
SUMMARY OF MACAQUE CRIME IN VIETNAM

JANUARY 2010 - MAY 2020



ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

INTRODUCTION

ENV has prepared the following summary on macaque crimes in Vietnam using data collected and logged on ENV's Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System during the period January 2010 to May 2020. The purpose of this summary of critical data is to provide the means necessary to develop interventions aimed at strategically reducing consumer demand for macaques as pets in Vietnam.

ENV recognizes the macaque trade in Vietnam predominantly encompasses large-scale legal farming to meet the demand from Chinese, European, and US laboratories needing test animals, and to a lesser extent, the demand for macaque bones for use in traditional medicine. However, ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit is receiving increasingly widespread reports of the sale, advertisement, and possession of macaques as pets. Responding to these violations on a case by case basis is rapidly becoming a burden for law enforcement, and exasperating concerns over placement and release of confiscated animals.

In March 2020, ENV launched its "Macaques are not pets" campaign to focus on reducing consumer demand and easing the burden upon enforcement agencies and rescue centers. However, efforts aimed at reducing consumer demand are unlikely to be achieved within a short period of time, while rescue centers and other legal establishments are no longer in a position to receive macaques. Furthermore, the release of macaques back into the wild may seem appropriate, but the practice fails to meet international standards, generating concerns over the possibility of introducing disease which could impact wild ecosystems. Additionally, the release of animals accustomed to humans or unfit to survive in the wild may result in death, or the animal's return into the wildlife trade.

LIMITATIONS

The data contained in this report is based on cases logged by ENV during the reporting period. While it may reflect the current situation facing macaques in Vietnam, readers should be aware there is a high probability that hundreds of more cases are never reported, and confiscations may only reflect those cases known by ENV, or for which ENV played an active role in working with authorities to secure the confiscation.

TERMINOLOGY: SEIZURE, CONFISCATION, TRANSFER

Seizure and confiscation are used interchangeably to mean the same thing: law enforcement intervention resulting in removal of the macaque from its possessor. Transfers, on the other hand, involve voluntary acts by persons possessing macaques who request ENV's help to surrender the animal. In most cases, ENV coordinates with authorities to receive the animal. For the purpose of this data summary, transfer cases are not distinguished separately from confiscations as the purpose is to evaluate the number of animals and cases, not the specific intervention that resulted in macaques being turned over to authorities.

MACAQUES AND THEIR LEGAL PROTECTION IN VIETNAM

There are five species of macaques native to Vietnam: long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*), Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulata*), pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*), and Assamese macaques (*Macaca assamensis*). All five species are found in the trade, though Assamese macaques are less common.

All five species of native macaques are protected under Group 2B of Decree 06 [2019] which prohibits buying, selling, advertising, trading, or possession of a macaque without a permit issued by the Forest Protection Department. Generally, permits cannot be obtained to keep macaques as pets, though a few have been issued in some cases, which remains a concern to ENV.

MACAQUE CRIME OVERVIEW 2010-2020

ENV wildlife crime case statistics from January 2010 to May 2020 indicate that ENV logged 2,685 macaque cases, comprised of 2,967 individual violations during the reporting period. Of these cases, 1,790 involved physical and online possession of macaques, or parts and products of macaques, while 771 cases involved advertising or selling macaques, or parts and products made from macaques. A total of 107 trafficking cases were logged during this period, which involved individuals transporting or keeping large numbers of macaques for the purpose of selling to traditional medicine makers, macaque farms, or other traders/buyers.



POSSESSION OF LIVE MACAQUE CASES

Between January 2010 and May 2020, ENV logged 1,632 cases involving physical possession of 2,251 live macaques (this number excludes online cases). Of these 1,632 cases reported, 666 cases resulted in the successful confiscation or transfer of 924 animals by authorities.

MACAQUE POSSESSION CASE DISTRIBUTION BY YEAR

Macaque possession cases reported to ENV increased by 44% from 2018 to 2019, from 177 cases in 2018 to 255 in 2019, suggesting a substantial increase in the number of people keeping macaques as pets. However, this increase could also be explained as result of increased public reporting of macaque crimes in 2019.

