

**Dear Save Vietnam's Wildlife's friends and supporters,**

In the last three months, Save Vietnam's Wildlife has rescued and released the largest number of pangolins back to the wild in the organisation's – indeed Vietnam's - history. We also excitedly announce that 3 baby pangolins were born at the center, after their mothers were rescued from the trade. In other news, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, with the support from Humane Society International, has just launched a massive project, to "Research and Assess the Reality of Pangolin Trade and Consumption in Vietnam". The project aims to find out the root causes of illegal hunting, trading, and consumption of pangolins in Vietnam. Of course, over the past three months, Save Vietnam's Wildlife has continued to deliver education to target groups, helping to raise awareness about protecting wild animals and the environment.

In this issue we would like to offer special thanks to Issac Kriel, a 7-year-old South African boy living in Dubai, for raising funds to adopt our pangolins via a book he wrote himself. Of course, thanks must also go to each and every one of our friends and supporters across the globe, without whom we could not carry out our vital operations.

From next month our newsletter will come out monthly – helping us to keep in touch with our valued friends and supporters.

Sincerely,  
The Save Vietnam's Wildlife team



*Photo: Tran Quang Phuong/GPCP*

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## RELEASE OF **35** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PANGOLINS BACK TO THE WILD



On 14th and 15th June 2015, Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW), in collaboration with Cuc Phuong National Park and Cat Tien National Park, returned 35 critically endangered Sunda pangolins (*Manis Javanica*) back to the wild in the biggest pangolin release for the organisation to date. After the 1700km journey in an air-conditioned bus, the 35 pangolins arrived at the release location in good health. They were fed with live ants in their special transport wooden crates, before being released back to the forest - a process which took no fewer than 5 hours.

Each pangolin was released a minimum of 0.5 to 1km distance from the others, to give individuals the best chance of establishing their own home ranges.

## Release of a Sunda pangolin back into Nui Chua National Park

On May 12th 2015, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, in collaboration with the Ninh Phuoc Ranger Station, the Ninh Thuan Forest Department, and Nui Chua National Park, successfully released a Sunda pangolin (*Manis Javanica*) into Nui Chua National Park. Joining in the release, was the family of Nguyen Thanh Canh, the kind citizen who found and voluntarily handed over the pangolin. Canh, concerned that the pangolin may have been caught by local people, collected the animal before searching the internet for information on how to proceed. Canh contacted Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) to ask for advice, after reading about the organization's work online.



SVW staff member, Ms. Ho Thi Kim Lan travelled over 1,000km to meet Canh and connect him with government authorities to release the pangolin into Nui Chua National Park. It is heartening to know that Mr Canh refused to sell the pangolin, even though selling it may have earned him 4 months salary. Canh and his family were very happy when he saw the pangolin walking into the forest.



# RESCUE, REHABILITATION, RELEASE

## Rescuing 47 confiscated pangolins

On May 8, 2015, the police of Yen Thuy district, Hoa Binh province received a report from local people about the illegal trade of pangolins at Lac Hung commune, Yen Thuy district, Hoa Binh province. The police investigated and confiscated 43 pangolins from a local coal trading site.

All 43 pangolins were then transferred to Forest Protection Department of Yen Thuy district, Hoa Binh province. At SVW, newly rescued pangolins are given access to natural foods, such as live and frozen ants. Most of the pangolins ate reasonably well for the first 48 hours, however, some individuals remained weak and refuse to eat.

All rescued pangolins will remain for at least one month in SVW's quarantine facilities before they are released back into the wild; pangolins which cannot be released will continue to be looked after by SVW.

On June 10, 2015, Ninh Binh Forest Protection Department confiscated 4 pangolins from the illegal trade. Two of them had bad snare trap wounds around their feet. They were treated and recovered quickly at the center. Surprisingly, one pangolin was pregnant and gave birth right after one week staying with us



## 3 new baby pangolins and a new baby Owston's Civet!



Our Owston's Civet Conservation Breeding Program has celebrated a further success with the birth of a little male on the 28th of April. Now a few months old, the youngster will trail after mum, to forage for food placed out by our wildlife keepers. In other news, as part of the Owston's civet Conservation Breeding Loan Program, 2 civets have also been born in the UK. The Breeding Loan Program is a coordinated network of captive institutions managing a captive population of Owston's civets to maintain genetic viability and support the maintenance of wild behaviours.

In what can truly only be described as a miracle, 3 pangolin pups were born at our centre, their mothers having been rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Pangolins are often trafficked for a week or more, without access to food or water, before reaching their final destination. It is a testament to the resilience of these amazing creatures, that they not only survived, but are now caring for their pups. One mother in particular, arrived with swollen and infected snare trap wounds circling one of her feet – with proper veterinary care, this mother is making an excellent recovery and doing a fantastic job of raising her pup.

