



Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team

New ENV Van Urges People to Protect Wildlife

Following months of preparation and a week of careful painting, ENV has finished the artwork on its new Mobile Wildlife Awareness Van. The new van, purchased in June 2007 with support from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), features a unique design by talented artist Dao Van Hoang. The design covers both sides of the van and depicts forest scenes and wildlife including the mobile unit's flagship species, the Asiatic black bear.

Established in early 2007, the Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team travels throughout Vietnam raising awareness about the need to protect Vietnam's bears and other wildlife threatened by illegal trade and consumption. The team also trains local partners to carry out their own awareness-raising activities, and encourages public participation and action in protecting wildlife.

Activities range from campaigning in public forums, holding university seminars, and training staff from government agencies, to working with protected areas staff and partners in local communities, and carrying out wildlife trade surveys with volunteers in urban centers. Since March of 2007, the team has carried out seven mobile missions, each averaging eight to ten days in length. In November, the Mobile Team will take the new van on a 30-day program focusing on central and southern provinces, and will provide support to the "Bring Peace to Vietnam's Bears" event scheduled for late November in Ho Chi Minh City.



Artist Dao Van Hoang (second from right) and assistants pose in front of their masterpiece work featuring wildlife in nature, where it belongs



Quang Ninh rangers prepare for an open debate on the issue of the role of rangers in preventing wildlife extinction as part of a new ENV training seminar for wildlife protection officers.

Mission Quang Ninh September 2007

In September, ENV's Mobile Awareness Team carried out its seventh field mission, conducting activities at universities in Quang Ninh province, surveying consumer markets in Ha Long city, and testing out a new wildlife trade enforcement training program for wildlife protection authorities.

Training for Quang Ninh rangers

ENV tested a new training program aimed at strengthening wildlife protection efforts by police, customs agents, and wildlife protection officers. The new course kicked off with a brief overview of the crisis facing Vietnam's wildlife as a result of hunting and trade. Participants were then presented with a review of relevant wildlife protection laws, followed by an introduction to identification of Group 1B protected wildlife (banned from commercial trade) as well as other common trade species. These modules were followed by a visual tour of wildlife crime in restaurants and marketplaces, linking observed violations to specific laws and protected species. The

afternoon session involved active discussion between participants on important enforcement issues such as the role of forest rangers in wildlife protection and preventing the extinction of species, the role that wildlife farming operations play in the illegal wildlife trade and strategies to manage these farms, and the highly controversial issue of auctioning of wildlife by wildlife protection agencies.

Despite a few minor kinks in the program, the new training course went extremely well, and Quang Ninh rangers expressed interest in working further with ENV on species identification, forging closer links and undergoing additional training with ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit.

ENV plans to expand the module further, which was scaled down for its initial test run. Evaluation and testing components will be developed, the training agenda expanded to include a case study component, and an additional day of training of species identification included, for group 1B animals as well as common trade species.

Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team continued...

ENV Reaches Students through University Seminars on Wildlife Trade

University seminars on the wildlife trade were delivered at the Quang Ninh Health College on September 21 and the Quang Ninh Forestry College on September 26. More than 300 students participated in the seminars, which ENV delivers routinely for university students while on tour with the Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team. Each seminar program includes a range of activities such as debates, a performance of the ENV production, "Especially for Bears", a traveling wildlife trade exhibit, a film, and other presentations and activities aimed at engaging students and encouraging involvement in efforts to stop the illegal trade of wildlife.



Students at the Quang Ninh Health College look at an information panel depicting Vietnam's endangered wildlife in trade.

Ha Long Survey

As part of the mobile team's mission to Quang Ninh, wildlife trade surveys were carried out in Hon Gai and Bai Chay districts of Ha Long town. A total of 42 establishments were inspected, resulting in 16 documented violations including wildlife being offered on the menu at restaurants and bear bile advertised on signboards. The surveys mobilized volunteers from the Quang Ninh Health College, and more than 30 students from the Quang Ninh Forestry College joined the national Wildlife Volunteer Network. ENV will follow up on the valuable work done by the Wildlife Crime Unit and the volunteers, continuing to monitor establishments in Ha Long town.

The mobile team also inspected several bear farms along Highway 18, just outside Ha Long town. Several of these establishments had been reported in previous hotline calls to ENV, and in one case, it was found that the bears being kept at the establishment were registered with the authorities. A second establishment had 38 captive bears in cages in the front parking lot, and according to the Korean manager of the establishment, offered "bear products" to Asian customers only. ENV is working with provincial and national enforcement agencies to deal with these cases, and to address the broader problem of bear bile exploitation in Quang Ninh and other provinces.

