

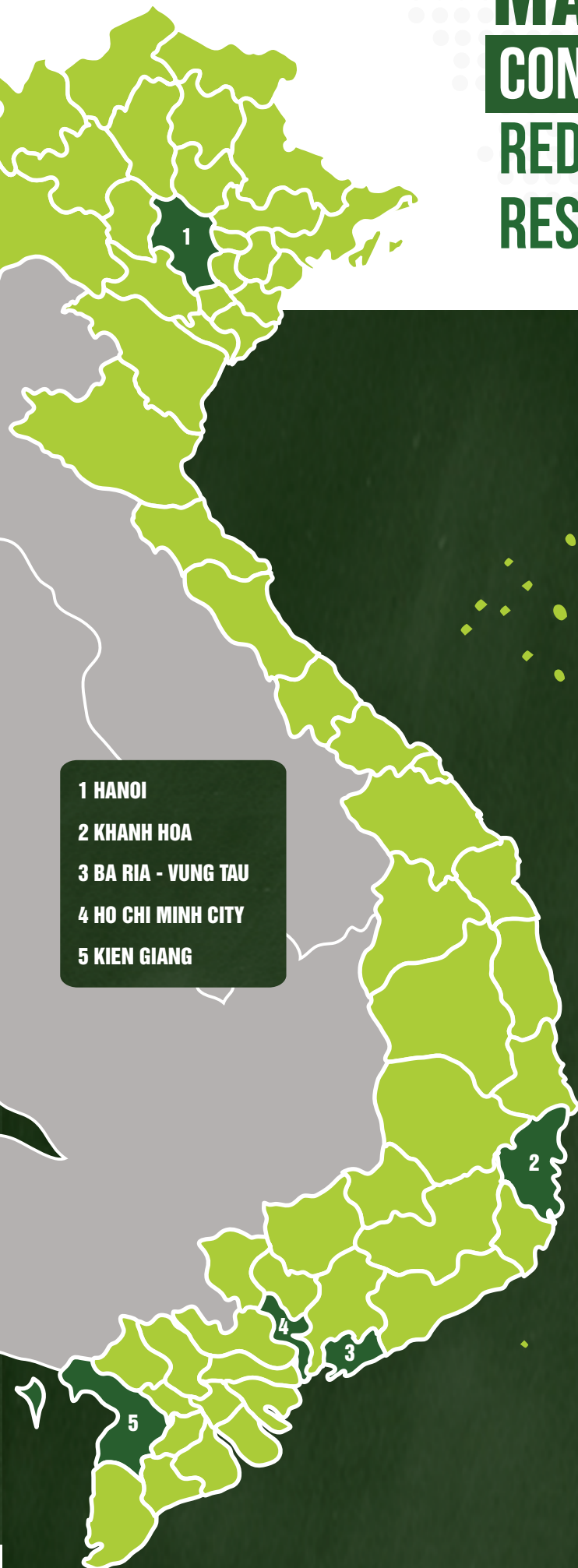
MARINE TURTLE CONSUMER CRIME REDUCTION CAMPAIGN RESULTS – 2018

OVERVIEW

In early 2018, Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) developed and initiated a campaign to assess the prevalence of consumer marine turtle crime in the major cities and southern coastal provinces of Vietnam which were considered to be marine turtle consumer crime hot-spots, most commonly at tourist attraction areas. The initiative also evaluated the effectiveness of efforts by local government and subordinate authorities in addressing violations reported within their jurisdictions.

In order to carry out the campaign, ENV identified ONLY tourist attraction areas in five major cities and southern coastal provinces including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Khanh Hoa, Ba Ria – Vung Tau and Kien Giang. The selected areas were part of Hoan Kiem and Hai Ba Trung districts of Hanoi; sample areas in District 1 and 5 of Ho Chi Minh City; a sample area in Nha Trang city in Khanh Hoa province and an area of Ha Tien town in Kien Giang province. ENV targeted mainly souvenir shops and other types of shops where hawksbill and green sea turtle trophies and products such as handicrafts and jewelry made from marine turtle shell are often sold. In total, 434 souvenir shops were inspected during the survey period.

Inspection teams documented violations and logged cases on ENV's Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System. The cases were then classified by jurisdiction and reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. ENV allowed 90 days for enforcement agencies to address violations before a second inspection was carried out at the same establishments where violations were previously recorded. Results from the second inspection are used to evaluate performance of relevant authorities in dealing with marine turtle crimes in their respective jurisdictions.



