

Welcome

For the first time, a Moon Bear has got pregnant and delivered two cubs at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station. During the past quarter, Wildlife At Risk focused its efforts on the SOS Programme – Educating children on wildlife consumption, especially through integrating wildlife protection into extracurricular activities. Over 100 contests on wildlife protection including wildlife origami contests, quizzes and game shows have been successfully organised in 35 secondary schools. The conservation of Psychedelic Rock Gecko achieved certain results. The biodiversity survey in Bidoub Nui Ba National Park was also successfully conducted.

WAR is grateful for the generous support from individuals and organisations for its wildlife conservation efforts. This What's Up is dedicated to all WAR staff at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station who have been working tirelessly for wildlife protection.

Your sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO

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These are some of hundreds of examples of wildlife origami created by over 150 children aged 12-15 years old at the Wildlife Protection Ceremony organized at Tan Binh District in March 16.

Please read more at page 4

Kerivoula sp.

©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

Biodiversity Survey in Bidoub Nui Ba National Park

At the end of March, a 15-day long biodiversity survey was conducted by WAR and the Institute for Ecological and Biological Resources at Bidoub Nui Ba National Park.

Ten national and international experts trekked for roughly one day before settling down at the survey spot. Subjects of the survey included butterflies, fresh water fish, bats and mammals. Thirty new species of bats were recorded, include quite a few new species for the National Park, and two species with new distribution area. Two new plant species those are food plants for butterflies, and some species of animals such as gibbons, deers and squirrel were also recored for the park. Further results of the survey will be announced in the future.

Rhinolophus affinis

©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi



©WAR/ Anna Rauhaus

Support for conservation of Psychedelic Rock Gecko

Early last March, WAR in cooperation with the Institute of Ecological and Biological Resource (IEBR) and Cologne Zoo handed over some conservation equipments and some publications in order to support education and conservation of Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) to Hon Khoai District Rangers at Ca Mau Provincial Forest Protected Department by. This is one activity to protect and conserve the endemic reptile that is found only in Hon Khoai Island, Ca Mau Province. WAR hopes that the conservation of this reptile will be taken seriously by local rangers in order to save this rare species.

Collared Laughingthrush (*Garrulax yersini*)

©WAR/ Bui Huu Manh

Graphium agetes

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Black-crowned Parrotbill (*Psittiparus margaritae*)

©WAR/ Bui Huu Manh

Releasing native fishes back to the wild

Last February, over 2,500 individuals Fighting Fish (*Rasbora paviana*) were released back to their natural habitat in the Sai Gon River. Fish releasing activities have been conducted regularly every quarter since 2010 under the project entitled "Breeding and releasing native fish back to the wild".

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Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Rescue and release 03 individuals of sea turtle

Last February, one Hawksbill turtle weighing roughly 1.6kg was transferred to Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station (WRS) by Ho Chi Minh City Department of Capture Fisheries and Resources Protection Vietnam. As soon as the turtle was rehabilitated, it was released back to the sea in Kien Hai District, Kien Giang Province in early March.

Also during the past quarter, two individual Green Turtles including one female weighing roughly 2.5kg and one male weighing 10kg were released in the same sea. These two individual Green Turtles were also transferred to Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station at the end of 2015 by the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Capture Fisheries and Resources Protection Vietnam.

All the sea turtles were tagged before being released.



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Since the 1st April 2016, WAR has stopped supporting rescue activities at Hon Me WRS.

All rescue activities are now handled by Kien Giang Provincial Forest Protection Department.

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Small Clawed Otter born at Hon Me WRS for the first time

At the end of last March, two babies of Small Clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinerea*) were born at Hon Me Wildlife Resuce Station. Both father and mother of the babies were luckily rescued from illegal wildlife trade cases. At the moment, the babies are in good condition and the father and mother otters take charge of taking care of the babies.



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan



Moon Bears born for the first time in capture

Last January, two Moon Bear cubs weighed roughly 0.2kg were born at Hon Me WRS. The mother and father were luckily rescued from capture and the mother got pregnant at Hon Me WRS. The bears rescued at the station often mate in the semi-wild area.

Currently the cubs and the mother are in good condition. Each cub now weighs roughly 1.5kg. This is great news for bear conservation as this is the first time ever a captured Moon Bear is able to deliver cubs.

Moon Bear is categorized as Endangered (EN) in the Vietnam Red Book. The species is often hunted for illegal capture for bile exploitation. Habitat loss is another reason that pushes the species to the brink of extinction.

