



# Asian Turtle Program & Turtle Conservation Centre

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Three endangered Big-headed Turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) rescued in Quang Ninh Province.  
Photo by: Do Thanh Hao – TCC.

## High mortality seen in tortoises and freshwater turtles in Vietnam

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015, a small group of three endangered Big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), five critically endangered Indochinese Box Turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), and one endangered Four-eyed Turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*) were transferred to the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) of Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam.

Sadly 13 other animals that had been part of the full shipment of 22 confiscated from a trader in Tien Yen district, Quang Ninh province in northern Vietnam on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2018 did not survive long enough to be rescued. Unfortunately, bad conditions and poor care combined with long periods of time in the trade during hot summer weather in Vietnam often mean animals are very weak, sick and dying by the time they are rescued. We commend the authorities in Vietnam for all they are doing in making these confiscations in an attempt to stop the wildlife trade, and while not all animals can be saved the removal of wildlife from



Turtles being checked by the rangers of Tien Yen district Forest Protection Department (FPD).  
Photo by: Do Thanh Hao – TCC



The nine remaining animals are now under intensive care at the Turtle Conservation Centre with the Asian Turtle Program's (ATP's) dedicated team. Hopefully, we hope they will be fully recovered in the next few months.

We would like to thank to the Tien Yen district rangers and Quang Ninh Forest Protection Department (FPD) for making this confiscation and transferring the seized animals to the TCC. We would also like to thank Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and other private donors who are supporting wildlife trade rescues by the ATP/IMC and TCC.



Press Release by: Do Thanh Hao – TCC Manager & Timothy McCormack ATP/IMC  
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Five critically endangered Indochinese Box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), and one endangered Four eyed turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*) from this confiscation.  
Photo by: Do Thanh Hao – TCC.