



Asian Turtle Program & Turtle Conservation Centre

Protecting today so we can see tomorrow...



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Our mission team was happy to release the turtles back to the wild. Photo by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao - ATP/IMC

101 endangered turtles released in southern Vietnam

On the 21st and 22nd of August 2018, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) has collaborated with Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) of Cuc Phuong National Park and Me Linh Station for Biodiversity of Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) to carry out the first tortoise and freshwater turtle release of this year. This release has brought home 101 individuals of three endangered species, namely the Giant Asian Pond Turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), Yellow-headed Temple Turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) and Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). Many of the animals released were juveniles from hatchling success at the TCC or rescued from the wildlife trade. Despite the bad weather, heavy rain, muddy roads, and long travel time, we all felt extremely happy to see those endangered turtles back in the wild.

We hope that more releases with other endangered turtles will take place this autumn. If you would like to support our release activity, please consider making a Donation via Paypal using support@asianturtleprogram.org or contact us for more information.



Mr Hoang Van Ha, the ATP country coordinator, is holding a *Heosemys grandis* turtle before releasing him.
Photo by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao – ATP/IMC.

We would like to thank Lam Quang Ngon of Can Tho University, Huynh Thien Trung and Tran Minh Cuong of Ho Chi Minh University of Science who have joined the release team as volunteers. Also thank to our dedicated staff who have been working tirelessly in rescue, breeding, and release of turtles.

Press release by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao and Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.

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Ms Nguyen Thu Thuy with a big smile on her face after successfully releasing turtles. Photo by: Hoang Thi Phuong Thao – ATP/IMC



Photo above: Mr. Do Thanh Hao is releasing one adult *Heosemys grandis* from Me Linh Station for Biodiversity of Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR). Photo by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.



A long term captivity *Heosemys grandis* individual is taking in his new home. Photo by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.