

# WILD FLASH

DAU TIENG WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STATION



Photo: WAR/Le Trung Vuong

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## Welcome

During the first quarter of 2021, Wildlife At Risk is particularly pleased to report that there were two species of the second generation of Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) being born at Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation. Furthermore, there were totally 27 F1 of four different species namely Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), Yellow-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) and Southeast Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*).

As for wildlife rescuing and releasing, Wildlife At Risk supported the authorities of Binh Duong, Tay Ninh and Quang Ngai Provinces to take care of 82 wildlife including some critically endangered Pygmy Slow Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), Red-shanked Douc Langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*), Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*).

In other word, we cooperated with the local authorities to carry out 6 specific releasing trips in Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve, Dong Nai Province and Lo Go Xa Mat National Park.

There are an increasing number of COVID-19 cases that Vietnam reported during this period, therefore, Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station did not accept for visitors in order to visit. Meanwhile, we attempted to construct both cage and fencing wall including 75m of fencing wall and an enclosure for pangolin with 12m<sup>2</sup> in the area.

## CAPTIVE BREEDING

Among critically endangered species, Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) is a species which Wildlife At Risk (WAR) has collaborated with Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) as for a technical program to study breeding conditions in captivity. We have succeed in the breeding F1 for years. As a result, F1 has mated in order to create F2 helping to preserve the gen and increase the population. It was a remarkable event on March, 2021 that 2 F2 of this species were born at Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station.

It is the first time that Vietnam records the emergence of F2 belongs to Psychedelic Rock Gecko (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) in the captivity. This is an outstanding milestone marking the effort of Wildlife At Risk and Dau Tieng Station in particular.

Each species is born as a belief and a hope for biodiversity conservation in Vietnam. We have strived to improve knowledge as well as skills in terms of wildlife breeding in the captivity because of a long-term for conservation. Hopefully, there are more and more F1 and F2 of all species being born at Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station.

