

Issue 26 | Apr to Jun 2014

Welcome

Never before, has such a huge number of wildlife been rescued and released by WAR's Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. The Wildlife Education Programme that was highlighted by the SOS Programme and the Wildlife Summer Camp has achieved remarkable results. A biodiversity survey was successfully conducted at Bidoub Nui Ba National Park; plenty of high quality photos of recorded wildlife were taken during the survey.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to organisations, companies and individuals who provided technical and financial supports to us during this time.

Sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi - WAR's CEO

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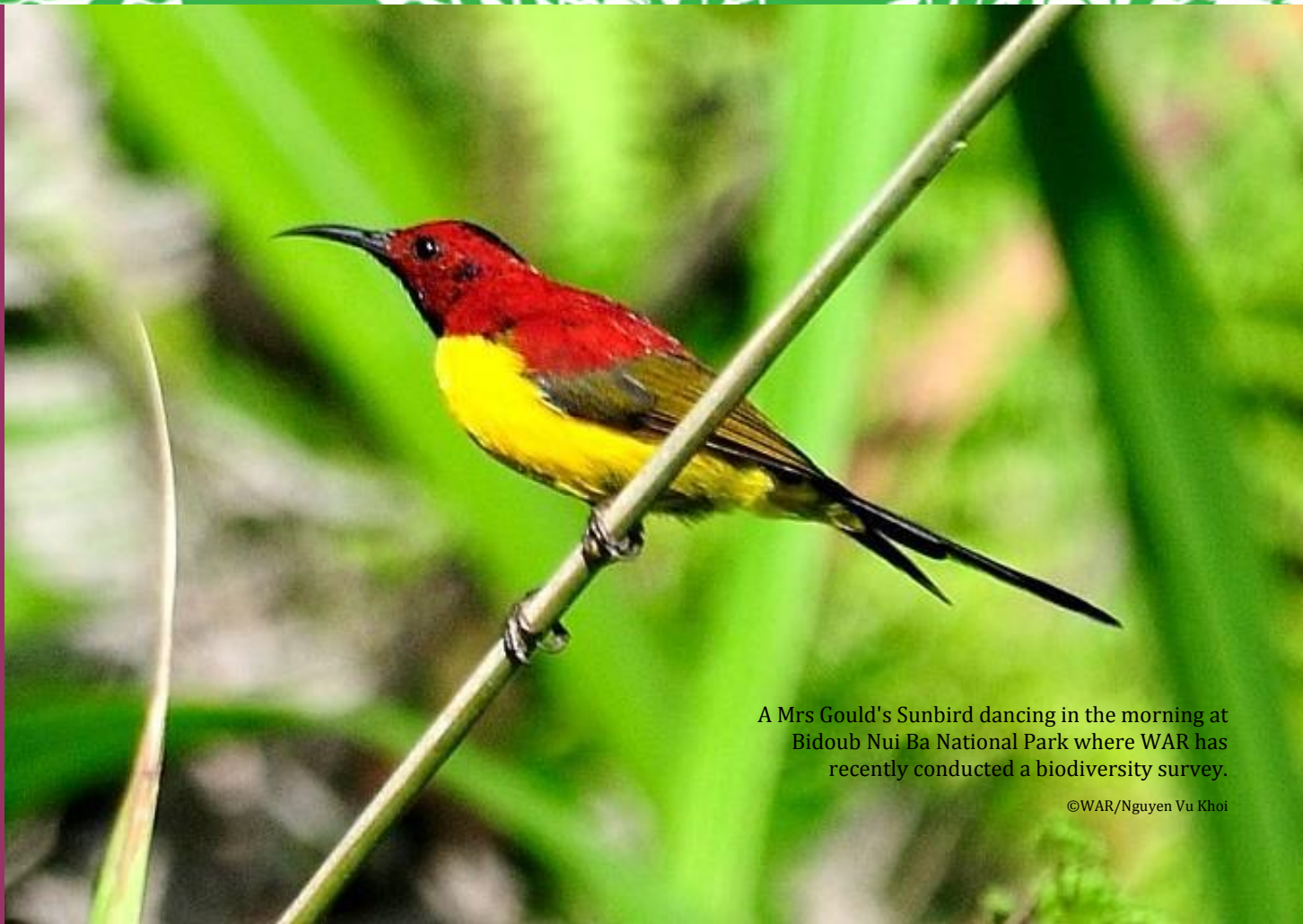
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A Mrs Gould's Sunbird dancing in the morning at Bidoub Nui Ba National Park where WAR has recently conducted a biodiversity survey.

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WAR's professionals sampled fishes and insects
©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

Biodiversity survey in Bidoub -Nui Ba National Park

In this June, a biodiversity survey for butterflies, beetles, fishes, birds, reptile and amphibians was conducted at Bidoub Nui Ba National Park- a central highland area. The survey was conducted by national and international WAR's experts. Result of the survey will be announced soon.



Tree frog (*Rhacophorus calcaeus*) mating
©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



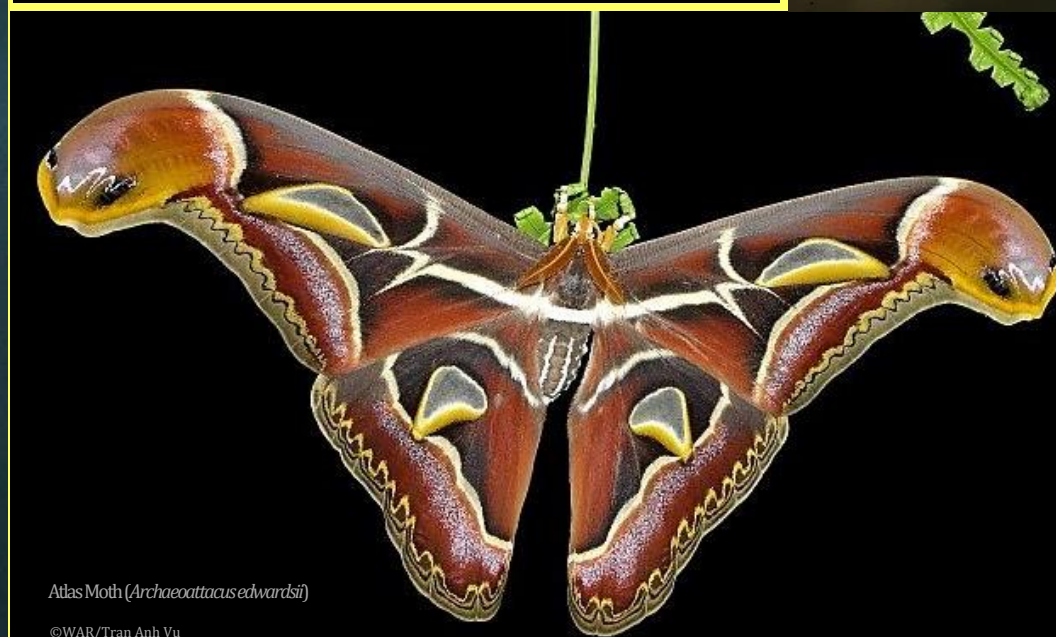
Scarab beetles (*Clerota rigifica*)
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



Amoth (*Rhagastis rubetra*)
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



A stag beetle (*Ptosopocoilus astacoides*)
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



Atlas Moth (*Archaeoattacus edwardsii*)
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi
Tree frog (*Rhacophorus calcaeus*)

