



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

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For more current news and updates on tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation in Asia, visit our website: [www.asianturtleprogram.org](http://www.asianturtleprogram.org)



ATP/IMC's Nguyen Tai Thang shows the students how to search for turtles underwater using the fish-finder. Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).

## Hong Kong students visit to learn about tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation in Vietnam

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019, ATP/IMC welcomed three students from Hong Kong, who were visiting Vietnam to learn more about our work as part of a project funded by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong (OPCFHK).

During their time in Vietnam, the students travelled to Dong Mo Lake, west of Hanoi, to work on the Rafetus project. This project was developed to conserve the world's most endangered turtle, Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*). The students received first-hand experience carrying out observations for this species, building a floating raft to encourage basking and testing for presence of the species using both sound-wave equipment and environmental DNA (eDNA) collection.

In the second part of the visit, the students moved to Cuc Phuong National Park's Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC), a rescue and conservation facility designed for saving Vietnam's native turtles from the



This machine uses sound waves to detect irregular objects (e.g. a large turtle) under the surface. Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC)

illegal trade which is supported and co-managed by the ATP/IMC along with the national park. The students learnt about how the TCC rescues and breeds many endangered species, and worked with staff during the daily husbandry routines.

We are very thankful for the three students, Coco, Anson and Yanny, for travelling to Vietnam and working on our projects. We also give thanks to OPCFHK for supporting our work, particularly the Rafetus project.



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The students learnt about how to prepare a water sample for DNA testing. Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).



Thank you to OPCFHK for the funding support! Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).



The team takes a night-time boat ride to collect eDNA samples from the water as it cools down. Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).