

Dear Save Vietnam's Wildlife's friends and supporters!

Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) is a registered non-profit organisation in Vietnam, addressing the need for effective solutions to secure futures for Vietnamese wildlife.

Save Vietnam's Wildlife is committed to protecting and increasing populations of threatened wildlife in Vietnam by rescuing threatened animals, protecting entire populations and ensuring secured habitats. We act to identify and select the best solutions, which encompass high conservation value, are scientifically based, consider human requirements and empower people to take informed action.

At the core of our work is a collaborative partnership with Cuc Phuong National Park, to support the management and operation of the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program (CPCP).

This first edition of our quarterly newsletter is dedicated to all our generous donors, partners, advisors, friends, and especially the dedicated staff who have helped Save Vietnam's Wildlife achieve our mission in wildlife conservation since 2014.

Save Vietnam's Wildlife would like to wish you all a Fabulous New Year 2015!

Sincerely,
Save Vietnam's Wildlife Team



LUCKY, a confiscated Sunda pangolin being rescued at CPCP
©E & C JACQUET

Welcome to the First Newsletter of Save Vietnam's Wildlife

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New arrival rescued Sunda pangolins from illegal trade after almost 4 years!

Since October 2014, Save Vietnam's Wildlife has rescued six informed cases of confiscated pangolins from the Forest Protection Department and Customer Departments across Vietnam. Those pangolins were confiscated from illegal wildlife trade.

This is a big achievement of rescuing for the first time since 2010 when we have not received any confiscated pangolins from illegal wildlife trade though they are one of the most trafficked species. It is great positive change due to most of confiscated pangolins were sold back to the trade for meat consumption and traditional medicine. The success is one of remarkable results from our awareness campaign of distributing calendar and poster to all rangers and the efforts of other organisations to ensure the best placement option for confiscated pangolins.

Unfortunately, most of those confiscated pangolins were in very bad health, exhausted and got very serious injuries due to dehydrated, nutritionally-stressed, have trap-related injuries, adding fluid of mixing limestone powder, poor care received during transportation in wildlife trade. Save Vietnam's Wildlife staff are making great effort to save these precious creatures. We would be grateful to receive any supports from organization and individuals helping us give these pangolins the best chance of survival.

