



Issue 34 | April - June 2016

Welcome

During the past quarter, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) focused its efforts on exciting educational activities for secondary school teachers and students and university students in Ho Chi Minh City and Con Dao Island. The SOS Programme that has now lasted for five years has come to an end with quite a few achievements in educating children about wildlife consumption. Further activities in order to raise understanding on environmental education for national parks and protected areas in Vietnam have also been conducted. One thorough biodiversity survey was conducted in Cao Bang Province.

WAR is grateful for the generous support from individuals and organisations for its wildlife conservation efforts. This What's Up is dedicated to every member of the Wildlife Education team at WAR who have been working creatively, effectively and tirelessly for wildlife protection for the past years.

Your sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR' CEO



The Indochinese Tiger is now claimed to be extinct in Cambodia. There is high possibility that the species is also extinct in the wild in Vietnam.

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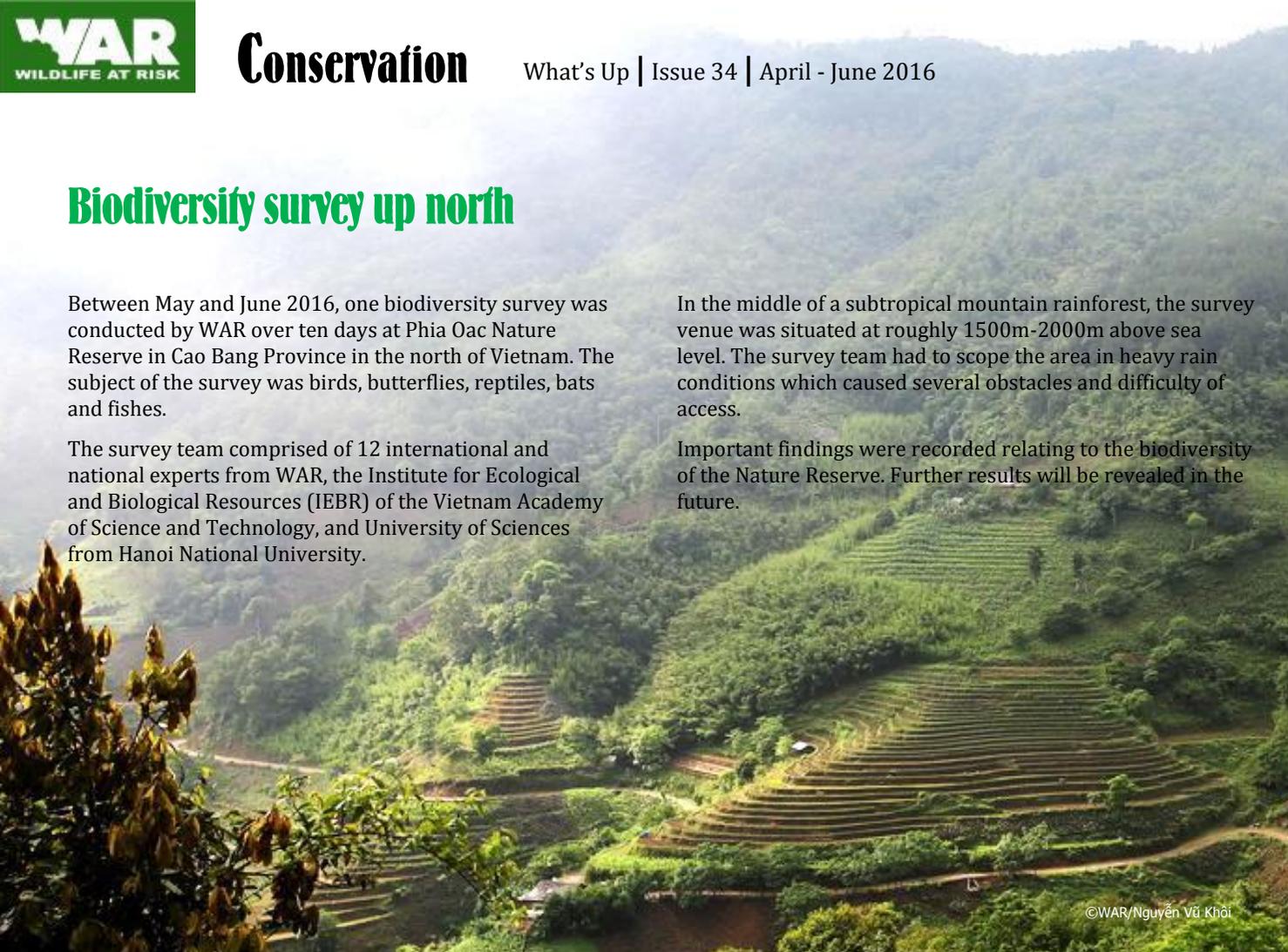
Biodiversity survey up north

Between May and June 2016, one biodiversity survey was conducted by WAR over ten days at Phia Oac Nature Reserve in Cao Bang Province in the north of Vietnam. The subject of the survey was birds, butterflies, reptiles, bats and fishes.

