



Welcome

In this last quarter of 2011, we are happy to introduce the SOS travelling exhibition to educate children aged 12-15 years old about wild animal product consumption. This is one of our efforts to save wildlife from possible extinction such as the Javan Rhino. At the same time, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station received its first fishing cat and our rescue activities at the Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station were accelerated. This time, one more native fish species was released to the wild.

This year, WAR is acknowledged by the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisation as one of five International Non-Governmental Organisations to be recognised nationwide for its vital work towards promoting the conservation of threatened species throughout Vietnam.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your precious support and contributions towards wildlife protection. From everyone at Wildlife At Risk, happy new year and good luck for 2012.

Nguyen Vu Khoi - WAR's CEO

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Why do these animals disappear?

"Because people hunt them", said many secondary students visiting the SOS travelling tent.

The reality is that if you consume illegal wildlife products, these amazing creatures might disappear forever. Let's say NO to illegal wildlife products.

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One more native species of freshwater fish released to the wild

Ho Chi Minh City, 18th December 2011 – 20 members of the C4E (Cycling for Environment) Club ride bicycles to release native fishes to the wild. This is the first time, rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) were bred successfully by WAR staff and released to the wild.

Over 250 native rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*) were released to a tributary of Sai Gon River under Cau Den Bridge in District 2. These fishes were bred in the programme titled “Breeding and release native fishes to the wild” that was partly supported by LIN (Center for Community Development).

Rasbora species are relatively common in the Mekong Delta region. This species of rasbora is able to live in seriously polluted water, it can also survive in small closed water sources during the dry season. As this fish feeds on organic matters, it is able to clean organic substances from domestic waste water.



A rasbora ready to be released



Riding bicycles carrying slogans to call local people for using native fishes instead of imported ones

Riding bicycles to release native fish aims to call for local people to use native fishes for aquariums and to contribute to repopulating this species by re-releasing. It also raises public awareness on energy saving and environmental protection. Started from Tao Dan Park, C4E members cycled through HCMC's major streets and visited WAR Office where native fishes were being bred. They carried slogans that drew attention of the public on utilisation of native fishes in aquariums, good luck releasing, as well as environmental protection.

According to Mr. Manh Bui Huu, Senior Conservation Officer – WAR: “For good luck releasing or home aquariums, people should use these native fishes instead of imported ones. This action contributes to repopulating native fishes. We are grateful that more and more residents of HCMC are contacting WAR for native fishes for their home aquariums.”

Earlier, more than 300 native *Betta sp.* were also released to other tributaries of the Saigon River in

order to recover the fighting fish populations, which are becoming increasingly rare in Ho Chi Minh City.

WAR is willing to provide useful support and consultations for any resident or student who is interested in releasing or raising native fishes.



Releasing over 250 rasbora to Cau Trang bridge, District 2

In this quarter, all three rescue stations were extremely busy. This highlights that the illegal wildlife trade and consumption is still a huge issue that needs to be tackled throughout Vietnam if its unique wildlife is going to survive in the wild.

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

In the past three months, Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (CCWRS) have rescued 64 individuals including a fishing cat, king cobras, gibbons, various bird species, lorises and sea turtles. More than 70 individuals were released back to the wild including flying foxes, several bird species and snake species.

“Unexpected” arrivals at Cu Chi

November, 2011 – The CCWRS staff were thrilled at the latest “unexpected” arrivals, three Asian short-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*) that were born at the facility.

Mr. Lam, CCWRS Manager said, *“It’s a lovely surprise, we looked into one of our otter enclosures and found three pups, we are all very happy and proud of the mother, she is doing well and the pups are getting stronger and bolder each week”.*

Why not come and see the baby otters for yourself. You could also name our special little otters.

New born otters at CCWRS



The juvenile fishing cat

Fishing cat rescued for the first time at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

8th November, 2011 - A juvenile fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) was received by the CCWRS after travelling 500 km away from Ea Tul Village in Dak Lak Province. This endangered cat was handed over voluntarily by Mr. To Van Vu, a local from Ea Tul village.

According to Mr. Lam Le Xuan, Manager of CCWRS, *“We are so happy to receive this young fishing cat. This is the first ever fishing cat transferred to CCWRS. The cat now is doing quite well and is very strong”.*

Mr. Lam went on to comment, *“We expect that every person should stand up and report about wildlife crime, or hand over endangered wildlife. We must stop the illegal trade and capturing of wildlife before some of Vietnam’s species disappear forever”.*

If you want to see our first ever fishing cat, come and visit the CCWRS.

