



Welcome

During the first quarter of 2015, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) continued in its core objectives of rescuing endangered wildlife and educating youth and the public in general on wildlife protection. During Spring, quite a few local people handed in wildlife to WAR. Two biodiversity surveys were conducted with a few new findings and records.

This Issue also releases a new topic entitled "Conservation Concern". This topic cover highlight event/issue related to biodiversity and wildlife protection.

WAR highly appreciates the continued support from individuals and organisations for wildlife protection and biodiversity conservation in Vietnam.

Your sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi - WAR's CEO



Pangolin is one of the most commonly traded wildlife during Lunar New Year.

Please see inside on page 4 and page 5 for more stories about these cases.

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Hon Khoai biodiversity survey

Also in March 2015, experts from WAR and Institute of Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) – Vietnam Sciences and Technologies Academic conducted a quick survey on Hon Khoai Island, Ca Mau Province. In this survey, nine species of reptiles, ten species of birds and a herd of ten Long tailed Macaques were recorded. As a result of this survey, Saffron-limbed Gecko a reptile species found only in Kien Giang Province, will be forwarded to be included in the coming edition of the Vietnam Red Book.



Saffron-limbed Gecko

Biodiversity survey in Bidoub-Nui Ba National Park

March 2015, a biodiversity survey focusing on wild bird, fresh water fishes, butterflies and bats was conducted at Bidoub-Nui Ba National Park. The survey was conducted within several types of forest including evergreen forest, secondary forest and pine forest at an altitude from 700-1000m above sea level. The survey group had to walk for roughly 7 hours before arriving at the survey site.

The survey lasted for 11 days and national and international experts from WAR and The Institute of Ecology and Biological Resource (IEBR) came up with quite a few findings and records, details of which will be released soon.

Banded Treebrown (*Lethe confusa*)



Mountain Bulbul



Cave Nectar Bat

Curcuma zedoaria





Rescues and releases

During the first three months of the year, **38** individuals of **6** endangered wildlife species were rescued including Burmese Ferret-badger, Leopard Cat, Pangolin, King Cobra, Pygmy Loris, and Asian Palm Civet.

Also during this period, **29** individuals of **6** endangered wildlife species were released back to their suitable habitats; including Pangolin, Leopard Cat, King Cobra, Water Monitor, Bengal Monitor, and Elongated Tortoise.

*This male **Burmese Ferret-badger** weighed roughly 1kg, was handed in voluntarily by a local of Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City in early March 2015. It has been taken care of at Cu Chi WRS until it is ready to be released to the wild.*

©WAR/Le Xuan Lam

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station



©WAR

Rescue 41 pangolins

Last January, WAR rescued 41 individual Javan Pangolins (*Manis Javanica*) of which 30 were from the Environmental Police of Ho Chi Minh City and the rest were from Kien Giang Provincial Environmental Police. All of them were victims of illegal trading. These pangolins were transferred to Cu Chi and Hon Me WRS.

At the rescuing time, most of those pangolins were quite exhausted, some of them were injured or had lost paws. After being taken good care at WAR's rescue facilities, the Pangolins now are in good health. They could be released

WAR's veterinarians are taking care of Pangolins at Cu Chi WRS.



©WAR

WAR's veterinarians are taking care of Pangolins at Cu Chi WRS.

Voluntarily hand in Common

Palm Civet

This Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) lost its fore left paw and weighed 1.9 kg when handed to WAR by a local in January 2015. At the time it was handed over, the Civet was totally exhausted due to being in captivity for a long time under bad conditions.

The Civet was transferred to Cu Chi WRS immediately for special care and treatment. Currently, the civet's health is stable. However, as one paw was lost, it could not survive in the forest again and thus will never be released back to the wild.

During the last quarter, quite a few locals handed in wildlife such as Leopard Cat, Loris, and Merlin to WAR. These are meaningful actions and need to be supported by the larger community so that they can be replicated by others. WAR highly appreciates these efforts to help WAR save wildlife.



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Free a Water Monitor

Last February, this endangered Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*) was successfully released to Lo Go Xa Mat National Park, together with other 19 individual endangered wildlife.

The Water Monitor was handed in voluntarily last November by Mr. Huynh Trung Minh, a local from Binh Chanh District. "I found the animal in the public garden. Quite a few people would like to buy the animal to kill for meat but I did not sell it. I want it to be freed by WAR", said Mr. Minh.

