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Welcome

Another busy year is passing by. In this year, we have tried all our best and achieved certain successes in saving Vietnam's endangered wildlife. Let's take a look inside this What's Up and learn about our busy rescue and release activities. An endangered frog species from Phu Quoc Island is being repopulated, together with several species of native fishes. At the same time, children were trained to persuade people to stop negative behaviours toward wildlife.

WAR receives precious supports from many organisations, schools and individuals through the year round. These supports encourage us taking more courage actions and initiatives to move forward in the battle to save endangered wildlife. WAR would like thank for all those generous supports.

We wish you a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**, the year of the SNAKE!

Khoi Nguyen Vu - WAR's CEO

In this issue

Conservation.....	2
Enforcement.....	3
Wildlife Education.....	6
Donations and supports.....	7
Wildlife Zoom.....	8

Contact

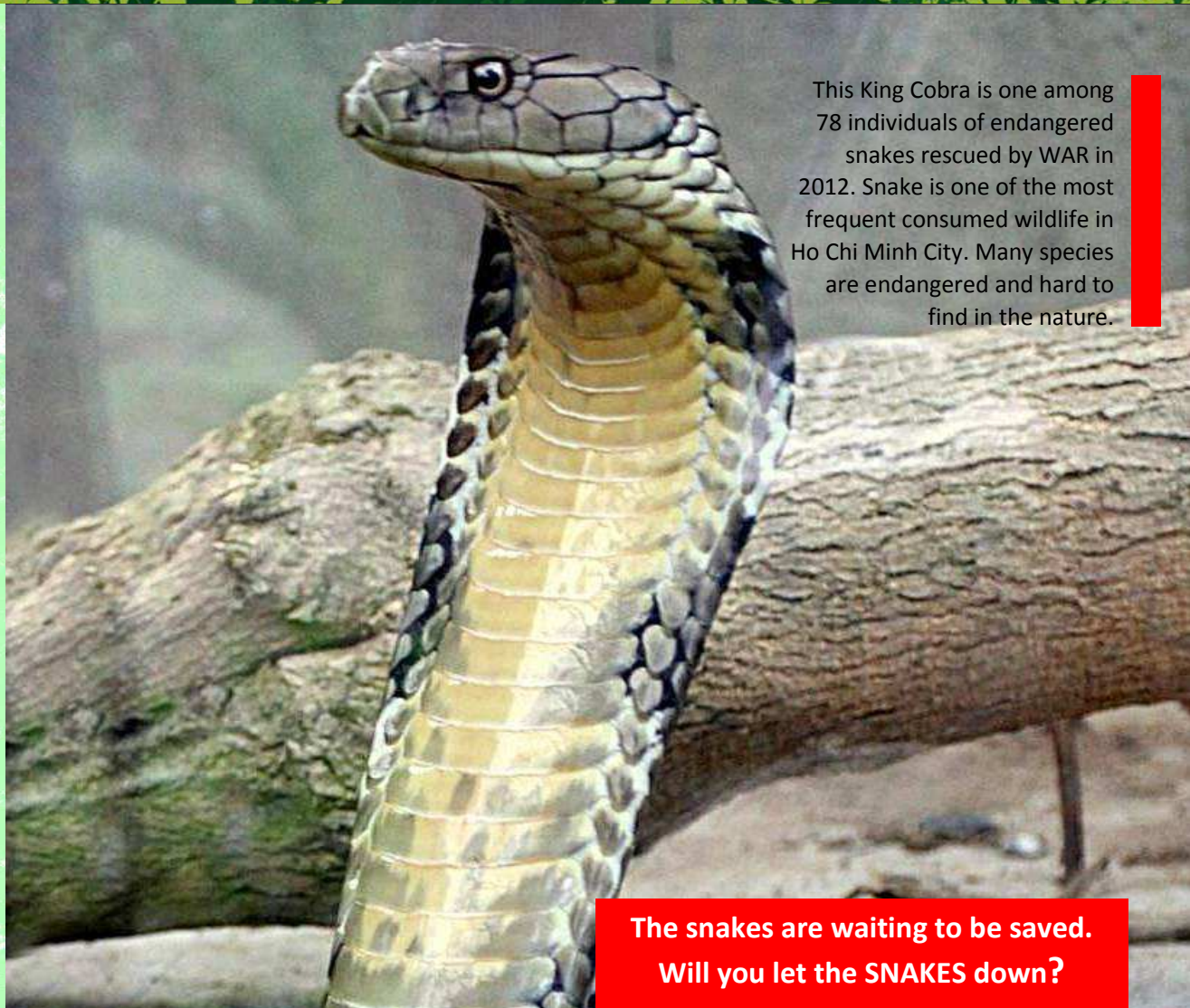
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This King Cobra is one among 78 individuals of endangered snakes rescued by WAR in 2012. Snake is one of the most frequent consumed wildlife in Ho Chi Minh City. Many species are endangered and hard to find in the nature.

