



Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



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A new signboard to raise awareness of community about Hoan Kiem turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) conservation

Over the past decade, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) has conducted several surveys to identify priority areas of conservation and research for the Hoan Kiem turtle (also known as Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*)), the world's most endangered freshwater turtle species. Dong Mo Lake, where one of the remaining three individuals of Hoan Kiem Turtle in the world lives, sits predominantly within Phu Yen village of Yen Bai commune (Ba Vi district, Ha Noi). Therefore, the daily activities of these local people have a significant impact on the conservation for this species here. Raising the awareness of the local community about the conservation of Hoan Kiem Turtle and the sustainable use of

aquatic resources at Dong Mo Lake is extremely necessary.

With this in mind, on 30th December 2019, ATP/IMC coordinated with the Ha Noi Fisheries Department to set up an educational signboard in front of the community house (the cultural and sports center of Phu Yen village), helping people easily access information of signpost. The signboard calls for local people to join hands to protect Hoan Kiem turtle, as well as highlighting some activities which negatively impact on this species. Local authorities and people have actively supported ATP/IMC during the process of building this signboard, and we hope it will be read and celebrated by the whole community.



Many students of Yen Bai primary school stop after school to read the information.

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We would like to thank Yen Bai Commune People's Committee, Ba Vi district for allowing us to organize the signpost building. We also would like to thank the donors, partners and supporters of our Rafetus project: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), IUCN, the Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF), the British Chelonia Group (BCG), Columbus Zoo, Auckland Zoo, Birdlife International, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (OPCF), the Browse Poster UK, Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), Education for Nature (ENV), Washington State University, USA, a number of private donors, and the Vietnamese authorities: the Forest Protection Department (FPD), Fisheries Department, the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE).



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