Save
Vietnam's
Wildlife staff
taking care of
the pangolin

©Ho Thi Kim
Lan/SVW

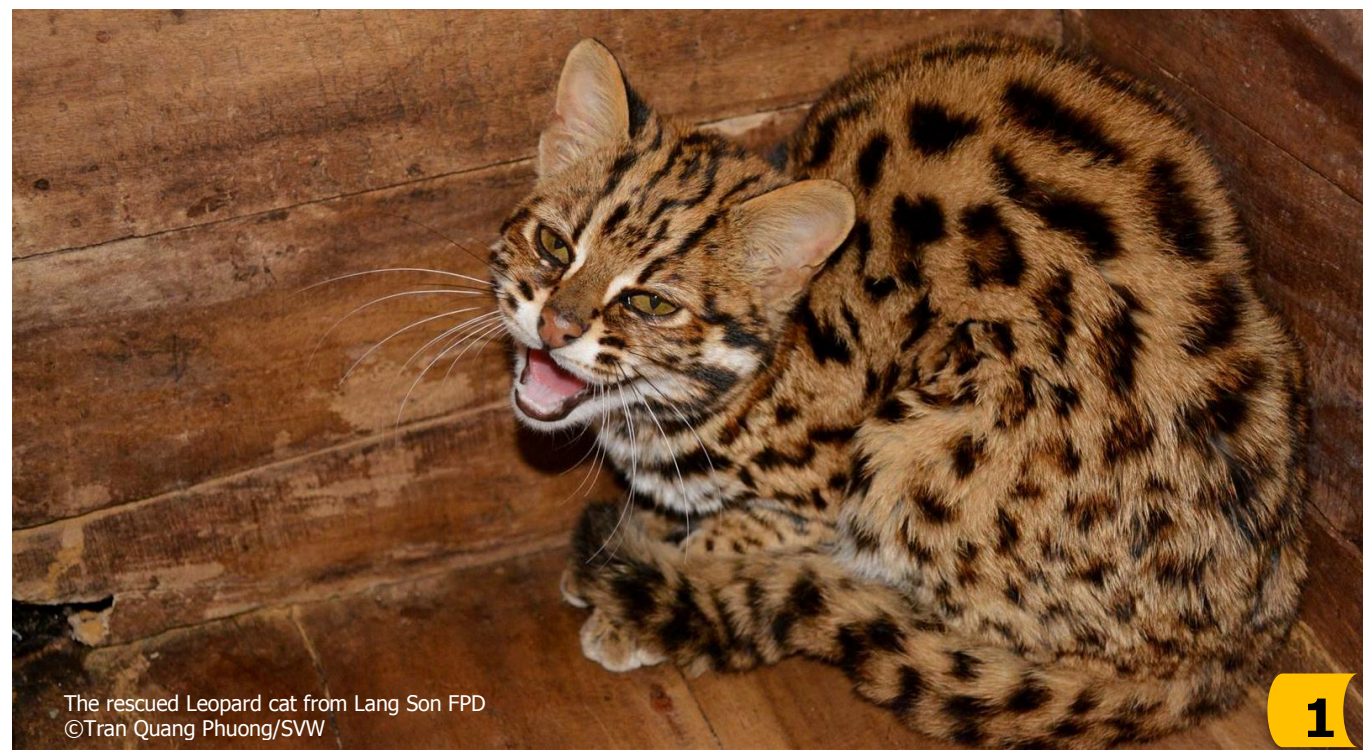


The confiscated pangolin now is enjoy new comfortable life at CPCP
©Nguyen Van Thai/SVW

Recuing other confiscated wildlife from illegal wildlife trade!

On 27 December 2014, Save Vietnam's Wildlife rescued a Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from Forest Protection Department of Lang Son province. The cat had sustained an injury on its left leg and is now receiving specialized veterinary care in the quarantine area.

Save Vietnam's Wildlife has also rescued 7 Oriental rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), 14 Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), one Asiatic softshell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*) and one Oldham's leaf turtle (*Cyclemys tchaponensis*), which were confiscated from Quang Tri Province by Quang Tri Customs Department. The turtles were transferred to Turtle Conservation Centre for rehabilitation, and the snakes were transferred to Cuc Phuong National Park for rehabilitation and release.



The rescued Leopard cat from Lang Son FPD
©Tran Quang Phuong/SVW

Facility upgrade

There are 20 quarantine cages now which are ready for rescuing confiscated animals from the illegal wildlife trade.



Our keepers repairing quarantine cage roofs
©Tran Quang Phuong/SVW

All confiscated animals rescued by Save Vietnam's Wildlife are carefully monitored and receive professional care in the quarantine facility of CPCP for at least one month before being released back into the wild or moved to long-term enclosures for rehabilitation, maximizing their chance of survival. Twenty quarantine cages and 22 long term enclosures have had roof repair work completed and new furnishings installed, ready for new rescues.

Pairing Owston's civets for Conservation Breeding

Our Owston's civets conservation breeding program continues to be successful. In May 2014, we welcomed two new babies which now are around 2 kg each and in late December 2014, three pairs of Owston's civets were placed together for conservation breeding at our centre. We hope to successfully breed more Owston's civet this year as only 19 Owston's civets exist in captivity all of which are either managed at our centre or in the UK as part of our conservation breeding loan program.

The Owston's civets are dating
©Nguyen Van Thai/SVW



Strengthening relationships and cooperation among rescue centres

Pangolin are one of the most difficult species to manage in captivity, due to their specialized dietary and housing requirements. Save Vietnam's Wildlife is the first organization in Vietnam working to save pangolins, and we have been successful in their rescue, rehabilitation and release since 2006. In October, 2014 a Cooperation Agreement in the rescue and rehabilitation of confiscated wildlife, was signed by Ha Noi Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC), Cuc Phuong National Park and Save Vietnam's Wildlife.

