

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV)
Nature and the Environment in the News

Source: *Viet Nam News*

Issue: 4867

Date: 9 Mar, 05

Hoàn Kiếm turtle 1 of 6 still flipping

HÀ NỘI — The legendary turtle in Hoàn Kiếm Lake is thought to be one of six of its species remaining.

“The five other turtles are found in China,” said Douglas Hendrie, from the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

At a seminar held by Việt Nam Forum of Environmental Journalists (VFEJ) to discuss turtle conservation, Hendrie stressed that all 28 turtle species found in Việt Nam are endangered. Vietnamese turtle populations include 23 fresh-water turtle

species and five species that are sea tortoises.

In the past 15 years, illegal poaching and trading and damaging of natural habitats has caused the number of turtles to drop. Turtle experts are surprised that rare turtles, and particularly Hoàn Kiếm’s famed inhabitant, have not been protected by Việt Nam legislation.

At the seminar, environmentalists from different organisations informed journalists of legislative documents who are concerned about endangered animal protection. — VNS