



What's up

A quarterly newsletter

Issue No.22 | April – June 2013

Also available in Vietnamese from this Issue!

Welcome



During the past quarter, WAR launched a new volunteer programme for university students from Ho Chi Minh City. The programme aims to create stronger supports for wildlife conservation in the coming time. WAR's three wildlife rescue stations were busy with its rescue and release activities. Dozens of wildlife were released back to suitable habitats and numerous endangered wildlife are being rehabilitated to be ready for being released back to the wild. WAR also conducted two biodiversity surveys in Nui Chua National Park, Ninh Thuan Province and Ba To District, Quang Ngai Province.

We are grateful for the generous supports from companies, schools and individuals for Vietnam's endangered wildlife. Your supports are highly appreciated.

Thank you and enjoy.

Khoi Nguyen Vu - WAR's CEO



This Indochinese Silvered Langur has just found a better life at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station. Please read inside.

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Ngoc Han - Miss Vietnam 2010 promotes WAR's online games to help save endangered wildlife on 24h Song Xanh (24h Green Living) programme, VTV1. Please read inside



©WAR/Ngan Le Thi Kim

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Biodiversity surveys

Nui Chua National Park

A biodiversity survey was conducted last May by national and international experts from WAR at Nui Chua National Park, Ninh Thuan Province. It takes the experts over six hours walking through semi-desert forest to tropical rain forest at 800m above sea level to reach the area where the survey was conducted. The survey recorded numerous endangered species with possible new species for Vietnam and the world. Further findings of this survey will be released soon.



Wild Turmeric (*Curcuma aromatica*) flowers in Nui Chua NP
©WAR/Khoi Nguyen Vu



An Asian Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradise*) at Nui Chua NP
©WAR/Khoi Nguyen Vu

Quang Ngai Province

A biodiversity survey was conducted last April by WAR's experts in the forest of Ba To District, Quang Ngai Province. This is the fourth time, this survey has been conducted in this tropical rain forest by WAR. The four surveys have recorded roughly 250 species of butterflies, 100 species of birds, 40 species of fresh water fishes, 50 species of reptile and amphibians, and 200 species of forest trees and plants.



©WAR/Khoi Nguyen Vu

Vietnam Long-tailed Agama (*Bronchocela vietnamensis*) recorded for the first time in Nui Chua National Park.

Discovering of Onychophora for the second time in Vietnam

This individual of Onychophora (*Eoperipatus sp.*) belonging to Peripatidae Phylum was recorded by Vietnamese and international scientists of WAR in a forest of Quang Ngai Province during a biodiversity survey in June last year. This is the second time, Onychophora has been recorded in Vietnam. This discovery was announced openly to international community on some international magazine. Please see detail of the announcement of the Onychophora discovery here:

http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org/new/public/technical_report





©WAR/Lan Ho Thi Kim

The native fishes were released by more than 20 university students from GFOC Club of Foreign Trade University and Society Group of Economic University, Ho Chi Minh City.

Keep releasing native fishes to the wild

Ho Chi Minh City, 16 May 2013 – Over 100 individuals of native fishes including Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*), Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) and Three-line Rasbora (*Rasbora trilineata*) were released to the Ben Cat River - a tributary of Sai Gon River. This is the second time native fishes from WAR's programme entitled "Breed and release native fishes to the wild" have been released to the wild in 2013. Since February 2010, more than 1600 individuals of native fishes have been released to the wild by WAR. The programme not only helps repopulate native fish population but also raises awareness of local people of native fish protection.

The students discuss excitingly with Mr. Manh Bui Huu, WAR senior Conservation Officer who is in charge of the programme, about how to raise native fishes and how the activity contributes to wildlife conservation.