OVERALL RESULTS

CRITERIA	DEFINITION	RESULTS	PERCENTAGE
Prevalence of crime	Percentage of establishments with violations out of the total number inspected	37 establishments with violations out of 434 inspected	9%
Crime reduction success rate	Reduction in the number of establishments violating the law as a result of efforts by authorities	21/37 establishments where violations were previously reported complied with wildlife protection laws as a result of efforts by authorities	56%

Notations

- ✦ Survey period: March – October 2018
- ✦ The survey was carried out at the tourist attraction areas in five provinces and cities in Vietnam, including: Hanoi (Hoan Kiem and Hai Ba Trung), Ho Chi Minh City (District 1 and 5), Khanh Hoa (Nha Trang), Ba Ria – Vung Tau (Vung Tau), and Kien Giang (Ha Tien).
- ✦ Number and type of establishments where violations were found: 37 souvenir shops
- ✦ The most common violations were the display of marine turtle trophies and products such as bracelets, glasses and hairclips for sale.
- ✦ A majority of the trophies and products observed were made from hawksbill marine turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), with a smaller number of green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) trophies observed. No other species were identified during inspections though there were several instances where the species was not identified.

Comments

The overall crime reduction rate was 56% which is reasonable. However, ENV expects relevant authorities should be able to successfully remove 90-100% of reported violations, especially when the prevalence of marine turtle related violations is not significant, only 9% (37 souvenir shops out of 434 establishments).

Table 1: Marine turtle products (by type) observed during the inspections

Product	No. of violations	% of violations
Bracelet	31	38.8%
Trophy	15	18.8%
Hand fan	8	10.0%
Comb	5	6.3%
Glasses	5	6.3%
Hairclip	4	5.0%
Pendant	4	5.0%
Ring	3	3.8%
Pipe	2	2.5%
No details	2	2.5%
Key chain	1	1.3%
Total	80	

COMPARISON OF PERFORMANCE

PREVALENCE OF CRIME

Percentage of establishments with violations



CRIME REDUCTION SUCCESS RATE

Reduction in the number of establishments violating the law



Comments

The survey results show that Kien Giang had the highest percentage of marine turtle violations (22%) while it had the smallest number of establishments that were inspected (41 establishments). In contrast, Hanoi had the fewest number of marine turtle violations with only five establishments (5.7% of the 88 establishments inspected). Violations were found in nine (6.5%) of the 139 establishments inspected in Ho Chi Minh while Khanh Hoa and Ba Ria – Vung Tau each had violations found in 8% of the establishments inspected.

The results show that authorities in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province out-performed all other provinces and cities in their capacity to deal with the marine turtle violations that were reported, successfully addressing 100% of the violations. Moreover, the enforcement campaign in Vung Tau city also led to a seizure of 72 marine turtle trophies from one shop that was identified during the campaign. Hanoi ranked second in successfully addressing marine turtle violations that were reported by ENV, achieving an 80% success rate. Hanoi was followed by Ho Chi Minh City where violations were addressed in only 56% of the establishments. Two coastal provinces, Khanh Hoa and Kien Giang ranked lowest on performance in addressing marine turtle crimes with success rates of 50% and 33% respectively.

However, it should be noted that the number of establishments with violations that was reported in each province was relatively low, as noted previously, and thus failure to address just a few violations had considerable influence on the performance results in terms of success rates.

CONCLUSIONS

Vietnam is home to five species of marine turtle: Leatherbacks, Hawksbills, Loggerheads, Olive Ridleys and Green sea turtles, all of which have Decree 160 status, similar to tigers, bears and other endangered species. According to the new Penal Code, illegal hunting, catching, slaughtering, transporting, selling and possession of marine turtles and their products should be prosecuted and punished with up to 15 years in prison.

ENV expects provincial governments and relevant agencies responsible for enforcing laws protecting marine turtles and prohibiting the sale of marine turtle trophies and products made from marine turtles to respond aggressively in cases where violations are detected, and exercise “zero tolerance” in cases where marine turtles and their products are processed, trafficked, and sold.

The recent conviction of a major marine turtle trafficker in Khanh Hoa province resulting in a 4.5-year prison sentence is a reminder of how provincial governments can enforce the law in a way that has a substantial positive and meaningful impact on the protection of marine turtles.

As in the Khanh Hoa case, it is critical that provincial governments see the benefits of establishing strong deterrence through relentless enforcement combined with effective prosecution of serious violators. In this way, violators will turn to other forms of business when the chances of getting caught become too risky and the cost of breaking the law too great.

ENV has been working to address marine turtle crime in Vietnam since 2005 when the Wildlife Crime Hotline was first established as a means for the public to report crimes. Since 2005, ENV partnerships with law enforcement have resulted in the confiscation of hundreds of live marine turtles, eradication of marine turtle crime in hundreds more business establishments, and investigations leading to successful prosecution of one of the leaders of Vietnam’s largest marine turtle trafficking network, and the seizure of more than 10 tons of marine turtles. ENV is actively encouraging prosecutions in marine turtle cases and in 2017, worked with Ba Ria Vung Tau government and courts to successfully prosecute Vietnam’s first marine turtle egg exploitation case on Con Dao.

For more information about how we can work together, contact **Policy and Legislation Team** at:

Email: Cgteam.env@gmail.com

Direct line: 024 6281 5427

Find ENV’s guidance on Wildlife protection law [here](http://www.envvietnam.org) (<http://www.envvietnam.org>)