



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

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Making observations on Dong Mo, with intensive time on Dong Mo the team can observe the turtle almost every month. We hope to replicate this at other sites.  
Photo credit: ATP

## Training of *Rafetus* local counterpart from northern

Over the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (ATP) has brought together all of the local counterparts from across northern Vietnam who are working to monitor five sites for the world's most endangered turtle, Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*). The sites have been selected because of the historical occurrence of the species at them, but Dong Mo Lake remains the only site where the species has been confirmed and an animal is seen regularly. The training also included forest protection staff from Son Tay District in which Dong Mo Lake is located.

Each participant was provided with a new field kit with a camera, binoculars, scales, calipers and other equipment for making observations on lakes and completing trade and field records for turtles they might encounter. Training practical included species identification, completing standardized animal field record forms, how

to conduct basic interviews and make observations to try and confirm more *Rafetus* at these additional sites.

All the participants enjoyed the training and meeting the rest of the team. Over the next six months the ATP will coordinate intensive monitoring at the sites in the hope of recording more of these very rare turtles, but as always resources and manpower is limited. Please help support the ATP and its local counterpart team. Make a donation at [http://asianturtleprogram.org/pages/support\\_atp.html](http://asianturtleprogram.org/pages/support_atp.html), or email us at [info@asianturtleprogram.org](mailto:info@asianturtleprogram.org)

Press release by: Pham Van Thong - Asian Turtle Program

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We would like to thank all the local counterparts for their enthusiasm, and to the Critically Endangered Partnership Fund (CEPF), the IUCN and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for supporting this activity.

**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM**  
PARTNERSHIP FUND



*For further information, please contact:*

**Asian Turtle Program - Indo-Myanmar Conservation**  
Room 1806, C14 Bac Ha Building, To Huu street,  
Nam Tu Liem district, Hanoi, Vietnam  
PO Box 46  
Tel: +84 (0) 4 7302 8389  
Email: [info@asianturtleprogram.org](mailto:info@asianturtleprogram.org)  
Website: [www.asianturtleprogram.org](http://www.asianturtleprogram.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram](http://www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram)

Practical training on completing field records.  
We hope to start getting additional information  
on other species also. Photo credit: ATP



The team together next to Dong Mo lake  
Photo credit: ATP