

Issue 27 | Jul to Sept 2014

## Welcome

During the past quarter, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station has been a hive of activity dealing with a number of massive rescue and release cases. Approximately 1,500 individuals of wildlife were rescued and to date approximately 1,000 have been successfully released back to the wild. WAR's wildlife education programme achieved remarkable progress as wildlife education is now being integrated into the official curriculum of all secondary schools in Ho Chi Minh City and Phu Quoc Island. At the same time, a new plant species was discovered for the first time in Vietnam.

WAR would like to express our deepest thanks for the generous support from individuals and organisations for wildlife conservation.

Your sincerely,

**Nguyen Vu Khoi** – WAR's CEO

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### Contact

Wildlife At Risk (WAR)  
202/10 Nguyen Xi, Ward 26, Binh Thanh District,  
Ho Chi Minh City.  
Tel : +84 8 38997314, Fax : +848 3899 7316  
Email : [info@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:info@wildlifeatrisk.org)  
[www.wildlifeatrisk.org](http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org)

### Edit

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO

### Compilation

Do Thi Thanh Huyen  
Le Thi Kim Ngan  
Dinh Thanh Hai  
Phan Thi To Duyen

### Design

Do Thi Thanh Huyen, Le Thi Kim Ngan

### English editing

Ailsa Cuthbert

### Contribution

Le Xuan Lam, Bui Huu Manh, Nguyen Van Doan, Nguyen Thanh Thai,  
Pham Doan Quoc Vuong, and Tran Anh Vu



This giant Wreathed Hornbill was  
handed over to WAR last July.

*(Please see page 3)*

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## New plant species for Vietnam

Last August, WAR announced a new plant species for Vietnam namely the *Hoya yuennanensis* or “Cầm cù vân nam” in Vietnamese. During a biodiversity survey conducted by WAR in Bidoup - Nui Ba National Park, Lam Dong Province, last May, the plant, with a few clusters of fragrant star-shaped flowers, was found at the altitude of 1600m in the Cong Troi area.

This is the first time, *Hoya yuennanensis* has been recorded in Vietnam. The plant used to be known as an endemic species in Yunnan, China. With this discovery, the total number of *Hoya* species in Vietnam is now 27.

Sample collection and identification of the species was conducted by Pham Doan Quoc Vuong – a WAR Biologist, with the support of Prof. Leonid V. Averyanov from Komarov Botanical Institute, Russia and Mr. Pham Van The from Institute of Ecology and biological Resources Vietnam - IEBR..



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## Continue releasing native fish to the wild



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

**Ho Chi Minh City, 16 August 2014** - More than 650 fishes including Blackline Rasbora (*Rasbora borapetensis*), Sidestripe rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) and *Puntius rhombeus* were successfully released to the Ben Cat River – a tribute of the Sai Gon River at Binh Thanh Province. This is the first time such a large number of native fishes have been released to the wild by WAR. This is one activity from the programme entitled “Breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild” by WAR. Since February 2010, more than 3,350 native fishes have been released to nature. The programme not only helps repopulate native fish populations but also raises awareness of local people in native fish protection.

Nearly 20 students, most of them who had participated in WAR's Wildlife Summer Camp 2015, from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City, helped WAR release the native fishes this time. The students discussed how to breed native fish, take care of them and release them back to the wild. They also learned to fold paper fishes as a memory of the day. Many of them received native fish from WAR for their personal aquariums at home.

Please contact WAR for native fish releasing activities or for any further request.



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## Park staff learnt to use open source applications in natural resource management.

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) cooperated with U Minh Thuong National Park - Kien Giang Province, to organise a training course entitled “Using open source applications in natural resource management” for 23 staff from national parks and protected areas within the Western South Provinces of Vietnam.

The training course introduced a number of open source applications on Linux operating system such as: QGIS, GRASS GIS, and GPS Banle for mapping and database management; GIMP and Scribus for graphic design; and Libre Office for office applications. At the training course, the participants practiced on laptops on maps of their protected areas. They also took photos of U Minh Thuong National Park and processed the photos on GIMP (An image Processing open software).

The participants were totally excited by the training course. “This course is very useful for me. The QGIS helps me to analyse and present our natural resource maps better. I will definitely use QGIS instead of the software that I am using now” – said Mr. Nguyen Van Ut, conservation staff from Lang Sen Wetland Reserve.

According to Mr. Bui Huu Manh, Senior Conservation Officer from WAR who was a trainer on the course: “Open source applications are quite powerful. It's functions are adequate and strong in natural resource management. For anyone who could not afford commercial software, open source applications are right choice”.



