



Asian Turtle News

News from the Frontlines of Conservation

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Turtle ID Training Courses Focus on Wildlife Protection Agencies in Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Thuan Province

(Hanoi) November 28, 2007 -

The Asian Turtle Program (ATP) in cooperation with Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) carried out two training programs for wildlife protection officers from Ho Chi Minh city and Binh Thuan province. A total of 48 rangers were involved in the training which focused on raising awareness amongst frontline wildlife protection officers about the threat to Vietnam's turtles resulting from unsustainable hunting and trade, and providing participants with skills that will help them identify turtles that are confiscated from the trade.

Ho Chi Minh and Binh Thuan rangers had the opportunity to learn about the ecology of tortoises and freshwater turtles and better understand why long-lived organisms can not sustain heavy hunting pressures resulting in serious declines in wild populations throughout Asia. Participants also had an opportunity to visualize their turtles in the markets of Guang Zhou thanks to use of Bill McCord's market film, and spent a portion of the afternoon debating important wildlife issues such as the viability of farming wildlife, the role of rangers in preventing species extinction, and disposal of confiscated wildlife.



A total of 22 Turtle Identification and Trade workshops have been carried out by the ATP since 1999. The ATP has trained wildlife protection officers from more than 30 provinces and eight protected areas, as well as customs, police, CITES representatives from Vietnam and China, and trainers from Cambodia and Myanmar.

More recently, the ATP has joined forces with Vietnam's leading conservation NGO, Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) in order to promote local leadership and enhance sustainability within our conservation programs.

The training course was instructed by Nguyen Xuan Thuan, Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Species Program Coordinator for ENV and ATP Director Douglas Hendrie. Special thanks to Dang Minh Ha, Vu Thi Quyen, and Le Thi Lan Huong of ENV for helping organize and carry out the training workshop.

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The Asian Turtle Program's turtle identification and trade enforcement training program is possible thanks to generous support from the **Humane Society International (HSI)**

The **Asian Turtle Program (ATP)** is a consortium of people and institutions dedicated to the protection of Asian turtles in the wild. The Vietnam program is run in partnership with Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV).

Support for the Asian Turtle Program is provided by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Conservation International, the Turtle Survival Alliance, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Project activities carried out by the ATP are supported by a wide range of institutions and private sponsors from around the globe

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