Former Prime Minister Phan Van Khai visited Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

19th December 2011 - Mr. Phan Van Khai - Former Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam visited CCWRS with his family members. He was totally please to see endangered animals those were being rescued at the station. After getting to know more about the station and its achievements in the past five years, he highly appreciated the rescue and release jobs at CCWRS.

To show his strong supports on wildlife protection Former Prime Minister Phan Van Khai donated an amount of money to take care of animals in the CCWRS.



Former Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and his grand children enjoying the experience with rescued animals at CCWRS

Foxes fly again

You may remember from our previous newsletter, the unusual guests that the CCWRS received from Tien Giang Province on 15th September 2011. Those unusual guests were the 11 Malayan flying foxes (*Pteropus vampirus*) rescued and transferred by the Forest Protection Department.

WAR is happy to announce that those 11 foxes are now flying again. They have been successfully rehabilitated and released into U Minh Thuong National Park, Kien Giang province.

The release took place on 10th November 2011. Flying foxes are classified as "Vulnerable" species in Vietnam and protected under Vietnamese Law.

WAR is extremely happy with this result backing up the CCWRS's moto: **"Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release - Wildlife belongs in the forest, not on your plate"**.



This flying fox now enjoys free life in the forest of U Minh Thuong National Park

Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

This quarter proved extremely busy and challenging for Manager - Mr. Cuong, and his rescue team from the Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station (CTWRS). In late October, they assisted local governmental officials from Dong Nai Province in rescuing another two moon bears.

Mr. Nguyen Van Cuong commented, *"we are very relieved that this tricky rescue and transfer has gone smoothly, the bears are now safe and can know enjoy life at our rescue station"*.

These two latest rescued bears can be seen at the rescue station now taking the number of rescued bears to 28 individuals. In mid November, the team at CTWRS also successfully rescued and released seven king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) to the forest of Cat Tien National Park.



Crane-lifting one of rescued Moon Bears to safety

Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Located in the Mekong Delta near the town of Rach Gia, this wildlife rescue station is now ready to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife.

So far following animals have been transferred from the CCWRS including three sun bears (*Ursus malayanus*), three moon bears (*Ursus thibetanus*), five yellow-cheeked crested gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*), five pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and two pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*). The transfer of wildlife went extremely well and it also gave staff from both stations the opportunity to visit and work with one another, helping further their wildlife capture techniques and ability to work well as a team to help Save Vietnam's unique wildlife.



Moving animals into Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station's facility

SOS travelling exhibition educates children on wildlife consumption

Ho Chi Minh City, 3rd December, 2011 – Wildlife At Risk (WAR) in collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Department of Education and Training, HCMC Forest Protection launch the “SOS traveling exhibition – Education on wildlife product consumption” at Minh Duc Secondary School, District 1. This is one of our efforts to save wildlife from possible extinction as the Javan Rhino that was announced extinct last October.

With the message, “Say no to illegal wildlife products”, the SOS travelling exhibition provides children aged 12 - 15 years old with useful knowledge and astonishing information related to the consumption of wild animal products, thereby directing and urging the students to act and help Vietnams’ endangered wildlife before it is too late.

The SOS exhibition is a professionally designed tent measuring roughly 60m² that includes many attractive models, photographs, objects, sounds, movies and games. Children visiting the SOS educational tent can

Students learn about wildlife dishes at the tent



not only see but also hear, touch and interact with the exhibits and games. Helping guide and interpret information during the exhibition are more than 20 trained active volunteers studying at various universities throughout Ho Chi Minh City.

The launching ceremony of the exhibition was attended by more than 500 people including leaders of HCMC Department of Education and Training, HCMC Forest Protection Department, representatives from the Department of Education and Training from all districts

of HCMC, administrators from HCMC Secondary Schools, teachers and students representing Minh Duc Secondary School, Wildlife At Risk staff, non-governmental organisations, volunteers from many universities in HCMC and local media. Also attending the ceremony were representatives from Dragon Capital Corporation and Mango Bay Resort who have kindly sponsored the SOS traveling exhibition.