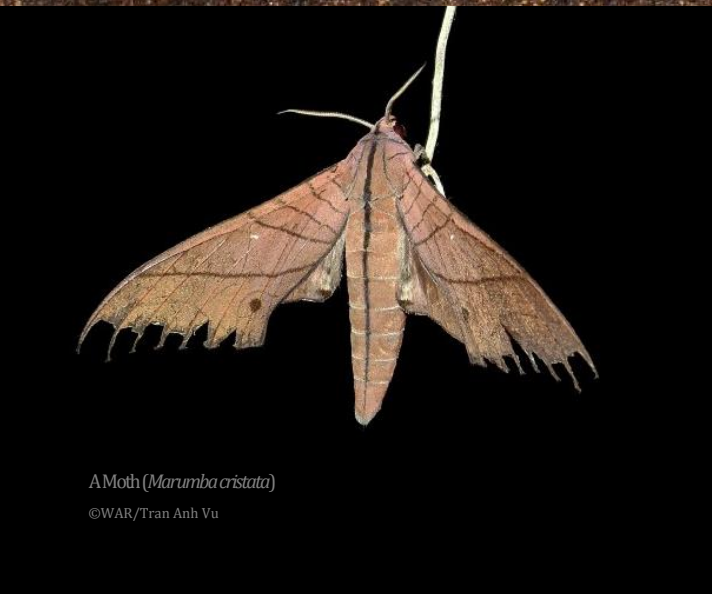


Amoth (*Loepa silkima*)
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



Spadefoot Toad (*Xenophrys major*)

©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



A Moth (*Marumba cristata*)

©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



A Scarab beetles (*Cheilodinus gestroi*)

©WAR/Tran Anh Vu

Continue releasing native fishes to the wild



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

Releasing fishes at Ben Cat River, a tributary of the Saigon River.

In the early of May, over 300 individuals of Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*), Croaking Gourami (*Trichopsis vittata*) and *Puntius rhombeus* were released to the wild. Approximately 20 students from ten universities in Ho Chi Minh City were excited to release the native fishes; they also learnt about how to take care and breed native fishes. Many of them got native fishes from WAR for their personal aquariums at home. This activity is a part of the programme titled “Breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild” launched in 2010 by WAR. The programme aims to repopulate native fishes in the wild and call for local people to use native fishes in aquariums.

In this quarter, *Puntius rhombeus* has been successfully bred and released to the wild for the first time. According to Manh Bui Huu, WAR's Conservation Officer: “*Puntius rhombeus* is native to Saigon River. The species is distributed widely throughout Vietnam. As they are omnivorous, they could easily adapt to a new environment. The species will continuously be released to the wild in the future”.

Please contact WAR to receive native fishes for aquariums and details of further technical supports related to breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild.

Rescues and releases of the quarter

From April to June 2014, **945** individuals from **24** endangered wildlife species were rescued, including Pygmy Loris, Leopard Cat, Asian Small-clawed Otter, Small Asian Mongoose, Berdmore, Crested Serpent Eagle, Lesser Whistling Duck, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Red Collared-dove, Spot-billed Duck, Common Rat Snake, Asiatic Cobra, Monocled Cobra, Asian Sunbeam Snake, Radiated Rat Snake, Bamboo Pit Viper, Reticulated Python, Burnese Python, Bengal Monitor, Water Monitor, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle, Tokey Gecko and Indo-Chinese Rat Snake

Also in this period, **958** individuals from **31** endangered species were released back to their suitable habitats; including Pygmy Loris, Leopard Cat, Asian Small-clawed Otter, Pangolin, Asian Palm Civet, Small Asian Mongoose, Berdmore, Crested Serpent Eagle, Asian Merlin, Lesser Whistling Duck, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Red Collared-dove, Spot-billed Duck, King Cobra, Common Rat Snake, Asiatic Cobra, Monocled Cobra, Asian Sunbeam Snake, Radiated Rat Snake, Bamboo Pit Viper, Reticulated Python, Burnese Python, Bengal Monitor, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle, Asiatic Softshell Turtle, Hawksbill, Common Green Turtle, Impressed Tortoise, Tokey Gecko and Indo-Chinese Rat Snake.



