



# Asian Turtle Program

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Impressed Tortoise  
(*Manouria impressa*)

Photo by Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP

## Impressed tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) handed in for transfer to the Turtle Conservation Centre

On the 13th of October 2014 a local resident found an individual of Impressed tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) on the road near a village not far from the banks of Dong Mo lake, Son Tay district, Hanoi, Vietnam. The lake is the only known habitat for Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoi*) and has no historical of hard shell turtle live around in the area. The appearance of a Impressed Tortoise, a species known for living in lush forest on high mountains would indicate the animal had escaped from somewhere nearby or had been released into the Ke Dam temple next to the lake for religious reasons.

Once informed the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) local counterpart, Nguyen Van Trong, based in Dong Mo and working on protecting Swinhoe's softshell turtle visited to persuade the local to transferring the turtle to the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) in Cuc Phuong National Park. After understanding the importance of the species and knowing that is illegal to keeping the woman agreed.

Impressed tortoise is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN red list 2013. It also protected by decree 32/2006 ND-CP of Vietnam national law in group IIB.

Date: 15th October 2014

Press release by: Pham Van Thong - ATP



Above: The turtle was transferred over to ATP's staff.  
Photo credit: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP