



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

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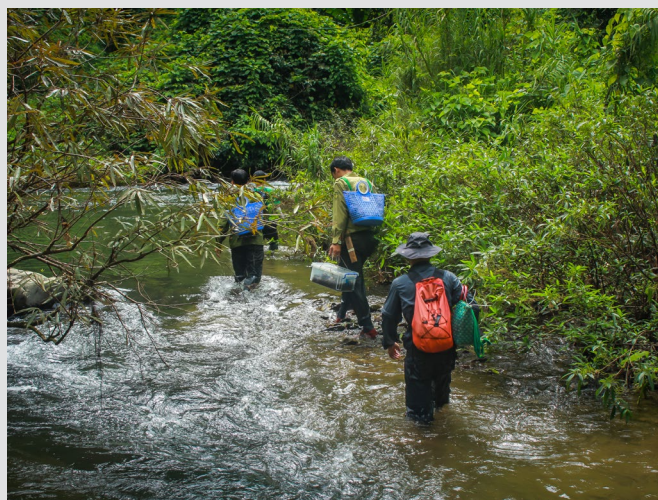


Three of 51 Four-eyed Turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*) of this release. All of them were successfully bred in captivity and now can be released back to the wild.  
Photo by Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.

## 76 endangered turtles returned home in northern Vietnam

We have just completed our fourth release of tortoises and freshwater turtles for 2020, with our team working from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 to return 76 turtles to one of northern Vietnam's protected areas. This release involved 25 endangered Big-headed Turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and 51 endangered Four-eyed Turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*); the Four-eyed Turtles were offspring hatched from our conservation breeding efforts at the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) in Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh Province.

The team from the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) and the TCC had to make numerous trips from the base camp used for the release to get to suitable release locations to spread the animals out. Conditions were not easy, with a lot of time spent in slippery streams, scrambling up waterfalls and with heavy rain, but we are all happy to see these animals back in the wild and we still have more releases planned for 2020.



A release team walking upstream to find suitable habitats for Four-eyed Turtles and Big-headed Turtles.  
Photo by Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.



We would like to give our appreciation to the hard-working staff who have provided great care to these animals in captivity and those who went on this physically demanding release trip. We are also grateful to the Fondation Segré Conservation Fund and the EDGE of Existence programme for their support to this project, our other project partners (the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Paignton Zoo, Nordens Ark, the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), Cleveland Metroparks Zoo) and all other donors, supporters and partners who have contributed along the way.



Press release by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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Big-headed turtles are listed as one of the Evolutionary Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species which require an urgent conservation plan.

Photo by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/MC.



An endangered Four-eyed Turtle has already found a good hiding spot in the floating grass at the release location. Photo by Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.



Sam Hai Son, ATP field assistant, happily releasing a Big-headed Turtle back to the wild.

Photo by Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC.