



WWF

PHOTOBOOK

VN

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# TRAPPED

WILDLIFE STORIES FROM VIETNAM

160 years ago, an Indian chieftain named Seattle stated: “What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.”

Are Chief Seattle’s words still meaningful to people in the 21st Century? WWF-Vietnam and our partners would like to share some poignant wildlife stories from Vietnam.

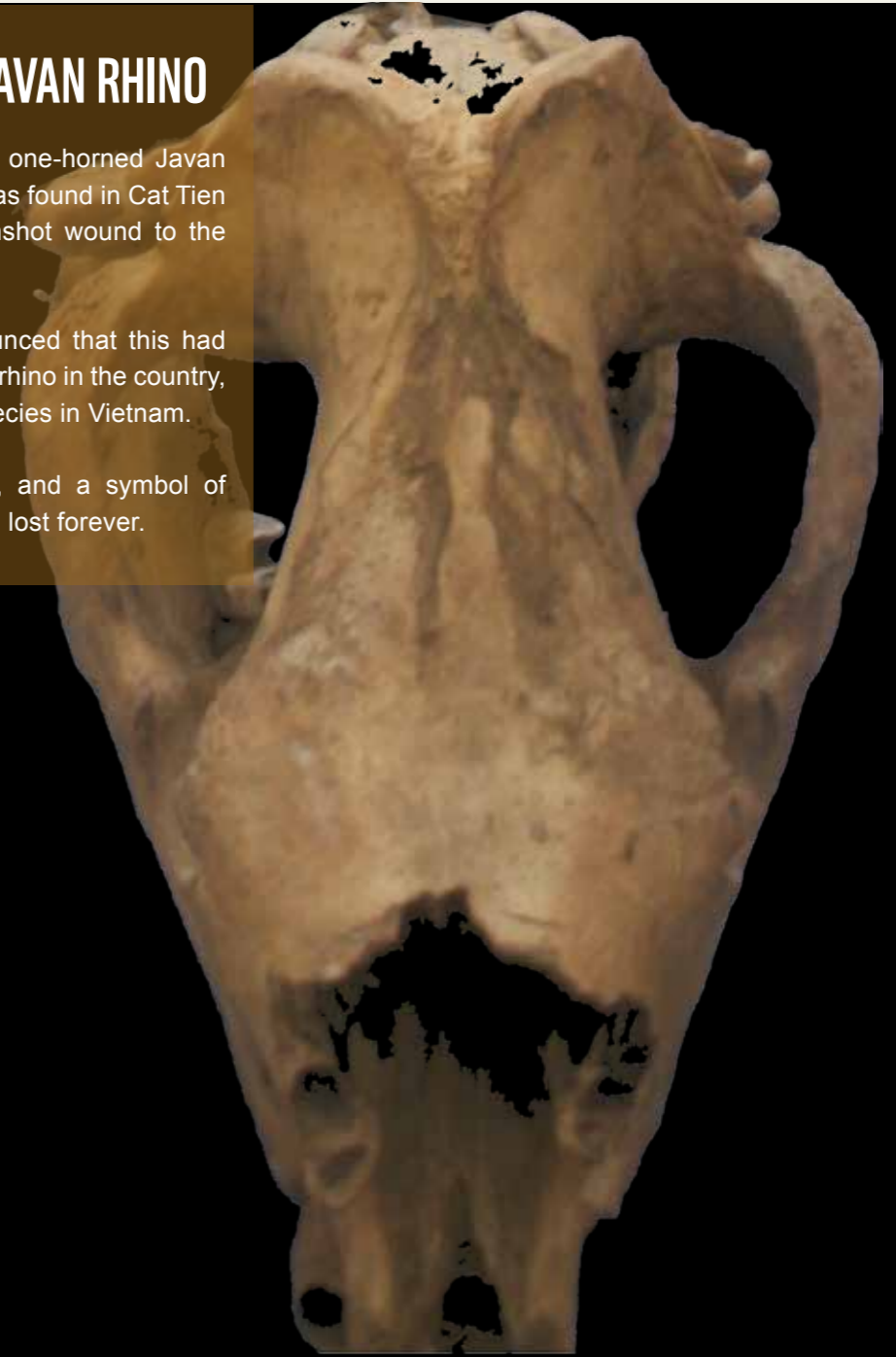


## FAREWELL TO THE JAVAN RHINO

In April 2010, the carcass of a one-horned Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) was found in Cat Tien National Park. Following a gunshot wound to the leg, its horn had been cut off.

