



Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar
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Nguyen Xuan Chien, chairman of Yen Bai commune introducing the workshop and highlighting the commune's need to prevent electrofishing and protect Swinhoe's softshell turtle.
Photo by Hoang Thi Phuong Thao – ATP/IMC.

Training workshop to prevent electrofishing in the world's rarest turtle's habitat

Although much of the past few weeks has been focused on the discovery of another wild Swinhoe's softshell turtle at Xuan Khanh Lake, Hanoi, we have still been working hard to protect Dong Mo Lake. Our monitoring, research and awareness activities have been playing a crucial role in protecting Dong Mo Lake, ensuring that fishing techniques used on the lake is not harmful to the turtles and that fishermen know what to do if an animal is accidentally caught. On the 24th of April 2018, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of the Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) collaborated with Hanoi Fishery Department and Yen Bai People's Committee (PC) to organize a training workshop on "Raising awareness of aquatic resources protection and the Swinhoe's softshell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*)". This workshop is scheduled to be held for five communes around Dong Mo Lake for government staff and local people. Yen Bai commune was the first training workshop took place this summer.



Nguyen Tai Thang presenting about our work on Swinhoe's softshell turtle research and conservation in Vietnam.
Photo by Hoang Van Ha - ATP/IMC.

The workshop comprised two sections, led by Nguyen Tai Thang, the ATP Rafetus field officer and Mr Chu Duc Hieu of Hanoi Fishery Department. Up to date information was presented about Swinhoe's softshell turtle research and conservation by the ATP while Mr Hieu provided details on laws and regulations on harmful fishing techniques and management of common exotic species in aquatic ecosystem.

With more than 50 participants, including a majority of PC staff and police officers, a key focus of the training was to reduce the harmful fishing techniques, particularly electrofishing from being used in Yen Bai commune.

We would like to thank Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and the IUCN for supporting this activity. A special thanks to Hanoi Fishery Department, and Yen Bai commune PC for their continued collaboration on the Rafetus conservation project.



Press release by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao - ATP/IMC

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Mr Chu Duc Hieu of Hanoi Fishery Department talking about ways to protect aquatic resources and prevent invasive species. Photo by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao – ATP/IMC.



Electrofishing often uses a car battery to pass an electric current through the water to shock or kill fish or other aquatic animals. The technique is not specific and will kill a lot of small fish and other wildlife. Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP/IMC