The survey team comprised of 12 international and national experts from WAR, the Institute for Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and University of Sciences from Hanoi National University.

In the middle of a subtropical mountain rainforest, the survey venue was situated at roughly 1500m-2000m above sea level. The survey team had to scope the area in heavy rain conditions which caused several obstacles and difficulty of access.

Important findings were recorded relating to the biodiversity of the Nature Reserve. Further results will be revealed in the future.



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©WAR/Le Van Dung

Gould's Sunbird (*Aethopyga gouldiae*)



Ziegler's crocodile newt (*Tylototriton ziegler*)

©WAR/Nguyễn Vũ Khôi



Rhinogobius cf. yaoshanensis

©WAR/Bui Huu Manh



Striped Punch (*Dodona adonira*)

©WAR/Bui Huu Manh



Some identification in the field.

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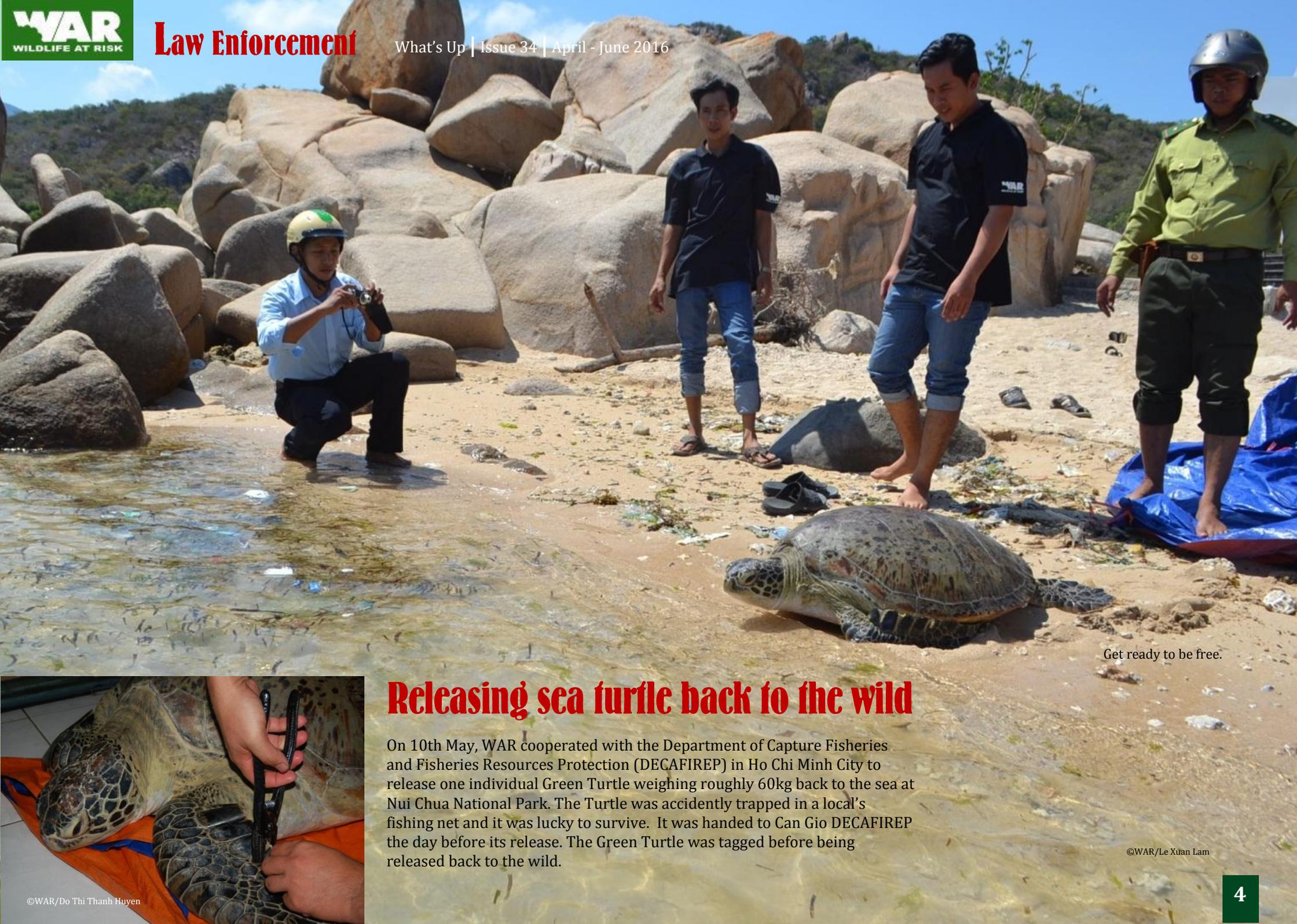
Monitoring fresh water fishes

