



Issue 32 | October-December 2015

Welcome

During the past quarter, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) focused its efforts on educating children aged 12-15 years old on wildlife protection through extra curricular activities in secondary schools. In addition, the SOS Programmes targeted thousands of secondary school students through the SOS Exhibition, study tours to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station and teaching about wildlife protection in Biology Subject Grade 7. New rescue areas have been constructed at Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station in order to raise its capacity to cope with rescued animals. The Conservation Programme also announced important records and findings.

We would like to acknowledge the generous support from individuals and organisations for WAR during the past year. This What's Up is especially dedicated to WAR staff who have been fighting for wildlife protection during the past year. We wish you an awesome New Year!

Your sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO

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To date, approximately 220 people participated in the campaign entitled "I COMMIT to protect wildlife". The campaign was launched last August for participants of WAR's activities to show their serious commitment to wildlife protection by taking a photo with one of WAR's wildlife models. All photos are now available at www.wildlifeatrisk.org.



Sampling fishes

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Anhinga melanogaster

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Bufo melanostictus

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Biodiversity Survey in Lung Ngoc Hoang Nature Reserve

Last November, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) conducted a biodiversity survey at Lung Ngoc Hoang Nature Reserve, Hau Giang Province.

The survey lasted for four days and was conducted in wetland and melaleuca forests. Approximately 234 wildlife species of birds, fresh water fishes, butterflies, beetles, reptiles and amphibians were recorded. The Atlas Moth, an endangered species listed in the Vietnam Red Book, was also found. A highlight of the survey was the discovery of one new species of fresh water fish for Vietnam - *Hemmirhamphodon cf.tengah*. This is a small fish that used to be found in Indonesia and some other Asian countries. Further results of the survey will be revealed in the future.

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Pycnonotus goiavier

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Amblypharyngodon chulabornae

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Revealing bat species of Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province

In October the results of a research project on different bat species in Ba Hon Area, Hon Dat District, Kien Giang Province was published at The 6th National Conference on Ecology and Biological Resource. The research was conducted by WAR, Vietnam National University and the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development.

According to the research results, 14 bat species from 7 genes of five families were recorded. This is the first time research on bat species has been conducted in the area. A few species of those that are typical in the Southwest were recorded including *M.minimus*, *R.shameli*, *H.grandis*, and *H.galeritus*. This is the second time *M. minimus* has been recorded in Vietnam. Previously, this species was only found on Con Dao island.

Photo by: ©Hoang Trung Thanh



Hipposideros armiger



Hipposideros cineraceus



Cynopterus sphinx



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

Continue releasing native fishes back to the wild

In December 2015, WAR released over 600 individuals of native fishes including Ray- finned Fish and Siamese Fighting Fish back into the Sai Gon River at Binh Loi Bridge, Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City. This is one activity of the project entitled “*Breeding and Releasing native fishes back to the wild*”.

The project started in 2010 and aims to re-populate native fishes in Ho Chi Minh City and thus contribute to conserving the biodiversity of the City. Habitat lost due to rapid urbanization together with pollution and contamination is main reason for fish population decline over the past few years.

Approximately 30 students from different universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City took part in releasing the fish. They also learnt about the fish's biology and how to raise native fish in their aquarium. Some students have acquired fish for their own aquariums.

Rescues and releases

During the past quarter, **7** individuals of three endangered species were rescued including Javan Pangolin, Burmese Python and Moon Bear.

In this period, **28** individuals of three endangered species were released back to the wild, including Leopard Cat, Asian Palm Civet, and Malayan Snail-eating Turtle.



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Rescue Javan Pangolin

November 2015, WAR cooperated with Ho Chi Minh City Forest Protection Department and Environmental Police of District 12 to rescue four individual Javan Pangolins. The four individuals including two males and two females weighed roughly 13 kg. All of them were either exhausted or in bad conditions. Two of them had injured legs due to being caught in snare traps.

The four are now at Cu Chi WRS however, the two injured pangolins might never be released back to the wild as they are not able fend for themselves.



Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Rescue a blind Moon Bear

Last October, a blind male Moon Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) weighing roughly 150kg was rescued by WAR, and Kien Giang and Soc Trang Provincial Forest Protection Departments.

