

Issue | 28 Oct-Dec 2014

Welcome

During this last quarter of the year 2014, WAR has been continued its tiredless efforts on all three programmes including conservation, law enforcement and wildlife education. The Cu Chi and Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Stations have rescued a number of wildlife and upgraded its facilities for more effective rescue activities. Dugong conservation efforts including Dugong Festival 2014 have been implemented on Phu Quoc Island. The SOS Exhibition has been travelling to secondary schools in Ho Chi Minh City.

In the year 2014, WAR received continuous supports from companies and individuals. This newsletter is dedicated to WAR's supporters and staff.

Hope you enjoy and thank you very much.

Mr. Nguyen Vu Khoi – WAR's CEO.

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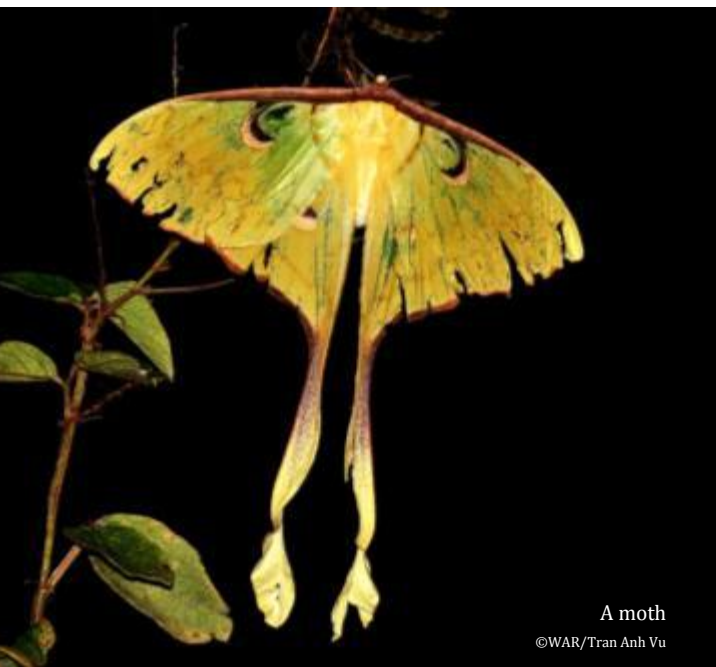


Food for thought

"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the 'Universe' —a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts, and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." – Albert Einstein.

Biodiversity survey

October 2014 - A biodiversity survey was conducted by WAR's experts at Bidoup - Nui Ba National Park (NP), Lam Dong Province. The survey recorded a new reptile species for the area and over 120 new plant species for the Park, including three endangered plant species those are categorised as EN in Vietnam Red Book. Further findings of this survey will be released soon.



A moth
©WAR/Tran Anh Vu



Cá Chạch suối.
©WAR/Bui Huu Manh

Discover new distribution area of Gecko



©WAR/ Nguyen Vu Khoi

Last October, during a WAR's survey in the forest of Bidoup - Nui Ba NP, Lam Dong Province, a Gecko has been recorded by WAR's experts. The species is named as Gecko (English), Thần lằn nửa lá (Vietnamese) and *Hemiphyllodactylus sp* (Latin name). This is the first time this species has been recorded in the South Vietnam. This species used to be known only for Sapa, Lao Cai Province. Further researches on this species are on going. Further results of WAR's survey in Lam Dong Province will be announced in the future.



Balanophora laxiflora
©WAR/Pham Doan Quoc Vuong

Continue releasing native fishes

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), December 2014 - Over 120 fish individuals including Sidestripe Rasbora (*Rasbora paviana*), Puntius rhombeus, Chinese Barb (*Puntius semifasiolatus*) and Siamese Fighting Fish (*B.splendens*) were successfully released to Nhieu Loc River at Bridge 1, Hoang Sa Street, Tan Binh District, HCMC. In 2014, approximately 2000 individuals of native fishes have been released to nature. This is one activity of the programme entitled "Breeding and releasing native fishes to the wild" organised by WAR. The programme not only contributes to repopulate native fishes but also raises awareness of local people on native fish protection. Nearly 20 university students who are volunteers of WAR's SOS Travelling Exhibition participated in the fish releasing.

Please contact WAR for further information.



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Rescues and releases

During the last quarter, 17 individuals from seven endangered wildlife species including Yellow cheeked Crested Gibbon, Pygmy Loris, Leopard Cat, Common Pheasant, Green Peafowl, Red Collared Dove and Water Monitor were rescued.