Last June, WAR cooperated with Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve (DNCNR) to launch a programme entitled “Monitoring fresh water fishes” from 2016-2018.

Under the framework of this programme, a training course entitled “Using supporting equipments in monitoring the Tri An Reservoir” was successfully organised for approximately 60 staff of the DNCNR. The participants were exciting to learn about how to use GPS (Global Positioning System), camera...

After the training course, the trainees will have to make use of the new skills in monitoring fresh water fishes in the Nature reserve, especially in Tri An Reservoir.





Get ready to be free.

Releasing sea turtle back to the wild

On 10th May, WAR cooperated with the Department of Capture Fisheries and Fisheries Resources Protection (DECAFIREP) in Ho Chi Minh City to release one individual Green Turtle weighing roughly 60kg back to the sea at Nui Chua National Park. The Turtle was accidentally trapped in a local's fishing net and it was lucky to survive. It was handed to Can Gio DECAFIREP the day before its release. The Green Turtle was tagged before being released back to the wild.



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam

SOS Programme – a consolidation

SOS Programme is an initiative of WAR in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training and was launched in December 2011. The SOS programme currently includes four components (1) SOS 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.

SOS Exhibition

The SOS Traveling Exhibition is held in a tent of roughly 60m² and houses a number of exciting activities for secondary school students in order to educate them on wildlife consumption. In 45 minutes, each student is able to interact with displays, watch a short film, take part in games and quizzes and receive a gift from WAR.

During the period December 2011 to May 2016, the SOS Exhibition has successfully exhibited in over 120 secondary schools from 17 districts of Ho Chi Minh City. Approximately 121,000 students and teachers have participated in the exhibition. According to WAR's survey before and after the exhibition, the SOS Exhibition has created positive changes in knowledge, awareness and attitude to the children toward wildlife protection.

Exhibition at Tran Quoc Toan Second School, District 9.



©WAR/Đỗ Thị Thanh Huyền

Integrating wildlife protection into Biology Subject Grade 7

The education sector has strongly supported the integration of the wildlife protection content into ten lessons of the Biology Subject Grade 7 since the academic year 2014-2015 in roughly 300 secondary schools in HCMC. A thorough guideline including a book and one USB containing teaching aid materials was developed and provided to every secondary school by WAR in the past two academic years.

The integrated lessons were highly welcomed by the teachers and students as they are both interesting and exciting for them.

During the academic year 2014-2015, a competition was held on creating a digital format for Biology Subject Grade 7 that integrates wildlife content. This was organised in HCMC and received quite a large number of entries. Approximately 40 of the best lessons were awarded and have been shared amongst teachers of Biology Subject Grade 7 in the City.

Students of Truong Cong Dinh Secondary School at the sample lesson



©WAR/Hồ Thị Kim Lan



Extracurricular activities at Tan Thong Hoi Secondary School, Cu Chi District.



Winners of the folding paper at Au Lac Secondary School.

Integrating wildlife protection into extracurricular activities

A training workshop on how to integrate wildlife protection content into extracurricular activities was conducted for all secondary schools in HCMC at the beginning of the academic year 2015-2016. After that, WAR provided in-depth support to 35 secondary schools from Tan Binh and Cu Chi District. The support included over 100 contests at school level and two contests at district level, with the resulting participation of over 35,000 students. 35 large and solid bulletin boards on wildlife were also provided to the 35 schools.

The extracurricular activities created a strong movement on learning about wildlife during the past academic year.



Field study fours

Approximately 60 field trips for over 1,500 education managers, teachers and students was conducted in Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station, Sai Gon Zoo and Can Gio Biosphere Reserve. The students and teachers were excited to see endangered wildlife and learn more about the situation in Vietnam, while taking part in other creative activities and games. The field trips did not only provide knowledge but also inspired teachers and students on taking positive action towards wildlife.

