

## WAR Newsletter

Issue 10: April – June 2009

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### CONSERVATION NEWS FOR PHU QUOC ISLAND.

In April 2009, WAR received confirmation of two new reptile species for Vietnam existing on Phu Quoc Island. This emanated from remote identification by a specialist, who has experience with *agamids*. The result is contained in the e-publication on the WAR website that reaches out to interested persons. The two new species are *Draco taeniopterus* and a species of the *Acanthosaura crucigera* group.

The new species recorded provide the WAR team with more encouragement to continue with its hard work in the field to generate interesting and new scientific information regarding the diverse wildlife to be found on Phu Quoc Island. These recent discoveries not only serve science, but are also of great interest to the local authorities, and to the local communities which take a keen interest in the biodiversity that surrounds their villages.



Figs 1 & 2. A High Peak Orchid & A Liparis sp.



WAR staff continues to follow up a herpetological survey initiated in 2009 that is running in combination with several small mammal surveys. Initial results of survey work conducted in May 09, has revealed six more species for the Island; they include: *Sphenomorphus stellatus*; *Scincella* cf. *reevesii*; *Cerberus rhyncops*; *Sphenomorphus* cf. *stellatus*.

The on-going bat survey also revealed 4 more bat species for Phu Quoc Island during a review of results in May 2009. The newly recorded bat species include: *Myotis muricola*; *Myotis* cf. *siligorensis*; *Murina tubinaris* and a *Murina* sp.

The small bat survey has gradually brought some additional and wider valuable information on the local biodiversity. For example, by chance, our specialist also recorded an image of an existing jungle cat: *Felis chaus* (Meo Ri in Vietnamese). This is the first time this species has been recorded as a sighting in Phu Quoc Island and also this is the farthest south for such a sighting.

**Help Us Fight the Good Fight!**

**BECOME A WAR SPONSOR**

**Contact WAR Today!**



**Fig 3. A Leaf Insect Now Recorded in Vietnam's Red Book.**

By chance, WAR experts also recorded an insect species already listed in Vietnam's red book existing at the Mango Bay Eco Resort of Phu Quoc Island. Combined with information on other insect groups of the Island, WAR believes that there will be some interesting facts to disclose about this newly recorded insect group.

Besides the herpetological survey, WAR's updated orchid species survey showing plants with flowers displayed at different times of the year has confirmed yet more orchid species on the Island. The orchids are of incredible flora value for the Island because some species are rare and scattered out in the field in Phu Quoc, such as *Malaxis callophylla* or *Aphyllorchis monatana*. The WAR botanist is currently working on several new specimens of orchids, such as the newly collected *Liparis* sp.



**Figs 4 & 5. Above and Top Right. One of the Newly Recorded Orchids of Phu Quoc Island: *Calanthe triplicata* – Kieu lan xep ba. The Species Has Also Been Recorded in Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Hue and Chau Doc (according to Pham Hoang Ho, 1993.)**



WAR is very willing to cooperate with other individuals and/or organizations in order to undertake further studies of the biodiversity of Phu Quoc Island. If anyone is interested in partaking in any further studies, please contact WAR for information.



**Fig 6. Global Economy a Bit Tough? Well, Try Being in My Position.**

**If You Want to Help Me, Please Contact WAR Now.**

#### **PAYING VOLUNTEERS**

**Interested in being a paying volunteer at a WAR Rescue Centre? Contact Matt Wills, Coordinator, Wildlife Rescue Centres:**

**[matt.wills@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:matt.wills@wildlifeatrisk.org)**

**WAR IS NOW ON FACEBOOK**

**Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**

**Go to search for friends**

**Use: [truonglam@warlfeatrisk.org](mailto:truonglam@warlfeatrisk.org)**



### WAR Wildlife Warrior

**NAME:** Nev Broadis

**JOB:** Manager, Mekong Delta Wildlife Rescue Centre

**LOCATION:** Hon Me, Kieng Giang Province



**Nev Broadis: Centre Manager**

A graduate from University of Glasgow, Scotland, with a BSc (Hons) in Zoology, Nev has travelled to the Caribbean, South America, and Australia to carry out conservation-based fieldwork in a range of habitats.

