiversity survey in Quang Ngai.

Participating in this survey were both national and international experts from WAR. Trekking one day through deep forests on sloping hills and high mountains, the survey group spent 15 days to conduct forest research and collect samples. The experts are now working on samples collected during the survey. Final results of the survey will be revealed soon.



Some members of the survey team at work



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Yellow-spotted Spade Foot Toad (*Leptobrachium xanthospilum*) that has been recorded only in Kontum province was recorded in the forests of Quang Ngai province.



©WAR/Bui Huu Manh

A male of the *Aemonia cf. simulatrix* species found in Ba To forest for the first time. This is an interesting species for science



©WAR/Bui Huu Manh

Loach (*Schistura sp.*) is a new fresh water fish for Quang Ngai province



Landscape at survey site

©WAR/Bui Huu Manh



## One new native fish species bred and released successfully

**Ho Chi Minh City, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012** – More than 100 individuals of the Croaking Gourami (*Trichopsis vittata*) was released to a tributary of Sai Gon River at Cau Den Bridge, District 2. This is the first time, this native fish species has been successfully bred and released under the programme titled “Breeding and release native fishes to the wild” started in February 2010 by WAR.

Croaking Gourami, a noncommercial species could live in contaminated water. It feeds on small animals, especially mosquito larva. Releasing Croaking Gourami back to nature not only helps to improve the population of the native fish in the city, but also helps to reduce many diseases caused by mosquitoes.

To date, WAR has released over 1000 individuals of native fishes to the wild, including Fighting fish (*Betta splendens*), Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) and Croaking Gourami. This programme is partly supported by LIN (Center for Community Development).



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Male Croaking Gourami (*Trichopsis vittata*) guarding nest.

In this quarter, **100 individuals** of 17 endangered wildlife species were rescued including Moon Bears, Yellow-checked Crested Gibbons, Pygmy Loris, Pangolin, Great Hornbill, Common Pheasant, King Cobra, Common Rat Snake, Black-tailed Python and Giant Asian Pond Turtle. At the same time, **71 individuals** of 9 species were released back to the wild including Yellow-checked Crested Gibbon, Leopard cat, King Cobra and Elongated tortoise.

### Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

#### Common pheasants rescued



These two Common Pheasants handed over voluntarily by a local person in Thu Duc District, Ho Chi Minh City last May. Receiving proper care by WAR staff at Cu Chi WRS, the two Common Pheasants are now getting better. They are enjoying comfortable lives, learning how to search for food in the wild and waiting to be released back to where they belong.

**In case you are keeping wildlife at home, please consider to hand it to any of our rescue stations so that we can give proper care and they might be released back to the wild.**

#### Yellow-footed Squirrels find its freedom

May 2012, two Yellow-footed Squirrels (*Callosciurus flavimanus*) were released back to Lo Go Xa Mat National Park after spending nearly one month at the Cu Chi WRS. These tree-dwelling mammals were rescued by HCMC Forest Protection Department from the illegal wildlife trade.



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## Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station



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This Sun Bear is enjoying new comfortable life at Hon Me WRS

Hon Me WRS has rescued more than 40 individuals of seven endangered species, including Moon Bear, Sun Bear, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris and Turtles. All of these wildlife species were transferred from Cu Chi WRS or Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. In this quarter, Hon Me WRS continue to have its facilities improved in order to rescue more wildlife.

April 2012, Hon Me WRS rescued three Javan Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) for the first time. These pangolins weighed about 5kg each; they were confiscated by the Kien Luong District Forest Protection Department. In the coming time, when the pangolins are rehabilitated, they will be released back to the wild.



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## Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

June 2012, for the first time, Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station received one individual of Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) that weighed roughly 7kg and with one wing missing, mostly due to a snare trap. This endangered bird was bought by a local people and then confiscated by the Forest Protection Department of Dinh Quan District, Dong Nai Province.

Currently, the stork is carefully watched by WAR's veterinarian at the station. However, with one wing missing, this bird is not able to seek for food in the wild and thus will never be released back to the forest.

Purchasing endangered wildlife contributes to illegal wildlife trade and thus drives wildlife to the brink of extinction. WAR encourages everyone not to purchase wildlife for any purpose.



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## Take part in Nature Protection Programme Year 2012

**Ho Chi Minh City, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012** – On the occasion of the International Day for Biodiversity, more than 30 children aged 12 to 15 years old from “I Love Nature Club” has released native fishes to Cau Den Bridge – a tributary of Sai Gon River in District 2 and then learned how to take care of rescued wildlife at the Cu Chi WRS. The activity provided children an opportunity to contribute directly to the biodiversity of Vietnam through repopulating native fish populations and saving Vietnam endangered wildlife.

This activity is a part of the programme entitled “Take part on Nature Protection Programme for the year 2012” of WAR and Khan Quang Do magazine. This year, the programme focuses on training the children aged 12-15 years old with persuasion skills. When seeing any negative behaviour towards nature and wildlife, the children will come to talk, explain and persuade that person should not repeat that behaviour. The programme also includes many other exciting activities such as discovering nature, visiting wildlife facilities, contest, writing skill training and exciting games.



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©WAR/Hồ Thị Kim Lan

Feed a Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon at Cu Chi WRS (left) and release native fishes to the wild

Chung sức  
bảo vệ thiên nhiên

## Encouraging younger children in wildlife protection

This year, WAR continues to cooperate with Rua Vang magazine to maintain the corner titled “Lovely animals” in this magazine for children aged 5-8 years old. The corner provides our younger audience with knowledge and information on interesting wildlife, especially endangered species. The audience can also answer questions related to each species on each issue to receive a souvenir from WAR.