Also in this period, **483** individuals from 13 endangered species were released back to their home habitats. These include Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Leopard Cat, Small-clawed Otter, Common Civet, Crested Serpentine Eagle, Common Myna, Reticulated Python, Malayan Box Turtle, Yellow headed Temple Turtle, Black Marsh Turtle, Giant Asian Pond Turtle, Malayan Snail Eating Turtle, Soft Shell Turtle.

During the year 2014, WAR has rescued 2,634 wildlife individuals and **2,564** individuals were successfully released back to the wild.

Release Leopard Cat

This Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) was released to the forest of Bidoup-Nui Ba NP last November by WAR and HCMC Forest Protection Department. The cat was rescued at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescued Station before being released.



©WAR

Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Rescue Yellow cheeked Crested Gibbon

HCMC dated 18 Dec 2014 – Four individuals of Yellow cheeked Crested Gibbon were handed over to Cu Chi WRS by Ms Nguyen Thi Ny, a local people of Bu Gia Map village, Binh Phuoc Province. The activity was conducted under the cooperation between WAR and Binh Phuoc Provincial Forest Protection Department.

The four primates include one male weighed roughly 11 kg which is the heaviest primate at Cu Chi WRS so far, one female and two babies. The four gibbons are now in pretty good shape.



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Story of a Crested Serpent Eagle

This Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) was transferred to WAR by the HCMC Forest Protection Department in last July. At the time of being registered to Cu Chi WRS, its wing was seriously wounded and the animal was exhausted. In last November, the bird was fully recovered and rehabilitated and thus it was released to Bidoup-Nui Ba NP.



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Hon Me Wildlife Rescue Station

Release a python

In last November, Hon Me WRS cooperated with Hon Dat District Forest Protection Department to release a Burmese Python to U Minh Thuong NP. Participated in the releasing is Mr. Tran Duc Hung the person who handed the reptile voluntarily to Hon Me WRS.

The python was caught by Hung in his garden. Despite many advices including killing the python for meat or selling it for money, Hung decided to hand it to the Hon Me WRS.

WAR highly appreciated this action of Hung. We also encourage local people to hand over endangered wildlife so that they could be released back to the wild.

Mr Hung (in the middle) participated in the python releasing.



Learning about reptile rescuing



Last October, experts from Cologne Zoo – Germany, and the Institute of Ecological and Biological Resources (IEBR) belonging to the Vietnam Academy had delivered a short training course on reptile rescuing for zoo keepers of Hon Me WRS and U Minh Thuong NP. At the training course, the participants learnt how to identify sex of Crocodile, Monitor Lizard and Python. They also learnt how to catch and control those wildlife in a safe and effective manner. The experts also helped to upgrade some rescue facilities at Hon Me WRS.

1st time Giant Asian Pond Turtle and Elongated Tortoise born in Hon Me

One Giant Asian Pond Turtle and one Elongated Tortoise were hatched at Hon Me WRS in last October. This is the first time, the two species have delivered babies at the Station. The babies and its mothers will be released back to the wild in the future.



Upgrading rescue facilities

A lizard rescue enclosure at Hon Me WRS was upgraded last November. This is one activity of the project entitled research and conservation of endangered species, conducted by WAR, IEBR and the Cologne Zoo.

Also in this quarter, the Otter rescue enclosure was also installed with glass that enables clearer and safe watch for visitors.

Up to date, interpretive signages have been installed in all rescue facilities.



SOS Programme

SOS Travelling Exhibition

In this academic year 2014-2015, the SOS Travelling Exhibition that educates secondary school students on wildlife consumption has been continuously travelling to secondary school in HCMC.

Over 30 new volunteers who are from different universities in HCMC was recruited, trained and well prepared on skills to operate the SOS Travelling Exhibition. After the training, they



Training volunteer students of SOS programme



©WAR/Phan Thi To Duyen

guided children aged 12-15 years old at the exhibition.

Since October 2014, the SOS Exhibition has been travelling to seven secondary schools of Tan Binh and District 12. Approximately 12,900 students and teachers participated in this exciting exhibition.



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Last October, SOS volunteer students also visited Cu Chi WRS.

Visit Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station

Under the framework of the SOS Programme, approximately 150 education managers, teachers and students from six secondary schools of Tan Binh District visited Cu Chi WRS during the first semester of the academic year 2014-2015. At Cu Chi WRS, the visitors observed and interacted with endangered wildlife. They also learnt about rescue activities and actions they should take to help endangered wildlife. In the second semester of this academic year, over 200 students, teachers and education managers will be visiting Cu Chi WRS.

