THE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIVENESS EVALUATION REPORT

2019

env
ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

OVERVIEW

Since 2005, ENV has been working closely with members of the public and law enforcement agencies throughout the country on a day to day basis to combat wildlife crime. The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit receives an average of almost five new cases reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline each day. ENV then contacts the appropriate authorities to address the violations, tracking each case through to its conclusion and documenting the outcome on ENV's National Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database.

ENV considers the law enforcement responsiveness rate critical to establishing an effective partnership between the public who report wildlife crime and authorities who address wildlife crime.

In 2020, ENV initiated the Responsiveness Reporting System to evaluate the performance of local law enforcement agencies tasked with wildlife protection, comparing statistics to other provinces. Results are shared with provincial People's Committees to ensure provincial leaders are aware of how well their province is performing on a national scale.

The following report evaluates the responsiveness and outcome of crimes that are reported by the public then documented and tracked by ENV.

The evaluation is based on four criteria:

1 Public reports

Number of public reports through the ENV Hotline, where information is transferred to law enforcement agencies via phone calls, correspondences, or direct meetings.

2 Responsiveness

Percentage of violations reported in 2019 resulting in a confirmed response by authorities.

3 Success rate

Percentage of cases resulting in confiscation of animals and/or punishment for the involved subjects.

4 Live animal success rate

Percentage of live wild animal cases reported in 2019 resulting in a successful confiscation of the live wild animal(s). Live animal cases are an effective performance indicator as they generally require a timely and proactive response by authorities to yield success.

Public reports 708

Responsiveness rate 84%
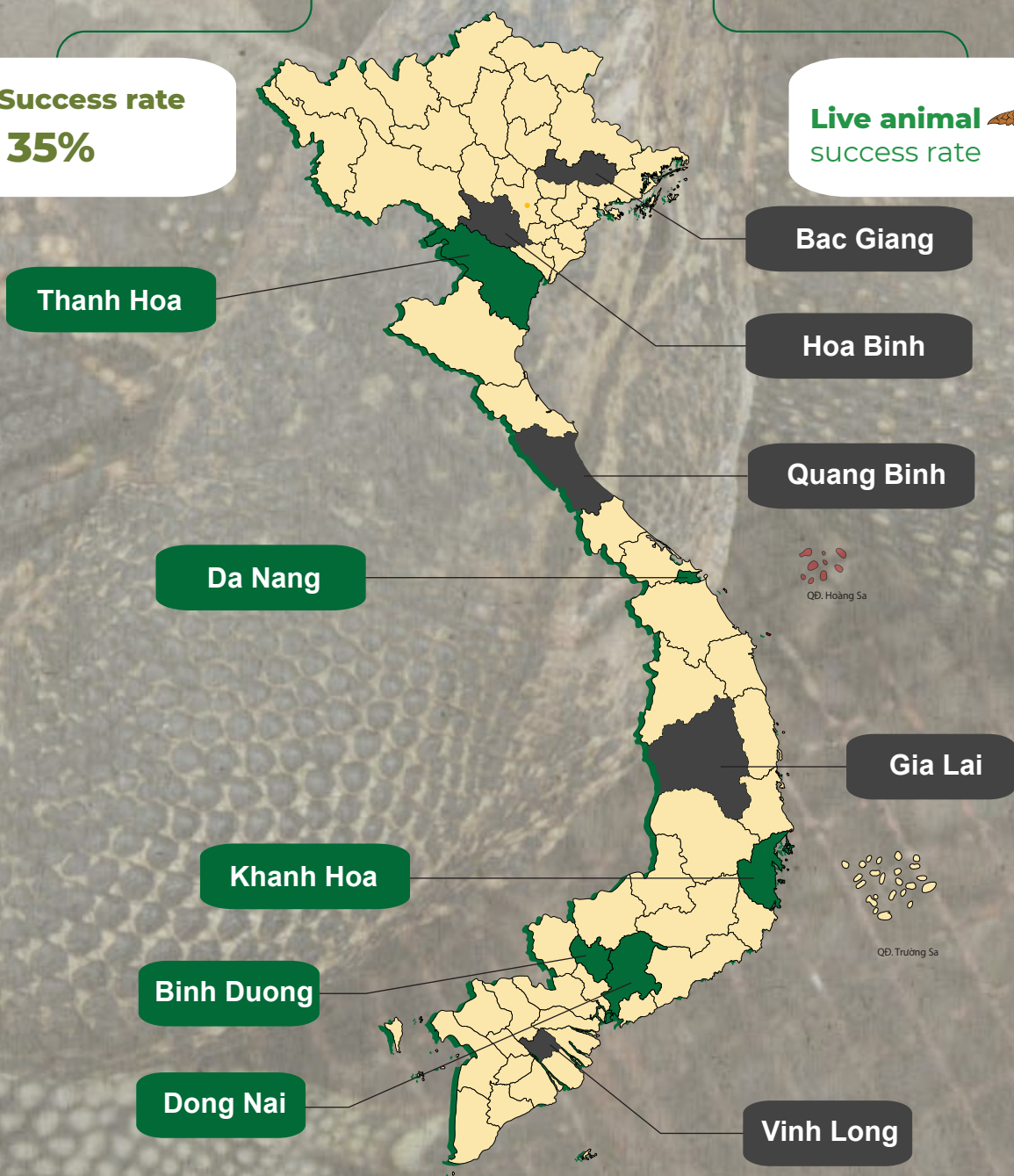
NATIONAL AVERAGE

