



Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar
Conservation

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One of two juvenile Big-headed Turtles of this field survey. The capture of those small turtles showing that wild population of area study might be still good. © Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.

Collecting first ever pathogen health screening samples from wild endangered Big-headed Turtles in Vietnam

From 17th – 24th of August 2019, we have completed an eight-day-long field survey in a protected area in northern Vietnam in order to confirm the existence of the endangered Big-headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) in the wild as well as collecting pathogen health screening samples. This activity is one of various steps to access the release strategy for confiscated Big-headed turtle in Vietnam.

Although weather condition was not great during the field survey with shower or heavy rain every day, our experienced field team were fortunate enough to set a large number of nonlethal traps and get a total of 7 turtles. Of those trapped turtles, four Big-headed Turtles were trapped along with



One happy wild Big-headed Turtles captured by field team during this field survey. © Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.

three endangered Four-eyed Turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*). All turtles were released back to the wild once photographs and morphological data collected. Notably, we have also collected swab samples for pathogen health screening on wild turtles from those animals. These are the first ever wild swab samples from Vietnamese turtles.

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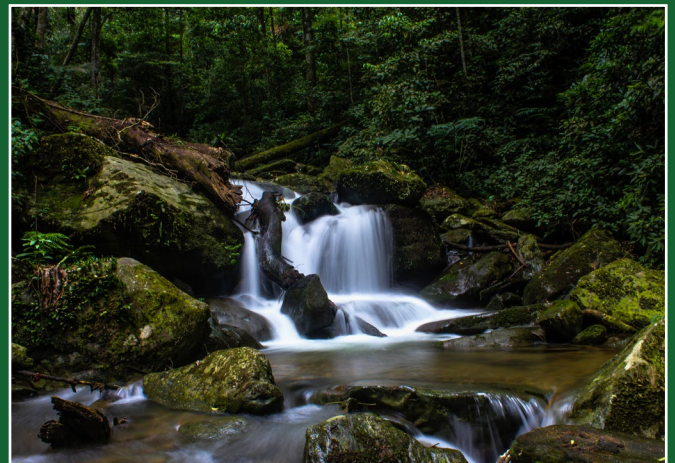
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Taking swab samples from wild animals. Those are first ever wild pathogen health screening samples collected from wild turtles in Vietnam. © Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.



One of three endangered Four-eyed Turtles of this field survey. © Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.



Habitat of Big-headed Turtles at survey site.
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