Management and staff of Hanoi WRC also visited our Pangolarium and other facilities at the CPCP to learn how to care for pangolins and carnivores. Shortly afterward Save Vietnam's Wildlife received 6 pangolins from Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC) for the first time. On this occasion, leader and staff of Ha Noi WRC visited our facilities of pangolins and other rescued species at the CPCP to learn how to care for carnivores and pangolins.



Hanoi WRC visits SVW pangolin captive care facilities
©Ho Thi Kim Lan/SVW

Once you call the **hotline 0978 331 441** of Save Vietnam's Wildlife to ask us for rescue wildlife, you give wildlife a better chance of survival and contribute to the conservation of Vietnam's precious wildlife. Save Vietnam's Wildlife highly appreciate and thanks for rangers and individuals informed us in the recent time!

Highlighting the importance of field work in pangolin conservation

Louise Fletcher, on behalf of Save Vietnam's Wildlife and the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group, participated in the Montier 18th International Wildlife Photo Festival in France in November 2014. A main part of Louise's presentation was sharing her experience in releasing rehabilitated Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) in Vietnam.



Toward the end of 2013 and early 2014, five rehabilitated Sunda pangolins were released into Cat Tien National Park and monitored by radio-tracking. This marked the first time rehabilitated pangolins were radio-tracked post-release in Vietnam. The study provided a much better understanding of pangolin ecology and effective research techniques.

Ongoing release of common palm civets to the wild

This Common palm civet is enjoying freedom in Cuc Phuong National Park. It is amongst 7 rehabilitated civets recently released into CPNP, bringing a total of 17 common palm civets released into Cuc Phuong in second half of 2014. These animals were rescued from a wildlife farm in Lam Dong province, where the farmer was unsuccessfully attempting to produce civet coffee. This marks the first time a legal wildlife farm has volunteered to hand over their animals to Save Vietnam's Wildlife. Save Vietnam's Wildlife hopes more wildlife farms in Vietnam will follow this lead and surrender their wild animals for conservation.

To monitor the survival rate of the released civets, two animals were radio tracked post release. Save Vietnam's Wildlife carried out two tracking expeditions, and although we could not locate their sleeping quarters, it was great to see the movement of animals back in the wild.



Building the Carnivore and Pangolin Education Centre

The Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Education Centre is an integral part of the education program of Save Vietnam's Wildlife. Due to be finished in early 2015, funds from Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG) have enabled its construction. Situated away from the main rescue and rehabilitation centre, it will maintain a peaceful environment for the animals while educating and raising awareness of the conservation and welfare of carnivores and pangolins amongst visitors to Cuc Phuong National Park and other target groups.



These three large enclosures will house rescued carnivores and pangolins that are not eligible for release, and can be involved in education programs. - © Ho Thi Kim Lan/SWW

Aiming to set an example to zoos and rescue centres in Vietnam, each of total **seven enclosures** meets exacting welfare standards ensuring appropriate dimensions, a naturalistic environment, bio-security, and visitor safety.

If you would like to support Save Vietnam's Wildlife in developing and operating our education centre, please contact at asianpangolin@gmail.com or info.svw2014@gmail.com. We would be deeply grateful for your kind support!

For more details about our education centre, please visit [our website](#).