The national average helps define how performance in any given province compares with the country as a whole. Any province with a responsiveness rate less than 84% falls below the national average, and any province with a success rate less than 35% is also performing below the national average. Provincial authorities are expected to be responsive to publicly reported crimes.

Success rate 35%

Live animal success rate 39%

Bac Giang

Thanh Hoa

Hoa Binh

Quang Binh

QĐ. Hoàng Sa

Da Nang

Gia Lai

Khanh Hoa

QĐ. Trường Sa

Binh Duong

Dong Nai

Vinh Long

■ Top 5 best performing provinces
■ Top 5 poorest performing provinces

TOP 5 BEST PERFORMING PROVINCES

PROVINCE	📞 Public reports	✉ Responsiveness rate	⭐ Success rate	🦎 Live animal success rate
Thanh Hoa	12	100%	67%	67%
Dong Nai	31	94%	61%	52%
Khanh Hoa	23	96%	57%	50%
Binh Duong	13	100%	54%	44%
Da Nang	30	97%	53%	52%

Based on statistics collected by ENV in 2019, authorities in **Thanh Hoa, Dong Nai, Khanh Hoa, Binh Duong** and **Da Nang** are the most responsive when dealing with wildlife crimes reported by the public. The responsiveness of these provinces has led to the successful seizure of wildlife products, removal of menus advertising wildlife, and the confiscation of 51 live animals during the reporting period.

Below are some examples of successful cases in the best performing provinces:

01 Thanh Hoa Forest Protection Department (FPD) responded to two public reports through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated nearly 300 square meters of bird nets in two separate cases *(Case ref. 14962/ENV and 15198/ENV)*.

02 On Mar 4, 2019 Tan Phu FPD (in Dong Nai) quickly responded to a public report and confiscated 16 wildlife trophies including two gibbons, two langurs, three leopard cats, one clouded leopard, four long-tailed macaques, two flying squirrels, and two other squirrel trophies at a resident's home *(Case ref. 13994/ENV)*.

03 On April 4, 2019, Khanh Hoa Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)* which was being kept at a coffee shop. The hawksbill was transferred to the Nha Trang Bay Management Board before being released *(Case ref. 14126/ENV)*.

04 Binh Duong EP arrested subjects in three separate cases for advertising and selling wildlife on the internet after receiving reports from the public through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. Two subjects were subsequently convicted and two are currently pending prosecution *(Case ref. 13477/ENV, 13564/ENV, 13688/ENV)*.