**The snakes are waiting to be saved.
Will you let the SNAKES down?**

Continue releasing native fishes to the wild

Ho Chi Minh City, 17 December 2012 – Over 150 native fishes were released to Nhieu Loc Canal at Dien Bien Phu 2 Bridge, Binh Thanh District by 15 university students from 350.org Vietnam Campaign under technical support from WAR. This activity aims to emphasise the importance of nature conservation amongst environmental groups in Ho Chi Minh City and encourage local people to use native fishes for aquariums.

These fishes were bred in the programme titled “Breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild” that started in February 2010 by WAR and was partly supported by LIN (Center for Community Development). The programme helps to repopulate native fish species which are becoming increasingly rare in Ho Chi Minh City.



This is the first time, Three-lined Rasbora (*Rasbora trilineata*) were bred successfully by WAR staff and released to the wild. Three-lined Rasbora is found in lakes, swamps, slow flowing rivers. It feeds on small animals, especially mosquito larva, and organic matters.

To date, WAR has released over 1300 individuals of four native species to the wild, including Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*), Croaking Gourami (*Trichopsis vittata*), Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) and Three-lined Rasbora.

HCMC residents and anyone who are interested in releasing or raising native fishes can contact WAR to get useful supports and consultations.



Releasing endangered frogs

More than 60 individuals of Taylo's Bug-eyed Frog (*Theloderma stellatum*) were successfully released to Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve last November.

Two years ago, WAR staff found tadpoles of this endangered frog species in a lake that were being filled for construction purposes on Phu Quoc Island. Knowing that this species is listed in the IUCN Red Book, they decided to save them. Ten tadpoles were collected and raised at WAR office. After two years, more than 50 baby frogs and its parents are ready to be released.

WAR is now continue to research and breed this species in the hope to improve its population at Phu Quoc National Park.



Released Taylo's Bug-eyed Frogs

Rescue and release of the quarter

In this quarter, **581** individuals of **62** endangered wildlife species were rescued including Bears, primates, birds, Otter, Civet, Pangolin, Porcupine, Wild Cat, Squirrel, snakes, turtles and tortoises. At the same time, **471** individuals of **41** endangered species were successfully rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

WAR does not encourage local people to purchase endangered wildlife and hand them to WAR's wildlife rescue stations. Purchasing endangered wildlife, you are creating a demand for that species. And thus the species will be continuously hunted for illegal trading.

More local people take part in wildlife protection

WAR highly appreciates every single contribution from local people in wildlife protection. We are expecting more people taking more practical actions in saving Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

This year, more local people have participated in WAR's activities in order to save the wildlife than ever. Over 50% of the rescued animals at the three WAR's wildlife rescue stations were handed over voluntarily by local people. Some local people even travelled a long way to hand the wildlife straight to WAR staff at its rescue stations. Some donated cash together with the handed wildlife. Some are patient enough to take care of the wildlife waiting for WAR staff to arrive and transfer it to the rescue stations. Some persuades other people not to kill the wildlife that are found in their property and then hand it to WAR. WAR also received many calls to the hotline to report on wildlife crime. Some endangered individuals were saved due to this simple action.