White-banded wolf snake (*Dinodon septentrionale*) - Recorded during the Biodiversity Survey in Bidoub - Nui Ba National Park, June 2014.
©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Release Asian Small-clawed Otter



©WAR/ Le Xuan Lam

Four Asian Small-clawed Otters (*Aonyx cinerea*), two females and two males were released to Tram Chim National Park, Dong Thap Province in last April. The four Otters were born at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) in January 2013.

To date, eight individuals of Asian Small-clawed Otters rescued at Cu Chi WRS are now enjoying their freedom at U Minh Thuong National Park, Kien Giang Province and Tram Chim National Park, Dong Thap Province.

Rescue Bengal Monitors

Thirteen individuals of Bengal Monitors (*Varanus bengalensis nebulosus*) were rescued in last April together with approximately 500 other individuals of endangered wildlife. They were confiscated by Ho Chi Minh City Department of Environmental Crime Prevention and Fighting Police from a case of illegal trading at Hoc Mon District, Ho Chi Minh City. This is the first time Cu Chi WRS has rescued such a huge number of wildlife all at once. WAR highly appreciates great efforts of government bodies in enforcement activities.

The Bengal Monitors were released back to Lo Go - Xa Mat National Park, Tay Ninh Province in May after spending one month at Cu Chi WRS.



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Highlight

During the quarter, Cu Chi WRS has been busy with upgrading its facilities. A new aquarium for arowana was constructed and a new veterinary room with necessary equipments were put in place. Never before has such a huge number of wildlife been registered at the station. Enrichment activities were also conducted regularly to different wildlife species, for example, the Otters now can enjoy big floating structures in their enclosure. This is also the first time, Yellow-headed Temple Turtles have been born at the station.

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam



Story of Red Collared Doves

This flock of Red Collared Doves together with hundreds of individuals of endangered wildlife were rescued and released back to the wild last May by WAR.

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam



Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

New toys for Bears and Otters

This otter is enjoying the newly set up structures those looks similar to big pills in its enclosure at Hon me WRS. Those solid colored structures are also set up in the bears' enclosures. These pills float so they offer buoyant resistance but can also be rolled onto land for entertainment. These toys, and the mirrors for primates were supported by the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) to enrich wildlife's lives at the station and thus are very helpful in rehabilitating these species. Different toys were also provided in bear's enclosures at Cu Chi and Hon Me WRS.

©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khol



Highlight

Last May, six water tanks of two cubic metres each were installed at Hon Me WRS. The water tanks help to reserve enough water for rescued wildlife during dry season. We would like to thanks the Douc Langur Foundation for the support.

©WAR/ Nguyen Van Doan



SOS Programme update

The SOS Programme launched in Dec 2011 continues to gain remarkable results in the academic year 2013-2014. In the next school year, the programme will continue to bring more opportunities for students and teachers to learn and to act for wildlife.

Visiting Cu Chi WRS

In the academic year 2013-2014, nearly 500 secondary school students and over 100 teachers from 27 secondary schools of Tan Phu, Binh Tan and Go Vap Districts, and about 30 education managers from those District Departments of Education and Training visited and learned about endangered wildlife rescued at Cu Chi WRS through 15 one-day study trips.

The students, teachers and education managers were excited to interact with the rescued wildlife. They also enjoyed the trips and were inspired by how WAR has been struggling to rescue Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

Learning about tortois at Cu Chi WRS.

©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan



Integrating wildlife protection into school curriculum

In the academic year 2013-2014, the wildlife protection content was successfully integrated into Biology Subject Grade 7 in 32 secondary schools of Binh Thanh District, Tan Phu District va Binh Tan Districts. Over 300 lessons have been successfully delivered to approximately 13,200 turns of students. The activity received positive responses from students, teachers and education managers.



An integration lesson at Cu Chinh Lan Secondary School.

