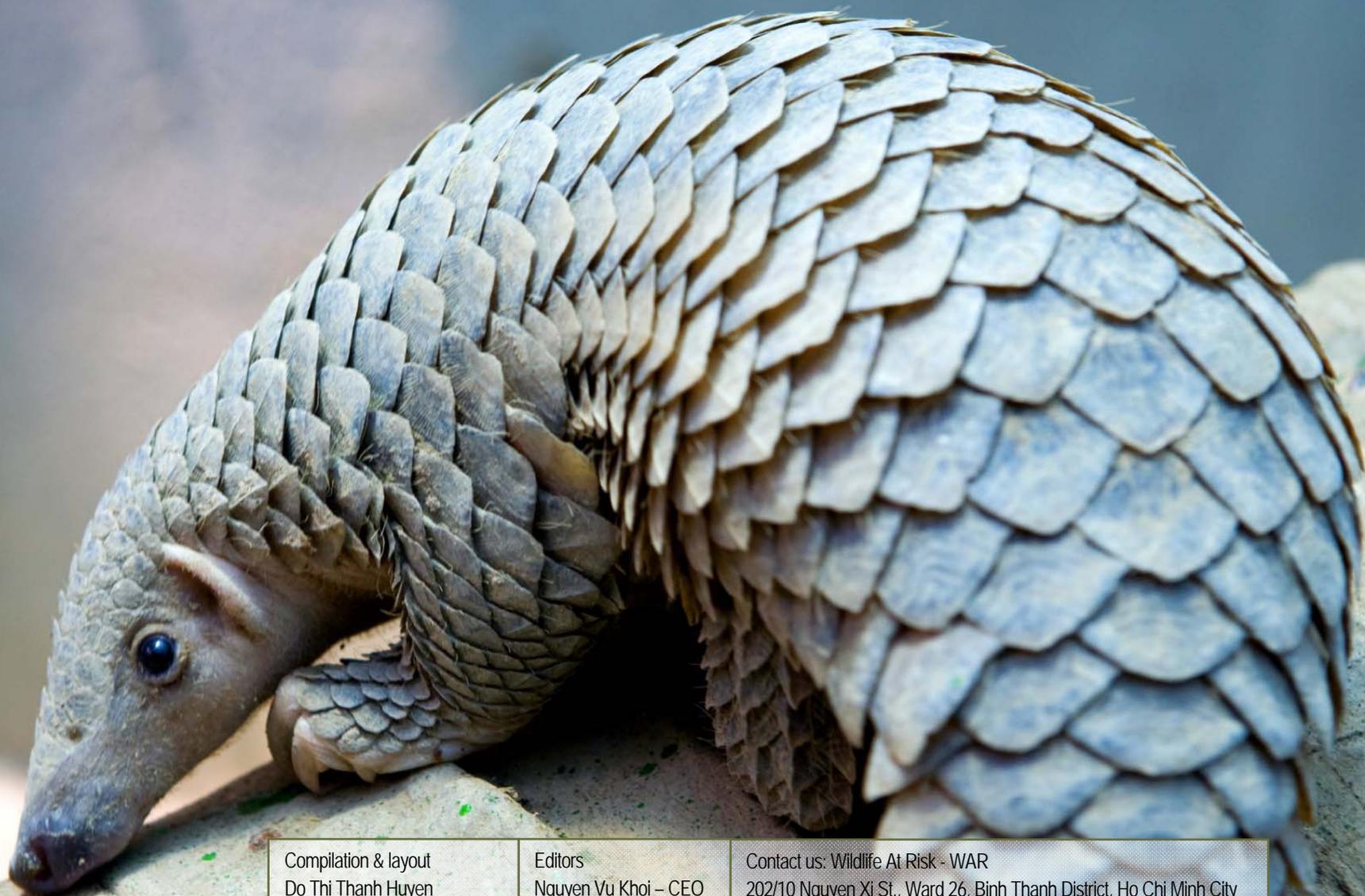




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## Welcome

In this What's up, you will see how the Wildlife

Education Programme experienced a busy and fruitful summer. As the students did not have to attend school, they were able to participate in various activities such as discovering the nature of Cat Tien National Park, visiting Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (Cu Chi WRS), and meeting regularly in their theme clubs to learn about wildlife.

