



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation

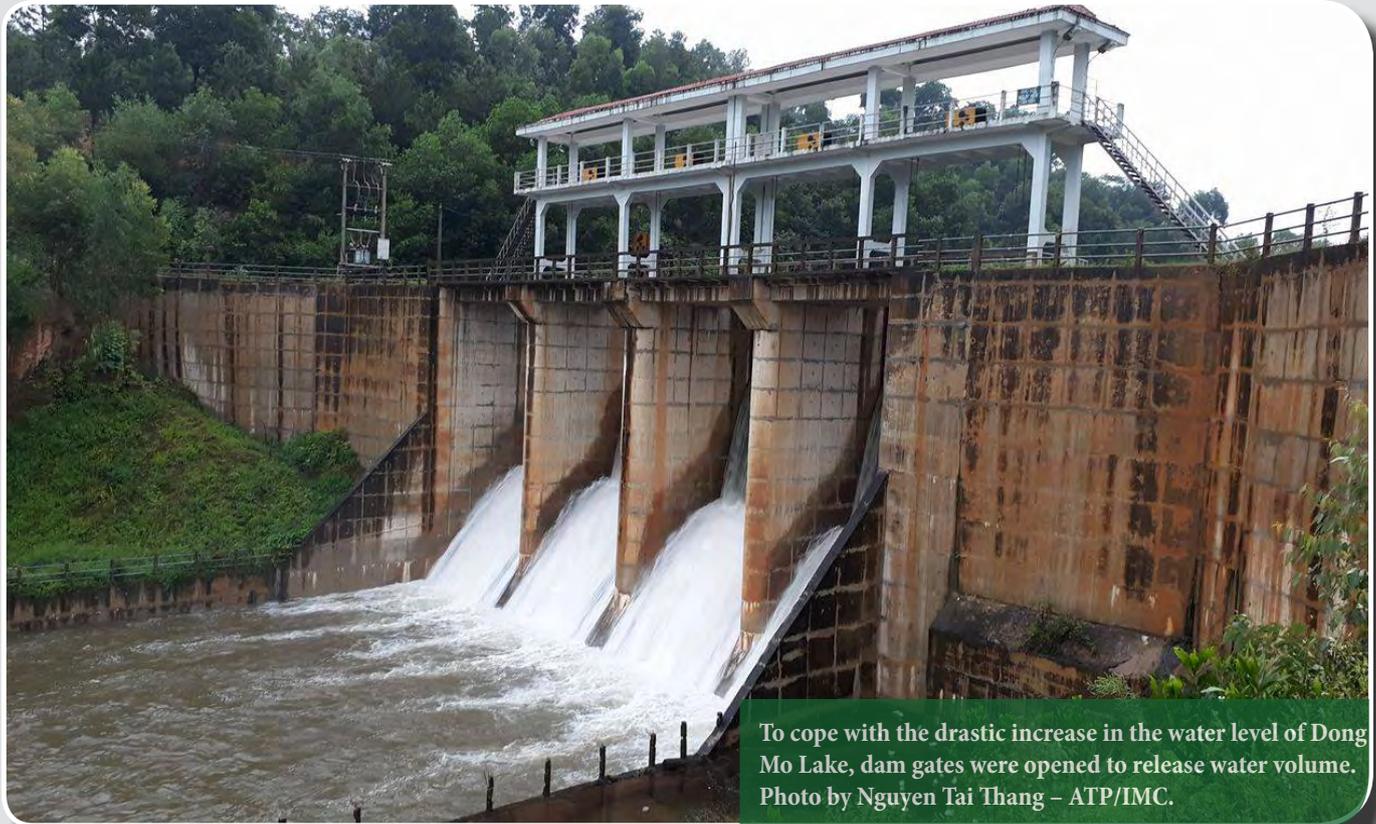


Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

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To cope with the drastic increase in the water level of Dong Mo Lake, dam gates were opened to release water volume.  
Photo by Nguyen Tai Thang – ATP/IMC.

## Typhoon Doksuri hits Vietnam, the most powerful storm in a decade puts the world's rarest turtle at risk

At 10.00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017, Typhoon Doksuri made land fall in Ha Tinh province, central Vietnam. Bring wind speeds of up to 133 km an hour. Doksuri is the worst typhoon to hit the country in almost a decade. As well as causing extensive damage and putting human life at risk the typhoon rains have also battered northern Vietnam. The water level at Dong Mo Lake near Hanoi has risen drastically and there is a need to open the dam gates to release a significant volume of water. The lake is also home to the world's rarest turtle, Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) and the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (IMC) has worked with local lake owners to place additional nets to prevent the escape of the turtle. Two permanent nets are kept in place and one was recently replaced by the ATP, today the lake owners have also been working despite the bad weather to install an additional three nets, bring the total to five. In November 2008, an unusually heavy

rain destroyed a dam under construction on Dong Mo lake and resulted in the escape of the giant softshell turtle.

As the bad weather brought by the typhoon continues, Nguyen Tai Thang of the ATP is continuing to monitor the situation and waiting to hear when and if the dam will be opened. "The situation here is tense, we have the nets in place, but every time the dam is opened we are worried about the turtle's safety", said Thang.

We hope to report the safe passage of the storm shortly and hope that those in Vietnam remain safe from what is being reported to be a devastating typhoon.

Press release by: Timothy McCormack & Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM**  
PARTNERSHIP FUND



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Despite the bad weather, ATP staff worked with the lake's owner and fishermen to install three additional nets in order to safeguard the giant softshell turtle and prevent it from escaping from the lake. The dam break following heavy rain resulted in the escape of this giant softshell turtle in 2008.

Photo by: Nguyem Tai Thang - ATP/IMC



Despite the bad weather, ATP staff worked with the lake's owner and fishermen to install three additional nets in order to safeguard the giant softshell turtle and prevent it from escaping from the lake. Photo by Nguyen Tai Thang – ATP/IMC.