## FIRST RECORD OF F2 PSYCHEDELIC ROCK GECKO (*Cnemaspis psychedelica*) IN THE CAPTIVITY IN VIETNAM

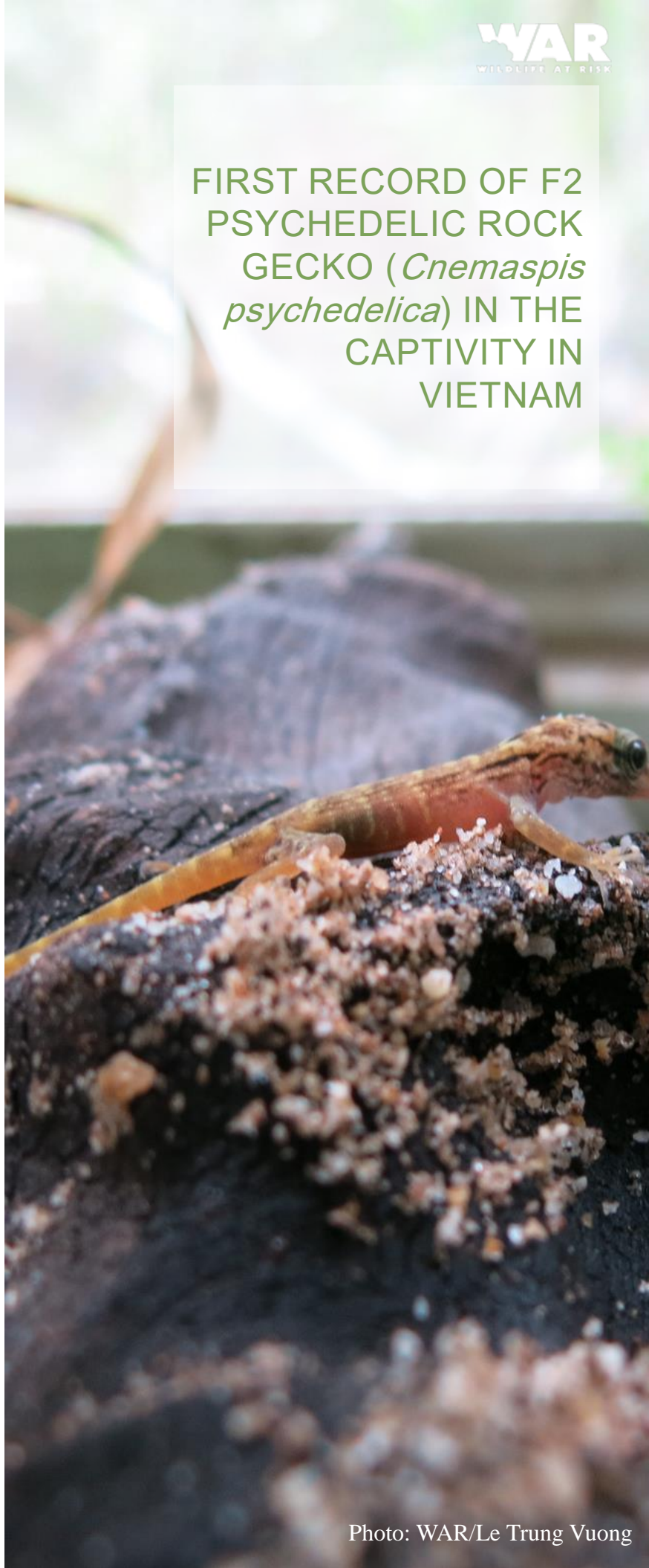






Photo: WAR/Nguyen Thi Tam Anh

## WELCOME 23 BABY TURTLES AT DAU TIENG WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STATION

There are an increasing number of young turtles at Dau Tieng Station with 23 species including Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongate*), Southeast Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) and Yellow-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*). These species are protected species according to the Decree 06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 of the government.

These young turtles currently grow up at a cheerful house – Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station. In the near future, they will move to the nature.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## RECEIVE A GREEN TURTLE FROM HO CHI MINH SUB – DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

*Handing over a Green Turtle to Wildlife At Risk*



Photo: WAR/Le Xuan Lam

*Swimming at Dau Tieng Station*



Photo: WAR/Nguyen Thi Tam Anh

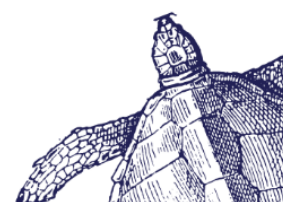
WAR promptly implemented at Ho Chi Minh Sub-Department of Fisheries supporting the authority to accept a Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) after receiving the news.

According to IUCN Red List-2021, Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is an endangered species. Due to the excessive pollution and hunting for food, the quantity of this species in the nature decrease dramatically.

This day, this Green Turtle is swimming freely in the semi-wild at Dau Tieng Station. In addition, the favorite food is shrimp and squid.

Wildlife At Risk acknowledge the co-operation of Ho Chi Minh Sub-Department of Fisheries with us for protecting marine species.

*Work with us to save the turtles!*





## TWO PRECIOUS DOUC LANGURS SPECIES WERE TRANSFERRED TO DAU TIENG STATION

There were 2 Douc langurs being rescued and transferred to Dau Tieng Station by Binh Duong Protection Forest Department and Quang Ngai Protection Forest Department. When we met them, they were suffering from mental and physical health. They are so weak and stressful. At the moment, after a long period of caring, they are better and happier. It is not easy to forget the moment when we went to destination for saving them.

This is a Black-shanked Douc Langur

(*Pygathrix nigripes*) with 3kg in weight being received from Binh Duong Protection Forest Department. She was keeping a pet at a residential house for a long time. After the resident was aware of the level of crime for illegal consumption of highly threatened wildlife, he immediately contacted the authorities and voluntarily transferred.

Because of being housed for a long time, her eyes are full of sadness and fear in eyes once meeting strangers. At Dau Tieng Station, with the devotion of both vet and WAR's staff, her health has been getting better. At the present, she can eat and play by herself.

**“ We all have responsibility to protect endangered species, both for their sake and for the sake of our own future generation” – Loretta Lynch**

*At the past*



*At the present*



The journey of getting a distance about 700 km is hard for us in order to save a rare Douc langur. This is one-month-old Douc langur with a thin body and weak health. Meeting him at Forest Protection Department of Son Ha District, we filled with pity for his traumatic.

We immersed in the feeling of compassion when we saw him – an undernourished Douc langur. We worried about the status of his health during the long trip from Quang Ngai Province to Binh Duong Province because he was so weak. Unfortunately, he was safe once coming to Dau Tieng Station. WAR's vet and animal keepers made an effort to treat and look after him. He is in a good health at our station at the moment.



*At the past*



*At the present*



PHU GIAO  
DISTRICT, BINH  
DUONG  
PROVINCE:  
OTTER OWNER  
VOLUNTARILY  
HANDS OVER  
ILLEGAL  
WILDLIFE TO  
AUTHORITIES

On April 20th, an otter was received by the authorities in Tan Uyen – Phu Giao District after a woman contacted to hand over voluntarily the wild animal.

Thanks to the immediate response from Wildlife At Risk, Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*) was transferred to Dau Tieng Station to be looked after by WAR's staff. This wildlife with 2.5kg in weight was known as a

critically endangered species in Decree 06/2019/ND-CP.

We could not control the feeling when we saw this moment. We do welcome the spirit of voluntariness for transferring endangered wildlife from the owner. In addition, WAR's staff have been looking after this species in the best life of captivity, after that it will come back the forest as soon as possible.

The ownership of wild animals is **NOT** a way to show love to them!