Cu Chi WRS is a continuing success with its rescue and release programme, while the conservation programme was busy with identifying new fresh water fish species.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for agencies and individuals who support us to conserve the wildlife of Vietnam.

We hope you enjoy.



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## Conservation

### Botanical garden to conserve endangered plant species

**July 2010** – WAR's botanists supported the Phu Quoc National Park to set up a botanical garden in order to conserve endangered local plant species. This botanical garden will serve for tourism and educational purposes in the future.



Rangers planting an endangered plant in the garden.  
© WAR/Nguyen Vu Khoi

Approximately 200 trees of over 50 species including woody trees and medicinal plants have been identified and planted in two sites of the botanical garden, i.e., inside the Phu Quoc National Park and at the Mango Bay Resort.

This is a joint effort of WAR, the Phu Quoc National Park and the Kien Giang Provincial Department of Science and Technology to contribute to the conservation of endangered plant species. Tree and plant identification and plantations will be completed in the next couple of months.

### Breeding and release of native fresh water fish

The individual number of many fresh water fishes is steadily reduced due to water pollution. Fish that are not exploited for commercial purposes do not get enough attention, even though they are disappearing. This is a great loss to the ecosystem and species diversity.



A crescent betta born in this programme.  
© Bui Huu Manh

In order to maintain this genetic diversity and the natural balance, WAR is conducting a survey on these non-commercial native species in order to breed and release them into the wild. Many of these fish can be used as ornamentals. Species in this programme include Crescent betta, Lambchop rasbora, Blackline rasbora, and Pygmy gourami.

WAR strongly encourages people to buy native ornamental fish instead of imported ones.

### New fresh water fish species to be announced soon

Next month, WAR will officially announce more than ten new fish species for Vietnam. These species were recorded during WAR surveys in some National Parks and Protected Areas in the South of Vietnam. Stay tuned and wait for our update soon.

## Rescue and release

From June to Sept 2010, 28 animals have been registered at the Cu Chi WRS, including: Monitor lizard, Sea turtle, Black-shanked Douc, Gibbons, Pangolins, Elongated tortoise, and Burmese Pythons.

During this period, 64 animals were released to the wild, including: Barn swallows, Indian roller, Wild cat, Green sea turtle, Water monitor, Cloud monitor, Yellow headed temple turtle, Snail eating turtle, Elongated tortoise, and Pygmy Loris.

### Story of the injured pangolin



© WAR/Le Xuan Lam

This injured pangolin was confiscated last August from a trader on the streets of HCMC by the Forest Protection Department. After two weeks at the Cu Chi WRS, the injury was healed, but the pangolin lost one paw. It can never be

returned to the wild as it cannot forage for food as an uninjured animal would.

### The lucky sea turtle

This green turtle was released at the Ninh Thuan Beach on 30 July after spending more than one week at the Cu Chi WRS. The HCMC Forest Protection Department seized the turtle from a restaurant in HCMC last July.



## New born at Cu Chi WRS

Five babies of the Elongated tortoise were also successfully hatched at this station last August and are all healthy.



© WAR/Le Xuan Lam



© WAR/Le Xuan Lam

It's hard for many conservationists to believe that a pangolin could be pregnant and deliver a baby in a captive or rescue situation. However, this happened last August at the Cu Chi WRS. The baby is now in good condition.

## What will happen when you call WAR to report on a wildlife criminal in Ho Chi Minh City?

Most of you may hesitate to report on a wildlife criminal. You may be afraid of revenge, or worry that your efforts are useless and nobody hears you or takes any action.

You can call WAR. We will make sure that your report is confidential and the case is responded to ASAP. Take the case below for example.

*Sunday 5, Sept, 2010* - A second year Vietnamese student called the WAR mobile phone of a staff member to inform about endangered wildlife that were being traded on Dang Thuc Vinh road, Hoc Mon District, HCMC.