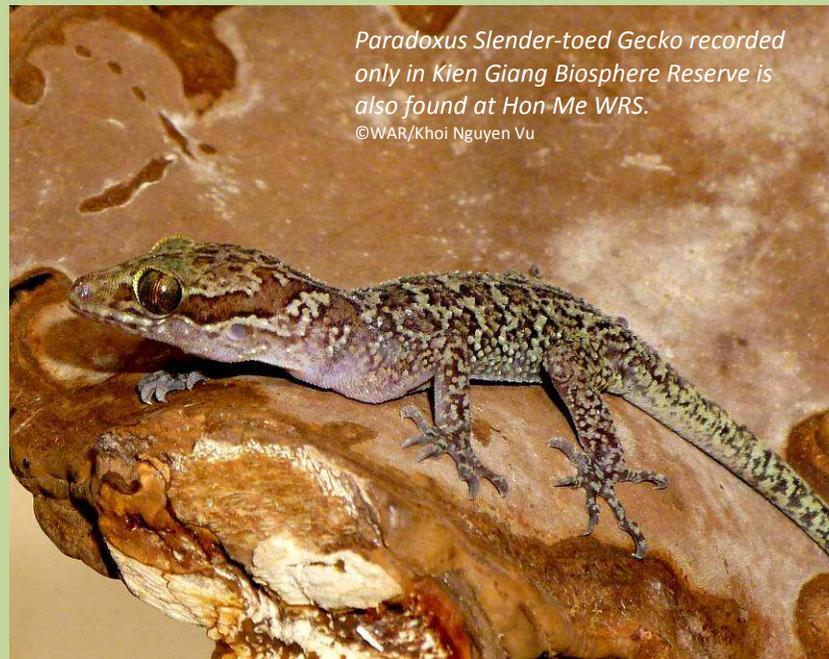
An Le Trong, a member of the Society Group from Economic University expressed that: "Since I joined WAR releasing native fishes to the wild, I have learnt about many native Vietnamese fish species and how to raise them. I am totally inspired and I will do my most to help save native fishes".

Please contact WAR for consultation on native fish raising and relevant information.

Biodiversity survey at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

An initial survey at Hon me Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) this quarter recorded 24 species of birds, 24 species of reptile and amphibians, and more than 40 native forest trees. Many species are endangered and need to be protected, such as Paradoxus Slender-toed Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus paradoxus*) and Saffron-limbed Gecko (*Cnemaspis aurantiacopes*).

Hon Me WRS has a total area of 3ha, which is much larger than Cu Chi WRS, and Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. The Station has dense vegetation and various wild species. Result of the survey is a strong base for WAR to implement conservation initiatives not only to rescued species but also species in the wild.



Paradoxus Slender-toed Gecko recorded only in Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve is also found at Hon-Me WRS.
©WAR/Khoi Nguyen Vu



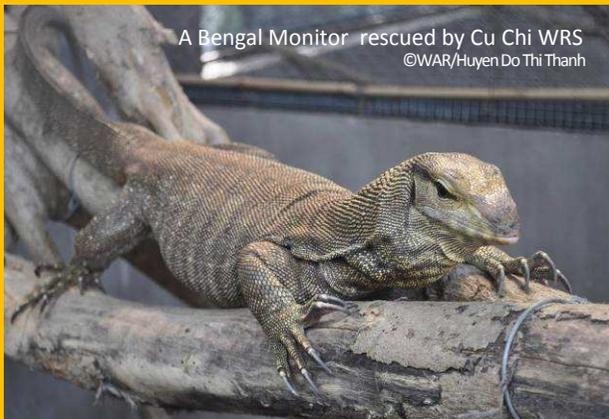
Saffron-limbed Gecko - a native species that is native to Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province was also found at Hon-Me WRS. The species was described for the first time in 2007.
©WAR/Manh Bui Huu

Rescue and release



During the past quarter, **32** individuals of 19 endangered wildlife species were rescued including Sun Bear, Moon Bear, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris, Indochinese Slivered Langur, Javan Pangolin, Bengal Monitors, Asian Palm Civet, Green Peafowl, Blue Peafowl, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Crested Serpent Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Wild Boar, Green Turtle and turtles.

Also in this quarter, **87** individuals of 12 species were released back to the wild including Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris, Reticulated Python, Bengal Monitor, Barn Owl, Grant Asian Pond Turtle, Elongated Tortoise, Asian Palm Civet, Black-crowned Night Heron, Malayan Porcupine and Wild Boar.