Arriving in Cambodia in 2004, he began working for the Australian-based organization, Free the Bears, before conducting further fieldwork in the remote forests of Northeast Cambodia. Nev then joined WildAid working for the Care for Rescued Wildlife Program based at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre. He is now managing the establishment of the Mekong Delta Wildlife Rescue Centre in Kien Giang Province.

### CU CHI WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

WAR Rescue Centre staff at Cu Chi recently helped nurse a sick bear in a private park. This action was aimed at bringing increased awareness to the public, the local authority, and the managers of the National Park on the importance of disease control.

In May 09, the Cu Chi Centre received a donation of turtles of non native species from a temple in HCMC. A king cobra confiscated by police in Tay Ninh Province was also transferred to the Cu Chi Centre via cooperation between WAR and Logo Xa Mat National Park.

The new bear house at the Cu Chi Centre paid for by the generous HSBC sponsorship and by caring private WAR donors has now been

completed. It will provide a much better facility for bears in quarantine prior to their being transferred to the larger Centre at Hon Me. With the new bear facility, WAR can now house up to 7 bears in quarantine. And now visitors to the Cu Chi centre can see bears in a 'friendly' outdoor facility during their quarantine time at the Cu Chi Centre.



**Fig 7. HSBC Generous Co-Sponsor of the New Bear Quarantine Facility at Cu Chi**



**Fig 8. External Picture of the New Bear Quarantine Facility at Cu Chi.**

A new rescue facility for poisonous snakes and reptiles has been completed and the lucky king cobra just confiscated in Tay Ninh Province is the first honoured guest to reside in the new reptile house. Open space and the species-oriented cave shaped facility will be conducive to the natural behavior of the rescued reptiles, which also include lizards and turtles.



**Fig 9. Another Day on the Job at Cu Chi! Lift that Bale, Tote that Barge!**



**Fig 10. Internal Picture of the New Bear Quarantine Facility at Cu Chi.**

Even while implementing the construction of the new facilities at Cu Chi, the Centre staff remains very busy with the daily tasks of caring for the animals. Wildlife returned back to their natural habitats include: a Brush-tailed Porcupine (*Atherurus macrourus*); 14 lizards, such as the Water Monitor and Indochinese Water Dragon; 21 turtles such as the Malay-Snail Eating Turtle, Asian Leaf Turtle, Asian Box Turtle, Black Marsh Turtle and Striped Necked Leaf Turtle. The staff also transferred 3 primates, including both lorises and gibbons, to the Primate Rescue Centre at the Cat Tien National Park.



**Figs 11 & 12. Rerelease Activities: Whether by Land or Water (above Right) Are Always Interesting and Challenging to the Dedicated WAR staff and Assistants!**



### **WAR FUND RAISING EVENT IN MELBOURNE**

Thanks to Ms Jules Cronin, WAR's Ambassador in Australia, WAR is organizing its first major fund raising event in Melbourne, Victoria. The details are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday 8 October 09, 7pm-9pm

**Place:** Electric Ladyland, Chappel Street, South Yarra, Melbourne, Victoria

**Presenter:** Channel 9 celebrity and animal lover, Susie Wilks

**Refreshments:** Light refreshments will be served

**Auction:** Various items to be auctioned will include 5 days at the Mango Bay Eco Resort at Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam, 4 x AC/DC tickets, backstage passes, plus many more interesting items.



**Fig 13. Jules and friends. There's nothing very endangered about these guys!**

**Tickets and Enquiries:** Contact Jules Cronin: [julescronin66@hotmail.com](mailto:julescronin66@hotmail.com)





**Fig 14. The Mango Bay Eco Resort, a Major Sponsor for a Raffle Prize for the Melbourne Fund-Raising Event in Oct 09**

### **HON ME WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE: PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS – JANUARY TO JUNE, 2009**

Over the last six months the WAR-FTB project team has succeeded in completing its operations centre, its staff accommodation, and the initial bear house. By the end of May 09 the team was ready to begin accepting incoming bears.