# WILDLIFE EDUCATION



**Training for tour guides and environmental educators**

Save Vietnam's Wildlife always focuses on educating key groups that play a crucial role in raising awareness of wildlife and environmental conservation, and some of them are tour guides and environmental educators. We, therefore, have recently provided advanced training on conserving carnivores and pangolins for the staff of Cuc Phuong National Park's Ecotourism & Environmental Education Center. The training concentrated on developing wildlife identification skills, providing knowledge of ecological distribution, and raising awareness of protecting the forest as a house for wild animals



**Nearly 100 bankers and their family join to save wildlife**

On June 06, 2015, nearly 100 Citi Bank staff and their family planted trees at Save Vietnam's Wildlife, helping to provide naturalistic enclosures for rescued wildlife. Information about SVW and the threats to wildlife were provided and at the end of the day, Citi Bank staff committed to "don't buy, don't eat and don't use wildlife and its products!"



**27 staff members of BOO experience natural and wildlife education.**

April 18th, 2015- 27 staff members of BOO (a well-known Vietnamese streetwear brand) joined a 1 day trip to Cuc Phuong National Park organised by Save Vietnam's Wildlife. At the trip, BOOers had an opportunity to prepare food and to be involved in environmental enrichment and to feed the rescued animals. Information about conservation and environment was introduced to the visitors. They also learned threats of wildlife, species ID, and actions needed to save wildlife in Vietnam.



## **Save Vietnam's Wildlife and other representatives from 29 countries attended the First Pangolin Range States Meeting**

*On June 24-26, 2015, SVW staff attended a special event, the First Pangolin Range States Meeting, which was co-hosted by the Vietnamese government and the United States of America, in Da Nang city. At the event, participants discussed pangolin conservation status; international and domestic pangolin legal and illegal trade; as well as issues surrounding pangolins in captivity. At the close of the meeting, an Action Plan detailing recommendations moving forward was compiled for submission to the IUCN. SVW team made significant contributions at the event to guide how and where resources to save pangolins are distributed. SVW is proud that our film "A long way home" was shown at the beginning of the meeting – setting the stage for fruitful discussions and spreading the word about pangolin conservation 'on the ground'.*

## Training courses for Volunteers

114 SVW's volunteers from all over Vietnam participated in 3 training courses, held in Hanoi city, Hue city and Ho Chi Minh City from June 27th to July 5th, 2015. Volunteers were provided information about pangolins, their conservation challenges, and skills to carry out public surveys. After finishing the course, the volunteers will carry out the the project Research and Assess the Reality of Pangolin Trade and Consumption in Vietnam by Save Vietnam's Wildlife and Humane Society International

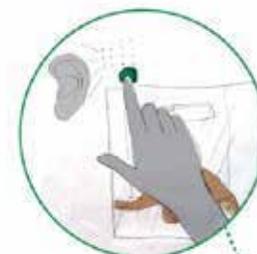


## EDUCATION CENTRE UPDATE

**SVW NEEDS MORE URGENT SUPPORT TO DEVELOP THE EDUCATION CENTRE AND OPEN IT FOR PUBLIC VISITORS BY THE END OF 2015**

The building of the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Education Centre has now been completed. We have drawn out the temporarily final design concept. The next step is to illustrate these ideas professionally by an interior design company. We are editing the centre proposal to make a fundraising campaign proposal. We hope that we will receive more help from supporters!

Multi sided board of ecological information of five groups of pangolins and carnivores.



Animal sound player button



Transparent drawer of animal model



## Strengthening partnerships with Tikki Hywood Trust and African Pangolin Working Group work



In June, we welcomed Lisa Hywood, from the Tikki Hywood Trust in Zimbabwe, and South African Darren Pietersen, from the African Pangolin Working Group.

Lisa and Darren spent 3 days working alongside our team, exchanging knowledge, ideas and experience about pangolin husbandry and management. Both Lisa and Darren have years of experience working with an African species of pangolin - Temmick's ground pangolins; Lisa having spent 2 decades rehabilitating and releasing the species in Zimbabwe, whilst Darren spent many years studying the ecology of Temminck's Ground Pangolins in the Kalahari Desert in South Africa.

## Pangolin nutrition study



Francis Cabana, the nutritionist from Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust is conducting research on pangolin nutrition at Save Vietnam's Wildlife. This project aims to identify the nutrient values of 5 captive diets which are believed to be adequate, and will assist us to create the ideal captive diet to be used in rescue centres to increase survivability and reintroductions of pangolins to the wild.