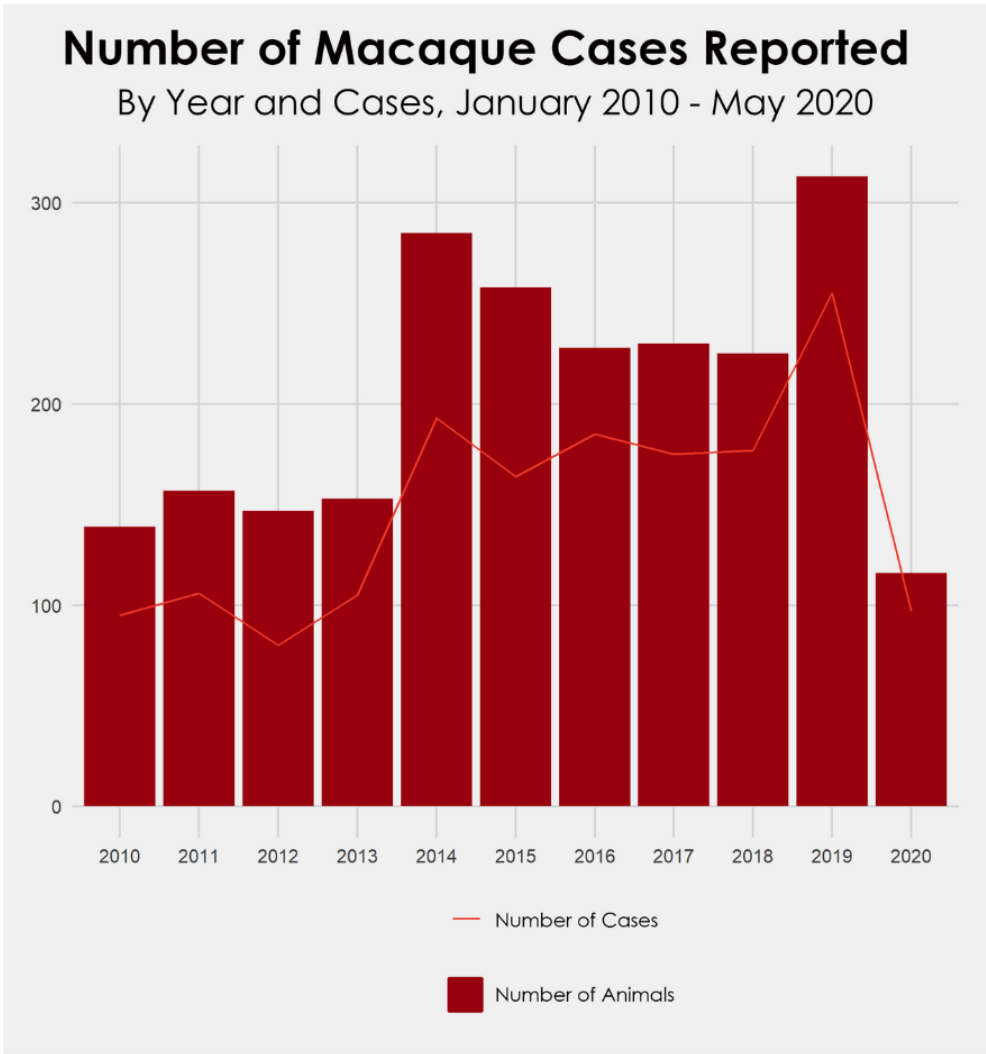


Table 1: Total number of macaque cases reported by year



SPECIES COMPOSITION OF POSSESSION CASES

ENV data shows that pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*) are the most common species kept as pets in Vietnam, comprising 40% of the total number of macaques where species was known, represented as 440 animals. Long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) embody the second largest group with 281 animals or 25% of the total, while stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*) represented the third largest group with 223 animals or 20% of the total. Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulata*) and Assamese macaques (*Macaca assamensis*) comprised just 11% and 3% of the total respectively.