7 October 2012 – Mr. Nguyen Phuoc Vu Bao, a the local people from District 3, HCMC voluntarily handed over two individuals of the Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) that weighed 6.7 kg totally to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS). This is the first time WAR has rescued this endangered turtle. After visiting Cu Chi WRS, Bao's family kindly donated 1,000,000 VND for wildlife at the Station. WAR highly appreciates Bao 's family for their kindly supports and donation.



The rescue Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*)

A local resident found a Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) weighing roughly 12 kg being sold illegally in an aquarium shop in District 5, Ho Chi Minh City. The resident immediately phoned WAR hot line and managed to persuade the shop owner to voluntarily hand over the turtle to WAR staff. The turtle was successfully transferred to Cu Chi WRS and is now receiving the proper care it needs. After rehabilitation, it can be released back to the wild.



The endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) rescued from illegal trade

Response on illegal trade of Dugongs on Phu Quoc Island

An illegal trade network targeting Dugongs and other endangered marine wildlife was discovered by WAR last September. The issue was immediately brought up to local authorities.

The management board of Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area – Kien Giang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), in cooperation with the Economic Police, Department of Economic and the Market Management Board of Phu Quoc islands, with the support of Kien Giang Province Police quickly verified this illegal trade network.

Kien Giang DARD requests local authorities on Phu Quoc Island to set up a task force to investigate and process the case as well as any other violation related to endangered marine wildlife. They also requests related bodies to raise awareness of restaurant owners and tourists who are responsible for the disappearing of dugong and endangered marine species.

WAR highly appreciates this positive response of Phu Quoc's local authorities and Kien Giang DARD. In the coming years, WAR will provide supports to local authorities in saving Dugong and other marine wildlife.

A piece of Dugong skin sold on Phu Quoc Island last August



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Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) has rescued more bears and primates than ever this year. Only in the last quarter, the Station has received 16 Moon Bears and 34 primates including Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbons, Pygmy Loris and Black-shanked Douc. Among 549 rescued individuals in this quarter, 50% are voluntarily handed by local people from HCMC, Binh Duong and Tay Ninh Provinces. Staff from Cu Chi WRS also successfully provided technical supports to remove a group of aggressive monkeys out of Tay Ninh Holy See.

Story of a Black-shouldered Kite



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

This Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) was rescued by local police in Ward 12, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City last November. On this same confiscation, many other individuals of endangered wildlife was also rescued, including Four Flying Squirrels (*Hylopetes* sp.), one Indochinese Ground Squirrel (*Menetes berdmorei*), two Red-bellied Tree Squirrels (*Callosciurus flavimanus*), and one Shikra (*Accipiter badius*). All of these species were safely transferred to the Cu Chi WRS for rehabilitation and possible releasing back to the wild in near future.

A lucky python

This Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) has just found its freedom after being released to Cat Tien National Park. The Python was confiscated from an illegal trade by Binh Duong Province Forest Protection Department last October. The animal was well rehabilitated at Cu Chi WRS before being released.