Mr. Nguyen Hoai Chuong, Vice Director of HCMC Department of Education and Training expressed that, “The SOS traveling tent provides an opportunity for our students and teachers to learn useful knowledge and information related to the illegal wildlife product consumption in HCMC. We are totally committed to support WAR and HCMC’s Department of Forest Protection in operating this exciting traveling exhibition in secondary schools in order to call for support from teachers and students on wildlife protection.”

After the launch, the exhibition was successfully operated in Vo Truong Toan and Tran Van On secondary school. In 2012, the exhibition will travel to roughly 40 secondary schools throughout HCM City.

Students enjoy the SOS travelling tent



Mr. Pham Hoai Chuong listen to wildlife sounds



Mr. Thanh Phuoc-author of Rhino Song (left)

Volunteer students of the tent



Children develop exhibits to promote wildlife protection

Members from the "I love Nature Club" - Khan Quang Do magazine have worked in groups from September to November 2011, to develop exhibits with messages on wildlife trade. This is an opportunity for the students to show what they have learnt about wildlife protection after a year and a half participating in various wildlife education activities with WAR.

The colourful exhibits were made from simple materials at low cost and convey relevant messages related to wildlife product



consumption and wildlife protection. These exhibits will be displayed at Khan Quang Do magazine for other youngsters to visit and learn about wildlife protection.

This is one of the last activities of the project entitled "Take part in nature protection" implemented from June 2010 until now. The project has been successfully implemented and received strong positive comments from children and their parents.

WAR and Khan Quang Do magazine are now looking forward to the next phase of this project in which children aged 12 – 15 years old have more opportunities to learn and to contribute towards wildlife protection.



Stamp exhibition to protect wildlife

Ho Chi Minh City, 20th - 27th November 2011 – Wildlife At Risk cooperates with Viet Stamp club to organise a stamp and wildlife information exhibition entitled "For a greener environment" at the Ho Chi Minh Campaign Museum. This activity contributes to protect wildlife, entry to this exhibition was free of charge.

The exhibition displayed nearly forty different collections of stamps that highlighted the environment, plants, animals, Vietnamese people and culture and about Vietnam in general.

To start the exhibition, a launching ceremony of the exhibition was organised on 20th November at the Ho Chi Minh Campaign museum. More than 100 people participated in the launching ceremony including Viet Stamp Club members, WAR staff, Ho Chi Minh City Stamp association, Ha Noi Stamp association, and university students.

Ms. Huyen Do Thi Thanh – Wildlife Education Manager, WAR said, *"While collecting stamps, you can learn about the wildlife on the stamps and therefore be aware of the endangered level of the wildlife, in order to protect them"*.



WAR's annual fund raising event in Kangaroo land

Melbourne, 13th October, 2011 – Wildlife At Risk's (WAR) Ambassador, Jules Cronin once again took time out of her busy schedule to help raise awareness and funds for Vietnam's endangered wildlife. This year's fundraising event was once again held at the Electric Ladyland Bar, on Melbourne's Chapel Street. This is the third year now that Jules has organised this special event.

Around 150 Australian guests turned up to support Jules and WAR. During this entertaining evening, guests were treated to food, drinks and presentations highlighting the illegal wildlife trade, silent auctions, live auctions and live DJ music. Silent auction prizes included luxury "Antler" luggage holdalls, cases of exclusive wine and unique art pieces. During the live auction, which was conducted by "Kenny MacAllistar" - guests had the chance to bid big on exclusive prizes such as luxurious accommodation at "Mango Bay Eco Resort, Vietnam" and exclusive concert tickets for "Dolly Parton" at Melbourne's Rod Laver stadium. Guests also had the opportunity to name some Vietnam's endangered and most charismatic wildlife including moon bear, black-shanked duoc langur and an otter.

Every single dollar raised at this year's event will go directly back into conservation efforts through WAR's activities at their rescue stations and conservation projects.

Wildlife at Risk (WAR) would like to thank every guest who came to this year's event and we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Special thanks must go to Jules Cronin and her team including Kenny MacAllistar, Michelle Christoffersen, Kate Hayes, Jodie Holckner, Jacqui Morley, Alistair Guss from MAC engineering solutions and all our kind donors.

Other precious donations and supports

In this last quarter of 2011, WAR is grateful for the continuous support and donations from students of International Schools including Australian International School (AIS), British International School (BIS) and South Saigon International School (SSIS) and International School of Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC).

