

11 July, 2003.

Lucky Turtle book released

“Adventures of Lucky Turtle” is a delightful children’s story about a little Asian freshwater turtle. The little creature is picked up by a farmer in the forests of Vietnam and ends up in a trader’s warehouse, where it is befriended by other animals, escapes and finally makes it way home.

This is a Chinese translation of the original book written in Vietnamese by Doug Hendrie and Vu Thi Quyen at the Turtle Conservation Centre in Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam, in 2000. It is intended to help raise community awareness about the threats to tortoises and freshwater turtles in southern Asia.

The book’s translation and distribution was funded by Melbourne Zoo, The Positive Action Conservation Team (Melbourne), Wildlife Trust New York and Columbus Zoo (USA). Lonely Planet (Hong Kong) organised the printing and layout, and we are especially pleased to acknowledge Friends of Nature, a Chinese non-government organisation, for distributing most of the 5,000 books in China.

Welcome advice and various other support was received from Doug Hendrie in Cuc Phuong and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden in Hong Kong.

The book is part of Melbourne Zoo’s ongoing activities in support of conservation of Asian freshwater turtles, many of which are now threatened with extinction. Copies will be on display in the Reptile House at 11am.

For further information, contact Judith Henke (Public Relations Officer – 9285-9409) or Chris Banks (Curator of Reptiles – 9285-9491).