Welcome to the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program E-News

Dear CPCP friends and supporters,

During 2009, there were many animals confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam, however few of them was transferred to rescue centres. Our centre only received two Sunda Pangolins, but we are pleased to say they are both doing well. We hope many more carnivores and pangolins will reach CPCP in the New Year.

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the donors, friends and partners who have supported our work through the years. I would like to give special thanks to

- Stewart Muir, Newquay Zoo,
- David Field, Zoological Society of London, and
- the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust headquarters at Jersey

for supporting our staff member Mr. Nguyen Van Thai who will be joining the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate course in February. I know that after this course, he will help improve the conservation of carnivores and pangolins in Vietnam.

Tran Quang Phuong
Program manager

In October two confiscated pangolins arrived at the CPCP. These are the first Sunda pangolins to reach CPCP this year from the hundreds of confiscated pangolins that have been resold back to the trade in Vietnam. The lucky pangolins were rescued by the rangers of the Forest Protection Department (FPD) of Hanam province. The animals have been doing very well after treatment and are still being looked after in quarantine. The CPCP is continuing to work with Vietnamese government, ranger and environment police to raising awareness about rescue and conservation for these species.
With the breeding season rapidly approaching, some of the Owston's Civet breeding cages have come in for some refurbishment. Much of the wire has been treated for rust and is being repaired and painted. Two civets, Doug and Mindy, will be moved in as soon as the renovations are complete with the aim of producing offspring early next year. Plans have been drawn up to further improve the cages. These include replacing the mesh internal dividing fences with masonry walls so neighbouring civets cannot see each other - this should result in less stress during breeding. In addition, adding a roof over part of the cages will help protect the nest boxes from rain and sun.

Signs for the Visitor Awareness Program, which was kindly sponsored by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, have now been erected in a specially constructed shelter at Bong in the center of Cuc Phuong National Park. The four new signs provide information about conservation of native wildlife and compliment the track-side signs that were put in place earlier. The Visitor Awareness program aims to help tourists understand the environment and wildlife in Vietnam so they can make a positive change in their behavior for conservation in the future.

Nguyen Van Thai, the Captive Animal Manager at the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program and dedicated pangolinophile, successfully applied for a scholarship to attend the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate course. The course will run for 3 months from 8th February to 30th April 2010 at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust headquarters at Jersey in the United Kingdom. The scholarship covers his course fees and accommodation costs while at Jersey, and is valued at almost £10,000. While there, Thai will be studying: biodiversity, conservation and Zoos; Animal husbandry; Small population biology; zoo and field research; translocation biology, in-situ conservation; management and education. Thai is currently busy getting his visa and travel arrangements sorted for the big adventure.
We are delighted to introduce Mr. Do Thanh Hao who is the program's new researcher officer. Mr Hao joined CPCP in November after graduating from the Forestry University of Vietnam. He has had a busy first few months helping to organise the upcoming field survey in the Ke Go and Khe Net Lowlands, and we will keep you updated on any carnivores and pangolins that he comes across!

CPCP is happy to be able to introduce two new advisors to the program. Susan Rhind and Murray Ellis arrived at Cuc Phuong at the beginning of November 2009 to do voluntary work on the program for one year. They have been funded through Australian Volunteers International to provide husbandry and zoological advice to the local staff. Susan has a wide-ranging background in animal studies, with science and zoo keeping qualifications, and also runs a companion animal training business in Australia. Murray has a long history of fauna survey and research work for the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service in Australia.

Laura Jeanes is doing a short stint with the program. She has spent time feeding the animals, cleaning cages and catching grasshoppers for the civets. Her visit coincided with the repairs to the breeding cages so she got to spend a lot of time wiring section of mesh together and repairing fencing. Laura also helped repair field survey traps and spent an evening in Cuc Phuong forest assisting the field team with their surveys. After visiting CPCP Laura will travel to south Vietnam on her way back to Western Australia where she is studying conservation biology at Murdoch University.
Last breeding season's baby civets have now been sexed and ... they're both boys! Watch this space for the naming competition.

We would like to thank the following people, organisations and institutions for believing in our work and for their continuing support:

- Cuc Phuong National Park
- Newquay Zoo
- Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens
- Sea World & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
- Rotterdam Zoo
- Australian Volunteers International
- Volunteering for International Development from Australia
- Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, HK
- Houston Zoo
- BP Conservation Leadership Programme
- WWF - Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program
- Valerie White Charitable Trust
- Zoos Victoria
- ARAZPA
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Chicago Board of Trade
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Minnesota Zoo
- Edible Ltd
- Rare Species Conservation Centre
- FOTA Wildlife Park
- Shaldon Wildlife Trust
- Papoose Conservation Wildlife Foudation
- Paradise Wildlife park
- Nashville Zoo
- Idea Wild Conservation Fund
- BOO SkateShop
- Zoological Society of London
- The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Mission statement

The Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program is committed to securing a future for wild populations of threatened carnivores and pangolins in Vietnam. We are dedicated to increasing the understanding of and respect for these unique species and their habitats and empowering people to take action to conserve them.