

Welcome



During the past quarter, we have been delighted to have had more opportunities to educate children on wildlife protection. The SOS Programme was successfully put in place for the 2013-2014 school year. We expect that approximately 30,000 children aged 12-15 years old and secondary school teachers will benefit from its message. Other highlight of this quarter was that a large number of sea turtles were rescued and released, and seven new otters were born.

We are grateful for the generous support of donors and individuals.

Please enjoy this newsletter.

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO



This painting was completed by about 1,200 participants and students at the SOS Programme Booting Ceremony. The painting is now a wall of the SOS Travelling Exhibition Tent. Please see inside for further details.

©Do ThiThanhHuyen



Three otters were born at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station last July. Four other otters were also born at Cu Chi WRS during the quarter. Please see inside for further details.

In this issue

Conservation.....	2
Enforcement.....	3
Wildlife Education.....	6
Donations and supports....	7
Publications.....	8
Who is looking at you.....	9

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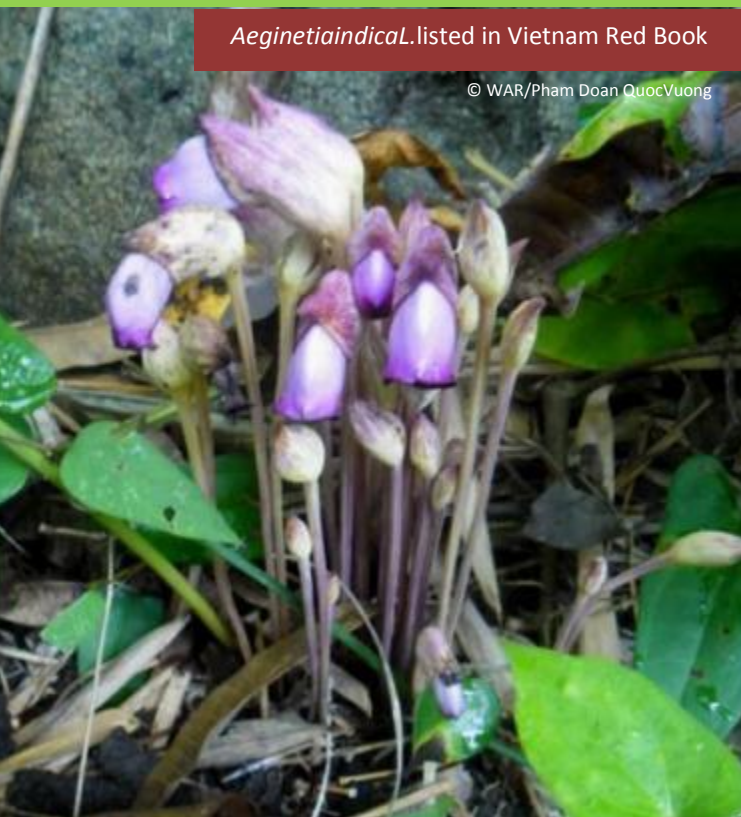
Continuous biodiversity survey at Hon Me

A botanical survey is ongoing at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS), Hon Dat, Hon Queo, Hon Dat District, KienGiang Province. The survey has so far recorded approximately 150 species of forest plants including two species listed in Vietnamese Red Book, more than 60 timber species and nearly 60 medicinal plants.

Over 50 species including endangered species such as *Hopea* (*Hopea sp.*), *Dipterocarpus* (*Dipterocarpus spp.*), and *Lagerstroemia* (*Lagerstroemia sp.*) were planted at Hon Me WRS. Some wild plants which are used for food and other rescued species were also collected and grown at the WRS to provide additional food for rescued wildlife.

Aeginetia indica L. listed in Vietnam Red Book

© WAR/Pham Doan QuocVuong



Ảnh: WAR/Bùi Hữu Mạnh

Continue breeding native fishes

Native fishes are being bred continuously at WAR office. These native fishes will be release back to the wild in the beginning of October 2013

Above photo: Female (above) and male of the Three-lined Rasbora

Right photo: an individual of Three-lined Rasbora of 20 days old

© WAR/Bùi Hữu Mạnh



Rescue and release



From July to September 2013, **44** individuals from 12 endangered wildlife species were rescued, these included Sun Bear, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris, Bengal Monitors, Hawksbill Turtle, Green Turtle, Pig-tailed Macaque, Mouse Deer, Porcupine, Greater Spotted Eagle and Blue Peafowl.

Over the same period, **seven** individual endangered sea turtles including Hawksbil and Green Turtles were released back to the sea.