WAR would like to thanks Mr. Minh for his great attitude and support of wildlife.

Hòn Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Releasing of 9 pangolins

Last February, nine Javan Pangolins rescued at Hon Me WRS were successfully released to U Minh Thuong National Park. The Pangolins were confiscated by Kien Giang Environmental Police last January. After spending time rehabilitating at Hon Me the Pangolins were ready to be released back to their habitat.



©WAR/Nguyen Van Doan

Breed

Psychedelic Rock Gecko



©WAR/Nguyen Van Doan

Last March, Hon Me WRS received 9 individual Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) to raise in its newly constructed reptile rescue area. Psychedelic Rock Gecko is an endemic species, only found on Hon Khoai Island, Ca Mau Province. The Geckos are hard to spot in the wild will be bred and relased back to the wild. Currently, the individuals are in good shape. The activity is conducted by WAR under cooperation with the IEBR and Cologne Zoo.

SOS Programme

The SOS Programme that educates secondary school (SS) students on wildlife consumption was launched in December 2011 by Wildlife At Risk, HCMC Department of Education and Training and Forest Protection Department. The SOS programme includes three main components including the SOSEXhibition, visiting Cu Chi WRS and integrating wildlife education into Biology Subject grade 7. A contest on developing a powerpoint lecture for Biology Subject grade 7 that integrates wildlife protection was launched to all Biology teachers of the City.

SOS Exhibition

A tent of roughly 60 m² houses an exhibition which educates SS students about wildlife consumption.

In this academic year 2014-2015, nearly 16,000 students aged 12-15 years old from 16 secondary schools of District 12 and District 10 enthusiastically participated in the exhibition.

Since the launching ceremony in December 2011, over 90,000 SS students and teachers from 12 districts of Ho Chi Minh City have visited the SOS exhibition.

Last March, each student visiting SOS Exhibition at An Nhon Tay SS, Cu Chi District received **a badge on Rhino conservation**. The badges were donated by a group of volunteer students from University of Architech, HCMC. Approximately 1300 students will receive these badges and pledge not to consume Rhino's horn with WAR.

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Visiting Củ Chi WRS

Over 400 education managers, teachers and students from six secondary schools of District 12, five SS of District 10 and An Nhon Tay SS of Cu Chi District visited and learnt about wildlife at Cu Chi WRS during the second semester of the academic year 2014-2015. All costs of the trip were covered by WAR. At Cu Chi WRS, the teachers and students observed and interacted with endangered wildlife. They also learnt about rescue activities and actions they should take to help endangered wildlife. They also participated in numerous games and quizzes and received gifts from WAR.

To date, over 2000 Vietnamese education managers, teachers and students have visited the Cu Chi WRS under the SOS Programme.



©WAR/Phan Thi Tô Duyên



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan



Set up visitor center at U Minh Thuong NP

January 2015 - WAR supported U Minh Thuong National Park (UMTNP) will develop content, design and set up a new visitor center at the Park.

The Visitor Centre with bright colours, attractive content, and numerous interactive displays and practical objects is an impressive start for any visitor of the Park.

During the seven days working in the field and hours of preparation, staff of WAR and UMTNP worked tirelessly to set up, decorate and complete the Visitor Centre.

WAR expects that the Visitor Centre will be well managed and updated gradually in order to contribute greatly to sustainable tourism activities at UMTNP.

Training UMTNP staff on how to educate tourists at the new visitor center.



©WAR/Le Thi Kim Ngan

I protect wildlife

This is the topic for an exchange relations meeting amongst students of Ba Ria Vung Tau University and WAR's volunteer students who are from different universities in Ho Chi Minh City. The event was organized last March at Vung Tau City, with the participation of over 60 university students. The event aims to share knowledge and experiences in wildlife protection of the students. The youngsters participated in different games and situations to learn about wildlife and to earn a gift from WAR. With the slogan "I love - I take action", the students came up with a list of activities that any young person could take to protect wildlife. At the end of the event, all students also made a pledge for wildlife protection and committed to take action immediately to protect wildlife.