Secondary school students from District 9 visiting Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station.



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

Education managers, teachers of District 4 visiting Can Gio.



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan



Planting Mangrove forest trees

©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen



A challenging game in the Mangrove forest.

©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Gabber discover mangrove forest at Can Gio

Last April, approximately 30 Gabbers – the nickname of a WAR volunteer in the SOS Programme - were excited to discover the nature and wildlife at Can Gio Biosphere Reserve during a two-day field trip. Many attractive activities were organised to help the Gabbers learn about nature in a mangrove forest. They learned about planting mangrove trees and fish species that live in the mangroves.

The trip was also to consolidate the SOS Programme in the academic year 2015-2016 and to acknowledge great contribution from every Gabber for the SOS Programme.

Gabber Night

Last April, volunteers of the SOS Programme from 2011 to 2016 had an opportunity to get together to exchange stories and get to know each other better in one event entitled “Gabber Night”.

The Gabber Night consolidated five years of the SOS Programme and was organised with a series of entertaining activities relating to the SOS Programme.

Although busy with final exams and work, approximately 80 Gabbers participated in the Gabber Night. Quite a few have now graduated and are working in their dream job or studying overseas. All of the Gabbers still follow every move of the SOS Exhibition and continue to support wildlife.

The Gabber Night went well and acknowledged contribution of every Gabber to the SOS Programme.



Awarding a Gabber's record

©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

Raising capacity on environmental education for national parks and protected areas

The project was conducted by WAR with support from Buck Kingsman Initiative through Bearh's Environmental Leadership Programme of the University of California in Berkeley, USA.

One training course on environmental education skills for national parks and protected areas was successfully organised in October 2015 by experts from WAR and University of California. After the course, three of the best projects initiated by the trainees were funded to be implemented. This is one more opportunity for the trainees to work and learn further from WAR's experts.

The first project is on producing a wildlife poster for locals was successfully conducted by Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve in the beginning of 2016. Below are details of the two other projects.



Learn to organise EE activities for school children in the forest.

©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

Mobile exhibition on Bidoup-Nui Ba Conservation



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Children from Da Nhim Secondary School at the exhibition.

Last April, one mobile exhibition was successfully developed and operated for 900 children aged 12-15 years from five secondary schools in the buffer zone of the Bidoup-Nui Ba National Park.

Many exciting activities were included in the exhibition such as a display of attractive photos of Bidoup-Nui Ba beauties and challenges, wildlife games, films and quizzes.



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Children from Lac Duong playing the game Sogoroku at the exhibition.



Local people from Dak Con village were excited with the film.



Bu Gia Map Secondary School children excited by the wildlife games at the film's premier.

©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Develop and premier film on wildlife law

Last May, one ten minute film entitled "Understand law to act accordingly" was developed and premiered to over 170 local people from Bu Nga and Dak Con villages, and over 200 children aged 12-15 years old from Bu Gia Map Secondary School, Binh Phuoc Province. The interesting film is to educate audiences about wildlife law and to call for conservation of Bu Gia Map National Park. (See more about the film on page 8).

The film was highly welcomed by local people due to its practical and interesting content.

Every step of the film production including the script writing, casting, acting, directing, filming and editing was conducted by the educational team of Bu Gia Map National Park.

Piloting materials on Marine Education at Con Dao National Park

From December 2015 to May 2016, WAR cooperated with Con Dao National Park to pilot material on marine education at Vo Thi Sau Secondary School, Con Dao Island.

The marine education material has been developed since May 2015 for Con Dao National Park. It includes one teacher guidebook and one student photography book. The materials guide and support the teacher to organise marine education activities in Marine Conservation Clubs, and to integrate extra-curricular activities in the Class Hour (the section of the day when the teacher in charge of the class consolidates the whole past week. It often includes acknowledgment of students with positive behaviour and highlights negative behavior that can be changed).

The materials were highly appreciated by teachers and students on Con Dao Island. Two Marine Conservation Clubs were established with the participation of roughly 60 members from Grade 7. The content of each Club's meeting was organised according to the guide book. Marine Conservation content was also integrated into extracurricular activities and Class Hours.

The materials are now revised based on results of the pilot programme and the teacher's comments. The materials should be ready for the next academic year.

Con Dao students at a meeting of Cua Mat Trang Marine Conservation Club.



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

Who is laying eggs?