All lessons were conducted using WAR's supporting materials including a manual entitled "Wildlife Protection – How to integrate it into Biology Subject Grade 7. Fifty four A4 sized photos of live animals and its threats, and ten video clips were also used. The supported materials will be revised based on teachers' comments and will be updated regularly to maximise its effectiveness.

The supporting materials can be downloaded at: <http://wildlifeatrisk.org/new/public/books>. Teachers and schools in Ho Chi Minh City can contact WAR for hard copies of the material.

The SOS Traveling Exhibition 2013-2014

The SOS Traveling Exhibition was successfully operated in 28 secondary schools in three districts of Ho Chi Minh City including Tan Phu, Binh Tân and Go Vap Districts. More than 38,300 secondary school students aged 12-15 years old and 300 teachers have visited and learnt much at the exhibition.



The SOS volunteer group including approximately 40 students from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City who successfully completed their tasks of guiding students at the exhibition received a certificate from WAR.



Drawing Contest on wildlife protection



The first prize - Huynh Le Thanh Phuong, grade 8¹, Binh Tri Dong Secondary School, Binh Tan District.

In the end of May, 28 best paintings of the drawing contest entitled "Say NO to illegal wildlife products" were given an award at Cu Chi by Wildlife At Risk by WAR. The contest was announced by WAR and Binh Tan Department of Education and Training to 11 secondary schools at the same time the SOS traveling exhibition was operated in those schools, from November 2013 to March 2014. The contest aims to Aiming to encourage the students to learn about wildlife protection at the SOS exhibition and to express their opinions through paintings.

The first prize was awarded to Phuong Huynh Le Thanh, a fourteenth years old boy from Binh Tri Dong Secondary School. Two second prizes were given to Dieu Nguyen Ngoc, a fourteenth years old girl from Ho Van Long Secondary School and Anh Nguyen Que, a fifteenth year old girl from Huynh Van Nghe Secondary School. Five third prizes and 20 encouragement prizes were also given at the awarding ceremony.

Participated in the field trip to Cu Chi WRS and the awarding ceremony were also representatives from Binh Tan Department of Education and Training and teachers from all schools in the district. All the students and teachers have spend an exciting day learning and discovering about rescued wildlife at the station.

Exciting Wildlife Summer Camp 2014

Kien Giang, dated 17-21 June 2014 – The Wildlife Summer Camp that lasted for five days and four nights at Hon Me WRS was conducted with exciting atmosphere. This annual programme, also known as "Summer Move" was launched by Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in June 2013. The Wildlife Summer Camp 2014 with the topic "Grown with love" was organised by WAR with financial support from Beyond Cosmetic.

Thirty five students from different universities participated in the camp. They were carefully selected and interviewed from a letter writing contest launched previously.

At Hon Me WRS, the students actively participated in different exciting activities including growing forest trees and food plants for wildlife, preparing food and then feeding the wildlife, installing sign boards, observing night animals and setting up camera traps. The Camp also includes a series of social skills training that helps the students to be successful and live life to the full. The Wildlife Summer Camp 2014 has become one of the most favourite programmes for university students during the summer.

©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen



Clearing grasses and preparing soil before growing food plant for wildlife

Phu Quoc Dugong Conservation Project update

The project entitled "Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity on Phu Quoc and Tho Chu Islands" is being successfully implemented by WAR and Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area (MPA). Below are some updates.

Study tour on marine conservation at Nui

Chua National Park

Approximately 30 leaders and staff from different functional bodies on Phu Quoc Island, Kien Giang Province, participated in a five-day study tour on marine conservation and education at Nui Chua National Park, Ninh Thuan Province in last April.

The activity helped delegates to share experiences and to build relationships with staff of Nui Chua National Park in order to act more effectively on marine conservation on Phu Quoc Island.

The trip also connected delegates for future support and cooperation when they returned home.

