

## Press release

### WAR rescue centre releases first batch of endangered wildlife

Following completion of the new wildlife rescue centre at Cu Chi, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) and Ho Chi Minh City's Forest Protection Department (FPD-HCMC) have already begun to make full use of the facilities. A variety of species confiscated by FPD in recent months has been housed temporarily at the rescue centre, including reptiles, primates and a number of small carnivores. After undergoing a thorough health check and spending the requisite observation period in quarantine, a large batch of endangered turtles, tortoises and lizards has recently been re-released into the wild in Cat Tien National Park.

In a large-scale operation lasting two days, staff from WAR and FPD transported their live cargo to the relative safety of southern Vietnam's largest protected forest. The released animals comprised 29 Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), three black marsh turtles (*Siebenrockiella crassicollis*), three elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and four clouded monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis nebulosus*).





The priority of the WAR rescue centre is to focus on reptiles and turtles, which are among the most widely confiscated animals in HCMC, according to the latest data compiled by FPD-HCMC. As envisaged, however, several primates, smaller mammals and other species have already been held there temporarily while awaiting further treatment and onward shipment to more appropriate long-term facilities. Wherever possible, the rescued animals housed at Cu Chi will be re-released into their natural habitat, although this is not always feasible.

WAR has established strong links with its conservation counterparts in northern Vietnam, including Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV), the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre (EPRC), the Small Carnivore Programme (SCP) and the Asian Turtle Program (ATP), in order to harness their collective expertise and ensure a co-ordinated approach to the handling of confiscated wildlife throughout the country.

For further details and additional photographs, contact Tim Knight, Head of Communications:

Email: [tim@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:tim@wildlifeatrisk.org)  
[info@wildlifeatrisk.org](mailto:info@wildlifeatrisk.org)

Tel: (84) 904 434978  
(84) (8) 9106126