The bear had been captured by a local household in My Xuyen Town, Soc Trang Province in 2003. In 2005, the bear was tagged with an electronic device and thus was monitored by the government. The local people decided to hand the Moon Bear to WAR for care.



New semi-wild area for Bears

Last month, a semi-wild area for bears of roughly 5000m² was constructed at Hon Me WRS with financial support from Brigitte Bardot Foundation. The facility will include separate areas for Moon Bears and Sun Bears.



New primate enclosure

Last November, a new primate enclosure was constructed at Hon Me WRS with generous support from the Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) and Dragon Capital Group.

The enclosure is approximately 250m² and 6m high. It can house approximately 15 to 20 individual Gibbons. Some toys and life enriching equipments were also installed to rehabilitate the primates. This new enclosure meets the practical needs for primate rescuing at Hon Me WRS.

Release endangered wildlife to U Minh Thuong National Park

Last November, WAR worked with Kien Giang Provincial Forest Protection Department to release 23 individuals of three endangered species to U Minh Thuong National Park, Kien Giang Province, including three individuals of Leopard Cats, four individuals of Asia Palm Civet and 16 individuals of Malayan Snail-eating Turtle. These endangered wildlife were rescued at Hon Me WRS before being released back to the wild.



SOS Programme – an update

In this academic year 2015-2016, the SOS Programme has one new component which is integrating wildlife protection into extracurricular activities in secondary schools. Three other components of the SOS Programme are being conducted at the same time including (1) SOS Traveling exhibition, (2) Study tour to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station, and (3) Integrating wildlife protection into ten lessons of Biology Subject Grade 7.

The SOS Programme has been operated by WAR since December 2011, under cooperation with the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training and Forest Protection Department in order to educate secondary school students on damage of wildlife consumption.

SOS exhibition

Since the beginning of this academic year, the SOS Exhibition has been traveling to 15 secondary schools of District 9 and District 2, HCMC. Approximately 13,000 students and 70 teachers have visited the exhibition.

Since Dec 2011, the SOS Exhibition has been attended by over 107,000 children aged 12-15 years old and over 1,100 teachers from 110 secondary school from 15 districts of HCMC.



Visiting Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station for teachers and students



During the past quarter, four study tours to Cu Chi WRS for approximately 120 education managers, teachers, and students of District 9 and District 2 were organised by WAR.

At Cu Chi WRS, the teachers and students observe and experience numerous endangered species which have been rescued. They also helped WAR staff to feed the wildlife.

To date, over 1600 Vietnamese education managers, teachers and students from Ho Chi Minh City have visited Cu Chi WRS under the SOS Programme.

What's Up | Số 32 | Tháng 10 - Tháng 12/2015



Wildlife origami contest

From September to December 2015, WAR cooperated with Tan Binh District Department of Education and Training to organise wildlife origami contests in 12 secondary schools of Tan Binh District. The contest is one school's extracurricular activities in order to educate children on wildlife protection.

In this contest, each student used origami techniques to create one wildlife creature from paper. The students also had to write down on their origami one practical action that they would take to protect wildlife.

Approximately 20,000 students of Tan Binh District took part in the launching and consolidating ceremonies for the contest in each of their schools. They also participated in a series of exciting wildlife games and quizzes organised by WAR and their teachers.

Over 16,500 origami wildlife were handed in for the contest and 192 were awarded prizes. The products are not only creative and diverse but also include a number of practical steps that every student could take to protect wildlife. In the coming weeks, 48 students who created the best origami wildlife works will participate in district wildlife Origami Contest at Tan Binh District.

SOS Programme – an update



Contest on positive action for wildlife launched

Last November, WAR cooperated with Cu Chi District Department of Education and training to organise ceremonies to launch a contest on positive action for wildlife in 23 secondary schools in the district. The contest is one extracurricular activity that aims to educate students on wildlife consumption. In this contest, each student has to write down a practical action to protect wildlife.

The opening ceremonies, including exciting wildlife games and quizzes were successfully organised in all 23 secondary schools of Cu Chi District. The events saw over 18,000 students participate.

In early 2016, ceremonies in the manner of exciting game shows will be organised to consolidate the contest at those secondary schools. After that, the best works of the whole district will also be awarded at a district awarding ceremony.



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Environment Education Training



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Ms. Do Thi Thanh Huyen - WAR's Wildlife Education Manager (standing left) and Ms. Susan Carpenter - University of California - USA (right) are trainers of the course.

From 5 to 10 October 2015-Wildlife At Risk cooperated with Dong Nai Culture Nature Reserve and organised a practical training course entitled “Environmental Education (EE) for National Parks (NPs) and Protected Areas (PAs) of Vietnam”. The training course was funded by the Buck Kingsman Small Grant from the College of Natural Resources – University of California, Berkeley.

The state-of-the-art training course that was delivered by Ms. Do Thi Thanh Huyen (WAR's Wildlife Education Manager) and Ms. Susan Carpenter (Professor from University of California) saw 30 environmental educators

from 20 NPs and PAs in the South and Central Highland of Vietnam participate. During the training course, participants shared their EE experiences and learned how to plan, develop, organise and monitor a professional EE programme. One highlight of the course is a section on cooperative leadership skills and other supported skills for EE. After the course, three best EE proposals from three NPs and PAs have been funded to be implemented at the NPs and PAs.

At the end of the course, a professional network entitled Vietnam Environmental Education Network (VEEN) was established for participants and anyone who is interested in EE to share about EE for NPs and PAs.



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The Zero Challenge

In December, WAR delivered a presentation to over 300 students of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities on wildlife protection. A few wildlife displays and games were also organised at the event in order to raise awareness of the students on wildlife protection.



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©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

Con Dao marine education

Wildlife At Risk is cooperating with Con Dao National Park to develop material on marine education for secondary school teachers and students.

Last October, one training workshop, which piloted the material, was organised in order to train the teachers on how to use the material to organise marine education activities in their school. Ten teachers from Vo Thi Sau Secondary School discussed how to organise Marine Conservation Clubs, Extracurricular activities and Class Manager's activities to educate students on Con Dao Marine Protection.

Right after the training workshop, a contest on Con Dao Marine Conservation was organised by trained teachers for approximately 250 children aged 12-15 years old. And two Marine Conservation Clubs were also organised.

Based on results of the pilot scheme, the material will be revised, published and applied to secondary school students and teachers on Con Dao Island.



Dugong Festival 2015

Phu Quoc Island, 27 Dec 2015 – WAR cooperated with Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area to organise Dugong Festival 2015 in order to encourage leaders, local people, tourists and students take part in saving Dugong and other endangered marine creatures.

In the morning, approximately 700 leaders, teachers, students and local people paraded from Ham Ninh Commune's People Committee head quarters to Ham Ninh harbour, a famous tourist site in Phu Quoc Island. After that, over 200 members of six Marine Conservation Clubs throughout Phu Quoc island



©WAR/Lê Thị Kim Ngân

got together at Duong Beach, Ham Ninh to participate in a series of contests and exciting activities.

Besides the parade, highlights of the Dugong Festival 2015 were contests such as Dugong Sand Sculpture, Phu Quoc Conservation photos, and marine conservation knowledge contest. All participants also committed to saving the Dugong and Phu Quoc marine resources at the event.

Dugong Festival 2015 is a part of the project entitled "Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity of Phu Quoc and Tho Chu Island" that has been implemented by WAR and Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area since 2013.

Who is the victim?

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



©WAR/Do Thi Thanh Huyen

WAR would like to acknowledge every individual and company who supports WAR in our efforts for wildlife protection.

The Dragon Capital Group accompanied WAR in our wildlife rescuing activities.

Brigitte Bardot Fund provided generous support for Bear rescuing as well as the infrastructure upgrade at Hon Me WRS.

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) supported WAR for its wildlife protection activities.

The Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) supported WAR in upgrading infrastructure at Hon Me WRS.

Volunteers and other supporters of Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station for supporting us in wildlife rescue activities.

Volunteer students from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City, especially Gabbers who are volunteers of WAR's SOS Programme.



British International School (BIS) give WAR an opportunity to raise funds and educate about wildlife at its annual Christmas Bazaar in December 2015. WAR's station attracted over 500 visitors including students, teachers and parents.