Marine Conservation Clubs

In the academic year 2013-2014, the six Marine Conservation Clubs those were set up October last year have been participated by over 1000 turns of secondary school students. All club meetings were organised by trained teachers in a relaxed atmosphere for the students to playing while also learning about Dugong and other endangered marine species.

These activities received strong supports from the students, teachers and education managers on the Island. It will be continued in the next academic year with other creative activities.

The teacher guiding the game "network of life".



Photography checklist of Reptiles - Amphibians at Ba Hon, Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province

This thirty-four-page booklet, sized 14.5X20.5cm, in Vietnamese, introduces 34 species of reptiles and amphibians living in the wild at Hon Me and the surrounding areas. The booklet includes seven amphibian species belonging to four families, and 27 reptile species belonging to seven families. Each species also includes information about its level of common traits and observation time. The booklet is illustrated with over 70 live photos taken from 2011 to 2013. The booklet aims to support WAR's conservation activities at Hon Me WRS. It is also helpful for local decision makers on conservation, sustainable development, and environmental education activities for local people and tourists alike.

WAR also has conducted other biodiversity surveys including wild plants, butterflies, birds, animals and some insects. Results of those surveys will be announced in the future.



A stag beetle (*Lucanidae_Hexarthrus nigritus*) - Recorded during the Biodiversity Survey in Bidoub - Nui Ba National Park, June 2014.

WAR video clip

Last May, WAR released an impressive one-minute-video clip introducing about WAR's activities and Vietnam's beautiful wildlife. With the message: "Every time you take a bit in wild meat, you may put Vietnam's wildlife at risk", the video calls for people to join WAR protect Vietnam's unique wildlife.



A Moth (*Acosmerycoides harterti*) Recorded during the Biodiversity Survey in Bidoub - Nui Ba National Park, June 2014.

Who is looking at you?

Take a look at the photo and guess who is looking at you?



We would like to express our sincere thanks for the support and encouragement to those that have helped us continue on the journey to to save Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

Beyond cosmetic from **LG Vina Ltd.Co.**, provided financial supports to organise the Wildlife Summer Camp 2014.

The Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) provided generous supports for enrichment activities for Bear and Otters at Hon Me WRS. Water tanks were also installed at Hon Me WRS thanks to DLF.

Brigitte Bardot Foundation kindly provides supports to take care of rescued bears at Cu Chi WRS.

Professor **Thomas Ziegler** and **Ms. Anna Raushaus** from Cologne Zoo, Germany visited Hon Me WRS and provided supports for monitoring devices for rescued reptiles at WAR's rescue facilities. This equipment helps us monitor those rescued species more effectively.

Osprey provides continuous supports for WAR's biodiversity surveys and wildlife rescue activities.



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan

A representation of Beyond speech and gifts volunteer participated Wildlife Summer Camp 2014.

Big-eyed bamboo snake (*Pseudoxenodon macrops*) - Recorded of the Biodiversity Survey in National Bidoub - Nui Ba Park, June.2014.

©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi





King Cobra

The **King Cobra** (*Ophiophagus Hannah*) is the largest venomous snakes in the world. They can grow up to 5.7 meters in length. This species usually lives in caves or at the foots of large trees. Sometime, its nests are found in the bamboo trees. They hunt both at night and day and mostly feed on others snake species. King Cobras reproduce at in April to May and lay about 20 to 30 eggs each brook. The male and female cobras guard their eggs together.

King Cobras are venomous snakes. They actively attack people whenever they feel in danger. When attacking, King Cobras raise the of their bodies. At that time, it can stand as high as an adult's chest. The venom of the King Cobra is able to kill an adult by just one bite.

However, King Cobras are threatened due to habitat loss and illegal hunting for meat. All parts of a King Cobra body are used including venom, bile, blood, bone, meat and skin. The King Cobras, are currently categorised as Critically Endangered (CR) in the Vietnam Red Book.

Say NO to illegal products from King Cobras and other endangered wildlife.