



Asian Turtle Program Indo-Myanmar Conservation



Protecting Today So We Can See Tomorrow

Keep Up To Date

For more news & updates on tortoises and fresh water turtle conservation in Asia, visit our website: www.asianturtleprogram.org

Sacred Hoan Kiem Turtle Preserved And Displayed To The Public



24th March 2019, Hoang Van Ha (ATP/IMC): In March 2019, the plastination of the famous Hoan Kiem Lake Turtle, or Cu Rua (Great-grandfather/mother Turtle) was completed, allowing the deceased specimen to finally be displayed to the public in Ngoc Son Temple, which sits on the lake itself.

The turtle, one of the last remaining Swinhoe's Softshell Turtles (*Rafetus swinhoi*) before its devastating death in January 2016, has been preserved using a method which infuses the body in resins to prevent decay. A team of Vietnamese and German experts were responsible for the preservation of this turtle and were tasked with maintaining the animal's charisma so that it could be satisfactorily displayed in the temple next to its former home.

Hopefully, this new display will help galvanise further support for efforts to conserve this species. The Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (IMC) is continuing to carry out field surveys around Vietnam to try and find more wild individuals and increase the known population.

An Alliance for Rafetus Conservation has been formed with the ATP/IMC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) and Centre Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES). Together we believe the species can be saved.



In March 2019, the plastination of the famous Hoan Kiem Lake Turtle was completed.
Photo by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC



Numerous visitors have already been to observe and show respect to the last “Cu Rua” from Hoan Kiem lake.
Photo by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC

For further information please contact:
Asian Turtle Program - Indo-Myanmar Conservation
Room 1806, C14 Bac Ha Building, To Huu Road,
Nam Tu Liem Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam
PO Box 46 - Hanoi International Post Office
Tel: +84 (0) 24 7302 8389
Email: info@asianturtleprogram.org
Website: www.asianturtleprogram.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram