



## Welcome

In this newsletter we will take a look at the new Viet Nam Record set by 4000 people who speak up to save the forest. More Vietnamese children participated in wildlife education activities. A new orchid species is recorded for Vietnam and several fish species are suspected to be new to Vietnam. More fish and reptiles species are recorded for Vinh Cuu Nature Reserve, U Minh Thuong and Phu Quoc National Parks. WAR's enforcement program is busy with newborn turtles and snakes. The rescued leopard found a new comfortable enclosure at Cat Tien National Park.

We hope you enjoy it!

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## WAR moves to new office

*From 21 June 2010, WAR Office has moved to a new address:*

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## New wild orchid of Vietnam

A beautiful wild orchid was discovered for the first time in Vietnam on Phu Quoc island during WAR's survey. This is the *Coelogyne* species (*Coelogyne cumingii*) that was previously found in Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia.

This survey also revealed one new wild orchid species for Phu Quoc i.e. the *Eria*. WAR continues to conduct biodiversity surveys in Phu Quoc National Park in the period of 2010 to 2011.

*Coelogyne* species, new wild orchid for Vietnam  
Photo: Nauven Vu Khoi



## Reptile & fresh water fish survey in Vinh Cuu Nature Reserve

This survey conducted last May comprised of WAR specialists on reptiles, amphibians as well as fresh water fish.

Initial result of the survey reveals 64 reptile species, and about 70 fresh water fish species. Among those, 10 are suspected to be new species for Vinh Cuu Nature reserve and 4 are suspected to be new for Vietnam.

The specialists are working on the survey results to confirm the new species.



Survey in Vinh Cuu Nature Reserve



## 70 fish species recorded for U Minh Thuong National Park.

A fresh water fish survey in U Minh Thuong National Park that was conducted last April recorded 70 fish species, in which some species are suspected to be new for Vietnam and new for U Minh Thuong.

Once the new species are confirmed, it will be announced to the public.



## Baby turtles and snake born at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Four baby cobra (*Naja Kaouthia*) and eight baby turtles (Elongated Tortoise - *Indotestudo elongate*) were born at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) this May. Although breeding is not a target of the Cu Chi WRS, in many cases, the rescued animals are pregnant before arriving at this Station.



The mother cobra rescued from an illegal trader from Cambodia to Vietnam laid 10 eggs after staying 11 days at Cu Chi WRS in March. The mother turtle laid 12 eggs last December after spending five months at Cu Chi WRS. The mothers were released to Cat Tien National Park last January.

The eggs and now the babies are taken care by WAR staff at Cu Chi WRS. The babies will be released to the wild in July 2010.

## Release animals back to the wild

From Mar to June, more than 130 individuals of 22 endangered species have been released to the wild at Dong Voi Nature Reserve, Cat Tien, Lo Go Xa Mat, U Minh Ha and U Minh Thuong National Parks.



This Pangolin now enjoys her new free life at Lo Go Xa Mat forest, after staying at Cu Chi WRS for 3 months.

## Rescued leopard enjoys new enclosure in Cat Tien

The Asian Leopard confiscated in 2008 by the governmental officers and WAR staff in Vinh Long province, was successfully transferred from Cu Chi WRS to Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station, in Dong Nai Province, last May.

After successful rehabilitation at Cu Chi WRS, this four year old Leopard now lives in her new enclosure of 1000 m2 where she can enjoy life even more.



## Pagoda hands endangered turtles to Cu Chi WRS

This June, Mot Cot pagoda in Thu Duc district, HCMC handed 25 endangered fresh water turtles to WAR's Cu Chi WRS under the facilitation of HCMC Forest Protection Department. These turtles will be rehabilitated for a while before being released back to the wild.

Many citizens believe that they are doing the right thing by buying turtles and releasing it at a pagoda. This is wrong as they are creating a demand for turtles and thus threatening all wild turtle populations.