#### **Core Building**

Now fully functional, the core of the complex consists of an office building with accommodation/kitchen, treatment room and bathroom. Hot and cold running water are both supplied using solar energy. This building has been operational since early January 09.



**Fig 15. Core Building.**

#### **Holding Area**

Completed by end of February 09, this bear house contains 10 night dens, two training areas, a large kitchen, staff accommodation, a toilet/shower room, and storage facilities.



**Fig 16. Holding Facility.**

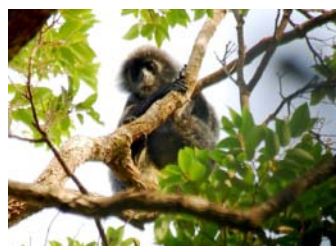
Each bear den has an area of 9m<sup>2</sup>, and comes equipped with a sleeping platform and drinking fountain. The building is connected to mains electricity, water and also to the waste water treatment plant. This building is ready to accept up to ten bears.

#### **Perimeter Wall**

The first section of the perimeter wall is complete, and comprises 74m of steel-reinforced concrete either side of a 5m wide entrance gate. The perimeter wall is an ongoing project that will eventually encompass the entire property. Our main gate has been installed and allows vehicles (to a maximum width of 5m) to access the property for the delivery of bears.



**Fig 17. Perimeter Wall.**



**Fig 18. It All Looks Good from Here.**

## Road Access and Path Building

A steel reinforced road was built to join the main road up to the Holding Area and includes a turning space for bear transport vehicles. Also, pathways were constructed from granite between the main buildings. Retaining walls have been erected at the front of the Holding Area.



Fig 19. Road Access.

## Bear House 2

The site chosen could contain up to 20 bear dens and provide access to 4 outside enclosures. The initial design for the building has just been completed, so building work can start immediately.



Fig 20. Bear House

## Guard and Accommodation Unit

This building consists of a one-storey, two bedroom house with a large viewing balcony. The foundations and walls are finished, as is the patio and balcony. The roof structure, doors and windows are ready to be installed, after which the electrical and water fittings will be quickly completed.



Figs 21 & 22

**Guard and Accommodation Unit Under Construction.**



## ORCHID TRAINING BY WAR BOTANIST

The WAR botanist has conducted a first training session to help rangers identify individual species of the orchid family found in the Phu Quoc National Park. The training was conducted on the Island at a demonstration site located at the Orchid Garden of the Mango Bay Eco Resort.

Following up initial indoor training, 16 participants then visited the nearby forest area to gain first hand practical experience. A whole two days' walking in lowland forest areas, some of which were flooded, challenged the strength and energy of most of the participants. However, all were very happy to learn from the WAR experts about the skills and practical techniques needed to understand the characteristics of the various orchid species.

## JOIN WAR's 'GREEN TEAM'!

Learn and act with WAR's 'Green Team'. Future generations can become more familiar with nature by working with our experts. Would you like to join WAR's 'Green Team' and give us a hand? Please contact the WAR Office at: [info@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:info@wildlifeatrisk.org)





**Fig 23. The Orchid Garden at the Mango Bay Eco Resort.**



**Fig 24. Inside Training by WAR Experts.**

WAR would like to recommend a visit to the Orchid Garden at the Mango Bay Eco Resort to interested persons. Further information about the orchids of Phu Quoc Island can be provided at the site, including photos sets of the orchid flowers that were taken in the wild.



**Fig 25. Hard Practical Training in the Heat of the Local Forest.**

## **REHABILITATION AND THE *DIPTEROCARPUS INTRICATUS* SPECIES.**

During May and June 09, approximately 700 trees of *Dipterocarpus intricatus* spread out on 3 hectares have been planted at the Sau Dien sandy swamp at Bai Thom Commune of Phu Quoc Island.