05 At 1715hrs on June 19, 2019, ENV transferred information to the mobile team of Da Nang FPD about turtles being sold at a market. The FPD took action immediately, and at 1800hrs on the same day they confiscated 21 turtles including an endangered Indochinese box turtles *(Cuora bourreti)*, Malayan snail-eating turtles *(Malayemys subtrijuga)*, Impressed tortoises *(Manouria impressa)*, and Asian stripe-necked leaf turtles *(Case ref. 14542/ENV)*.

ENV would like to congratulate police, Forest Protection Departments, and other relevant law enforcement agencies who contributed to the successful protection of wildlife in their provinces. Their positive attitude when handling wildlife crimes reported by the public is a positive indicator of how authorities should interact with the public in addressing any kind of crime.

TOP 5 POOREST PERFORMING PROVINCES

PROVINCE	☏ Public reports	✉ Responsiveness rate	👆 Success rate	🦔 Live animal success rate
Hoa Binh	6	100%	0%	0%
Quang Binh	6	83%	0%	0%
Gia Lai	7	57%	0%	0%
Bac Giang	7	86%	14%	14%
Vinh Long	5	40%	20%	20%

In contrast to the positive development of top-performing provinces, authorities in **Hoa Binh**, **Quang Binh**, **Gia Lai**, **Bac Giang**, and **Vinh Long** demonstrated the poorest performance in addressing wildlife crime. In Hoa Binh and Quang Binh, authorities were responsive to publicly reported crimes, but in both provinces authorities were unable to yield any successful outcomes in the cases reported and tracked by ENV. In Gia Lai, Bac Giang, and Vinh Long, provincial authorities were ineffective in both responding to publicly reported crimes and dealing with violations reported through ENV.

While these provinces do not receive the same volume of violation reports as some other provinces, the lack of responsiveness earned these provinces the lowest ranking among the 63 provinces of Vietnam.

In one example, **Hoa Binh** police took more than a month to check a pagoda where two great hornbills (Buceros bicornis) were reported. The great hornbill is fully protected under the law and it is a criminal offense to possess the species. Subsequently, this crime should have been addressed immediately in a timely and effective manner as a priority case. However, by the time the inspection was finally conducted, the two hornbills had disappeared *(Case ref. 14134/ENV)*.

ENV would like to urge the People's Committee and relevant subordinate agencies in Hoa Binh, Quang Binh, Gia Lai, Bac Giang, and Vinh Long to place greater emphasis on responding successfully to publicly reported crimes. Combatting the wildlife trade is the responsibility of all provinces, and involvement of the public is crucial to success.

OTHER IMPORTANT FINDINGS

Although **Ho Chi Minh City** had a 95% response rate in dealing with crimes reported by the public, the city's success rate was well below the national average with only 26% of all cases resulting in a successful outcome. It should be noted, however, that Ho Chi Minh City had 184 publicly reported crimes through ENV in 2019, three times as many as Hanoi.

While this does not excuse the city for a lower than average performance on successful outcomes, it suggests that the People's Committee needs to dedicate more resources to addressing wildlife crime and set hirer expectations among functional agencies.

Hanoi did not perform poorly, but given the city's leadership position as the nation's capital, superior performance is expected on all fronts. There were 64 publicly reported crimes in Hanoi, for which the responsiveness rate was below the national average at 74%. Hanoi's success rate was also below the national average at 32%, and the live animal success rate scored even lower with 24% of live animal cases resulting in successful confiscations, compared to a national average of almost 40%.

Additionally, **Hai Phong** province was able to successfully handle 27% of the 23 cases reported by the public. However, it should be noted that the success rate on cases stemming from a November 2019 survey was alarming. Authorities were alerted to a number of important cases observed by survey teams involving live wild animals. None of these cases resulted in success by local FPD. Performance in these cases was unsatisfactory in comparison with other major cities and ENV remains concerned about Hai Phong's commitment to addressing the illegal wildlife trade.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