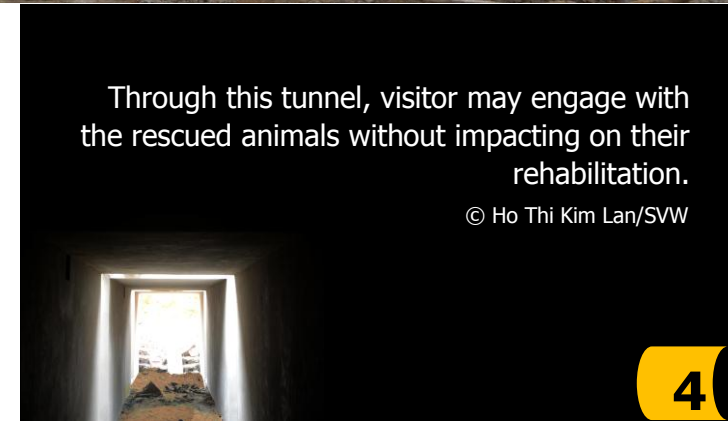


© Ho Thi Kim Lan/SWW

This 100 meter square education house is where members of the public will learn about carnivore and pangolin conservation in a welcoming atmosphere. Save Vietnam's Wildlife will continue to fund-raise to equip the centre with interpretive signs, models and education materials. We aim to open the education centre in the second half of 2015.

Through this tunnel, visitor may engage with the rescued animals without impacting on their rehabilitation.

© Ho Thi Kim Lan/SWW



Owston's Civet Awareness Campaign receives positive initial results

In October 2014, Save Vietnam's Wildlife began an Owston's Civet Awareness Campaign aiming to highlight the importance of their conservation, and the need to transfer confiscated animals to rescue centres.

The first stage of the campaign has been successfully completed with 2000 copies of Owston's civet calendars and 4000 posters and printed and distributed to all Forest Protection Departments, ranger stations, protected areas and conservation offices across Vietnam. To build relationships and trust, our staff travelled over 5000km to visit and distribute these posters and calendars to 27 Provincial Forest Protection Departments and two National Parks in Central and Northern Vietnam, areas where the most carnivores and pangolins are confiscated from illegal trade.



Presenting the posters and calendars for Lai Chau FPD

©Tran Quang Phuong/SVW

As part of our trip, staff also presented information on species identification, handling and care of confiscated carnivores and pangolins. Pangolin Information Factsheets were also given to all rangers to help in identification and recommendations on where to send confiscated pangolins and carnivores were given. We hope more confiscated carnivores and pangolins are transferred to rescue centres in the future.

Training for Border Army and Customers

In mid-December, Save Vietnam's Wildlife staff helped build the capacity of about 40 leaders and staff from Army Border and Customers at Cha Lo border gate of Quang Binh province. The activity was organised by Natural Conservation and Sustainable National Resource Management in Phong Nha Ke Bang.

At the two-day training, participants were educated in identifying as well as handling and caring for confiscated wildlife. Save Vietnam's Wildlife staff also presented about threats to, and the conservation status of carnivores and pangolins. Most of the participants were excited to learn more about the importance of pangolin and Owston's civet conservation.

At the end of the activity Owston's civet posters and calendars and Pangolin Information Factsheet were delivered to all participants, helping to raise awareness and contribute to wildlife protection in Vietnam.



©Luong Tat Hung/SVW

Giving school students the wildlife experience



HNI's students visiting the enclosure of Leopard Cat
©Ho Thi Kim Lan/SVW

"Thanks Save Vietnam's Wildlife for giving us opportunity to see wild animals and know more about their touched rescued stories. We feel so sorry for those creatures and would like to act for saving them. We will surely come back here when your Education Centre for Carnivores and Pangolins being opened to learn more about wildlife as well as how to save them", one of about 80 students aged from 12 to 18 years old from Ha Noi International School (HNI), said, after visiting the CPCP, Save Vietnam's Wildlife on 3rd November.

This feedback shows that the visit positively impacted on children's perception towards wildlife protection. Therefore, Save Vietnam's Wildlife will continue to develop its school program to help more children and students, especially Vietnamese children, to learn about and appreciate wildlife.

Presenting at the “Captive wild animal welfare and conservation in Vietnam” Forum



©Ho Thi Kim Lan/SVW

In early December, 2014 Save Vietnam's Wildlife presented the “Challenges of Pangolin Conversation and Welfare in Vietnam” at the “Captive wild animal welfare and conservation in Vietnam” Forum which was organised by Asia Animal. The presentation detailed the main issues that need to be addressed to save pangolin and improve wildlife welfare standards.

Our experience of husbandry management, managing stress, and environmental enrichment were also presented to management and staff of other captive wildlife-holding facilities from Vietnam and the world.