A Bengal Monitor rescued by Cu Chi WRS
©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

During the past quarter, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) has been busy with its rescue and release activities. Numerous endangered individuals were successfully rescued, rehabilitated and released back to the wild. The Station also welcomed volunteers and visitors who were there to learn about wildlife and wildlife rescue activities. Leaders and staff from the Department of Forestry and many national parks of Vietnam also visited the station in this quarter.

Release Barn Owls back to its home



©WAR/Lam Le Xuan

Last May, four individuals of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) were successfully released to Bu Gia Map National Park, Binh Phuoc Province. These Barn Owls were handed voluntarily to Cu Chi WRS by local people in HCMC last January and February.

Barn Owls are nocturnal birds. This species could protect crops from rodents. However, more and more Barn Owls were illegally hunted and captured for pet or stuffed animal productions by local people. Deforestation and forest degradation cause habitat loss for this species. As a result, they have to move into residential areas to seek for food and thus face danger and even death from human. Please do not buy this species for any purpose in order to save it.

Rescue Green Turtle

This endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), weighing roughly 1kg was rescued from a Coffee Shop in District 3, HCMC by the City Environmental Police and HCMC Fisheries Quality Assurance and Aquatic Resources Protection Department. The juvenile Green Turtle was successfully transferred to Cu Chi WRS last June. It is now being taken good care of by WAR staff at the Station. When ready, the Green Turtle will be released back to the sea.



©WAR/Lan Ho Thi Kim

Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

This quarter, Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station also rescue and release several individuals of other endangered wildlife such as Bengal Monitor, Asian Leaf Turtle, and Asian Palm Civet.

Save Asian Leaf Turtle

One female individual of Asian Leaf Turtle (*Cyclemys dentata*) weighing 3.5 kg was saved by WAR's staff at Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station. Early this June, the turtle was confiscated from illegal hunting by rangers of Cat Tien National Park.

Population of the Asian Leaf Turtle in the wild is declining steadily due to illegal hunting and trading for meat and pet. The Asian Leaf Turtle might be listed in the Vietnam Red Book soon if the species is continuously hunted and killed.



©WAR/Khoi Nguyen Vu

Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station



*This newly rescued Indochinese Silvered Langur is enjoying its new enclosure at Hon Me WRS. Also in this quarter, **a big reservoir** is constructed in order to store and provide enough water for rescued animals at the Station during dry season.*

©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh

Rescue one more Indochinese Silvered Langur

Last April, Hon Me WRS received one female Indochinese Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*) weighing roughly 4 kg. The animal was extremely weak. According to the Forest Protection Department of Kien Luong District, Kien Giang Province, the animal was handed over voluntarily by a local people.

Receiving good care from WAR's staff, the langur is getting better. Now it is enjoying a much more comfortable life at Hon Me WRS. This is the second time Hon Me WRS has rescued this endangered species that is found only in Kien Giang province.

WAR's hotline saved an endangered Gibbon



Ho Chi Minh City, dated 18 June 2013 – WAR's hotline received a phone call from a local people reporting that an individual of Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) was being captured in a tiny cage at Binh Hung Hoa Ward, Binh Tan District, HCMC. This is an endangered species that need to be saved. WAR worked immediately with HCMC Forest Protection Department to quickly rescue the animal. One day after being reported, the animal was confiscated and successfully transferred to Cu Chi WRS.

The Gibbon was very weak and thin, weighing around 2.7 kg. Arriving Cu Chi WRS, the animal received special health care. The Gibbon now is getting better and is being rehabilitated for possible release in the coming time.

WAR highly appreciates this reporting and encourages local people to keep reporting wildlife crime to WAR's hotline at

097 606 76 46.



Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo above and guess what species is victim of the illegal wildlife trade and consumption?

Please go to page 9 for correct answer.

Summer Move 2013

This June, WAR launched a new volunteer programme entitled "Summer Move" for any university students from HCMC to learn and work at WAR's wildlife rescue facilities, free of charge. This annual programme aims to generate stronger supports for wildlife conservation through connecting youth with wildlife conservation jobs. Studying and working at WAR's wildlife rescue facilities, university students are inspired and have an unique opportunity to think critically about wildlife conservation as a profession. WAR expects that more and more university students will decide to work in the wildlife conservation area or to do something for wildlife when they are graduated.