©WAR

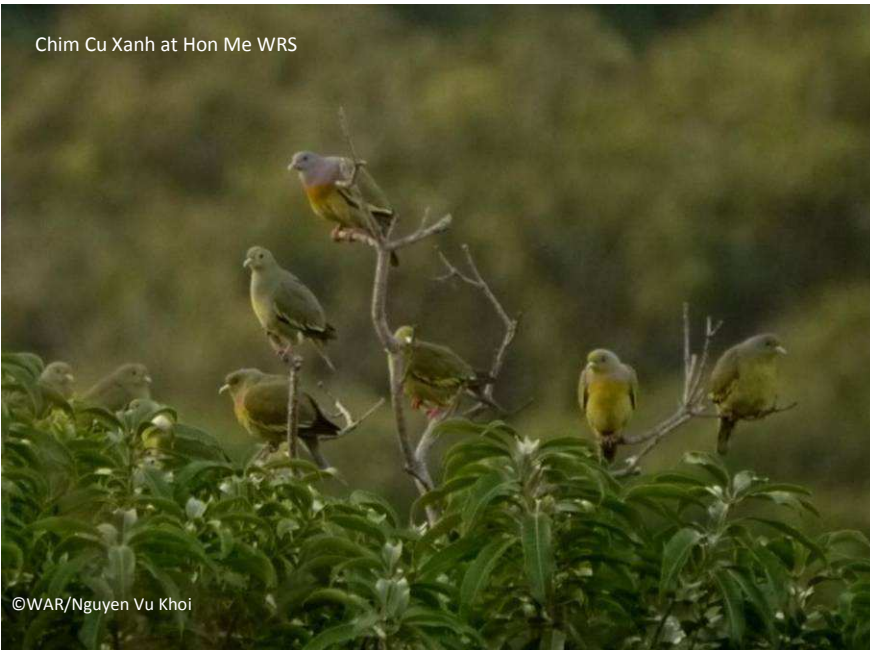
Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

After the official inauguration last July, Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station is accelerating its rescuing activities by upgrading its facilities and getting ready to receive more endangered wildlife. Visiting Hon Me nowadays, tourists could observe about 60 individuals of endangered species such as Moon Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Sun Bear (*Ursus malayanus*), Yellow-checked Crested Gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*), Pygmy Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*), Giant Asian Pond Turtle (*Heosemis grandis*), Elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and crocodile (*Crocodilus cf. siamensis*). You can also join us prepare food and feed the animals or help us improve the facilities.

Waste water from all wildlife enclosures at Hon Me WRS is carefully treated before being discharged to the nature. The water treatment system was constructed in 2010 and was certified by appropriate body. In this quarter, this system was improved so that the treated water is used to water trees and clean animal enclosures.

With a large area of wild vegetation, Hon Me WRS is home to numerous wildlife species, including endangered one. A Burmese Python was also found inside the Station last month.

Chim Cu Xanh at Hon Me WRS



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

Massive releasing to U Minh Thuong National Park



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

These two Spotted-bill Duck, together with seven individuals of other endangered species included Burmese Python (*Python molurus*), Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Javan Pangolin (*Manis javanica*), Asiatic Soft shell Turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*), Spotted-bill Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) and Small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes javanica*) were successfully released to U Minh Thuong National Park by WAR staff and Kien Giang Forest Protection Department. These animals were taken good care and rehabilitated at Hon Me WRS before being released last November.

Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

In this last quarter, WAR staff at Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station focus on taking care and rehabilitating the 35 individuals of Moon Bears and Sun Bears, and one Leopard. However, last November, more than 20 individuals of endangered snakes, one Asian Palm Civet and one Asiatic Reticulated Python were also rescued and released.

The Station was also receiving hundreds of foreign and Vietnamese tourists to observe and learn about bears and other rescue wildlife.



©WAR/Nguyen Van Cuong

A group of students visiting Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

SOS Travelling Exhibition An update



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

Students enthusiastically learnt about wildlife consumption

The SOS Travelling Exhibition has targeted more than 7,400 students and teachers in seven secondary schools in District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, in this first semester of school year 2012-2013.

The SOS Travelling Exhibition is a joint effort of WAR, HCMC Department of Education and Training and HCMC Forest Protection Department to educate children on wildlife consumption. The exhibition that is in the form of a tent was launched in December last year. To date, more than 20,300 students aged 12-15 years old and teachers from 43 secondary schools have visited and learned about wildlife consumption at the exhibition. In the next semester, the exhibition will travel to six secondary schools of District 6, targeting roughly 7,000 students and teachers more.

Persuading people to stop negative behaviours

Ho Chi Minh City, 21 October 2012 – More than 20 children aged 11 to 15 years old from the “I Love Nature” Club and “Young Media” Club – Khan Quang Do magazine spent a day at Sai Gon Zoo to persuade tourists to stop negative behaviours toward wildlife.