**Fig 26. Planting Seedlings to Help Combat Global Warming.**

The activity of planting trees is one of WAR's project initiatives for the year 2009. The seedlings of *Dipterocarpus intricatus* used for the planting are the result of a whole previous year's caring in a local nursery, the outcome of one of WAR's projects on Phu Quoc for 2008.



**Fig 27. Fondly Nurtured Seedlings: the Direct Result of One of WAR's Projects in 2008.**

Tree planting activities were undertaken jointly taken by the technical staff of the Phu Quoc National Park and the local people. This is a first action taken to rehabilitate a locally endangered plant species in Phu Quoc Island. WAR continues to support the National Park by its nursery activities and hopes to double the number of seedling this year. And the Phu Quoc National Park authorities will continue to keep expanding the planting activities in future.





**Fig 28. A Hard Day of Tree Planting Action at the Local Sandy Swamp.**

### **AWARENESS**

On Monday, 25 May 2009, Grade 5 students at the International School, Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC), had their Primary Years' Program (PYP) Exhibition opening. The central idea was 'Our actions can make a difference in our community.' The students worked for eight weeks on their projects researching and gathering information.



**Figs. 29 & 30 (Right Top). The Classroom of the Grade 5 Students at the International School: Learning about Endangered Species.**

A significant number of students chose personal inquiries into issues relating to endangered animals in Vietnam. Personal inquiries included: endangered turtles, bear bile farming and captivity, endangered animals that are eaten in Vietnam, dugongs, caged animals and pangolins. Some students chose to take action by giving out bookmarks, bake sales, making a bear cage for humans, making posters in Vietnamese and English about bear



bile farming, selling T-shirts, stationary, hats and stickers etc.

Several pieces of information on rescued animals at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre have been released in the children's newspaper, 'Nhi Dong and Rua Vang'. WAR is seeking to provide more information about Vietnam's wildlife for this newspaper in order to transfer knowledge about endangered species to the young generation.

Special 'Awareness Rooms' are now being established at each of the Wildlife Centres at Cu Chi, Cat Tien and Hon Me to provide a practical forum for increased public awareness, especially with respect to children.

### **AWARENESS**

**Help spread the conservationist message.  
Because prevention is better than cure!**



**Fig 31. Spreading the Awareness Message to Tourist Visitors at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre**



## THE IMPORTANT TASK OF INCREASING AWARENESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In the past 3 months, WAR staff, Coordinator, Wildlife Rescue Centres, Matt Wills, and Manager, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre, Simon Faithful, have been dedicating a lot of time towards educating the students of Saigon's International Schooling community and helping WAR to raise much needed funds to continue its efforts on saving Vietnam's endangered wildlife.



**Fig 32. Manager, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre, and Snake Expert, Simon Faithful (left), with His 'Magic Box of Tricks' Used to Assist His Awareness Program. Mr Binh, Animal Keeper, Cu Chi, is on the right.**

In April 09, WAR supported the AUSCHAM Big Day Out by setting up an Awareness stall to educate the public on its conservation efforts in Vietnam and raise money to help continue its great work. WAR staff backed this up with a great day at the RMIT – Earth Day where there were many activities throughout the day to educate people about Environmental Awareness. Both Events were a great success for WAR.



**Fig 33. Matt Wills Helping to Spread the Awareness Message at 'Open Days'.**

## Strong Awareness and Fund-Raising Assistance from the Schools

WAR has been supported very well in its Awareness efforts by some of the international schools that have helped to spread the word about the need for conservation of Vietnam's endangered species.

ISHCMC, AIS, SSIS, BIS have all banded together over the past 3 months to sell WAR merchandise, run fundraising events like art shows to enable WAR to raise just under USD3000. WAR is very appreciative of this support and is looking forward to having an ongoing relationship with the schools and even expanding its program in the second half of this year.

## SNAKES OF VIETNAM AND BASIC SNAKE BITE TREATMENT

More often than not you will never find a snake in Vietnam unless you go looking for one. Snakes are more scared of us than we are of them, but because many snakes (but not all) are venomous, they must be respected.