©Nguyen Van Thai/SVW

Pangolins scales will be moved out of the list of ingredients, which are covered by Health insurance

It may be a surprise to many of you that Vietnamese government health insurance has been paying for the use of pangolin scales to treat illness at hospitals in Vietnam. However, a new circular is set to be approved by the Ministry of Health removing pangolin scales from the list of approved products. This development comes of work by the Ministry of Health and Vu Nu Anh who works for the Health Insurance department.

“I was influenced about pangolin conservation by Nguyen Van Thai, Director of Save Vietnam Wildlife, who shared the house with her while both studied at the Australian National University and I hope it will help for pangolin conservation in Vietnam”, Nu Anh said.

The key information that Nu Anh used against the request of many traditional doctors, was that there has been no success in the breeding of pangolins for commercial trade. It is great news for pangolin conservation in Vietnam and worldwide.



Pangolins' scales
©Ho Thi Kim Lan/SVW

Save Vietnam's Wildlife
urgently
need your support for
activities in next quarters
to:

- 🚩 **Rescue and rehabilitate carnivores and pangolins from illegal trade**
- 🚩 **Equip the education materials for the Carnivore and Pangolin Education House.**
- 🚩 **Pay the salary for a national veterinarian.**

If you or your organisation would like to donate or discuss about the potential cooperation to Save Vietnam's Wildlife, please contact Nguyen Van Thai, Executive Director of Save Vietnam's Wildlife at asianpangolin@gmail.com or info.svw2014@gmail.com.



©Leanne Wicker

Save Vietnam's Wildlife is hugely grateful for the generous supports from organisations and individuals for helping us operate our work in last one year and the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program in the past. We also would like to express our deep appreciation and extremely thanks to individual who dedicated their time for advising and supporting our work. Our work would not be possible without your support!

Organizations: Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust; Newquay Zoo; Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V.; Shaldon Wildlife Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare, The AP Fund, Pangolin Associates Pty Ltd.

Individual contributors: Stewart Muir, Kenneth Perkins; Leanne Wicker; Louise Fletcher; Emma Crawford; Thomas Miles; Stewart Mary Crawford, Alan Williams, Thanh Hang Tran, Huyen Trang Pham, Georgette Taylor, Cathy Y Kang and Iain Smale and the number of visitors the CPCP donating after visiting our Centre.

Volunteers: Matthew Coker has been involved in Save Vietnam's Wildlife from the beginning. Matt has helped to design our logo, calendars, posters, our website, awareness campaigns, as well as advising on environmental enrichment and captive husbandry.

New staff members

We are delighted to introduce Ms. **Ho Thi Kim Lan**, **Ta Thi Thuong** and **Heidi Quine** to join the team to fighting for wildlife conservation in Vietnam. Lan has started working at the Save Vietnam's Wildlife as Wildlife Education Manager since October 2014 after 4 years working in wildlife education for an international non-governmental organization in the southern Vietnam. Thuong also began at the same time as HR and Finance Management after 3 years working in finances and administration. Heidi will join the team as Technical Advisor from late of January 2014. Heidi has over 14 years of experience working with wildlife in Australia, Asia and Africa.

Name Me!

Owston's civets (*Chrotogale owstoni*)

©Nguyen Van Thai/SVW



This pair of Owston's civets young (a male and a female) are the newest civets to join our conservation breeding program, born in the 28th of April, and are looking for names!

For US\$300 per name, you can support our Owston's civet 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.

Did you know?

For the first two weeks of a civets life, their eyes remain closed. Although their mother will nurse them for approximately 5 months, the curious youngsters will attempt to eat adult food from around 2 months of age. Favourite foods are earthworms, insects and sweet fruits.

Owston's civet is one of rarest civet species in Vietnam due to heavy hunting pressure for meat consumption, traditional medicine, the pet trade, and for their fur. Globally, there are only 19 Owston's civets in captivity, all of which are managed by the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program – Save Vietnam's Wildlife.