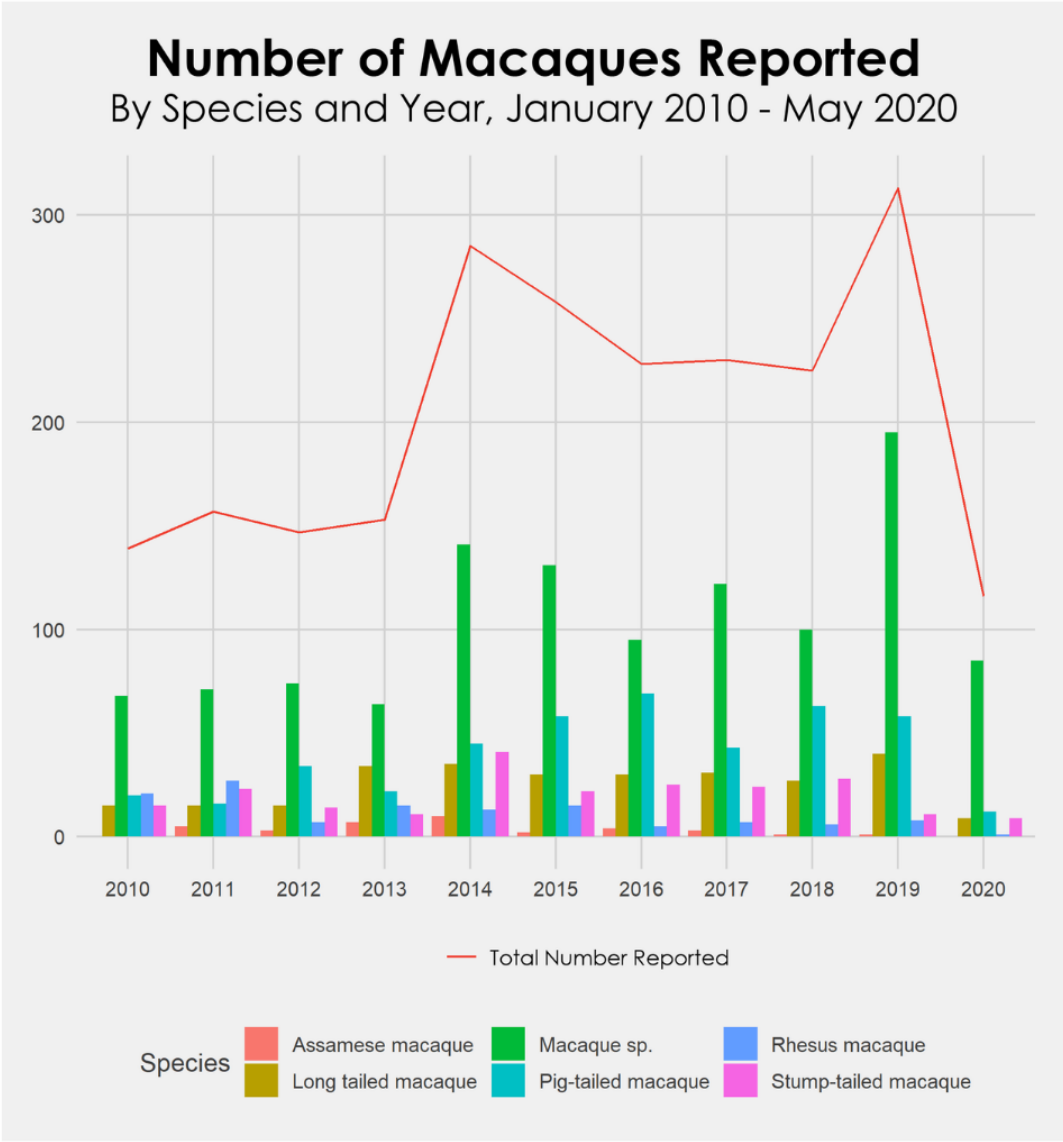


Table 2: Total number of macaques reported by year and species

A majority of possession cases involved macaques of unknown species. Lack of species identification stems from non-specific reports from the public regarding macaques observed in captivity which do not result in confiscation by authorities. In a small number of cases, lack of macaque identification in successful confiscation cases is a consequence of poor identification skills by local authorities.

As a result, a total of 1,146 macaques remain unidentified, roughly half of the 2,251-total number of macaques reported in possession cases.

Number of macaques	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	May20	Total
Long tailed macaque	15	15	15	34	35	30	30	31	27	40	9	281
Pig-tailed macaque	20	16	34	22	45	58	69	43	63	58	12	440
Assamese macaque	0	5	3	7	10	2	4	3	1	1	0	36
Rhesus macaque	21	27	7	15	13	15	5	7	6	8	1	125
Stump-tailed macaque	15	23	14	11	41	22	25	24	28	11	9	223
Macaque sp.	68	71	74	64	141	131	95	122	100	195	85	1146
Total macaques by year	139	157	147	153	285	258	228	230	225	313	116	2251

Table 3: Macaque possession numbers by species and year

SEIZURE DISTRIBUTION AND DISPOSITION

The southern provinces exceeded northern provinces in terms of number of macaques confiscated by authorities. Ho Chi Minh City led the country with 78 possession cases resulting in the confiscation of 92 macaques, while Ba Ria Vung Tau followed with 55 macaques confiscated, trailed closely by Hanoi [52], and Da Nang and Khanh Hoa [each 48]. Note: Appendix I provides a detailed table of seizures and disposition by province and district.