Community-based Awareness

Summer Program at Tam Dao National park

In August, 22 sessions of ENV's Tam Dao summer program were carried in local schools. These sessions covered topics such as Protecting Vietnam's Turtles, the Environment Around Us, and the Value of Tam Dao National Park.

Also in August, the Tam Dao program welcomed three new staff trainees. New Tam Dao program staff must complete an intensive two months of training and receive certification before being allowed to deliver lessons in schools, puppet shows, or participate in administering village level meetings.

ENV assists FFI's efforts to conserve endangered langurs

In late September, ENV carried out a two-day orientation program on community-based environmental education for 16 teachers, rangers, and staff of the Department of Education and Training of Ha Giang province. The training was in support of a project administered by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) focused on conservation of the critically endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey. A component of the FFI project aims to raise awareness in local communities bordering areas where snub-nosed monkeys remain in the wild. The ENV orientation provided participants with an overview of how to organize a field-based EE program, as well as highlighted some basic teaching skills to help them get their message across to students, urging the educators to break away from traditional non-participatory styles of teaching. The participants also had the opportunity to see ENV's Tam Dao community-based awareness program in action in local schools.

A Classroom in the Community

The Tam Dao Awareness Program serves the dual purpose of raising awareness amongst communities bordering the park about the need to protect nature and the environment, as well as providing a field classroom for the ENV training programs carried out at ENV's National Training Center for Environmental Educators.

Wildlife Crimes Hotline Update

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) logged 68 new cases in September, bringing the total number of cases that have been documented and tracked since the Wildlife Crimes Hotline was established in 2005 to 789.

New cases included 22 wildlife trade seizures by the authorities, 33 cases involving restaurants, shops, or markets selling wildlife, eight cases of unlawful possession of wildlife, and two cases involving the advertisement of wildlife products. Hot cases that ENV is following include the seizure of four tigers and various parts of other protected wildlife during a raid by police on September 5, and an ENV hotline case involving 27 bear cubs that were being kept illegally on a farm in Ha Tay, and which disappeared shortly after authorities inspected the site.

For more information on efforts to combat wildlife crime in Vietnam, see the Crime Log in our most recent Wildlife Crimes Bulletin, viewable on the ENV website: www.envvietnam.org



A small-clawed otter that was turned over to the Cu Chi Rescue Center after a local HCM resident called the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. Photo by Tim Knight



One of four butchered tigers discovered at a Hanoi resident's house following a raid by police and wildlife protection officers. Photo by Pham Tuyen



A Korean language billboard about bears at a resort in Ha Long City where staff claim that "Asian" patrons will soon be able to enjoy bear specialty dishes and products at a new restaurant at the site.

About ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit

Established in January of 2005, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit runs the national Wildlife Crimes Hotline, a toll-free number that was established to provide a mechanism for the public to report wildlife crimes. Reports are quickly passed on to the appropriate functional agency by ENV, after which the monitoring unit tracks each case through to its conclusion, with special attention focused on the disposal of the animals or animal parts, and the punishment administered to the perpetrator in each case. Sources are contacted and advised in detail as to the outcome of the case that he/she reported. Cases are then documented and filed, and recorded on ENV's Wildlife Crimes Database.

The main aims of the program are to:

- * Encourage public participation and support in efforts to combat the illegal trade of wildlife
- * Support enforcement efforts by government agencies
- * Document crimes and identify factors that contribute to the wildlife trade

ENV also coordinates a growing national Wildlife Volunteer Network, with volunteers in almost every major urban center in Vietnam, tasked with inspecting business establishments for which crimes have been reported and helping ENV and local authorities ensure that owners remain in compliance with the law, or that continued violations are quickly reported to the authorities.

Public Awareness

Bears on the Air: ENV message reaching millions

ENV's second PSA about bear protection was distributed to 63 local television stations nationwide. During the 30 second TV spot, different groups representing a cross-section of urban society encourage the audience to "say no" to use of bear products, and to help protect Vietnam's bears. After nearly three months, 23 of 30 provincial television stations that ENV contacted had aired the PSA regularly. ENV's bear PSA also began airing on national TV in May. The combined impact of this national and provincial airing has been a direct increase in public reporting of crimes through the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, particularly in relation to cases involving bears.

