



# Asian Turtle News

News from the Frontlines of Conservation

The Asian Turtle Conservation Network (ATCN)

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## Training course to developing Vietnam's next generation of turtle conservationists

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of March, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) of Cuc Phuong National Park, held the fifth annual Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Field Skill Training Course. The weeklong course has been increasingly popular with 63 applicants from over 25 universities and colleges applying this year. The 15 students who attended the course received practical conservation and research skills such as interview and field survey methods, species identification, an introduction to conservation project planning and much more.

As the course has developed in recent years, a number of students have continued to complete their own small research projects focused on turtles following the training courses, often as part of their university thesis. Since last year's training, some of these research projects have included interview and field surveys in Nghe An Province and interview surveys in Da Nang province.

The ATP carries out field skill training courses each year for senior students and young professionals. This year's course was the sixth training course carried out in Vietnam. The ATP has also co-hosted and instructed similar courses in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Special thanks to the Ocean Park Conservation Fund, Hong Kong and EAZA Shellshock for supporting this worthy effort to build interest and expertise in Vietnam's turtles amongst the next generation of young scientists and conservationists.



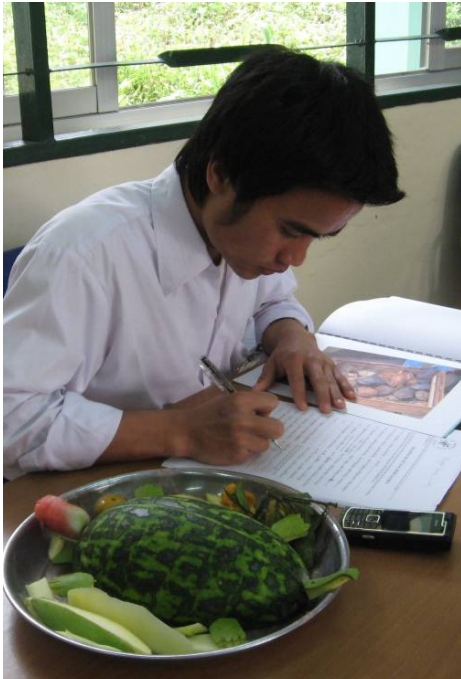
Mr. Bui Dang Phong of the TCC introduces the students to the Three-Keeled Box turtle *Cuora mouhotii*, a species native to the national park



Students were able to test their interview survey skills in communities surrounding the national park.



Phung Ba Thinh learns how to radio track turtles in Cuc Phuong forest



Nguyen Trung Lam had difficulty identifying one turtle species that looked suspiciously like a fruit salad



Bui Lien Phuong completes a field record using example animals from the TCC



A hunting dog with a *Cuora galbinifrons* caught in Pu Huong Nature Reserve during field surveys



Le Thanh Dung in Pu Huong Nature Reserve in Nghe An province with a *Sacalia quadriocellata* caught during aquatic trapping

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[www.asianturtlenetwork.org](http://www.asianturtlenetwork.org)