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Press Release

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ENV, FREELAND, and USAID Honor Outstanding Journalists and Law Enforcement Officers for Wildlife Conservation Efforts

Hanoi, April 22, 2013 – Today Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV), under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s ARREST Program, hosted Vietnam's first national awards ceremony to honor five excellent individuals for their outstanding contributions to wildlife protection.

The Outstanding Service in Wildlife Protection Awards Ceremony, held at the Hilton Hanoi Opera hotel, recognized three law enforcement officers and two journalists, who were selected from more than 60 nominations received during 2012.

A panel of judges with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, ENV, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature), TRAFFIC, and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) selected the five award winners:

- Mr. Tran Thanh Binh – Head of Lam Dong Forest Protection Department
- Mr. Nguyen Van Duong - Deputy Head of Environmental Crime Prevention, Quang Ninh Police
- Mr. Hoang Hai Van – Journalist with Thanh Nien Newspaper
- Mr. Lam Hieu Nghia – Team Leader of Team Two, Division of Environmental Police, Ho Chi Minh City Police
- Mr. Nguyen Duy Tuan – Journalist, VietnamNet Online Newspaper

"We are very proud to recognize these five individuals today," said Ms. Vu Thi Quyen, Executive Director and Founder of ENV. "On any given day, the situation in Vietnam can look rather bleak for wildlife, but these award winners are some of our most valuable partners in the movement forward towards a better future for Vietnam's wildlife. It is important that we show our appreciation for their efforts, for their dedication and commitment to making a difference, and for helping to transform the way we protect our rich natural heritage."

US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Claire Pierangelo, the ceremony's guest of honor, praised the efforts of the award winners. "There is no quick fix for wildlife conservation," she said. "But by working together, we – government, the international community, civil society, and individuals like today's award winners – can protect Vietnam's wildlife and eliminate the demand for trafficked goods."

ENV wishes to thank USAID, FREELAND and Wildlife Action Group International e.V. for their support in hosting this awards ceremony.

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ARREST

Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking



About Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV)

Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on conservation of nature and the environment. Our mission is to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about environmental issues of local, national and global significance, ranging from protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems to climate change. We employ creative and innovative strategies to influence attitudes and mobilize Vietnamese citizens to live in balance with the natural world and to take action to protect Vietnam's precious environment.

About USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent U.S. Government Agency that operates under the foreign policy direction of the U.S. Secretary of State. Following 50 years of improving lives through development and humanitarian assistance, USAID is the principal U.S. Government development agency partnering with countries throughout the world to promote peace, prosperity, and security. Please visit usaid.gov for more information.

Based in Bangkok, USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia operates as a modern development enterprise implementing innovative and cost-effective programs throughout 19 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Providing thought leadership in the region, USAID Asia employs cutting-edge approaches to support sustainable solutions to challenges that cross national boundaries, such as human and wildlife trafficking, climate change mitigation, infectious disease control, national resources conservation, disaster risk reduction, trade facilitation, regional integration, governance, and conflict mitigation. USAID Asia also implements bilateral programs in China, Thailand, and Laos, and provides technical assistance and support services to USAID Missions in the region.

About FREELAND

FREELAND Foundation is an international organization dedicated to a world free of wildlife trafficking and human slavery. FREELAND works throughout Asia, raising public awareness and building local capacity to protect critical ecosystems, wildlife and vulnerable people. FREELAND is the lead implementing partner of USAID funded ARREST (Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking) Program.

For more information, visit freeland.org and follow on twitter [@FREELANDpeople](https://twitter.com/FREELANDpeople) or facebook.com/freelandfoundation

About ARREST

ARREST (Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking) is a five-year program funded by USAID and implemented by FREELAND and its partners across the region. The program is fighting trafficking of wildlife in Asia in three ways: reducing consumer demand; strengthening law enforcement; and strengthening regional cooperation and anti-trafficking networks. ARREST unites the efforts of the member states of ASEAN, China and South Asia, NGOs, and the private sector. Together, these dedicated people and organizations are helping Asia respond to the challenge of protecting its unique wildlife.

For more information, visit freeland.org/arrest and follow on twitter [@ARRESTprogram](https://twitter.com/ARRESTprogram) or facebook.com/arrestprogram