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Wildlife Education at "Global Village"

Last February 2015, WAR organised wildlife education and fundraising activities at the cultural exchange programme entitled "Global Village" at Crescent Mall Shopping Center, District 7, Ho Chi Minh City. WAR activities were attended by over 2000 students and visitors of the Global Village. Most visitors to the Global Village stopped at the WAR station to try a challenge, to get wildlife information or to buy WAR's merchandise in supporting wildlife.

WAR would like to thank Dragon Capital Ltd., Co and AIESEC (an international non-governmental organization for youth) for giving WAR this exciting opportunity.

Wild Birds in Mating Season

- a photo exhibition

January 2015 - WAR and the Youth Cultural House of Ho Chi Minh City successfully launched a photo exhibition entitled "Wild Birds in Mating Season" by photographer Tang A Pau at the City Youth Cultural House. The photo exhibition shows the beauty and unique characteristics of wild birds in the forest and hoped that it will inspire the audience to take action in the protection of wild birds in Vietnam.

Over 150 photos featuring Vietnam's wild birds are being displayed at the exhibition. The highlight of the exhibition is a collection of Sarus Crane photos. Sarus Crane is an endangered bird that is categorised as Vulnerable (VU) in the IUCN Red List. The exhibition includes photos of other endangered species such as Grey-crowned Crocias, Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, and Vietnam Greenfinch The five-day exhibition was attended by more than 1,600 people.

We are grateful for the generous support from the leaders and the public and especially from Mr. Tang A Pau and the sponsors, including Vnphoto, Hoang Quan Company, Phu Quang Camera, Long Khanh Camera, TI XI AI company, Edge Image Company, and artist NOP and his wife.



Photo Sarus - One of the pictures is the most popular



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Wildlife At Risk (WAR) would like to express our deepest thanks to the individuals, organisations and companies for your support and donations to helping our efforts to protect wildlife.

WAR sincerely thanks **Denver Zoo** for supporting wildlife education activities at Cu Chi WRS.

WAR is grateful for Cologne and the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) for their great support on biodiversity surveys.

Dragon Capital Group Ltd., and AIESEC supported and sponsored us to conduct wildlife education activities at the “Global Village” – an exciting global cultural exchange event. Your generous support is highly appreciated.

We would like to thank **Mr. Tang A Pau, Vnphoto and Ho Chi Minh City Youth Cultural House** for supporting us with the photo exhibition entitled “Wild Birds in Mating Season”.

WAR highly appreciates the effort from **Mr. Thanh Binh and his volunteer group from University of Architech** for donating Rhino Badges to secondary school students and working with WAR on collecting pledge on Rhino protection.

WAR is grateful for the dedication of **the volunteers and tourists** at WAR's rescue facilities.

We especially thank students from **the Canadian International School (CIS)** for joining us in saving Vietnam's endangered wildlife.