In October 2010, WWF announced that this had been the last one-horned Javan rhino in the country, marking the extinction of the species in Vietnam.

A part of our natural heritage, and a symbol of Vietnam’s biodiversity, has been lost forever.



The skeleton of the last Javan Rhino when it was being found with the horn was cut off © WWF-Vietnam



## THE FAITHFUL SARUS CRANE

Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone sharpii*) is known to mate for life with a single partner. When a mate passes away, its partner remains true to the very end. They will even risk starvation in a bid to remain by their life mate's side.

"One evening at Nui May, Kien Luong, I was taking pictures of Sarus cranes returning to their nests when I spotted a single crane flying in circles and screeching intermittently. It became apparent that there was another crane quivering on the ground nearby. It had been poisoned by pesticides and had fresh blood seeping from its mouth. We eventually buried the ill-fated crane, but no one knows what became of its mate."

As told by photographer Tang A Pau.

As migratory birds, Sarus cranes travel from Cambodia to Vietnam in search of food during the dry season. In Vietnam, despite efforts by conservationists to restore their former habitats, Sarus crane populations are in steady decline.

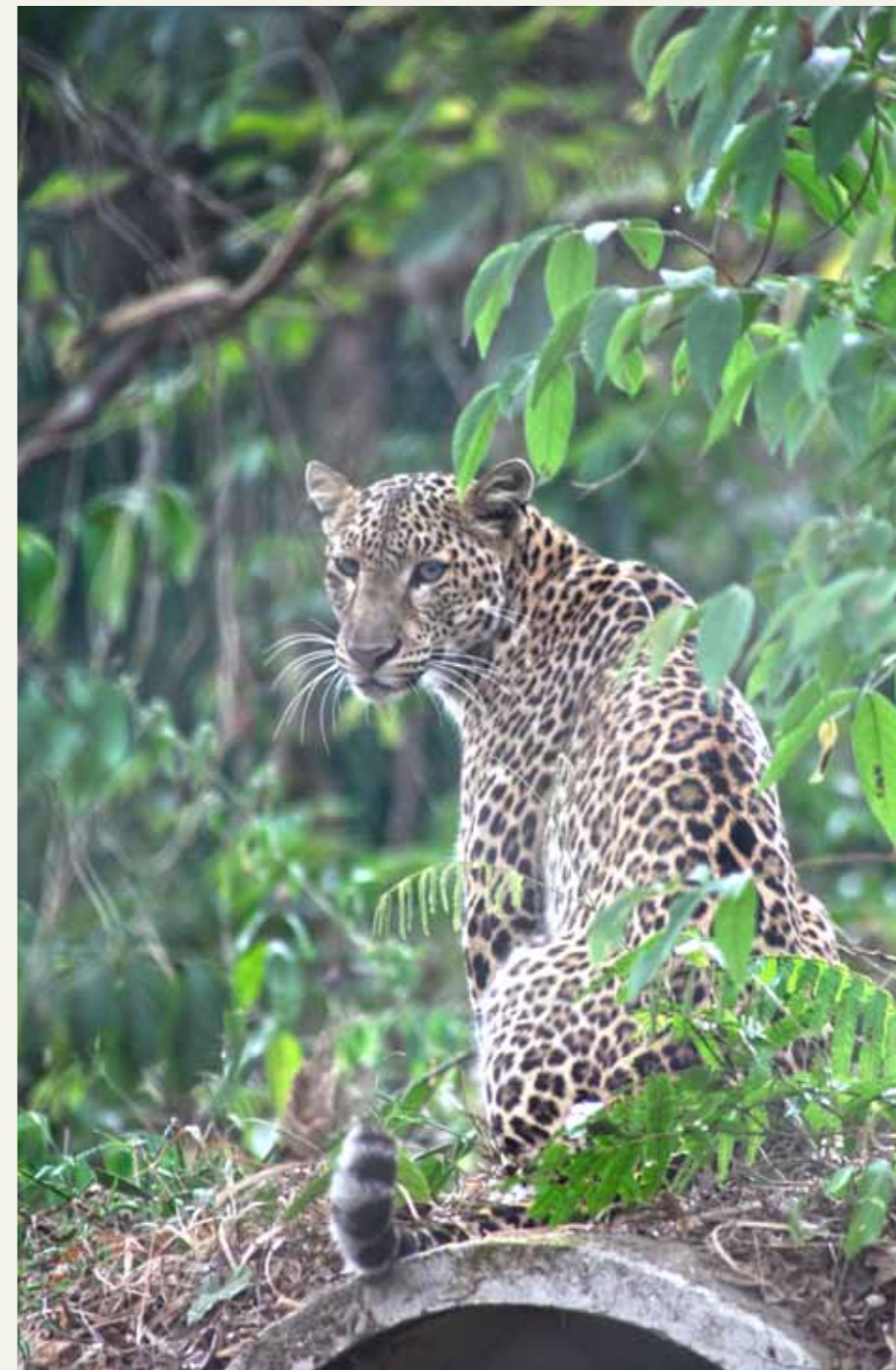
## THE LONELY LEOPARD

Lucy the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), was rescued in 2008 from an illegal wildlife market, and brought to the Wildlife Rescue Center in Cat Tien National Park.

Lucy was separated from her mother when she was just a cub, and was raised in captivity for so long that she is no longer equipped with the skills to survive in the wild. For eight years, rather than living wild in nature, Lucy spent her life in iron cages, constantly being moved from one center to another. For Lucy, this not only went against her natural instincts, but also put her health at serious risk.

Despite surviving, wild animals such as Lucy carry the consequences of their precarious past lives with them for the rest of their days.

Lucy is currently being captured for at Vinpearl Safari.





## A ONE-TUSK ELEPHANT

Y Thoong Ngan, a domesticated elephant in Yok Don National Park, reached the age of 20 last year. With his beautiful pair of tusks, Y Thoong Ngan was considered a 'Patriarch' of his species. Unfortunately, following a day enchanting tourists in July 2015, he was attacked after being released into the forest to feed.

Poachers forced the elephant into a clump of trees where they chained him by the legs, and then attempted to saw through his right trunk. When he was found, his tusk had been sawn through to the marrow, and was bleeding heavily.

Doctors and animal health experts later decided to cut off the injured tusk to prevent infection. Sadly, these cruel thieves have not been caught.