*Monday 6, Sept, 2010* - Three members of the mobile team (originating from the HCMC Forest Protection Department, and supported by WAR) patrolled the street and found that two snail eating turtles, two endangered snakes, and one bamboo rat were being traded. The mobile team immediately came to talk to the local authority that didn't know that it is illegal to trade those animals.

Tuesday 7, Sept, 2010- The mobile team and the representative of the local authority came to the trader who also didn't know that this animal trading is illegal. After explaining, the trader committed not to trade those animals in the future.

Over the next couple of weeks - the mobile team will secretly patrol the street again. If the trader still sells those endangered animals, they will be punished according to the Laws of Vietnam. The living animals will be confiscated and registered to the Cu Chi WRS. When they are healthy and rehabilitated, they will be released back into the wild.

Under the cooperation programme between WAR and the HCMC Forest Protection Department, during the past three months, the mobile team worked on 21 animal trading cases and confiscated more than 170 animals and 61kg of wild meat.

## Students discover the nature of Cat Tien National Park

**August 7-8, 2010** - A two-day trip to experience the beautiful nature of Cat Tien National Park was conducted for more than 50 city children aged from 12-15 years old by WAR and Khan Quang Do (Red Scarf) Magazine. The trip aimed to encourage the student's love of nature, raise awareness of nature, and improve the children's knowledge about wildlife protection and nature conservation.

The trip was an amazing summer experience for the members of theme clubs of the Khan Quang Do magazine. After arriving at the Park, the children did not even take a break, but excitedly joined WAR in the release of more than 50 endangered animals back to the wild. They were so moved that the monitor lizard, wild cats, loris and fresh water turtles they visited at the Cu Chi WRS several weeks ago, were able to return to



© WAR/Chi Loc  
Waving goodbye to a Loris.



© WAR/Chi Loc  
Creating models to learn about the functions of the ecosystem.

the wild and be free. A tremendous experience for the children was when they walked under the forest canopy to look for animal tracks and special trees of the forest. The children were impressed with the numerous living creatures of the forest such as the tiny insects, the unexpected python, the bird nest, the vine and the giant trees. Children also created models from the dry branches, leaves and stones to learn about the ecosystem's functions. For all the children, watching the animals at night in Cat Tien was an amazing opportunity that inspired and pulled them closer to nature.



© WAR/Chi Loc  
Looking for traces of animals.

In memory of a death of a rhino in Cat Tien National Park last May, children worked in groups to perform the song, "Cat Tien Rhino" creatively and actively. The performance was highly appreciated by the Park staff and the song's author.

Before leaving the National Park, each child committed to take at least one action to protect wildlife and nature.

*"The trip was so wonderful. I learned a lot from this trip. I love nature more and will tell my friends and my relatives not to buy endangered wildlife products. The youngsters like us should take part in protecting nature from today forward",* said Ngoc Tuyet, a 15 year-old-girl from the Van Don Secondary School.

In the future, HCMC students will have more opportunities with WAR to experience nature, learn about wildlife and get ready to protect nature.

## Taking part in Nature Protection

### Project Update

Besides the highlighted field trip to Cat Tien National Park, the following activities were successfully conducted:

July 2-3, 2010 – A training course for volunteer students and journalists from Khan Quang Do magazine on environmental education skills was conducted. After the training, the trainees were ready to conduct educational games and activities for students aged 12-15 years old.

July 11, 2010 - Thirty five children from the "I love nature" Club, "Young Media" Club, and "Teenager's Face" Club of Khan Quang Do magazine visited the Cu Chi WRS and learned about the wildlife trade. The children also joined WAR staff in preparing animal food and feeding the animals.

July 24, 2010 – Children learned about the value of wildlife and nature through an active art performance programme.

September 5, 2010 - Children visited the Sai Gon Zoo (Thao Cam Vien) and learned about the web of life.

Numerous exciting activities will be conducted for children in the future.



© WAR/Do Thi Hong Hoa

## Teachers and rangers trained to educate students about nature

**August 5, 2010** - Twenty seven teachers and rangers on Phu Quoc Island successfully completed a training course on environmental education skills at Phu Quoc National Park (NP).