Left photo: students from Truong Chinh and Nguyen Gia Thieu Secondary School observe Smooth coated Otter

Right photo: Education managers, and teachers from Tan Binh District interact with Elongated Tortoise.



©WAR/Lê Thị Kim Ngân



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Dugong Festival 2014

Phu Quoc Island, date 30th November 2014 - Over 800 people including local leaders, teachers, students, public and tourists participated in the Dugong Festival 2014 at Phu Quoc Cultural House, Duong Dong Town, Phu Quoc Island. The festival aims to raise awareness and gain the attention of leaders, students and teachers, local people and tourists for the protection of Dugong and endangered marine creatures.

The participants paraded from Phu Quoc Cultural House through the town and passed by the Dinh Cau Temple – a famous tourist spot on Phu Quoc Island and finished back at the Cultural House. After the parade, all participants enjoyed a play contest inside the Phu Quoc Cultural House. The best plays by six of the Marine Conservation Clubs were performed during the contest. The audience was profoundly affected by the play and inspired to take action to help Dugong protection.

This is one activity of the project entitled “Conservation of Dugong and Biodiversity on Phu Quoc and Tho Chu Islands” implemented by Wildlife At Risk (WAR), Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area and Phu Quoc District Department of Education and Training.



Parade on a street of Duong Dong town.



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Who is the victim?

Take a look at the photo and guess which species is victim.

Dugong Diary (First prize of the Play contest - Duong Dong 1 Secondary School)

The play is about a journey of a mother and a baby Dugong from beautiful days to dark days when the two Dugongs faced numerous threats such as heading a board, eating nylon bags floating on sea grasses, and being poured by dirty water... Peak of the play is a tragedy when the mother Dugong was caught by two fishermen. Although, the play has a happy ending which the mother Dugong is released back to the sea and she is reunited with her baby Dugong again, the play makes the audiences worry for Dugong's fate in reality and inspires them to do something for Dugong.



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Wildlife At Risk (WAR) is grateful for the generous supports and accompanies from all donors, partners and friends. In this quarter, we would like to express our special thanks to following groups.

Cologne Zoo - Germany provided supports and cooperated with us in capacity building, research and conservation of endangered reptiles. This support is highly appreciated.

The Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) provided great supports in primate rescue activities.

The Intenational Primate Protection League (IPPL) supported us with equipments for the veterinary room which increases effectiveness of wildlife's healthcare at WAR's rescue stations.

The Institution of Ecology and Biological Resourse (IEBR), belonging to the Vietnam Academy cooperated with us in research and conservation of some endangered species.

The British International School (BIS) and The American School of Vietnam (TAS) provided us with opportunities to raise fund and promote wildlife conservation activities.

We are grateful for **teachers of Biology Subject Grade 7 of HCMC and Phu Quoc Island** for teaching wildlife in the official curriculum.

WAR highly appreciates **every individual who handed in endangered wildlife for rescuing** or reported on wildlife crime.

Last but not least, we would like to express our special thanks to **media** who have been along side with WAR in the past years.

Special thanks are for dedicated **volunteers** of the SOS Programme and Cu Chi WRS.



At the Community Service Fair organised by the American School of Vietnam (TAS), over 200 students and teachers learnt about WAR, wildlife conservation activities. They also enjoyed wildlife games, and shopped to save wildlife.



WAR raised some funds and promoted wildlife conservation at the BISzaar Christmas Fair organised by BIS in last December. A large number of teachers, parents and students visited our station, enjoyed wildlife games and shopped to save wildlife.

Siamese Crocodile

The Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus Siamensis*) is one large reptile in the world. It can grow up to 4 meters in length and weighs about 150 kg. The species is able to stop eating for a few months. It spends most of its time in the water and only stays onland during hot days to balance its body temperature. The crocodile prefers standing water or slow-flowing water bodies such as swamps, rivers and large lakes.

The female lays eggs once a year during the rainy season (from April to October). The eggs are laid in pits of 0.5m deep and 0.8m wide. The eggs were then filled with decayed plants and leaves. The baby crocodiles were hatched after 75-85 days. Sex of a baby crocodile is determined by the ambient temperature at the time of hatching.

Crocodile is categorised as Critically Endangered (CR) in the Vietnam Red Book. Population of the species in the wild is reduced steadily due to illegal hunting for food, for fashion purposes and for ornamental purposes.

Check a crocodile's product carefully before purchasing it to make sure that it's legal and you are not pushing the species to the brink of extinction.



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