

Sept 22, 2014

Evaluation report: Effectiveness in addressing consumer wildlife crime in Dong Ha city

In 2011, ENV established an evaluation system to assess the prevalence of consumer wildlife crime in major cities of Vietnam, and evaluate the effectiveness of efforts by authorities in addressing violations reported within their jurisdiction.

In the Q2 of 2014, ENV conducted intensive consumer wildlife crime surveys in Dong Ha city, Quang Tri province. During the surveys, all business establishments matching pre-determined criteria were inspected within the city. These included restaurants, bars, traditional medicine shops, pet shops, hotels, and markets. Only observed violations were recorded during the surveys including advertising and selling wildlife and products made from wildlife, and live animals sold or in the possession of business owners in violation of the law. Verbal advertising of wildlife was not included as a form of violation.

All violations were tracked using the ENV Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System, a database that includes profiles of all cases documented by ENV and details of the steps taken to resolve each case and the case outcome as reported by authorities and ENV monitors.

Upon completion of each survey, the results were reported to Dong Da City People's Committees and FPD along with a formal request to address the crimes. The city was then allowed a period of two months to address violations within its jurisdiction after which ENV conducted inspections of each establishment for which a violation was previously reported. The results of the second inspection were used to evaluate the effectiveness of district authorities in dealing with violations and reducing consumer crime within their jurisdiction.

Table 1: Overview of violations by establishment type for Dong Ha city

Type of establishment	Total no. of establishments inspected	Number of establishments with violations	Percentage of establishments with violations
Restaurants	130	21	16.2%
TCM	3	1	33.3%
Pet shop	9	4	44.4%
Hotel	10	2	20%
Bar/wine shop	2	0	0%
Market	3	0	0%
Total	157	28	17.8%

I. Dong Ha city Report Card

1. Prevalence of violations: 17.8%

Comments: Overall, violations were recorded in 17.8% of 157 business establishments inspected in Dong Ha city. The majority of violations (21/28) were found in restaurants that advertised wildlife on the menu or kept live wild animals.

2. Success of authorities in addressing violations: 43%

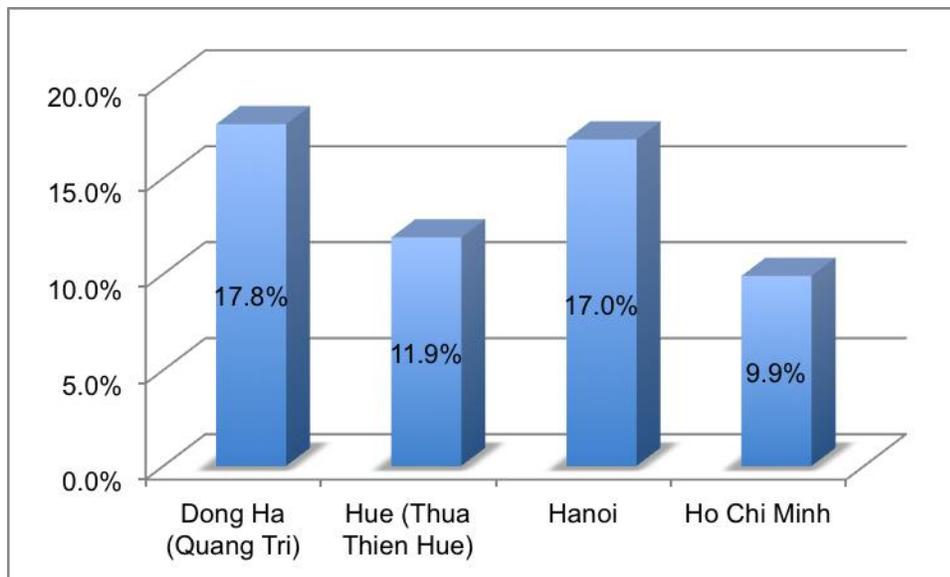
Comments: The authorities in Dong Ha city successfully addressed 43% of the violations reported during the evaluation period. The success rate represents a fair start toward efforts to eradicate consumer crime within the city, however a large number of cases remain to be addressed suggesting that effectiveness falls short of what is needed to achieve success. A reduction of 95% would be considered an acceptable achievement and reflective of tight and effective controls over consumer crime in the city.