More Pangolin born



©WAR/Lam LeXuan

This baby Javan Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) was born at Cu Chi WRS at the end of August 2013. It is covered by soft scales. The new born baby is breastfeeding and it always clings to its mother's tail when moving. After two or three months, the baby pangolin will feed on ant eggs and not cling to its mother's tail anymore.

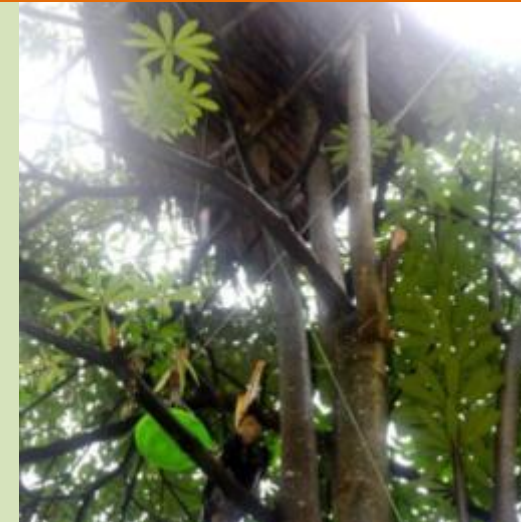
Both the father and mother of the baby pangolin were handed over to the Cu Chi WRS by HCMC Forest Protection Department (FPD) in early 2010. At the time of being rescued, the mother was a baby, and the father was injured with a front paw missing due to being trapped in a forest snare.

This is the third time that pangolins have been born at Cu Chi WRS. To date, six Javan Pangolins have been successfully bred by WAR. New born pangolins receive special care from WAR staff and will be released to the forest when they are ready.

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Newly constructed Bird Rescue Area

In September 2013, a new Bird Rescue Area measuring 200m in area and 20m high was inaugurated at Cu Chi WRS with generous support from **Media MegaStar Ltd. Co** and **Dragon Capital**. Since then, endangered bird species such as Green Peafowl, Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Ring-necked Pheasant, and etc., have enjoyed a more comfortable environment at the WRS. This new enclosure is surrounded by mist nets. Numerous resting spots and several shelters for Hornbill have been designed within the enclosure. Natural big trees inside the area create a more comfortable environment for the rescued birds. This new Bird Rescue Area has increased the capacity of Cu Chi WRS for rescuing endangered birds.



A shelter for a Hornbill in the Bird Rescue Area
©WAR/Huyen Do Thi Thanh

Seven otters born at Cu Chi WRS



©WAR/Lam LeXuan

During this quarter seven individual Asian Small-clawed Otters (*Aonyx cinerea*) were born at Cu Chi WRS in June, July and September. All three mothers became pregnant while at Cu Chi WRS.

The father of the three otters born in September was handed over to Cu Chi WRS by a local in early 2012. The mother was rescued in October 2010 when it was small by HCMC FPD and Police.

The other four otters born in June and July share the same father. Three of these otters were born at the same time by one mother and the other was born by a different female. The father was rescued in 2007 by HCMC FPD while the mothers were handed over by local people in 2011.

Two weeks after being born, the pups open their eyes. They stay in the nest and breastfeed for about one and a half months to two months. After that, the babies start to feed on fish and learn how to swim. Both father and mother stay together to take care of the pups.

This is the fourth time, Asian Small-clawed Otters have been born at Cu Chi WRS.

Training course on Wild Animal Care

September 2013 – A five-day training course titled Wild Animal Care was implemented by WAR, the Douc Langur Foundation (DLF), the International Primate Protection League and Chu Mom Ray National Park at Chu Mom Ray National Park in the central highland. The training course aims to equip necessary knowledge and skills about caring, rescuing and treating for wild animals. Participated in the training course were 15 staff and leaders of the National Park who is involved in the Park's Rescue Station.

The course helps participants understand more throughoutly about wildlife rescue processes, know how to feed wildlife and how to clean wildlife's enclosures. Besides, the participants also know about different types of common diseases for wildlife and how to treat each disease on different species. Anesthetic technique and medication application for wildlife were also trained carefully by WAR's veterinarians.

WAR hopes that the training course helps improve capacity for staff of the rescue station at Chu Mom Ray National Park, and therefore contributing to wildlife rescue activities and conservation activities in the area.

Photo: WAR

Learn how to treat wildlife's diseases



Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

Rescue Porcupine

In early September, eleven individual Porcupines (*Hystrixbrachyura*) were safely transferred to Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station from a wildlife farm at Bien Hoa City, Dong Nai Province. Previously, a farm at Hon Dat District, KienGiang Province also handed 23 Porcupines to Hon Me WRS.