A journey of two young children who come to take care of rescued wildlife at Cu Chi WRS and release them to the wild is also covered in this corner this year.

The corner has received much positive feedbacks from younger children and their parents. WAR believes that educating young children is a sustainable way to save the wildlife in the future.



Bao Tran, five-year-old girl and a part of her journey to Cu Chi WRS on Rua Vang magazine.

©WAR/Rùa Vàng



## SOS Travelling Exhibition targeted more than 15,000 students and teachers

**Ho Chi Minh City, May 2012** – By the end of this school year 2011-2012, the SOS travelling exhibition has operated in 36 secondary schools and participated by over 15,000 children aged 12-15 years old and teachers. The SOS travelling exhibition aims to educate children on wildlife product consumption and encourage them to take part in saving Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

The SOS exhibition is an extra-curriculum activity where children had opportunities to interact with displays and enjoy games to learn about wildlife in a relax atmosphere. All children were excited with the exhibition and committed to Say NO to illegal wildlife products.

Beside the four districts including District 1 and 3, and Binh Thanh and Phu Nhuan Districts, the SOS exhibition is planning to operate throughout other HCMC districts in next school year. WAR, HCMC Department of Education and Training and HCMC Forest Protection Department are looking for further support to make the exhibition travel to more secondary school.

*Guided at the SOS exhibition were more than 20 enthusiastic and creative volunteers from different Universities throughout HCMC.*

*Being carefully trained, these volunteers brought children a creative learning environment at the SOS travelling exhibition. All volunteers have successfully completed their tasks and are highly appreciated by WAR.*

*They were rewarded with a two-day trip to discover the forests of Cat Tien National Park. The knowledge and experience earned during the trip will help the volunteers to be more confident in guiding students at the SOS Travelling Exhibition in the future.*



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A corner of the BIS's garden technically supported by WAR

## BIS students learn and act for wildlife

Various activities have been conducted at the British International School (BIS) amongst different year groups. This has provided different opportunities for the students to learn about wildlife and contribute towards wildlife protection.

In middle of April, the **BIS garden** was official opened at An Phu 1 Campus. This is a green space where Year 4 students learn how to grow various fruits and vegetables, produce compost and encourage wildlife to enrich the green environment of the school. Different wildlife species have been spotted by the students including Common Fence Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), Common Sun Skink (*Eutropis multifasciata*), Asian Common Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*), beetles and butterflies. This garden has been technically supported by WAR.

In the first week of May, an **Environmental Week** was organised by BIS junior campus to raise the student's awareness on all "green" issues. The students designed rainforest and wildlife collages depicting Vietnam's ecosystems and endemic wildlife. All of these exciting collages were cleverly made from recycled materials such as plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, old ropes, and used

paper that the students found at home and around their school. WAR would like to remind everyone to use eco-friendly shopping bags, help save Vietnam's ecosystems from plastic pollution.

In the middle of May, Year 12 students and teachers from An Phu senior Campus (AP2) visited **Cu Chi WRS** as part of their educational/charity based work exercise. The students were able to see some endangered wildlife and what WAR is doing to save these magnificent species. The students are now actively conducting fundraising activities to help raise awareness amongst other students and their friends about the threats wildlife faces here in Vietnam.



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**In this quarter WAR continues to receive generous support from various companies, organisations and individuals. WAR highly appreciates your generous supports.**

We are grateful to receive financial support from **Mr. Joseph Hoess** from Dragon Capital Clean Development Investments Ltd. in Thai Lan. This donation will help us save more wildlife throughout Vietnam. Every dollar will be used to conserve Vietnam's unique wildlife.

The **Bridge Bardot Foundation (BBF)** provided financial supports to Cu Chi WRS. The donation helps to rescue endangered wildlife in Vietnam. WAR highly appreciates this generous support.

In May, **Group M** – a media investment company based in Ho Chi Minh City has donated WAR ten iron cages to carry bears and twenty plastic cages to carry small carnivores. This donation helps us transferring wildlife more effectively. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Group M for their supports.

Students from **International School of Ho Chi Minh City** financially supported the breeding and releasing of native fishes to the wild at WAR's headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City. WAR would like to thank every child who raised these funds for the wildlife.

Students from the "Roots and Shoots Club" belonging to **South Saigon International School** financially supported to wildlife care activities, after visiting Cu Chi WRS. The hard work and kind effort of every child in raising these funds is highly appreciated.

**Family Medical Practice (FMP)** sponsored four WAR staff to complete basic first aid and CPR training courses. WAR is grateful for this useful support.

Hundreds of children and adults who are Vietnamese and foreigners have visited Cu Chi WRS and Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station in the past three months. WAR highly appreciates your willingness to learn about endangered wildlife and your precious support.

Receiving iron cages from Group M



A Long-horned Beetle recorded in Ba To forest, June 2012



## Pygmy Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*)

This strange looking mammal actually belongs to the primate family. Lorises are nocturnal and omnivorous animals. They feed on ants, insects, forest fruits and tree sap. Lorises are the only toxic primates in the world. It has a toxic bite, which it gets by licking a toxic secretion from under its elbows.

This species is listed as vulnerable in Vietnam Red Book due to habitat destruction, illegal wildlife trade for traditional medicines and exotic pets.

**WAR encourages everyone to Say NO to illegal wildlife products and report wildlife crime to our hotline, to save these unique creatures. WAR's hotline: 0976.06.76.46.**