## Rescues and releases of the quarter

From July to September 2014, **1424** individuals from **23** endangered wildlife species were rescued, including Moon Bear, Yellow-cheek Crested Gibbon, Leopard Cat, Asian small-clawed Otter, Pangolin, Small Indian Civet, Gray-shanked Douc Langur, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Red-breasted Parakeet, Common Myna, Red Collared Dove, Wreathed Hornbill, Asian Sunbeam, Reticulated Python, Burmese Python, Enlongated Tortoise, Siamese Crocodile, Malayan Snail Eating Turtle, Indochinese Rat Snake, Sunda Slow Loris and Hawksbill.

Also in this period, **972** individuals from **12** endangered species were released back to their suitable habitats; including Leopard Cat, Red-breasted Parakeet, Black-backed Swamphen, Lesser Whistling Duck, Red Collared Dove, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Asian Sunbeam, Burmese Python, Water Monitor, Enlongated Tortoise, Giant Asian Pond Turtle, Indochinese Rat Snake.

## Upgrading veterinary room

Last August, the veterinary room at Cu Chi WRS was extended and upgraded some new surgical equipment. WAR expects that the new veterinary room will be able to serve all rescued wildlife at the Station.



## Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

### Rescue Wreathed Hornbill

This adult Wreathed Hornbill (*Rhyticeros Undulatus Ticehursti*) which weighed roughly 1.5 kilograms was handed over voluntarily by Mr. Quan Trong Hoang from Ho Chi Minh City last July. Being captured for a long time in a tiny cage, the bird was exhausted, the legs' joint were swollen and the bird could not fly as its tail and wing feathers were completely lost.

After spending two months at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS), the Wreathed Hornbill is now getting much better, it can fly a short distance and the tail and wing feathers are growing pretty well.

Wreathed Hornbill is endangered due to illegal hunting and habitat loss. It is categorized as Vulnerable (VU) in the Vietnam Red Book. WAR highly appreciates any contribution from local people in rescuing endangered wildlife.



### Release Burmese Python

Two individuals of Burmese Python (*Python molurus*) were successfully released to the Dong Nai Province in September 2014. These pythons were handed over by Binh Duong Provincial Forest Protection Department in August 2014 and were taken care and rehabilitated at Cu Chi WRS before being released. Burmese Python is categorised Critically Endangered (CR) in the Viet Nam Red Book.

## Highlight

During the last quarter, a delegation of the Government Office, the Central Board of Internal Affairs and the Forestry Agencies visited Cu Chi WRS.





## Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station



### Rescue Sunda Slow Loris

This Slow Loris (*Nycticebus cf. bengalensis*) was rescued by a local people in Kien Giang Province before it was handed over to Hon Me WRS. The Loris has a minor injury in its fore limb. After spending sometimes at Hon Me WRS, the Loris is now recovered and will be released back to its home forest soon.



### Rescue Hawksbill

Hon Me WRS has just rescued one individual Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), weighing roughly 3.5 kg this September. The Hawksbill was confiscated from a local restaurant titled Eo Bien by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Kien Giang. The Hawksbill will be released back to the sea soon.



### Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon

### delivered a baby for the first time

August 2014 – One baby Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) was born at Hon Me WRS for the first time. The mother was transferred from Cu Chi WRS in December 2013. Currently, both the mother and baby are healthy. The baby also played with its father from time to time.



## SOS Programme update

### Teaching wildlife protection in all secondary schools in Ho Chi Minh City and Phu Quoc Island

**Ho Chi Minh City, dated 22 August 2014** – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training (DOET) organised a training workshop on integrating wildlife protection into Biology Subject for Grade 7. Participating in the training workshop was over 300 teachers including representatives of the DOET, District DOET and all biology subject teachers of the 24 districts of Ho Chi Minh City, and leaders and staff of WAR.

At the training workshop, the participants were instructed on how to use the manual titled “Wildlife Protection - A Guide on how to integrate it into Biology Subject Grade 7” and a set of teaching aid tools to teach the ten lessons of Biology Subject Grade 7.

The integration lessons are now also being delivered to all students of the 13 secondary schools on Phu Quoc Island during this academic year. All Biology subject teachers and representative of the management board of all schools have been carefully instructed on the integration plan and the supporting material at Duong Dong town in this September.

Teachers and anyone else who is interested in the material can download it from the WAR website at [www.wildlifeatrisk.org](http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org).



Representatives of the DOET and all biology subject teachers of the 24 districts of Ho Chi Minh City were exciting at the training workshop.

©WAR/Tran Anh Vu

### Contest on electronic lecture development

August 2014 – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) and Ho Chi Minh City DOET launched a contest on developing a powerpoint lecture for any lesson that includes wildlife protection content of the Biology Subject Grade 7. Approximately 40 of the best lectures will be selected and be awarded at a ceremony which will be organised at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station in May 2015. The contest aims to motivate teachers in conducting integrated lessons in an effective and attractive manner and thus contributes to wildlife protection.