Take a look at the photo and guess who is laying eggs?



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

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

Dragon Capital Group provided continuous support to WAR on primate conservation activities.

International Primate Protection League (IPPL) has provided generous support to WAR on primate conservation activities.

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 and fund raising activities.



Bu Gia Map National Park Staff direct and shoot the film.

Understanding law to act accordingly

This is a ten minute film in order to educate audiences about wildlife law and call for conservation at the Bu Gia Map National Park.

The film includes actual criminal cases against wildlife at Bu Gia Map National Park. Content of the film is concise and easy to understand, which makes the film attractive. It is hoped that the film helps to educate local people in order to minimise criminal cases related to wildlife at the Park in the future.

The film is available in Vietnamese and has been premiered to local people and students is now available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvfp3kZnQ0>.



©VQG Bả Gia Mập

Golden parrotbill
(*Suthora verreauxi*)



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

Mass fish deaths in Central coast of Vietnam

Last April, 100 tons of fish died along vast stretches of the coast in the Central provinces of Vietnam including Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue Province. One month later, approximately 100 tons of shellfish were also recorded dead in those areas.

This is not only a devastating loss for the local economy and the environment, but also creates a huge disturbance in the social life of the local Vietnamese people. This also created a fear in consumers of sea-food.

Fortunately, on 30 June 2016, reason for the fish deaths was officially announced by the Government. The waste water containing toxic chemicals discharged from the Formosa Hatinh Steel Corporation killed the fishes. And Formosa committed to pay 500 millions USD to compensate for the loss. This is the biggest compensation money that has been paid for an environmental pollution event in Vietnam.

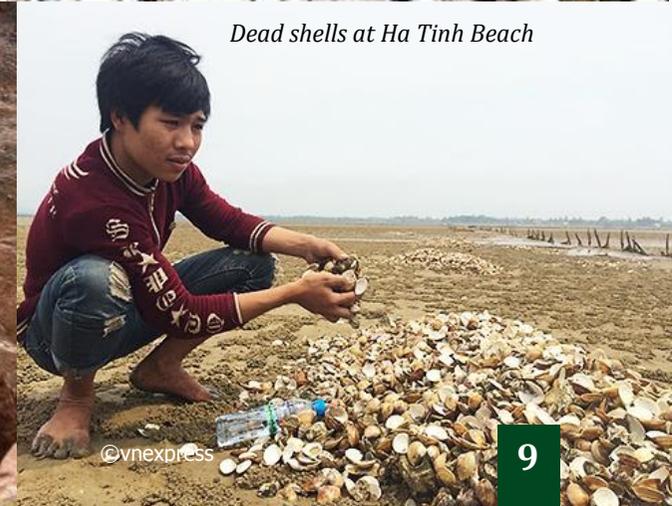
WAR expects that Government organisations will soon come up with a thorough plan to repair consequences of the fish deaths and to prevent similar events in the future in order to contribute to a clean and safe marine environment.



Dead fishes on a beach in the central coast of Vietnam



©Đức Hùng/vnexpress



Dead shells at Ha Tinh Beach

©vnexpress

Green Turtle *(Chelonia mydas)*

This photo was taken when a Green Turtle was laying eggs on Bay Canh Island, Con Dao National Park.

The Green Turtle is one of five endangered sea turtle species in Vietnam. Its name does not come from its shell colour but from the colour of the fat under its shell. The adult can weigh up to 230kg and its shell is 1.2m long. This species is found in sea grass habitats in shallow water surrounding the islands. It is found in the North Bay (Truong Sa, Hoang Sa, Bach Long Vi, Phu Quy Islands), South Central (from Quang Nam to Binh Thuan Provinces), and South (Con Dao and Phu Quoc Islands). The Green Turtle's favourite diet is sea grass, algae and seaweed. This is the only herbivorous sea turtle that feeds on plants.

Approximately 400 individual Green Turtles lay eggs in Con Dao National Park per year, which makes Con Dao the place with most sea turtles laying eggs in Vietnam. A Green Turtle can lay between 2 to 11 times with 100 to 140 eggs per time. However, only one adult sea turtle will survive out of 1000 baby turtles.

Green Sea turtles are often hunted for meat and ornamental purposes. In Vietnam, most of the Green Turtles have either been caught or killed accidentally by being trapped in fishing nets. Water pollution and habitat loss are also other threats to this species. The Green Turtle is categorised as Endangered in Vietnam Read Book.

Join us save endangered Green Turtle in Vietnam!

