



Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar
Conservation

Protecting today so we can see tomorrow...

Keep up to date

For more current news and updates on tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation in Asia, visit our website: www.asianturtleprogram.org

Improvements At Dong Mo Lake: Floating Raft

In the week commencing 3rd June 2019, ATP staff were busy designing and building a floating raft at Dong Mo, something which may help to observe the Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) residing at this site. This rare and elusive animal is infrequently seen at the lake but a raft for basking may allow the turtle to sit out of the water more often and allow for vital behavioural observations by ATP staff.

The raft, made mostly from bamboo and grass harvested on the lake's islands, will be the first of a series of developments at Dong Mo, which will help staff study the behaviour and ecology of the largest and most critically endangered of all freshwater turtles at one of its priority sites. It is hoped that this will further highlight Dong Mo as the most significant site for the conservation of this species.

ATP's *Rafetus* Field Officer, Nguyen Tai Thang, said this "Developments like this one are small but are important to help us find out more about this rare turtle and help to conserve it"

This raft was built with the assistance of a group of 3 young students from Hong Kong who were visiting Dong Mo as part of grant for *Rafetus* conservation.

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

Tel: +84 (0) 24 7302 8389

Email: info@asianturtleprogram.org

Website: www.asianturtleprogram.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram



This floating raft will hopefully allow observations of *Rafetus* basking on Dong Mo lake.

Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).



The raft design was partly based from the floats of local fishermen who have observed the turtle.

Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).



ATP/IMC Field Officer Thang tests the buoyancy of the raft.

Photo credit: Jack Carney (ATP/IMC).