## Launch of the project Research and Assess the Reality of Pangolin Trade and Consumption in Vietnam



SVW, with the support from Humane Society International, has launched research on pangolin hunting, trading, and consumption. The project aims to evaluate the current market, identify key consumer groups and the emotional and functional motivators for consumption, understand public know of pangolins, and identify reasons of using pangolin scales for traditional medicine and their alternative. It is an important step to creating Vietnam's Pangolin Action Plan and to help identify the target audience for awareness campaigns.

# WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT | RESEARCH

## ***Working with Government to effect positive, long-lasting change for wildlife***



On 29 May 2015, CPCP manager, Mr. Phuong was invited to train over 40 staff from the Ministry of Justice, Nui Chu National Park and Ho Chi Minh city's People's Procuracy to analyse the best placement options for confiscated wildlife. This seminar formed part of the training course on wildlife law enforcement that was hosted by Wildlife Conservation Society.

The trainees were provided with information on placement options and encouraged to choose the best options for confiscated wildlife.

## ***Pangolin scales were no longer covered by health Insurance in Vietnam***



From the 1st of May, pangolin scales were no longer be covered by Vietnamese Government health insurance. Incredulously, up until then, consumers could claim pangolin scales on their health insurance. The Vietnamese Ministry of Health demonstrated it's commitment to the protection of wildlife in enforcing this change. We must offer special thanks to Ms Vu Nu Anh,- from the Ministry of Health, who has fought alongside Save Vietnam's Wildlife to make this happen.

## ***Pangolin radio – tracking***

Save Vietnam's Wildlife, in collaboration with Cuc Phuong National Park and Cat Tien National Park, is currently conducting radio-tracking monitoring on 3 pangolins within Cat Tien national park. The researchers will go to find the sleeping locations and set up the camera trap at the burrow entrances to improve understanding of pangolin home range, pangolin habitat use, activity patterns and survival.



# NAME ME!



A male baby civet is the newest member joining our Owston's civet conservation breeding program, born on the April 20, we are looking for a name for this little guy!

For US\$300 per name, you can support our Owston's civet and Pangolin conservation program conservation program, by contributing to the purchase of food, veterinary supplies and care, and materials for enrichment. You will receive a naming certificate, the profile of the named animal with its attached photo, and updated information about the animal.



We are excited announce that at Save Vietnam's Wildlife, 3 baby pangolins have been born, after their mothers were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. They were born in May 23rd, June 17th, and June 19th. The first pangolin pup already has nickname as Miracle on Facebook.

**All three of the babies are looking for names!**

## ***Did you know?***

People believe that pangolin tongues are longer than their entire body length. This is only true for African pangolins, not for Asian species; the tongue of African pangolins connects at the pelvic girdle while Asian tongues begin at the sternum

# DONATIONS

## CURRENT DONORS - ORGANISATIONS

Whitley Wildlife  
Conservation Trust

Newquay Zoo

Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V

Humane Society International

Shaldon Wildlife Trust

Pangolin Associates Pty Ltd

**DONATE HERE**

**OR CALL (+84) 303 848 053**

Or email: [info.svw2014@gmail.com](mailto:info.svw2014@gmail.com)

Thank  
you!



## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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Michael Bellingham

Julia Smith

Sereres Johnston

Dana Rose

Jennifer Calkins

Susan Read

Sandya Gomes

Joanna Griffith

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Peter Korch

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## SVW URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO

- print children's book designed to introduce and educate about the pangolin
- create artistic content for our education centre

## 7-year-old boy wrote book to adopt pangolins



Photo Credit: 7days.ae



Photo Credit: 7days.ae

Last week we received a donation from a special donor that touched the entire team. The funds were raised from the sales of a book written by Issac Kriel, a 7-year-old South African boy living in Dubai . The 9-page-book called 'Funny Faces, Scary Faces', including illustrations, is a short story about how to become an author. In an interview with 7days.ae,

he said: "I want to raise money to save pangolins because they are one of the world's most endangered species. If we keep destroying their habitats, insects would take over". We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Issac Kriel for his warm-heartedness and kindness.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to introduce Ms Vu Thuy Phuong and Ms Le Thi Ngoc joining the team to fight for wildlife conservation in Vietnam. Phuong had experience working for an NGO and started working as a Wildlife Education Officer in June 2014 after finishing her Master's Degree in Environmental Science. Ngoc works as Communication Officer, and comes with 2 years working as a reporter and a year working as a communication officer for an INGO in Vietnam.