## 4000 people speak up to save the forest & set new Vietnam Record

On 17 April 2010, four thousands people including decision makers, local people, university students and Vietnamese famous celebrities set a new record for Vietnam on category "The biggest chorus". They all together devotedly sang a song comprised of only one word "KHONG", in English it translates as "NO". This record was officially announced at Dak Lak Gymnasium by Mr. Pham Dan Que, representative of the Vietnam Record Book Centre.

The event was organised by the Dak Lak People's Committee and its Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with BirdLife International, The British Council, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) and Nguyen comm Advertising and Communications Company.

A part of the biggest chorus ever in Vietnam



## Vietnamese students enjoyed a day out at Cu Chi WRS

More than 30 students and teachers at Van Don Secondary School, Ho Chi Minh City visited Cu Chi WRS last May to learn about wildlife rescue and wildlife conservation. The students were excited to see the rescued animals, get to know about wildlife rescue, explore and learn about threats to wildlife and what they can do to help. In the afternoon, the students enjoyed wildlife games and signed a pledge canvas to commit on wildlife protection.



WAR staff introduces a rescue fresh water turtle  
Photos: Do Thi Thanh Huyen

The British Business Group of Vietnam (BBGV) supported this trip, as well as numerous educational materials. WAR is looking for more support to promote its wildlife rescue stations among Vietnamese students.... CAN YOU HELP?

## Talks to Vietnamese and foreign school children

Over 90 Vietnamese students of Thai Binh Secondary School attended the talks about WAR and wildlife conservation, last May.

Talks were also delivered to students from the British International School (BIS), Australian International School (AIS), International School of Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC) and Saigon Star International School (SSIS).

Following the talks, the students visited Cu Chi WRS and kindly donated cash to feed the wildlife and to name them. WAR thanks all the schools and their students for their generous supports.





## Launch new project

WAR and Khan Quang Do magazine are working together in a new project entitled "Take part in Nature Protection" from June 2010 to May 2011 in order to contribute to Vietnam nature protection.

In this project, members of theme clubs and audience of Khan Quang Do magazine who are 12-15 years old, will experience and learn about wildlife rescue and nature protection through various creative and practical activities.



A nature game at the event (up) and university volunteer students of the project (down).

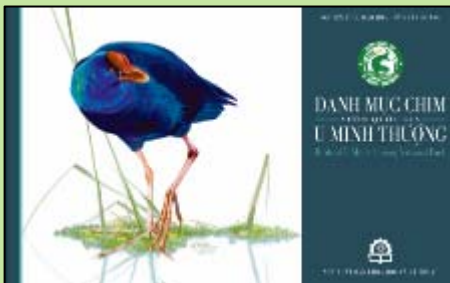


## Birds of U Minh Thuong National Park

This newly published book sized 13X21cm describes 173 bird species of U Minh Thuong National Park. Each species includes a short description of appearance and ecology features, and is illustrated by colour paintings.

As a result of the bird-monitoring program in U Minh Thuong National Park, the book is special for both professional and non-professional birders.

The book is available in both English and Vietnamese at WAR's new office.



## Kid focuses excursion to Cu Chi WRS

Due to high demand of visiting Cu Chi WRS among foreign kids, the Vietnam Travel organizes a one day tour for young kids to Cu Chi WRS.

Find out more at: <http://vietnamunlimited.com/snap-goes-wild-kids-focused-excursion-to-war.html>



## Rhino, elephant, tiger and bear postcards

A set of rhino, elephant, tiger and bear postcards sized 13cmX18cm was published in June to raise awareness of the public about endangered species. Each postcard includes a little story in both English and Vietnamese that makes the audience think about conservation of endangered species

These postcards were produced in memory of the death of one Rhino in Cat Tien National Park in early May, and seven elephants in Dong Nai province in the past few months.

The postcards have been being distributed widely to the public and school students. The postcards are available at the WAR Office and all three of WAR's Wildlife Rescue Stations.





Photo: Nguyen Vu Khoi

## Leopard

*Panthera pardus*

The leopard is the second largest cat found in Vietnam, and is the most widely distributed cat in the world.

The leopard is a good climber and spends most of its time in the trees.

Due to the illegal wildlife trade, hunting, and massive habitat destruction, the leopard is now classified as **Critically Endangered** in Vietnam.