Year 12 students representing AIS has donated all funds from selling homemade cookies at their senior campus. Students at BIS developed a unique bookmark that was sold at their campus; all proceeds were kindly donated to WAR. The “Roots and Shoots Club” from SSIS kindly donated to WAR after designing and selling fridge magnets that were highlighting some of Vietnam’s most endangered species such as elephants, gibbons and bears. Students from ISHCMC sponsored two animals at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station.

WAR also received precious donations from LIN (Center for Community Development) for native fish breeding programme, and from Miss Minh Chau (who hosts the Xone FM radio and the Good morning programme of HTV7) for helping operate the SOS travelling exhibition to secondary schools.

WAR highly appreciates your ongoing supports and generous donations that supports our work. You are helping us save Vietnam’s unique wildlife.

Dragon Capital visits Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station

November, 2011 - Cat Tien Bear and Wild Cat Rescue Station welcomed Dragon Capital to its wildlife rescue facility.

Thirty employees from the Ho Chi Minh City based company learn’t about the rescued bears and helped prepare enrichment materials and observed the bears in the semi-natural habitat.

Dragon Capital employees were also lucky enough to witness the release of a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*).

WAR is extremely grateful to receive ongoing supports from Dragon Capital for all the years of WAR’s operation in Vietnam.



Rhino remembrance poster

This poster has been developed in memory of the last Rhino in Vietnam. It tells the story of the last Rhino and reminds everyone that, *"The Javan Rhino has gone forever. Let's protect other wildlife so it does not suffer from the same fate as the Javan Rhino"*. This poster also conveys the message of the SOS travelling exhibition – *"Say No to illegal wildlife products"*.

The poster is now available in Vietnamese measuring 82 x 62cm and in English at 30 x 21cm. All secondary schools where the SOS travelling exhibition has operated at will receive this poster as well as local authorities and conservation organisations.



Rhino painting pocket calendar

This pocket size 2012 calendar includes the best paintings of the drawing contest titled "Treasure of the forest", focusing on the Javan rhino and endangered wildlife protection, that was organised from March to May 2011 for children aged 12 -15 years old throughout the country. This is a product of the project titled "Take part in nature protection" initiated by WAR and Khan Quang Do magazine.



SOS environmental shopping bags

These environmental friendly shopping bags were produced to convey the message of the SOS traveling tent - *"Say No to illegal wildlife trade"*. WAR promotes the use of environmentally friendly shopping bags.



Dragonfly stamps

This set of four dragonfly stamps was issued last summer by the Vietnam Stamp Company and Wildlife at Risk. Two of the four dragonflies are new species for Phu Quoc National Park while the other two are common dragonflies those you can easily find anywhere in Vietnam. Issuing stamps is an effective way to promote the beauty of wildlife and thus wildlife conservation.

These stamps are now being sold throughout Vietnam in local post-offices. If you are also looking for dragonfly postcards to make a set with the dragonfly stamps, please contact us at: info@wildlifeatrisk.org



Checklist of fresh water fishes of Phu Quoc

This bilingual language checklist includes more than 100 species of fresh water and brackish fishes, of which ten species are new records for Vietnam and some could be new for science. These are the result of WAR's survey on Phu Quoc Island from 2007 to 2010.

The material aims to raise awareness for the public and authorities about freshwater biodiversity, encouraging a healthy management to protect the unique fauna and flora of Phu Quoc island.

Long horn beetles postcards and bookmark

A bookmark and a set of ten postcards with live photos of Long horn beetles (Cerambycidae sp.) was published last November. Photos of the postcards were taken during WAR's survey in the forest of Ba To District, Quang Ngai Province.

The postcards and bookmark aims to introduce a less known group species to the public i.e. the long horn beetles and thus foster positive attitude towards the wildlife.



In memory of the Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*)

Vietnam's Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) was first discovered in Cat Tien National Park in 1998. Not many people have seen this creature in the forest. Very few photos of this amazing species have been taken; this is one of these unique shots taken in April 1999 by a camera trap.

The Javan Rhino can live up to 40 years old and lives in the dense tropical rainforests. In Vietnam, the Javan Rhino was only found in Cat Tien National Park.

Unfortunately, due to its extinction, this unique has now disappeared forever. Lets all work together and Save Vietnam's unique wildlife from the same fate, "Say NO to the illegal wildlife products".

