



Asian Turtle Conservation Network

Press Release

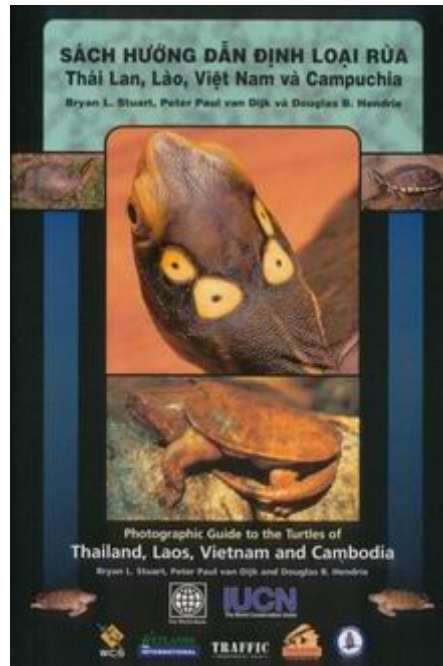
8 May, 2002

Dear Sir/ Madam

Turtles have great cultural significance and have been depicted on ancient sculptures and paintings. They are an important part of the diversity of our freshwater and coastal ecosystems, performing a little appreciated function of helping keep the waters clean. Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia are home to 34 turtle species. Indiscriminate collection and trade of turtles has resulted in the serious decline of many species and many have become threatened with extinction – a recent evaluation by the IUCN showed that 66 of 89 of Asian turtle species are now listed as threatened with 45 listed as 'Critically Endangered' or Endangered. Despite this dire situation, our knowledge of these beautiful creatures is far from adequate and the lack of a comprehensive well illustrated guide has made it difficult to study and protect these animals.

The Wildlife Conservation Society and Wetlands International are very pleased to announce the release of a recently published ***Photographic Guide of the Turtles of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia***. The Guide has been produced as a bilingual guide in Thai, Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese. It is written and illustrated by three well-known experts: Bryan L. Stuart, Peter Paul van Dijk and Douglas B. Hendrie. We are very grateful to the World Bank/ Netherlands Partnership Program and the British High Commission in Cambodia for supporting the publication and free dissemination of this book. The offices of IUCN in Bangkok and Hanoi, the World Bank Representative in Vientiane and the Ministry of Environment in Phnom Penh have kindly offered to assist with distribution of the Guide and we are very grateful to them.

The Guide was mainly written for national conservation workers and officials in the region who are conducting biological surveys, managing protected areas and writing or enforcing laws on harvest, domestic trade and international trade of wildlife. We trust that you will find this publication useful on the study and conservation of turtles.



Photographic Guide of the Turtles of Thailand,
Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

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