



Asian Turtle Program

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Below: Nguyen Thu Thuy the ATP Vietnam coordinator, explains some of the books and the importance of wetlands around Binh Minh Secondary school, Binh Minh commune



Photo by: Nguyen Thanh Luan (ATP)

Conservation library in Central Vietnam raises awareness to conservation of high school students in priority areas

Lowland wetlands in Vietnam represent some of the most threatened habitat in the country, heavily used for rice cultivation they have largely disappeared. So too have the threatened species that depend on them. In central Vietnam the endemic and critically endangered Vietnamese Pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*) is among them.

The Asian turtle program (ATP) team based in central Vietnam regularly conduct research and awareness activities focus on the Vietnam Pond Turtles and other critical species. Conducting interview and field surveys, commune meeting and school programs in district where habitat and remnant populations of the Vietnamese pond turtle survive.

On the 1st of December 2013 staff from the ATP gave more than 150 books about wildlife, the environment and conservation to establish conservation libraries at three Secondary schools in Binh Son district, Quang Ngai province.



Above: The Vietnamese Pond Turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*) still occurs in wetlands and ponds around the district, a priority area for conservation of the species.

Photo by Paul Lester

The area has been identified as a priority site for conservation of the Vietnamese pond turtle. It is hoped that the library along with environmental and conservation lessons and community awareness activities will help increase support for conservation amongst the next generation.

Various books, many illustrated, on nature and the environment were presented, including about animals, the forest environment and ocean, weather phenomena and climate change.

Press release by: Nguyen Thanh Luan – ATP

We would like to thank Quang Ngai Department of Education and Training, the Schools Management Board of Binh Minh, Binh Trung and Binh Son Secondary school for their involvement and support. We also thank to Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) a local partner involved in environmental education. ATP awareness activities in central Vietnam are also supported by the Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF), Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund (DWCS).



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