The trained park staff (centre) guides teachers on how to conduct a game for students.

The training course lasted for seven days aimed to equip teachers and rangers with adequate knowledge and skills so that they are able to set up and operate Green Clubs for secondary school students. Green Clubs are an extra-curricular activity where the students learn about nature and contribute to conservation. This is one effort of WAR, Phu Quoc NP, and the Phu Quoc Department of Education that contributes to the conservation of the precious natural resources of Phu Quoc.

In the first part of the training, teachers and rangers were trained separately on Phu Quoc's terrestrial resources, the environmental education concept, and

how to set up Green Clubs. They also practiced the necessary skills to conduct activities at a Green Club. The rangers focused on learning and practicing how to deliver one effective talk and presentation to the children. The teachers focused on how to organise games and effective learning activities for the children.

In the second part of the training, all teachers and rangers practiced with more than 30 students from the Cua Can Secondary School. The students were very excited about the educational games conducted by the trained teachers. They also raised many questions to the rangers relating to forest patrolling and wildlife protection in Phu Quoc NP. All the students wished to have the opportunity to attend similar activities in the future.



Students enjoying a game to learn about threats to the animals. The trained teachers lead the game for the students.

The teachers and rangers are now ready to set up and organise Green Clubs for secondary school students. In the future, WAR will provide further technical and financial support to Phu Quoc NP, in order to set up and operate Green Clubs.

## Headmasters and teachers visited Cu Chi WRS

**September 23, 2010** - Twenty eight education staff of the Binh Thanh District Department of Education and Training-HCMC, headmasters, and head teachers of biology from 15 secondary schools in the district paid a discovery trip to Cu Chi WRS. This is a pre-visit trip to prepare for approximately 900 students from four districts of HCMC to visit the Cu Chi WRS.

The headmasters and teachers greatly appreciated the visit to the Wildlife Rescue Station and the opportunity for students to also visit the station. They all agreed that the visit to the station will be quite interesting, useful and effective for the students who have never seen any place like this. The students will see and learn about the endangered wildlife. They will not only love the animals more, but also know how to protect the wildlife.



© WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Learning about the pangolin.

*"I strongly support this programme, and encourage the secondary school students visiting Cu Chi WRS. We are also willing to support students setting up clubs in schools so that the students can learn about nature and wildlife",* said Mr. Nhon, Deputy Director of Binh Thanh District Department of Education and Training.



© WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Visiting the Asian box turtle.



© WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Visiting the display center and supporting WAR to protect wildlife

## Acknowledgement

**July, 2010** – Mr. Gavin Smith & Mr. Joseph Hoess from The Mekong Brahmaputra Clean Development Fund offered WAR financial support after visiting and observing our effective conservation activities on Phu Quoc Island.



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WAR would like to express our gratitude to these donors, Dragon Capital, as well as other agencies and individuals for supporting us. Your financial support contributes directly to the conservation of nature and the wildlife of Vietnam.

## Next event

A fundraising party to support WAR's activities in Vietnam will be held in Melbourne, Australia from 7pm to 10pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2010, at ELECTRIC LADYLAND BAR, Level 1, 265 Chapel Street, Prahran.

If you wish to attend this event and help nature, please contact [Julescronin66@hotmail.com](mailto:Julescronin66@hotmail.com).

## Fishing cat postcards

**August, 2010-** A set of three postcards featuring photos of a fishing cat were published by WAR. The postcards aim to introduce the audience to this endangered species of Vietnam. The fishing cat is currently threatened due to deforestation and illegal trade and consumption. This species needs urgent protection!

These postcards are now available at the WAR Office and Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station.

If you are a stamp or postcard collector, you might want to have these postcards together with the fishing cat stamps that were published last August by the Vietnam Stamp Company.



© WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

These butterflies are ingesting minerals from the mud near a spring in the Dong Nai Nature and Cultural Reserve.

Flutters of butterflies like this are easily found on roadsides and near springs in any tropical forest, especially in the summer. Most of them belong to the White and Sulphur families (The Pierid). These butterflies not only make the forest look livelier, but also help to pollinate the forest trees. They are a small but very important part in the web of life.