Students of CIS join WAR save wildlife

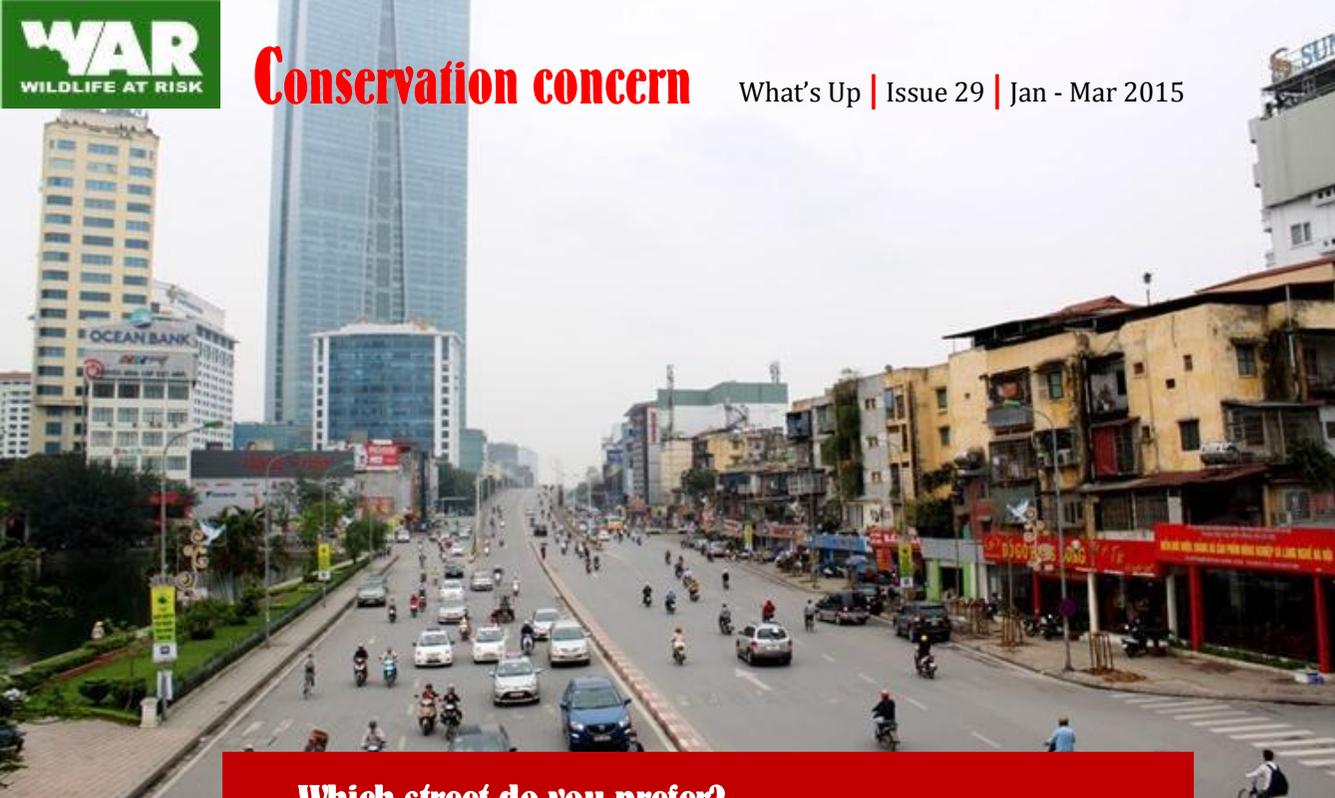
More than 20 students aged 10-16 years old from the Canada International School (CIS) worked together to set up a club entitled GIN WAR at the school to save wildlife. This club was initiated right after a talk by WAR at the school about wildlife conservation in April 2013. Since then, the club members meet twice per week to learn and discuss about wildlife and make decisions on practical activities they could help with. The club decided to raise funds for wildlife through creating little cute handmade key chains, book markers and other toys. All the money raised by the club will be donated to WAR's activities. This is a great effort and an example of what a youngster can do to save Vietnam's wildlife.



Who is the victim?

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





Which street do you prefer?

Nguyen Chi Thanh Street, Hanoi after all trees were cut down (up) and the same street before (*Photo: Kien thuc net*)



Hanoi decided to cut down **6,700** old trees



Last March, Hanoi decided to cut down 6,700 old trees. The reason is either to replace with new species or for safety reason for the coming storm season. Nguyen Chi Thanh Street is one of some first streets where all trees were cut down.

The majority of the public, and numerous celebrities and scientists strongly againsted the tree cutting project. Fortunately, after 400 trees were down, Hanoi decided to stop cutting trees.

Tree provides us irreplaceable survices. Our lives depend on trees. We hope that every decision on any single tree is carefully and wisely made.

Java pangolin

Pangolin is also known as the scaly anteater. In Vietnam, there are two species of Pangolin including Javan Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and Sunda Pangolin (*Manis Pentadactyla*). Javan Pangolin is bigger than the Sunda Pangolin weighing from 6-8kg and with a length of 40-65cm. The long and sticky tongue helps the Pangolin to quickly catch ants and ants' eggs for food. Except for their abdomen, the rest of their body is covered with scales. When being threatened, the animal curls up into a ball and the scales protect it against its predators. Pangolin seeks food at night and sleeps during daytime, it is nocturnal. It usually lives in tree hollows in the tree trunk or on the ground. Pangolin breeds from January to March and delivers one or two babies at a time.

Currently, Pangolin in Vietnam is on the brink of extinction due to illegal trafficking and consumption. Pangolins are often hunted for meat or traditional medicine. Although there is no scientific proof, many people believe that its scales could be used as a traditional medicine. Pangolins are categorised as endangered (EN) in the Vietnam Red Book.

Please join us to save the last Pangolins in Vietnam!