The first "Summer Move" programme that lasted for five days and four nights was organised successfully at Hon Me WRS this late June. The students observed and learnt about endangered wildlife. They also helped prepare food and fed the wildlife, cleaned and painted wildlife's enclosures, grew some food plants for wildlife, and distributed wildlife protection leaflets to approximately 500 local households in Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province.



Plant forest trees at Hon Me WRS

©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh



Learn to set camera trap in the forest

©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh

©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh



Paint Moon Bear's enclosure

Launch computer games to protect wildlife

Ho Chi Minh City, dated 22 May 2013 – On the occasion of the International Day for Biodiversity 2013, two online games titled "Wildlife Savior" and "Guess my name" were launched by WAR and Khan Quang Do magazine. Developed from awarded ideas of the contest on Initiating computer game idea entitled "Call of the forest" last year, the two games were designed to inspire youngsters on wildlife protection. Please visit WAR's website to play the games in both English and Vietnamese.

The two games were promoted by Ngoc Han, Miss Vietnam 2010 on the 24h Living Green Programme (24h Sống Xanh) on national TV. WAR is looking for further supports to develop more computer games of a similar nature.



©WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

WAR is grateful for generous supports from following companies and schools

Osprey kept donating cash for WAR's wildlife conservation activities this June. We are thankful for this continuous support toward Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

Dragon Capital Clean Development Investments Ltd., provided generous support for wildlife conservation activities.

Over 75 students from Year 4 of **ABC International School** raised fund through organising games and selling hand-made items. **All the cash collected were donated to WAR's wildlife conservation activities.** This initiative of the students and teachers from ABC International School is highly appreciated.

Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary School students from **Canadian International School (CIS)** organised a Dress Down Day where children pay a certain amount of money for not wearing the school uniform and also selling popcorn to raise fund for wildlife. WAR is grateful for the initiative and contribution from students and teachers of the CIS.

International School South Saigon Pearl students organised a meaningful environmental week. The students learnt about wildlife and contributed cash to WAR's wildlife conservation activities. This great contribution is highly appreciated.



CIS students learning about WAR's wildlife conservation activities ©WAR/Lan Ho Thi Kim

Publications

Rescued wildlife postcards

One set of ten postcards, sized 13cmX18cm entitled "Rescued Wildlife" was published by WAR last June. This volume 1 includes ten stories of ten different endangered wildlife species rescued by WAR. These wildlife are now enjoying comfortable lives either in the wild or at WAR's rescue facilities.

The postcards aim to raise awareness of the public on rescue job and call for attention on wildlife protection. In the coming time, more stories of wildlife those have been rescued by WAR will be revealed in next volumes of the seri. Please contact WAR for the Rescued Wildlife postcards.



New orange shopping bag

These new orange shopping bags are used to replace nylon bags and thus contribute to environment protection. The bags also call people to "Say No to illegal wildlife products".

The shopping bags are available at WAR office.



Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*) is the largest species of Cervidae family which can weigh up to 200 kg and reach 2 m long. They often live in woodland and feed on a wide variety of vegetation including grasses, fruit, shrubs and trees. Sambar Deers are nocturnal or crepuscular; they seek for food at night or dusk. Only males have antlers which are large and rugged and could be up to 110 cm long.

Currently, the population of this species in Vietnam has been reduced steadily due to habitat lost and illegal hunting for meat, fur and especially medicine. People believe that alcoholic drink made from Deer's antlers, penises and fetus is able to improve sexual ability, strengthen joints, cure asthma and heal injuries. In reality, there is no scientific proof for this yet.

Together with snake and wild boar, stags/deers are the most widely consumed species in HCMC (According to WAR's survey on consumption of wild animal products in HCMC, 2011).

If you would like to protect Sambar Deer from extinction, please join us **"Say NO to illegal Sambar Deer products"**.