After spending sometime at the Stations, all rescued porcupines are now fully recovered and are ready to be released to the wild. In the past few months, several porcupine farms in the South contacted WAR and offered to hand Porcupines to WAR's rescue facilities.



©WAR/Huyen Do ThiThanh

Highlight

Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station has inaugurated a new veterinary clinic and a food processing room for rescued wildlife. These upgraded facilities help improve the effectiveness of healthcare for rescued wildlife at the station.

Also in this quarter, the station received one Sun Bear weighing 60 kg from one resident in Dong Nai Province. To date, 35 Moon Bears and Sun Bears have been rescued at Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station.



Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station



This **Pygmy Loris** (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) was received from Can Tho Provincial FPD last July by WAR and KienGiang Provincial FPD. At the time of rescuing, the loris weighed only 150 grams. Its health now is much improved.

©WAR/Khoi Nguyen-Vu

Facility upgrading

During this quarter, an Otter Rescue Area which includes a small lake and a Sea Turtle Rescue Area were constructed at Hon Me WRS.

In order to supply enough water during dry season for rescued wildlife at Hon Me WRS, a reservoir of ten cubic metres and six tanks of two cubic metres each were also constructed and equipped for Hon Me WRS.

Rescue sea turtles

During the quarter, WAR co-operated with KienGiang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, PhuQuoc Marine Protection Area (MPA) and the Task Force of PhuQuoc Island to successfully rescue ten individual endangered sea turtles including five Hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and five Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*).

These sea turtles were confiscated from seafood stores and restaurants in Rach Gia City and PhuQuoc Island, KienGiang Province. One Hawksbill and two Green Turtles were rescued by Hon Me WRS while the others were taken care at PhuQuoc MPA.

Currently, two Hawksbills and four Green Turtles have been successfully tagged and released back to the sea. The three baby Hawksbills and one Green Turtle which were confiscated at a restaurant on PhuQuoc Island are now being taken care of by PhuQuoc MPA. When ready, they will be released back to the sea.

WAR has successfully rescued more than 40 individual endangered sea turtles, of which 36 individuals are Hawksbills. Since July of 2013, all rescued sea turtles have been tagged before being released back to the sea. The iron tags including Vietnam code and WAR email help to identify the sea turtles in case they are caught or observed in the wild.



Releasing a sea turtle on PhuQuoc sea

©WAR

SOS Programme 2013-2014

The SOS Programme for the academic year 2013-2014 includes the SOS Travelling Exhibition which was launched in December 2011. Two new components of this programme include visiting Cu Chi WRS and integrating wildlife education into the official curriculum of Biology for grade 7. In the 2013 school year, it is expected that approximately 30,000 secondary school students aged 12-15 years old from Tan Phu, Tan Binh, Binh Tan and Go Vap Districts will enjoy SOS Travelling Tent, about 1,000 secondary school students and teachers from Tan Phu, Tan Binh, Binh Tan and Go Vap Districts will visit Cu Chi WRS and all grade 7 children of Binh Thanh District will learn more about wildlife in their official curriculum.

In order to start up the SOS Programme 2013-2014, a Ceremony was organised on 26 September 2013 at Dong Khoi Secondary School by Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in co-operation with Ho Chi Minh

City (HCMC) Department of Education and Training (DOET) and HCMC FPD. Focusing on the Asian Elephant, the Ceremony was attended by over 1,000 participants encouraging people to "Say NO to illegal wildlife products" and "Take part in protecting a natural masterpiece Asian Elephant".

At the Ceremony, all participants worked together to paint a colourful and impressive painting of Asian Elephants on a wall tent. The painting educates children and teachers who will visit the SOS Travelling Exhibition about the critical situation of Asian Elephant in Vietnam.

From 2011 to date, the SOS Travelling Exhibition has been visited by nearly 30,000 secondary school students and their teachers from District 1, 3, 5 and 6, and Binh Thanh and Phu Nhuan Districts, HCMC.



Leaders paint a wall of the SOS tent
©WAR

Volunteer students visit Cu Chi WRS



Learning about a turtle at Cu Chi WRS
©WAR/Ngan Le Thi Kim

In September 2013 – More than 30 volunteer students of the SOS Programme joined a study tour at Cu Chi WRS. This trip - part of a training course on "Skills to operate the SOS Traveling Exhibition 2013 – 2014", aims to improve volunteers' knowledge about common traded and consumed wildlife, as well as rescue activities at the station.

Despite heavy rain, the volunteers were excited to participate in all activities during the trip. They learnt different stories of rescued wildlife and how the wildlife have been rescued at the station. Afterwards, the volunteers visited the Display Center at the Station to see evidence of wildlife trade and consumption.