III. Comparison of consumer crime in Dong Ha city and other cities (Hue, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh)

1. Prevalence of consumer wildlife crime in the cities

The percentage of business establishment violating wildlife protection laws in Dong Ha city is the highest among four cities with 17.8% compared to 17% in Hanoi, 9.9% in Ho Chi Minh and 11.9% in Hue.

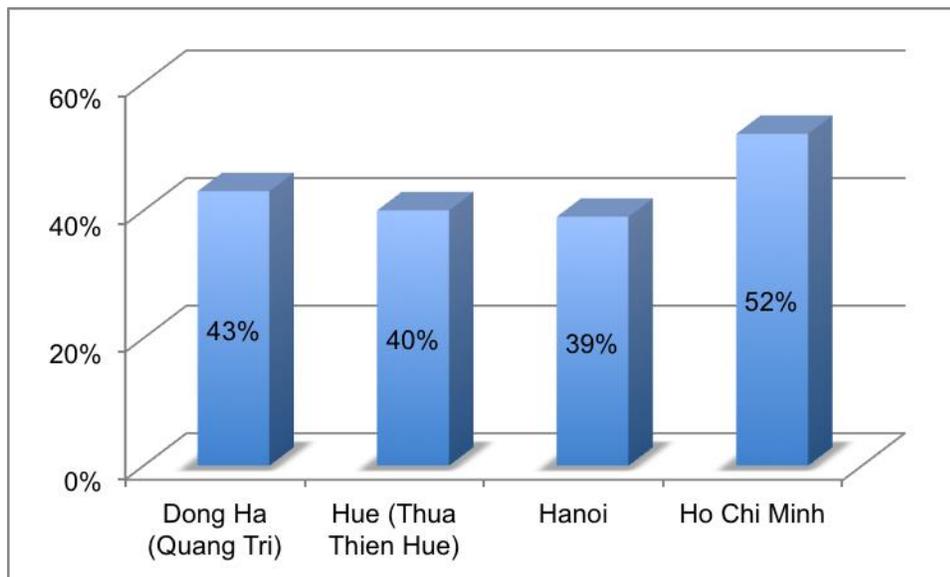
Chart 1: Prevalence of consumer wildlife crime comparison among Dong Ha, Hue, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh



2. Success in addressing consumer wildlife crime in four cities

Ho Chi Minh out-performed other cities in addressing consumer wildlife crimes which were reported as a result of the survey than the other cities with a success rate of 52%. Even the success rate in Dong Ha city was slightly higher than Hanoi and Hue with 43% compared to 39% in Hanoi and 40% in Hue, the results suggest that the cities need to improve their effectiveness in eradicating consumer crimes.

Chart 2: Success in addressing consumer wildlife crime comparison among Dong Ha city, Hue, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh



Conclusion

Through the duration of this campaign, ENV has cooperated and worked closely with the Dong Da City People's Committee and relevant agencies to achieve results that will have a meaningful impact on wildlife protection. The results are encouraging with significant reductions in consumer wildlife crime in the cities. The results also provide a measurable benchmark from which authorities can seek to further reduce consumer crime.

However, the results also clearly show the need for more attention and greater efforts focused in all four cities to reduce consumer wildlife crime.

ENV encourages city authorities to utilize a combined strategy of strengthening enforcement, particularly the responsiveness of authorities in addressing consumer wildlife crime when reported by the public, and increasing efforts to raise awareness and reduce consumer demand through the mass media, particularly on television and radio.

Next round of surveys and evaluation planned for Q4 2014

In Nov 2014, ENV will conduct a third round of inspections of all establishments for which violations were previously reported to reassess the effectiveness of authorities in addressing these cases following this evaluation report. A revised report card will be produced at the end of 2014 reflecting what ENV hopes will be improved response rates on reduced consumer crime in Dong Ha and other cities.