

Asian Turtle News

NEWS FROM FRONTLINE OF CONSERVATION

The Asian Turtle Conservation Network

19th July 2011

Success of field training course - *Cuora bourreti* rescued by student after participating in field skill training course

On the 1st of May 2011 the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) of Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam received a critically endangered Bourret's Box Turtle (*Cuora bourreti*). Endemic to central Vietnam the species is becoming less common in trade confiscations and wildlife markets. With increasing concern from conservationists that the species has suffered serious decline in the wild from illegal collection and now faces extinction. But this lucky animal was rescued on the 27th of April by a student from Danang's Teacher University, Ms Tran Thi Anh Huong had participated in the Tortoise and Fresh-water Turtle Field Skill Training Course that was organized by the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the TCC. Following the training Huong completed her research thesis on turtles of Song Tra Nature Reserve in Da Nang province and when she saw the turtle at a friend's house kept as a pet she knew the importance of the species. Talking to her friend she was able to coordinate the rescue and transfer of the turtle to join the breeding group maintained at the TCC. During its captivity the turtle had laid two eggs and its hoped she will be come an important part of the captive assurance colony.

Much of the success of conservation in Vietnam and indeed the rest of Asia will likely fall firmly on the shoulders of the next generation. The important role of such dedicated individuals as Huong and the benefit of training is clear. Things are moving in the right direction and we all hope conservation and protection of wildlife in the region will prevent many of the looming extinctions.

Support for the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Field Skill Training Course was supported by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong (OPCF) and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). We would also like to thank Cuc Phuong National Park and the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) for their efforts in conserving Vietnams endangered turtles.

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