The America School (TAS) invited WAR to participate in its Service Fair event in early November and its Christmas Bazaar event in early December, 2015. Besides selling merchandise for wildlife protection and organising interesting games, the campaign entitled "I COMMIT to protect wildlife" attracted great attention from students, teachers, and the other vendors there.



Wildlife bulletin boards



In the first semester of academic year 2015 - 2016, WAR installed 35 wildlife bulletin boards at 35 secondary schools of Cu Chi and Tan Binh Districts.

Each board of 1.8m long and 1.2m wide, framed by aluminum, cased by mica glass and based on felt was designed to appeal to secondary school students. Wildlife content is colour printed on A4 paper so that it's convenient for the teachers to update the information.

All the boards are installed at locations which are easy for the students to access. Information on wildlife bulletins help students to take part in wildlife contests organised by those schools in the academic year 2015 - 2016. Information on the board will be updated regularly by WAR.

Gab's Story

WAR cooperated with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training to publish a Vietnamese-English bilingual story book entitled Gab's Story. The story is about the sad and terrifying but ultimately lucky journey of a female Yellow cheeked Crested Gibbon and is developed based on facts about illegal wildlife poaching, trading and consumption in Vietnam. The story aims to educate children on wildlife protection. The story book is now distributed widely to secondary school students of SOS Programme in HCMC.



Environmentally friendly bottle

New reusable bottles were produced by WAR in order to minimise the usage of plastic bottles which are not environmental friendly. The 500ml bottles are made of aluminum and are convenient for carrying and washing.

The bottles will be given to participants of WAR's long term events in order to minimize the number of plastic bottles used. WAR encourages everyone to use their own bottle in order to be friendlier to the environment.



Eating wild meat?

#stop_missunderstanding

Many people believe that they will be what they eat and if they consume wildlife products such as meat and alcoholic drink or medicine made from such wildlife as bear, leopard, tiger, snake or primate, they would be as strong as that wildlife. For instance they believe that alcoholic drinks made from bear paw will make them stronger; pangolin meat cures lung diseases, alcoholic drinks made of snake bile make people more sexual stronger; or live monkey brain makes people smarter etc.

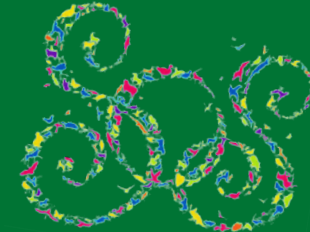
There is no scientific proof of the function or effectiveness of these wildlife products; they are based on old-wives tales. In addition, those consuming wildlife could be infected by

diseases. For example, Asia Palm Civet is a carrier of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Moreover, the exploitation and processing of wildlife products is often unsafe and unhygienic.

According to WAR's survey on wildlife consumption in Ho Chi Minh City in 2010, over 51% of the citizen have consumed wildlife. And most of the wildlife product consumption occurred during new year and other special occasions

The new year is coming, WAR urges people to #stop_missunderstanding about wildlife products. Be smart and friendly to wildlife during New Year 2016's holidays.





Wild Boar

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) is found in many countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. They live in herds from 5 to 50 individuals. Except for breeding season, the male adults often separate from the herd. Wild Boars can migrate long distances to seek for food. Although the animal is pretty aggressive in the wild, they are the prey of other predators such as tigers, leopards and wolves.

However the most dangerous predator of Wild Boar is human. Wild Boar is one of the commonly consumed wildlife species in Ho Chi Minh City, according to WAR's survey in 2010. Wild Boars are often hunted for meat and teeth for fashion purposes.

Wild boar is not categorised in the Vietnam Red Book. It is also bred and raised successfully in many farms throughout Vietnam. However in some cases, it's illegal to consume Wild Boar, for example Wild Boar hunted in national parks and protected areas in Vietnam. Therefore, you should be careful when making a decision on the consumption of Wild Boar products to ensure that it has not been sourced illegally.

Currently, the population of Wild Boar s declining due to habitat loss through deforestation and a rising demand for Wild Boar's products.

WAR's advice is that you do not to consume Wild Boar products if you are not sure where it comes from, to avoid illegal consumption and thus take part in protecting the species.

