

## Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center News

Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam

---

### Rangers Bag Turtle Hunters at Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam

Date: August 28, 2004

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August during a patrol by five rangers from mobile station 2 of Cuc Phuong National Park, a small cave was discovered where tracks and other evidence suggested that local people were utilizing the cave as temporary camp. The ranger patrol remained at the site in hiding from 1300 to 1800 hrs when two hunters returned to the cave.

The hunters were discovered to have in their possession an AK rifle, a single cartridge, and a large sack with 11 *Pyxidea mouhotii* inside. The rangers immediately arrested the hunters and took them back to the ranger headquarters. During questioning, the hunters reported that hunting for turtles was very good during this time of the year, as some tree species have fruit that ripen and fall beneath the tree. Apparently, *Pyxidea mouhotii* feeding on fallen fruit are very easy to find under these trees. According to the hunters, after only two days in Cuc Phuong forest, they found 11 turtles.



All 11 turtles were turned over to the Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center (TCC).

The turtles included five adult females, four adult males, and two juveniles. The two juveniles and an adult male will be released by the arresting rangers. Two more adults will be released with radio transmitters attached bringing the total number of turtles in the Cuc Phuong home range and ecology study to 13. Six adults will be retained by the TCC as founder stock (of known origin) to bolster the park's assurance breeding and head-start program for the species.

PHOTO: The keeled box turtle, *Pyxidea mouhotii* (*Cuora mouhotii*). IUCN Listed as Endangered. One of five species for which the Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) is focused on breeding and developing assurance populations.

Bui Dang Phong  
Turtle Conservation Center Coordinator  
Cuc Phuong National Park

ATCN Staff Report