## LITTLE JUN

Jun, a 4-year-old Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), was found and rescued by Yok Don National Park and Dak Lak Elephant Rescue Center in early 2015. When found, Jun was still trapped in a snare despite repeated attempts to escape, and suffered a severely injured front leg and trunk. Jun's toes and part of his heel had to be amputated due to infection, and his trunk was permanently damaged.

With bright eyes and a beautiful pair of tusks, Jun could have lived happily in the wild as a mighty herd leader.

Currently, Jun is being taken care of at the Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Center.



## THE LIFE OF KAY

Kay is one of 33 Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) that were rescued from a bear bile farm in Quang Ninh province in September 2015. When rescued, he was being kept in a rusty, cramped cage that barely allowed him to stand or move.

Taking bile from bears like Kay is often done by using crude catheters, which are stabbed directly into the stomach and gallbladder to allow the liquid flow out. Every last drop of the bear's bile is drained, and then sold as traditional medicine.

It's estimated that Kay was held captive for over 10 years. Faced with death every day, fear and illness caused Kay to lose his silky black fur along with the distinctive white crescent on his chest – markings typical to moon bears. Captivity also caused entropion – a painful eye condition. His eyelashes constantly rubbed against the cornea, causing severe damage.

Kay is currently being rehabilitated at the Animals Asia foundation's sanctuary. Kay's fur is growing back and he is scheduled for eye surgery in the near future once he has fully recovered.



Kay - the Asian black bear © Animals Asia / WWF-Vietnam

## THE POPCORN BINTURONG

Mrs. B, a Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*), was rescued from a hunter in the Central region of Vietnam and cared for at the Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park Rescue Station. She was then transferred into the care of the Conservation Program for Carnivores and Pangolins (CPCP) and Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW).

Mrs. B lost her right foot in a hunter's trap. With special care, Mrs. B has made a full recovery, and is able to confidently explore her surroundings and climb the highest trees. Her favorite foods consist of a wide range of meats and fruits, especially bananas. Mrs. B has a very special scent – popcorn!



Mrs. B - the binturong © SVW / WWF-Vietnam

## OMO'S LITTLE FAMILY

Born in the spring of 2011, Omo, the grey-shanked douc (*Pygathrix cinerea*), was abandoned by his family when he was just 8 months old, before being found by the mountain people of Hiep Duc, in Quang Nam Province.