Previously, the volunteers were trained for four days to get ready to guide secondary school students at the SOS Travelling Exhibition during the academic year 2013 – 2014. The volunteers were selected from nearly 400 applicants who are from different universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City in July this year.



Feed Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon

MegaStar joined WAR save endangered wildlife

The Media MegaStar Co. Ltd. provided generous support to help us save endangered wildlife and to promote Cu Chi WRS amongst its clients. The fund was raised from selling the attached combination of the environmental film "Epic" which premiered last May. The fund was used to construct a bird rescue area of 200m2, and three individual rescued wildlife which were a Moon Bear, a Small-claw Otter and a Pangolin. A trip to Cu Chi WRS for MegaStar staff and clients was also organised. WAR would like to express our sincere thanks to MegaStar and its clients for joining us save endangered wildlife.



Prepare food for wildlife at Cu Chi WRS

©WAR/Do ThiThanhHuyen

MegaStar staff and clients visited Cu Chi WRS



MegaStar managers learn about new born Elongated Tortoises

©WAR/Do ThiThanhHuyen

At the end of July 2013, twenty staff of MegaStar and its clients visited Cu Chi WRS. The trip was a new and exciting experience for all the visitors. They observed rescued endangered wildlife and helped WAR's staff prepare food and feed the wildlife. Before leaving, the visitors ratified to show their commitment to Vietnam's wildlife and nature protection by "Say NO to illegal wildlife products".

British Council's Summer Fair

Last July WAR participated in a Summer Fair organised by the British Council in order to raise funds for wildlife and promote WAR's activities. During two days at the Summer Fair, approximately 900 students aged from 6 to 15 years old, 1,000 parents and 30 teachers from the British Council visited WAR's corner, and took part in exciting wildlife games.

WAR is highly appreciated the opportunity that the British Council offered to Vietnam's endangered wildlife.



Participants enjoy wildlife games at WAR's corner
©WAR/Lan Ho Thi Kim

Rescued wildlife postcard

Volume 2-3



In early September of 2013, WAR published volume 2 and 3 of the series of postcards titled: "Rescued Wildlife". These bilingual sets of postcards in Vietnamese and English are sized 13cmX18cm. Each volume includes ten postcards i.e. ten stories and real photos of ten different endangered wildlife species rescued By WAR. Some of them were released back to the wild and some are being taken care at WAR's rescue facilities.

By publishing those postcards, WAR hopes that the public will pay more attention to Vietnam's endangered wildlife as well as rescue activities. Please contact WAR for these postcards.



Save Dugong posters

Two posters sized 82X56cm for tourists and fishermen of PhuQuoc Island were published. In order to Save Dugong, the posters call tourists not to eat Dugong meat and Fishermen not to catch or kill Dugong. The tourist poster will be distributed and



hung in all major restaurants on PhuQuoc Island. While the fisherman poster will be handed to fisherman households in the communes where Dugong were reported to be caught and killed. This is one publication from the project entitled "Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity on PhuQuoc and Tho Chu Islands"



Save Dugong stickers

A set of six circled stickers sized 7.5cm each has just been published by WAR under the project titled "Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity on PhuQuoc and Tho Chu Islands". The colourful stickers call audiences to save Dugong, sea turtles, Common Sea Horse, Bottlenose, dolphin, Slender Grouper and Red Coral. The stickers will be distributed to secondary school students, especially members of My Sea Club in secondary schools on PhuQuoc Island.

Who is looking at you?

Take a look at the photo and guess which species is looking at you.





Photo: WAR/Simon Faithfull

Asian Elephants

Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) are the second largest mammal on Earth, just slightly smaller than their African cousins. With such a large body, Elephants need a vast territory to meet the huge demand for food everyday. Only the male Asian Elephants have tusks. Asian Elephants live in cohesive herds made up of related females and their young. The Matriarch is usually the oldest, largest and strongest female. The females usually give birth to one calf every four to five years.

According to Viet Nam FPD, in 2010 there were only about 100 wild Asian Elephants left in Vietnam. Collected data from WAR based on on-line articles shows that at least 28 wild elephants and 10 tamed elephants died within the last four years in Vietnam; i.e. about 10 elephants died per year. In Vietnam, the most dangerous threat to elephants is habitat loss due to deforestation. Due to food shortages, wild elephants have to come to residential areas to seek for food. The elephants also become aggressive and may attack people they meet. Many experts estimate that wild elephants may be extinct in the wild within the next decade in Vietnam unless intensive and immediate conservation initiatives are implemented.

Elephants are mostly consumed for jewelry and fashion purposes in Ho Chi Minh City, according the survey on consumption of wild animal products implemented by WAR in 2011.