*With a warm hug, the goodbye moment of the owner brings to the little otter*



*An image of Asian small-clawed otter is handed over to WAR*

*Asian small-clawed otter has been at semi-wild of Dau Tieng Station*





## DAU TIENG STATION – A NEW HOUSE FOR 44 TURTLES

From the distant past to the present day, the humanity has considered as a good cultural tradition in Vietnam. It is not uncommon to see wildlife at pagodas due to the belief that releasing wildlife at a pagoda brings good karma. However, what it actually does is perpetuate the illegal wildlife trade by purchasing wildlife, and inhibits endangered species from inhabiting their native ecosystem where they play critical roles in maintaining environmental balance.

Turtles are one of the most recorded wildlife being released at pagodas and other constructions of religious belief.

At the last of May, 2021, after receiving information from Binh Duong Forest Protection Department, we quickly travelled to a pagoda at Thuan An City to support them to save 44 turtles namely Giant Asian Pond Turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), Yellow-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongate*), Mekong Snail-eating Turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) and Southeast Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*).

Because of being kept in the marrow environment for a long time, all turtles were not good. They are treated and cared for by WAR's staff at Dau Tieng Station now.





## A SUNDA PANGOLIN WAS TRANSFERRED TO DAU TIENG STATION

It is undeniable that pangolin is the world's most trafficked mammal. Vietnam is home to two species of pangolin, the Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*). Decree 06/2019/ND-CP of Vietnamese Government considered both species as critically endangered. After getting news from Tan Uyen – Phu Giao Forest Protection Department about assistance to take care of a Sunda Pangolin, we immediately moved to the destination in order to receive it. This is a female species and 1.6kg in weight.

According to the authority, a resident living at Tan Uyen Town was voluntary transfers to the authority. The compassionate civilian knows that pangolins are protected and critically endangered, which is what prompted local people to step in and take action. Afterwards, he handed over the wildlife to foresters.

It is undeniable that rescuing pangolin is difficult. However, it is not as difficult as looking after them in good health due to the scarcity of food in the period of COVID-19. We have to buy from a large number of different places where the food is good.



*A Sunda pangolin is stronger in Dau Tieng Station and ant-egg is one of the favorite food for her*



# 3 KING COBRAS AND 1 PYGMY SLOW LORIS RESCUED AND RELEASED TO THE WILD

With the efficient co-ordination from Hoa Thanh Police and the Management Board of Lo Go Xa Mat National Park, Wildlife At Risk released 3 King cobras (*Ophiophagus Hannah*) and 1 Pygmy slow Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) to the nature.

It is not the first time that we give both King cobra and Pygmy slow Loris back to the wild, however, releasing poisonous snakes asked for advanced technical skills to stay safe at all time. All species are critically endangered belonging to Decree 06/2019/ND-CP. Furthermore, those wildlife were victim of illegal trade, after that being confiscated by The Police of Hoa Thanh Town, Tay Ninh Province. Vietnamese believe that snake wine is good for health and Loris is the cutest pet, this leads to a decrease in the number of these species in the nature.

After some journeys back and forth, they finally returned to the forest. Goodbye and wish them to be safe and healthy in the real home – nature.

Photos: WAR/ Nguyen Thi Tam Anh





# 4 WILDLIFE RELEASING TRIPS TO DONG NAI CULTURE AND NATURE RESERVE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021



Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve is well-known as the largest special use forests with a potentially diverse ecosystem of Southeast Vietnam. It is home to a plethora of endangered species.

Hence, Wildlife At Risk and Binh Duong Forest Protection Department worked together in releasing totally 27 species. In more detail, they include 10 Pig-tailed Macaques (*Macaca leonina*), 7 Long-tailed Macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), 1 Stump-tailed Macaques (*Macaca arctoides*), 1 Asian Small-clawed Otters (*Aonyx cinereus*), 2 Python bivittatus (*Python molurus*), 4 Giant Asian Pond Turtles (*Heosemys grandis*) and 2 Yellow-headed Temple Turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*).

Those species are prioritized to protect in Decree 06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 of the Vietnamese Government, especially Asian Small-clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinereus*) is endangered which is at the edge of extinction in Vietnam. The authority confiscated them from illegal trade as well as keeping in captivity.

*“The meaning of life, for all animals, is a life of freedom.”*  
A.D. Williams





*Back to the jungle*



*Cage is not wildlife home*

*Forest is home of wildlife*



# INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



75m of fencing wall and a Pangolin enclosure with 12m<sup>2</sup> in the area were erected during the period from January to June, 2021. Due to the safe and sufficient condition for wildlife, we always attempt to design and make rich enrichment for wildlife at Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station.



*At the moment, a couple of Pangolin are matched in this new enclosure. Looking forward to good result for breeding Pangolin in the next quarter of 2021*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Douc Langur Foundation (DLF)

International Primate Protection League (IPPL)

Osprey Packs

Greater Good Charities

And other individuals always support us in wildlife conservation.



*8-month -old Sunda Java (Manis javanica)  
and mothers have dinner at Dau Tieng  
Wildlife Conservation Station.*

Photo: WAR/Nguyen Thi Tam Anh