Omo was handed over to government rangers, and then taken to Cuc Phuong Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC). Extremely fragile and weak from a lack of milk, Omo required special care. Omo was fed with milk four times a day (three feeds during the day and one at night) along with a serving of tender leaves. Because of the special care he received, Omo grew into a healthy adult and began raising his own family. Nowadays, Omo lives in the same enclosure with a young female douc and other adult males at the Rescue Center.

Because Omo never learnt the skills needed to survive in the wild, he will spend the rest of his days at the sanctuary that has become his home.



Omo - the grey-shanked douc © EPRC / WWF-Vietnam

# A GIBBON'S LOVE STORY

'Hoang Da', a wild yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) in Cat Tien forest, was 'in love' with the songs of Uli, a female gibbon rescued from a household cage, who was living at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Cat Tien National Park.

Uli could not be returned to the wild because she had lost her survival instincts. Meanwhile, to protect 'Hoang Da', officers at Cat Tien National Park repeatedly returned him to the wild. But each time, after only a few days, 'Hoang Da' always managed to find his way back to Uli.

Uli became pregnant and gave birth to a baby gibbon named Ut. Today "Hoang Da", Uli, and Ut live together in a semi-wild area of Cat Tien National Park.



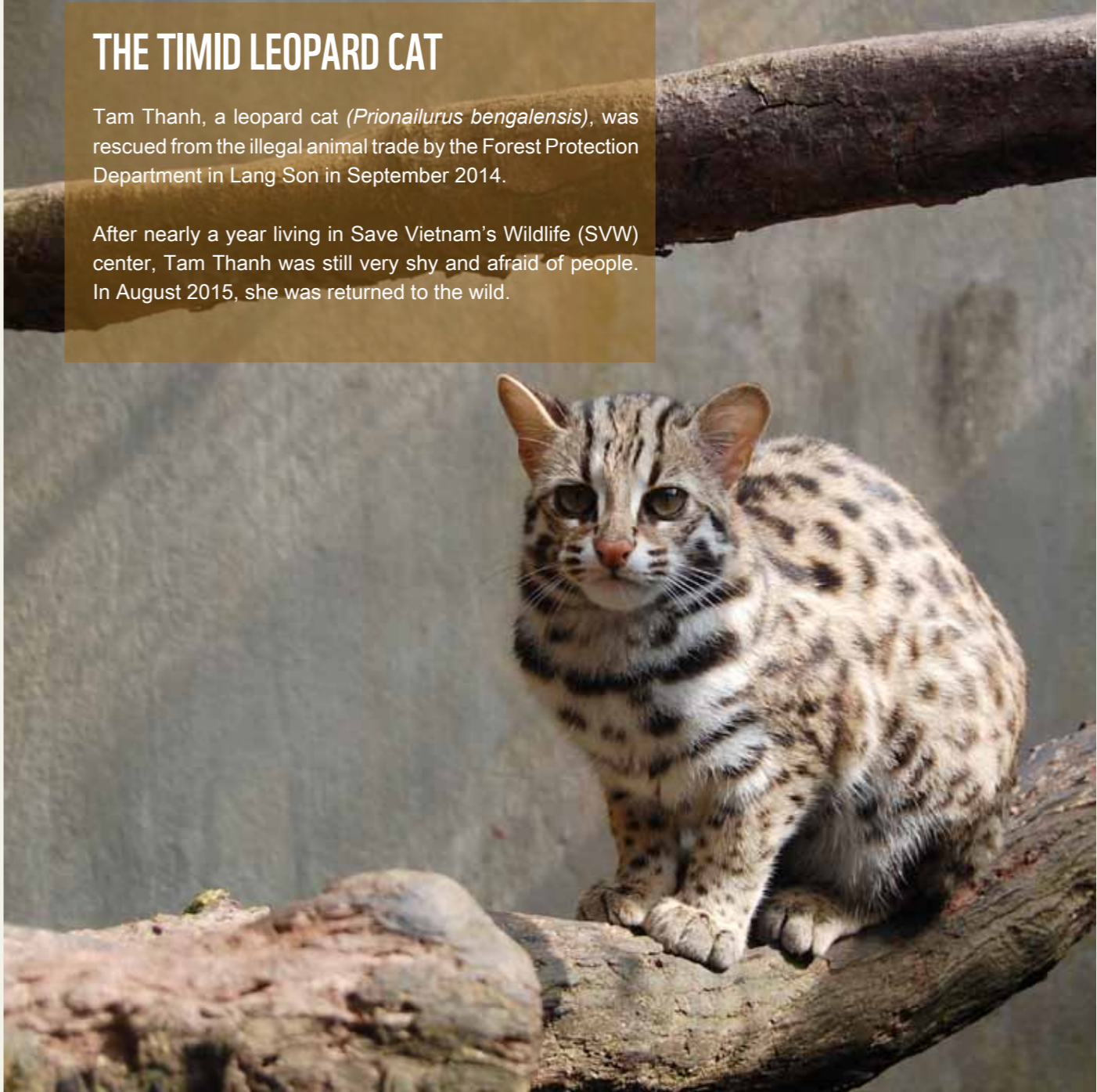
Uli and Ut - the Yellow-cheeked gibbon © Nguyen Viet Thanh / WWF-Vietnam

