

PROJECT BRIEF | December 2017

Finding the Swinhoe's Giant Softshell Turtle, *Rafetus swinhoei*, in Viet Nam

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IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018



Rafetus swinhoei

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PROJECT GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The project's goal is to find additional wild Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (known as Yangzte Giant Softshell Turtle or *Rafetus swinhoei*), the species that is extremely close to extinction with only three remaining individuals known to the science: one semi-wild individual of unknown sex in Dong Mo Lake, Ba Vi District in Ha Noi, and a captive pair at the Suzhou Zoo in China. The objectives of the project are to:

- Conduct surveys with recent records of *Rafetus swinhoei*.
- Use trammel nets to trap *Rafetus swinhoei*
- Identify priorities for conservation and recommended actions and interventions.



KEY ACTIVITIES

- Conduct a literature review and stakeholder analysis to support the initial determination of survey areas and management structure.
- Conduct an interview survey with local communities including fishers who live closest to Thac Ba reservoir, Minh Quan lake in Yen Bai province, and Chu river in Thanh Hoa province. This local knowledge will be used to inform field survey design.
- Conduct hour-long observation at observation posts where medium to large sized softshell turtles have been reported, and at appropriate seasons when softshell turtles are commonly found.
- Use trammel nets, which are custom-made and specifically designed to capture large powerful turtles in the safest manner if the evidence of species confirmed.
- Develop conservation recommendations.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES/FUTURE DIRECTION

- Make a technical report on *Rafetus swinhoei* from the results of the project. WCS expects that the results, all or in part, will be incorporated into the national Species Conservation Action Plan.
- Propose recommendations for conservation priorities and management actions.



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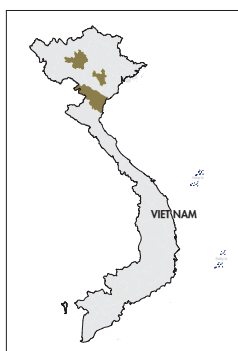
KEY PROJECT PARTNERS

- Local government (Minh Quan Commune's People Committee).
- Law enforcement agencies including Forest Protection Department of Yen Bai province and Xuan Lien Nature Reserve.



PROJECT LOCATIONS

- Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa province, and Ha Noi city.
- Other undefined locations in the North of Viet Nam.



Contact us

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