No.	Province	Public reports	Responsiveness rate	Success rate	Live animal success rate
1	An Giang	5	100%	40%	67%
2	Ba Ria-Vung Tau	78	85%	24%	37%
3	Bac Giang	7	86%	14%	14%
4	Bac Kan	0	N/A		
5	Bac Lieu	0	N/A		
6	Bac Ninh	4	75%	75%	50%
7	Ben Tre	4	75%	75%	75%
8	Binh Dinh	8	25%	50%	60%
9	Binh Duong	13	100%	54%	44%
10	Binh Phuoc	5	60%	60%	75%
11	Binh Thuan	4	100%	25%	33%
12	Ca Mau	6	50%	33%	67%
13	Can Tho	3	33%	0%	0%
14	Cao Bang	1	100%	100%	100%
15	Da Nang	30	97%	53%	52%
16	Dak Lak	25	56%	20%	44%
17	Dak Nong	7	43%	57%	100%
18	Dien Bien	7	86%	43%	40%
19	Dong Nai	31	94%	61%	52%
20	Dong Thap	5	100%	20%	20%
21	Gia Lai	7	57%	0%	0%
22	Ha Giang	5	60%	20%	50%
23	Ha Nam	1	100%	0%	0%
24	Ha Noi	62	74%	32%	24%
25	Ha Tinh	6	50%	50%	100%
26	Hai Duong	4	75%	20%	33%
27	Hai Phong	23	87%	22%	27%
28	Hau Giang	0	N/A		
29	Ho Chi Minh	184	95%	26%	30%
30	Hoa Binh	6	100%	0%	0%
31	Hung Yen	3	100%	0%	0%
32	Khanh Hoa	23	96%	57%	50%
33	Kien Giang	15	60%	47%	60%

No.	Province	Public reports	Responsiveness rate	Success rate	Live animal success rate
34	Kon Tum	2	100%	0%	0%
35	Lai Chau	4	100%	75%	100%
36	Lam Dong	11	100%	55%	38%
37	Lang Son	0		N/A	
38	Lao Cai	3	67%	33%	50%
39	Long An	3	100%	100%	100%
40	Nam Dinh	3	100%	0%	0%
41	Nghe An	15	87%	53%	50%
42	Ninh Binh	5	100%	20%	20%
43	Ninh Thuan	5	100%	60%	60%
44	Phu Tho	3	67%	33%	33%
45	Phu Yen	1	100%	100%	0%
46	Quang Binh	6	83%	0%	0%
47	Quang Nam	17	65%	47%	64%
48	Quang Ngai	0		N/A	
49	Quang Ninh	4	75%	25%	33%
50	Quang Tri	2	100%	100%	100%
51	Soc Trang	0		N/A	
52	Son La	1	100%	0%	0%
53	Tay Ninh	2	100%	0%	0%
54	Thai Binh	2	50%	0%	0%
55	Thai Nguyen	3	67%	33%	50%
56	Thanh Hoa	12	100%	67%	67%
57	Thua Thien Hue	6	67%	33%	50%
58	Tien Giang	1	100%	0%	0%
59	Tra Vinh	1	100%	100%	100%
60	Tuyen Quang	1	100%	0%	0%
61	Vinh Long	5	40%	20%	20%
62	Vinh Phuc	6	50%	33%	60%
63	Yen Bai	2	100%	0%	0%
		708	84%	35%	39%

Note: The five best and worst provinces were selected by ranking performance on all four categories. Provinces with less than five cases were not considered in either ranking.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2019, law enforcement agencies such as Forest Protection Departments and police responded to 84% of public reports through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. This number reflects a proactive attitude when receiving a public report through ENV.

ENV would like to thank law enforcement agencies for their effort to work directly with the public to tackle wildlife crime. At the same time, ENV challenges authorities from all provinces to increase the national average of responsiveness to 90% in 2020. Cooperation between the public and the authorities is essential in promoting compliance with laws that benefit society.

While the responsiveness rates were quite positive in 2019, the statistics illustrate a generally poor success rate overall [35%], suggesting that there are considerable improvements to be made. Low success rates may be attributed to slow response, tipping off owners of establishments before the arrival of authorities, or in some cases, inaccurate or non-specific information provided by the public.

ENV would like to **re-emphasize** the need for law enforcement agencies to respond quickly and decisively to all publicly reported violations to ensure the law is applied in a sustained and determined fashion to eradicate wildlife crime in society.

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