Hoang Da- the Yellow-cheeked gibbon © Nguyen Viet Thanh / WWF-Vietnam

# THE TIMID LEOPARD CAT

Tam Thanh, a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), was rescued from the illegal animal trade by the Forest Protection Department in Lang Son in September 2014.

After nearly a year living in Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) center, Tam Thanh was still very shy and afraid of people. In August 2015, she was returned to the wild.



Tam Thanh - the leopard cat © Tran Quang Phuong / SVW / WWF-Vietnam



## MIRACLE - THE WAY HOME

“Miracle” is the name of the first Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) successfully born and raised in a non-wild environment. This is an incredible feat because Miracle’s mother endured a long and arduous journey to escape the illegal wildlife trade, finally reaching the Save Vietnam’s Wildlife (SVW) center.

In November of 2015, Miracle, his mother, and 22 other pangolins were reintroduced into the wild. After their final meal, Miracle and his mother were taken to their new home. Upon opening the wooden box and seeing her natural habitat, his mother quickly left. Having never been exposed to the wild, and now separated from his mother for the first time, Miracle paced around in the box for a while unsure of what to do next. After a long while, Miracle slowly crawled out from the box and followed his mother’s tracks into the forest, and to the start of a new, independent life.

Perhaps instinctively, Miracle knew he was home.



## SAOLA: A SYMBOL OF HOPE

The saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), is endemic to Central Vietnam and southern Laos.

Also known as the “Asian unicorn”, the saola was first discovered in Vu Quang, Vietnam in 1992 and is one of the most important natural discoveries of the 20th century.

Saola are extremely shy and rare to encounter. Biologists have not seen saolas firsthand in the wild. Even 20 years since its first discovery, there is still very limited information about their habitats and behaviors. To this day, no saolas have survived in captivity.

The most recent images of the saola were captured by camera traps from WWF-Vietnam in 2013.

# A LETTER FROM A FRENCH TOURIST

I have just returned to France after a trip to Vietnam. I would like to write to you right away to let you know that I saw a Pygmy Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) in Bac Ha market, which is listed as an endangered species in Vietnam, and globally by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). I enjoyed Bac Ha market, but every time I went there, I always dreaded seeing people destroying nature. I could easily see dozens of birds and animals caged and traded, as well as plants, such as wild orchids cut mercilessly from their stems.

I love Vietnam, and want to do something to help people understand that they are destroying their own natural environment.

**Pierre Bounel**

The Pygmy Loris is an ancient primate endemic to the region, and plays an important role in the evolution and adaptation of local trees. Because they are hunted for use in traditional medicine, the Loris is currently on the brink of extinction.

This photobook was completed with great support from NGOs and business partners including:

- Cat Tien National Park
- Yok Don National Park
- Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Center
- Save Vietnam's Wildlife - SVW
- Endangered Primate Rescue Center - EPRC
- Animals Asia
- International Investment Bank - IIB

And individuals:

- Tang A Pau
- Nguyen Viet Thanh
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- Huynh Tien Dung
- Nguyen Anh Quoc
- Trinh Thi Long
- Nguyen Dao Ngoc Van
- Tran Le Tra
- Hoang Viet

- Nguyen Quang Hoa Anh
- Nguyen Dieu Thuy
- Nguyen Phuong Ngan
- Nguyen Thi Thu Trang
- Daniel Burns
- Nguyen Hai Trieu
- Nguyen Xuan Lan
- Nguyen Thai Binh
- Nguyen Thuy Quynh.

Sincere thanks from WWF-Vietnam  
Hanoi, May 2016



Y Thoong Ngan - the Asian wild elephant © Kayleigh Ghiot / WWF-Vietnam



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future which humans live in harmony with nature.

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