

Vietnamese turtles on the brink of extinction

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Vietnam is home to 28 species of turtles, including five species of sea turtles, and they are all on the brink of extinction due to illegal hunting, trading and loss of the natural habitat, according to an official of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Douglas Hendrie, WCS-Asia co-ordinator raised the alarm at a seminar on strengthening the effectiveness of communication about turtle conservation held in Hanoi on Friday.

The seminar, jointly held by the Vietnam Forum of Environment Journalists, WCS, the Turtle Conservation Centre and the Vietnam Natural Education Centre, aimed to heighten the role and responsibility of media agencies in sharing and disseminating information and necessary knowledge about turtle preservation among communities.

Among the 28 species, many indigenous species were listed as endangered species by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Particularly the fresh-water turtle living at Hoan Kiem lake in Hanoi is now in danger of extinction. It is the only one this species living in Vietnam.

http://www.vov.org.vn/2005_03_06/english/xahoi.htm#National%20Highway%20section%20linking%20Hoa%20Binh%20to%20Son%20La%20opens%20to%20traffic