SOS Programme – an update

SOS Programme is an initiative of WAR in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City DOET and Ho Chi Minh City Forest Protection Department launched in December 2011. The SOS programme includes four components (1) SOS traveling exhibition, (2) Visiting Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station, (3) Integrating Wildlife Education into Biology Subject Grade 7 and (4) integrating wildlife education into extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular activities

This third component was launched during the academic year 2015-2016. All approximately 300 secondary schools were provided with guidelines on how to integrate wildlife protection into extracurricular activities. WAR also provided further support to 12 Secondary Schools in Tan Binh District and 23 Secondary Schools in Cu Chi District in order to organise those extracurricular activities which were wildlife contests and game shows.

At Tan Binh District, twelve wildlife origami contests were successfully organised in the 12 secondary schools with participation of over 17,000 children aged 12-15 years old. In each school, the contest was launched and consolidated in two separate Monday school meetings. Each school meeting included a wildlife game show with various exciting wildlife games and quizzes. In addition, a big school bulletin-board on wildlife protection was also installed in each of the schools in order to support students to take part in the wildlife contests.

At Cu Chi province, the format is similar to Tan Binh district. However, instead of the wildlife origami contest, over 20,000 children aged 12-15 years old from 23 secondary schools in the district took part in a painting contest entitled “Nice Action Toward Wildlife”.



Playing a game about wildlife
©WAR/ Nguyen Thi Hien



The first prize in the district wildlife origami contest was awarded to the model of Ngo Sy Lien Secondary School.

Wildlife protection ceremony at Tan Binh District

On 19th March 2016 - Over 200 children aged 12-15 years old; teachers and education managers actively participated in exciting contests and games at the Wildlife Protection Ceremony today at Tan Binh District Department of Education and Training (DOET). The ceremony organised by Wildlife At Risk (WAR) and Tan Binh District DOET aimed to raise awareness, encouraged participants to take part in wildlife protection and also consolidated extracurricular activities on wildlife protection at Tan Binh District.

One highlight of the Wildlife Protection Ceremony was the District Wildlife Origami Contest for all students and teachers from the 12 secondary schools. Each school created a large origami model. Each model included a collection of wildlife origami and on each wildlife origami is one practical action which a secondary school student could take to protect wildlife.

All students and participants seriously pledged to take practical action to protect wildlife.



Ms. Do Thi Thanh Huyen – WAR's Wildlife Education Manager is talking to the first prize winner

Painfing contest on “Nice Actions toward Wildlife

Last January, over 250 prizes were awarded by WAR to over 250 winners of the school painting contest entitled “Nice Action Toward Wildlife” in 23 Secondary School of Cu Chi District. The winning paintings were selected from over 2,000 handed in by children aged 12-15 years old from the 23 schools. Each painting is about one action that a child could take to protect wildlife.



The first prize winner

Last March, WAR cooperated with Cu Chi District Department of Education and Training to award 28 of the best paintings out of the 250. The awards ceremony was organized at Sai Gon Zoo.

During the study tour to Sai Gon Zoo, the winning students observed and learnt about endangered wildlife. They also participated in many wildlife games and quizzes, and committed to take the action in their painting to protect wildlife.

SOS Programme – an update

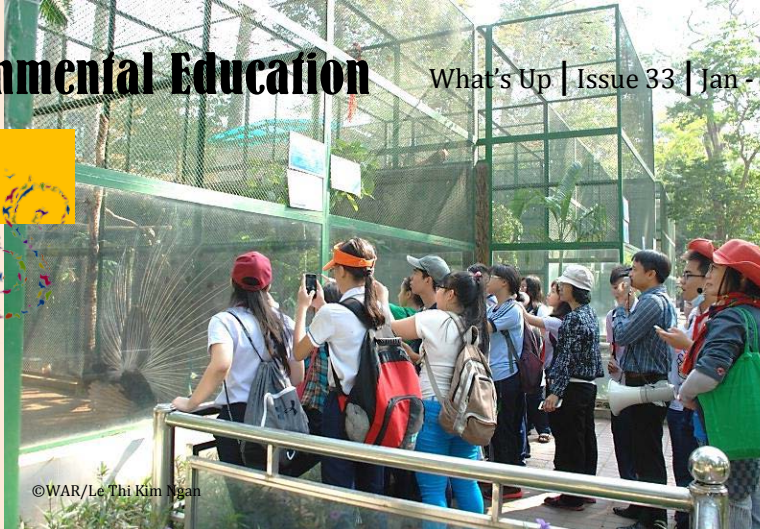
SOS Travelling exhibition

Since September 2015, the SOS Exhibition –Educating Children on Wildlife Consumption - has travelled to 23 secondary schools in Districts 2, 4, 9 and Thu Duc District. Approximately 21,300 students and over 100 teachers participated in the Exhibition. The SOS Exhibition will keep traveling to more secondary schools in Thu Duc District from now to the end of the academic year 2015-2016.