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Biology subject teachers of Phu Quoc participated in the training workshop.

©WAR/Phan Thi To Duyen





## Phu Quoc Dugong Conservation Project update

### Marine Education plan for secondary school children on Phu Quoc Island

Phu Quoc, September 2014 - All 12 teachers in charge of the six marine conservation clubs which were set up and started operating in the academic year 2013-2014, and six representatives of the school management board of the six secondary schools on Phu Quoc Island participated in a training workshop entitled "Planning for Phu Quoc Marine Club for

Academic year 2014-2015. This is one activity of the project entitled "Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity on Phu Quoc and Tho Chu Islands, conducted by WAR and Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area.

At the workshop, the teachers took a look at activities of the Marine Club in the academic year 2013-2014 and discussed an action plan for the clubs in the academic year 2014-2015.

In this academic year, six clubs from six secondary schools with about 300 members in total will meet at least once per month to learn about Dugong and endangered marine wildlife. Highlight of this year includes practical activities such as: performance, taking photos and setting up educational displays, and marine interpretation field trips. The club members will also organise communication events at their schools regularly.



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## Wildlife protection - A guide on how to integrate it into Biology Subject Grade 7

The material that was launched in December 2013 was revised based on teachers' comments and redesigned. The material helps teachers to integrate wildlife protection content into lessons of Biology Subject grade 7. This Vietnamese language material has 100 pages, sided 20.5X29cm.

An USB containing a set of teaching aid tools for integrating wildlife protection into Biology Subject grade 7 was also developed.

The material has been developed under the framework of the SOS programme that aims to educate secondary school students on wildlife consumption. For more information about the material, please contact WAR or visit: <http://www.wildlifeatrisk.org/new/public/books>.





**Wildlife At Risk (WAR) would like to express our sincere thanks to the generous contribution and support from individuals and organisations for our wildlife conservation activities.**

**Doctor Nguyen Quang Truong and Professor Thomas Ziegler from Colonge Zoo, Germany** supported WAR with reading equipment for the wildlife monitoring device at Cu Chi WRS. They also provided kind support for Hon Me WRS to construct the reptile's enclosure.

**British Council** invited WAR to attend the annual Summer Fair, last July. Nearly 2,800 students aged from 6 to 15 years old and their parents, and over 30 teachers participated in the event. The participants enjoyed wildlife games and contributed to wildlife conservation by purchasing WAR's publications. WAR sincerely thanks the British Council for the opportunity.



Students of British Council enjoyed wildlife games.  
©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

## Douc Langur Foundation (DLF)

supported WAR in rescuing endangered Grey-shanked Douc.

**Denver Zoo** visited and provided kind support to WAR. The support helped us to upgrade the veterinary room at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. An autoclave sterilizer and an electronic scale for big animals were also installed with this generous support.



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## Canadian International School (CIS)

gave WAR the opportunity to participate in the NGO FAIR at the CIS. Approximately 500 students aged from 10 to 18 years old and 20 teachers visited WAR's station and enjoyed wildlife games. The participants got more information about wildlife in Viet Nam and what WAR is doing to save endangered species. We would like to thank the CIS for giving us this opportunity to further educate on wildlife.



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## Happy Birthday Brigitte Bardot

September 2014 - On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Brigitte Bardot - the famous French movie star and the founder of the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, WAR would like to sincerely thank Brigitte for her great contribution to wildlife conservation. We wish you a healthy and happy year ahead!

## Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo and guess who is living up the tree?



©WAR/Ho Thi Kim Lan





## Great Hornbill

**Great Hornbill** (*Buceros bicornis*) is one of the larger members of the hornbill family. The adult can be up to 95–120cm long, with a 152cm wingspan and a weight of 2.15–4kg. The most prominent feature of the hornbill is a large beak and the giant bright yellow casque. Females are smaller than males and have blue eyes. A couple of Great Hornbills often build a nest up in hollow of large tree trunk. After laying eggs, the birds seal the opening with a compound made up mainly of faeces. The female remains imprisoned in the nest, relying on the male to bring her food, until the chicks are half developed. During this period the female's plumage goes off completely. Each time, the Great Hornbill delivers one or two eggs. The eggs will be incubated for 38 to 40 days. Although Great Hornbills form pairs for the rest of their lives; they often live in small groups of 2-40 individuals.

In the Vietnam Red Book Great Hornbill is categorised as Vulnerable (VU). In the wild, populations of this species are steadily declining as they are being hunted for meat and ornamental purposes. Consumption of Great Hornbill's products has pushed this unique species to the brink of extinction.

**Say NO to illegal products from Great Hornbill and other endangered wildlife!**

