

Education for Nature - Vietnam

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Evaluation report: Effectiveness in addressing consumer wildlife crime in Hue

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 19/29 wards of Hue city, Thua Thien Hue 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 Hue 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 Hue city

Type of establishment	Total no. of establishments inspected	Number of establishments with violations	Percentage of establishments with violations
Restaurants	267	24	9%
TCM	26	1	3.8%
Pet shop	21	17	81%
Hotel	25	0	0%
Bar/wine shop	1	0	0%
Market	12	0	0%
Total	353	42	11.9%

I. Hue Report Card

1. Prevalence of violations: 11.9%

Comments: Overall, violations were recorded in 11.9% of 353 business establishments inspected in 19 wards of Hue city. The highest percentage of violations were found in pet shops (81%) and and restaurant (9%) followed by TCM shops (3.8%).

2. Success of authorities in addressing violations: 40%

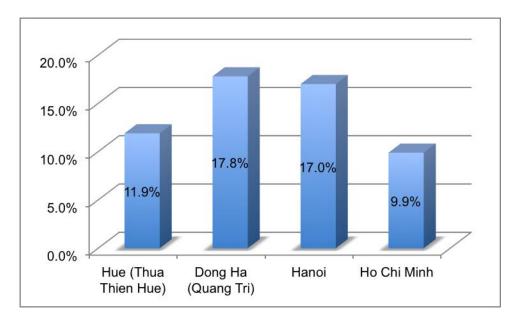
Comments: The authorities in Hue city successfully addressed 40% of the violations reported during the evaluation period. The success rate represents a fair start toward efforts to eradicate consumer crime within the city, however a large number of cases remain to be addressed suggesting that effectiveness 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 Hue 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 Hue city is lower than Dong Ha city and Hanoi; however, it exceeds Ho Chi Minh City. Violations were recorded in 17.8% of the business inspected in Dong Ha and 17% in Hanoi compared to 11.9% in Hue. 9.9% is the lowest records in Ho Chi Minh City.

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



2. Success in addressing consumer wildlife crime in the four cities

Ho Chi Minh was far more effective in addressing consumer wildlife crimes which were reported as a result of the survey than the other cities with a success rate of 52%. The success rate in Hue city was slightly higher than Hanoi with 40% compared to 39% in Hanoi; but lower than Dong Ha City (43%). These results clearly indicate that both cities need to improve their effectiveness in eradicating consumer crimes.

60%
40%
20%
Hue (Thua Dong Ha Hanoi Ho Chi Minh Thien Hue) (Quang Tri)

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

Conclusion

Through the duration of this campaign, ENV has worked closely with the Hue 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 the 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 Hue and other cities.