The children walked in the zoo and observed the tourists. When they saw any negative behavior toward the animal and the environment they came to talk, explain and persuade that person not to repeat that behavior. In many cases, the visitors stopped their negative behaviours. However, there are also many cases when people show their attitude and did not cooperate.

“It is not easy to persuade a people to change their behavior toward nature and wildlife. We must have enough knowledge about the wildlife and nature. We need to have many social skills and we have to be patience, friendly and brave as well. Today, I am very happy because I was successfully persuaded a kid aging four to five years old to stop throwing garbage into cage of a Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, and an adult woman to stop feeding Asian Elephant by her own food. I believe that my small actions contribute to save our precious wildlife”, said Ly Uyen, grade 6/1, Collette Secondary School, District 3.

Before spending a day at the Sai Gon Zoo to persuade people protect wildlife, the children were equipped with necessary skills and knowledge to be able to persuade people.

This is one activity of the programme entitled “Take part in Nature Protection” implemented by WAR and Khan Quang Do Magazine.

Get ready to persuade visitors at Sai Gon zoo



©WAR/Quach Du Tay

Primary School students visit Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Ho Chi Minh City, 8 December 2012 – WAR supported Green Future of Children Club (GFOC) to organise a one-day study tour to Cu Chi WRS for about 50 children aged nine years old, and teachers from Nguyen Binh Khiem Primary School, District 1, HCMC. The trip aims to encourage children's love for the nature; improve knowledge about endangered wildlife that are rescued at the Station; and provide an opportunity for children to participate in wildlife protection.



©WAR/Hong Ngoc

Learn about a baby Yellow-checked Crested Gibbon

The children were excited to see rescued wildlife with their bare eyes and learnt about the journey of each rescued individual. Creative activities and games at the Station helped them to learn more about wildlife and wildlife trade, and to commit to wildlife protection. Phuong Vy, a student from Nguyen Binh Khiem Primary school expressed that *“The trip today helps me to know more about wildlife as well as the sad stories of these rescued animals. I will tell my family and my friend about the Station so that they could join WAR save endangered wildlife.”*

Douc Langur Foundation and International Primate Protection League

provide great supports to WAR in rescuing primate at our three wildlife rescue stations. We would like to express our deepest thankfulness for this kind support and contribution.

The Body Shop provided financial support to purchase food for the rescued Pangolins at Cu Chi WRS last November. This support does help us taking good care of these unique creatures. WAR is grateful for this precious support.

For the first time, Cu Chi WRS has received supports from a Vietnamese school. We would like to express our sincere thanks to **Le Ngoc Han Primary School**, Ho Chi Minh City for its precious support in 2011 and 2012. We are looking forward for more supports from other Vietnamese schools.

The International Lady of Vietnam (ILV) has provide WAR an opportunity to raise fund at its' annual Christmas Charity Bazaar this year. Thanks to the ILV for this opportunity.

Children from **FOSCO International School** baked cakes and sold at the School's Christmas Concert to raise fund for wildlife. All money was donated to WAR's activities to save Vietnam's endangered wildlife. WAR highly appreciate this fabulous afford from the children and teachers at FOSCO International School.

This year, about **30 volunteers** have come to work at Cu Chi WRS. They did provide a great support to the Station.

More than 30 staff of **Dragon Capital** helped to plant trees and prepared enrichment food for wildlife at Hon Me WRS on 16 December 2012. Last year, similar supports were provided to Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. WAR highly appreciates these kindly support and willingness of the Dragon Capital staff.



Dragon Capital staff planted trees at Hon Me WRS



FOSCO International School students visited Cu Chi WRS before the Concert

Burmese Python

Python molurus

This is one of the largest snakes in the world. In the wild, a Burmese Python may reach up to eight meters long. This species is semi-aquatic. It is found near water and also in trees. Burmese Pythons feed on small mammals including rodents, amphibians, reptiles, small deer and birds.

The number of these Burmese Pythons in Vietnam has been declined steadily due to habitat lost, illegal hunting and trading for pet, meat and leather products. Burmese Python is listed as Critical Endangered in Vietnam Red Book.



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