



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

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The new net is now in place in front of the dam.  
Photo by: Pham Van Thong – ATP

## Net preventing the Dong Mo *Rafetus swinhoei* from escaping replaced Vietnam.

At the end of September 2016 the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (IMC) has replaced the large 150m long 20m high net in Dong Mo Lake on the outskirts of Hanoi. The net is the only thing preventing the world's only known wild Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) from escaping when the dam is opened.

With the water level at its maximum the new net had to be put out as the old net, in place since October 2013, has sunk into the mud of the lake bed and been damaged by other fishing activity.

The ATP has full time staff monitoring Dong Mo Lake as well as at four other sites we monitor. Such ongoing work for protection is difficult to fund with such important and large areas, more staff and resources are always needed. If you would like to support the ATP please make a donation via our website <http://www.asianturtleprogram.org> , or contact us at [support@asianturtleprogram.org](mailto:support@asianturtleprogram.org).

Press release by: Pham Van Thong - ATP/IMC

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

We would like to thank the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) and the IUCN for supporting our *Rafetus* conservation work.



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The net is the only thing preventing the world's only known wild Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) from escaping when the dam is opened. Photo by: Pham Van Thong – ATP



Due to recent heavy rain in Dong Mo, the water level is now alarmingly high. If the dam gates are opened there is always a risk the *Rafetus swinhoei* could escape from the lake again. Photo by: Nguyen Van Trong – ATP.