Monthly Radio Show Raises Awareness and Encourages Public Action

ENV produced and aired its 27th 'Protecting Vietnam's Wildlife' radio show on the Voice of Vietnam. The show opened with a recap of news involving wildlife crimes documented over the previous month and cases where public involvement has resulted in successful outcomes. The audience was then brought up to speed on the case of the missing bear cubs, which has become a hot case in the public eye since the bears were reported to ENV in late July and disappeared from a bear farm in Ha Tay shortly after authorities inspected the site in early August.

The show also highlighted Decision 02/2005/QĐ-BNN, issued by Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD) in January 2005, which outlines guidelines relating to the registration of captive bears, and legal issues relating to their care and management, emphasizing the illegality of exploiting bear bile or using bear products, even from legally registered bears.

This month's 'Spotlight Interview' featured the Head of Investigation Team No. 6 of the Hanoi Police Department discussing the September confiscation of four tigers and other wildlife products from a Hanoi resident's house. The case turned national attention to the crisis facing Indochina's tigers after graphic footage of the butchered tigers appeared on television and on Vietnamese language news websites.

In August, VOV aired 39 advertisements urging listeners not to use bear bile and other wildlife products. Full-page advertisements urging public to "Say No" to bear products also appeared in the three major national newspapers; Vietnam Economics, Sports and Investment newspapers.

Schedule

Bring Peace to Vietnam's Bears Festival Scheduled for November in Saigon

Late November is a good time to visit Ho Chi Minh and join ENV in our second annual "Bring Peace to Vietnam's Bears" festival, which will be held at Saigon Zoo, November 17-25. The event will feature famous celebrities signing bear posters and a range of fun activities for children and adults, highlighting the importance of protecting Vietnam's bears. Also featured will be the winning artwork chosen from more than 96,000 entries in the 2006 "Bring Peace to Vietnam's Bears" competition, as well as information boards, "bear chipping" demonstrations by wildlife protection authorities, and ENV's "Bear Torture Chamber" where visitors can gain a better understanding of the cruel life that bears face in captivity.



"Bring Peace to Vietnam's Bears" was first launched in a November 2006 exhibition in Hanoi. The festival at Saigon Zoo will last nine days and involve more activities and fun!

Look for more information on our website as November grows closer; www.envvietnam.org

ENV Gallery



Upper left: Artist Dao Van Hoang puts stripes on a tiger featured on one side of the new ENV mobile awareness team's van.

Upper right: A sun bear and an Asiatic black bear are featured on the opposite side of the van.



Left: Students at the Quang Binh Health College sign up for the Wildlife Volunteer Network, a growing national network of volunteers committed to helping stop the illegal wildlife trade.

Lower left: University students perform "Especially for Bears" for fellow students at Quang Binh Forestry College.

Lower right: Teachers from Ha Giang province participate in an orientation course on community-based environment education at ENV's Tam Dao Training Center



Home Page

ENV welcomes two new case officers to the Wildlife Crime Unit, Ms. Ta Thi Thu Xuan and Do Thi Cam Van. Mr. Vu Xuan Quy also began work for ENV as a program officer supporting the WCS Vietnam Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program.

Congratulations to Ms. Doan Thi Anh Tu, Resource Development Officer, and her husband, Nguyen Thanh Que, who were married on September 29 in Hanoi.

Thank You

ENV wishes to extend special thanks to all our friends and supporters who have assisted us in our efforts to protect nature and the environment in Vietnam.

These efforts are made possible thanks to the generous support of the following donors:

- Conservation International (CI)
- Global Environment Action (GEA)
- Humane Society International (HSI)
- Kathy Ruttenberg
- The Whitley Fund for Nature
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)



ENV staff join Tu (center rear) at her recent wedding in Hanoi. Tu works with the ENV education department producing the popular children's nature magazine, Green Forest. Despite the approaching deadline for release of Green Forest No. 26, Tu managed to squeeze in time for a wedding!

Contact us

EDUCATION FOR NATURE - VIETNAM (ENV)
No.2, C5, Tap The Dai Hoc Ngoai Thuong
Chua Lang
Dong Da
Hanoi, Vietnam
PO Box 222
Tel: 84 - (0)4 - 7753685
Email: env@fpt.vn

Website: www.envietnam.org (English)
www.thiennhien.org (Vietnamese)



Stop Wildlife Crime!

If you see wildlife for sale in restaurants or other business establishments, contact your local Forest Protection Department or the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline.

Hotline: 1800-1522 Email: hotline@fpt.vn

YOU can make a difference