Discovering the nature of Can Gio

Early last March, approximately 30 leaders, education managers and teachers of District 4 Department of Education and Training took part in a field trip to learn about wildlife and discover the nature of Can Gio Biosphere Reserve. The study tour helps the participants to learn about endangered wildlife, illegal wildlife trade and the interrelationship between humans and wildlife, as well as threats to nature. All participants were excited to discover the mangrove forest, observing the natural habitat of bats and to manage the Tang Bong Tower in order to see a large area of whole mangrove forest. The field trip also provides practical materials for teachers to teach about wildlife in their schools.



Discovering wildlife with WAR

Last March, over 200 students and teachers from Thu Duc District and District 4 took part in separate field trips to discover endangered wildlife at Sai Gon Zoo. The teachers and students not only observed endangered species but also listened to practical stories related to trading and consumption of the species.

The visit to Sai Gon Zoo fostered love for the wildlife and encouraged teachers and students to take part in wildlife protection. The trip also supported teachers with practical materials to teach about wildlife in their biology subject at school.



Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo and guess who is the victim?



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WAR would like to express our sincere acknowledgement to every individual and company who supports WAR in their efforts for wildlife protection.

Dragon Capital supported WAR in its wildlife rescue activities.

Cologne Zoo and **Institute of Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR)** supported WAR in its in-situ conservation and ex-situ conservation.

Brigitte Bardot Foundation supported bear rescue activities as well as upgrading facilities at Hon Me WRS.

The American School (TAS) offered WAR an opportunity to raise fund at its TAS Tet Fair last January. In addition to the fund raising activities, a few wildlife games were organised in order to educate students, teachers and parents on wildlife.

WAR volunteers in the SOS programme who are from different universities in HCMC not only for supporting the SOS Exhibition but also other components of the SOS Programme such as extra-curricular activities including contests, quizzes and game shows and field trips.



©WAR/Bùi Hữu Mạnh



©WAR/Le Thị Kim Ngan

Poster on endangered wildlife protection

Last January, over 500 posters introducing some endangered wildlife of Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve, sized 40X60cm were developed and distributed to local households in four communes in the buffer zone of the Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve.

The posters included photos of approximately 20 live species of endangered wildlife those that are often illegally poached from the Nature Reserve.

On receipt of the posters at the commune meetings, locals talked excitedly about each animal in the poster and their personal experience with it.



©WAR/Le Thị Kim Ngan

This activity has been organized with a small grant on environmental education sponsored by the University of California in Berkeley - USA and WAR, in order to raise awareness for the function and work of national parks and protected areas in Vietnam on environmental education.





Photo: SOS Bảo vệ động vật hoang dã

Safari alarm

Last February, Peter Dickinson, an experienced zoo expert thrilled conservationists with his blog about thousands of wildlife which died at the Phu Quoc Vinpearl Safari. According to this blog, "Most of the expat team have now left Phú Quốc, mostly in disgust, after the deaths of over 1000 birds and nearly 700 mammals, including twenty Giraffe. Deaths are attributed to parasites, disease, underfeeding and horrific accidents. Likely capture myopathy has also played a large part. As if this wasn't bad enough in itself around 500 monkeys and numerous birds have escaped on to the island. Compounding the wrongs is the arrival of Pangolins and Gibbons of unknown origin".

Considering that Phu Quoc Vinpearl Safari was inaugurated on 25 December 2015, this is truly a horrific situation. Right after the news came to light, Phu Quoc Vinpearl safari announced that there were only approximately 100 animals that died and 135 small monkeys had escaped. There is no information about which animals died and what species of monkeys escaped. The information was quickly shared on social networks and through the media.

The story has sounded an alarm for the threats that a safari can cause to endangered wildlife. Some other safaris are planned to be constructed soon in Vietnam. WAR hopes that those safaris will be strictly controlled in order to minimize their impact on wildlife and the environment.



Indochina Silver Langur

Indochina Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*) is an endemic species that is found only in Kien Giang Province in the Mekong Delta River. A herd of langur often comprise of one male and a few females. The species feeds mostly on leaves. It seeks food during the daytime and spends most of its time in trees in order to avoid predators on the ground.

The most dangerous predator of the Indochina Silvered Langur is humans. The langur is often hunted and captured for a pet or killed for food and medicine. In addition the species' habitat is being lost due to deforestation. The populations of Indochina Silvered Langur are being degraded steadily. The species is categorized as Vulnerable (VU) in the Vietnam's Red Book.

Be careful! Hunting and killing of the species could lead to imprisonment. Let's join WAR say No to illegal wildlife products!