Vietnam is home to some of the world's most venomous snakes, including the largest venomous snake in the world, which grows up to 5.5 metres in length. This snake is, of course, the King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*).

## Venomous Snakes found in Southern Vietnam

Venomous snakes found in the southern parts of Vietnam include the following species:

- King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*)
- Monocle Cobra (*Naja kaouthia*)
- Indochinese Cobra (*Naja siamensis*)
- Bamboo Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus stejnegeri*)

## Snake Bite Emergency First Aid

1. Apply a swab over the bite site – Do not wash the area of the bite.
2. Bandage the affected limb, starting above the bite and wrapping downwards.
3. If possible administer 0.5mls of adrenaline and give intra-venous fluids.
4. Keep the patient calm, still, and cool.

5. Get the patient to nearest hospital ASAP.



Fig 34. Not a Good Day at the Office!!!!

#### Wildlife At Risk (WAR) Rescue Facilities and Wildlife Support Resources

- 1.- **Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Centre** – Road Tinh Lo 15, An Nhon Tay Commune, Cu Chi District – Ho Chi Minh City. Tel: 08 3 7947045
- 2.- **Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary** – At Cat Tien National Park, Tan Phu District, Dong Nai Province. Tel: 0933628037
- 3.- **Mekong Delta Bear Sanctuary** – Hon Me Village, Tho Son Commune, Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province. Tel: 077 3 706403

4 - Mobile Team of Forestry Ranger in Ho Chi Minh

**HEY FOLKS PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT US! WE'RE 'PEOPLE' TOO!**



Fig 35. Hard Life at a Local Bear Farm



Fig 36. Nothing Very Natural About this Environment Folks. Help Me Please.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO VISIT WAR'S WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRES: SEE CONSERVATION WORK IN ACTION!**

**Contact: [matt.wills@wildliferisk.org](mailto:matt.wills@wildliferisk.org)**



Fig 37. Visitors to Cu Chi Get the Facts First Hand on How to Help Protect the Biodiversity of Vietnam.

**We Can All Play a Part.**

**Support WAR Now.**





## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The aim of WAR is to provide Protection, Enforcement and Awareness to conserve the endangered wildlife of Vietnam.

**YES!!! I would love to become a member of WAR and fight to save the endangered wildlife of Vietnam! I wish to receive a WAR hat and T-shirt and the Quarterly WAR Newsletters updating me about WAR's work.**



**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

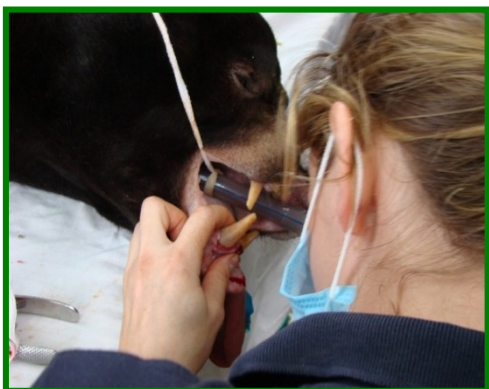
- I would like to become a member for ONE year for USD100.
- I would like to become a member for FIVE years for USD450.

Bankers' cheques are accepted in USD, AUD, GBP

Please make them payable to 'Wildlife At Risk (WAR)'

**Address:** Minh Dao House, 161/1A Nguyen Van Thu Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Or contact Ms Lien, WAR Coordinator, at [lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org) if you'd like to register on line and pay via electronic transfer.



**Hey Mum, do I need braces?**



**Great! Back to the wild! Ladies look out!**



## CORPORATE SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY

The aim of WAR is to provide Protection, Enforcement and Awareness to conserve the endangered wildlife of Vietnam.

**YES!!!**

**I would love to become a WAR Corporate Sponsor and fight to save the endangered wildlife of Vietnam!**

**I wish to have my company listed in the Sponsor's Page of the WAR Website and in the WAR Quarterly Newsletter.**

Contact Ms Lien, WAR Coordinator at [lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:lien.huynh@wildlifeatrisk.org) for details of sponsorship opportunities.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



**Get your whole company involved!**