As noted previously, one of the most pressing challenges authorities face when confiscating macaques is what to do with the animal once it is confiscated. Choices include transferring the animal to a rescue center or other legal establishment, such as a zoo, or releasing the macaque into nature.

Rescue centers and other legal establishments lack the appropriate facilities for indefinitely keeping macaques and must consider critical factors such as preventing captive macaques from breeding in shared cages. Even when there is space available, provincial Forest Protection Departments generally lack the funds to transfer macaques to rescue centers beyond provincial borders, and rescue centers may be either unwilling to make the long trip to recover one or more macaques, or lack the budget to do so.

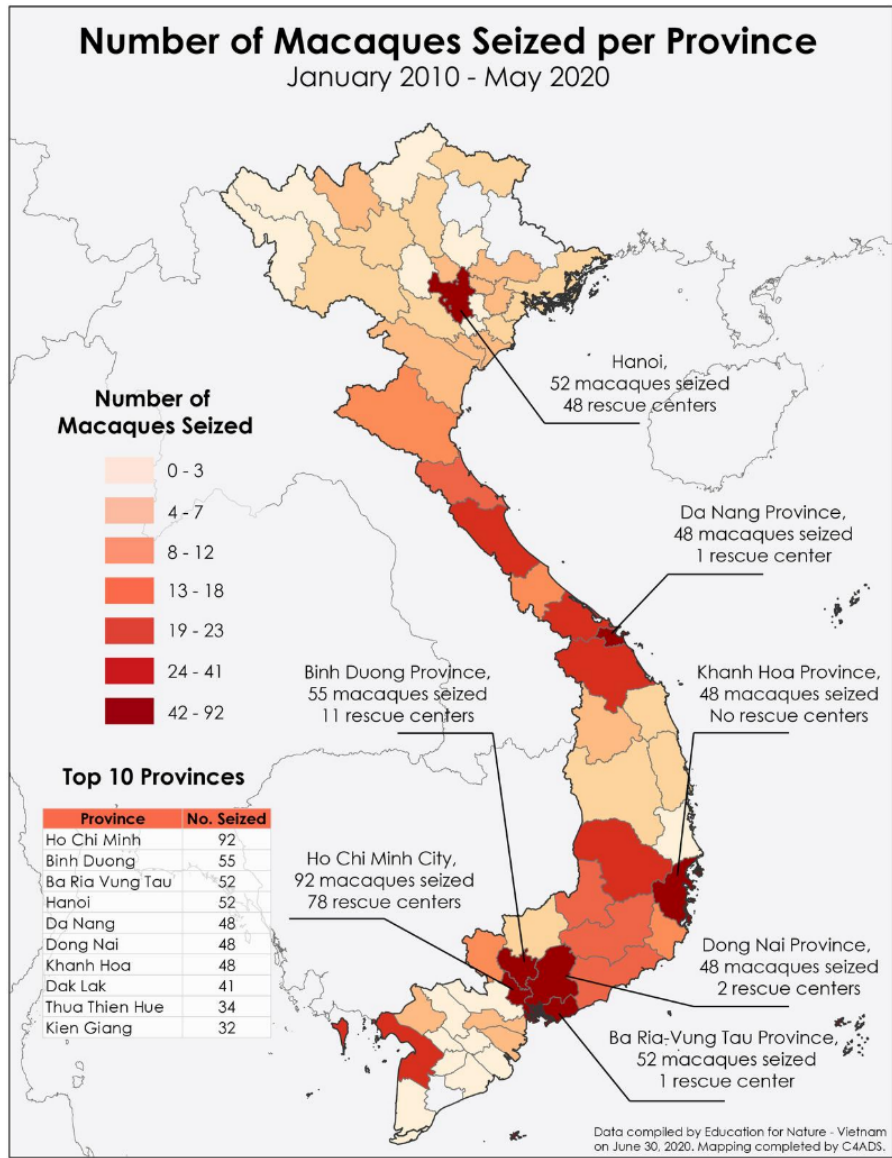
Lack of space is a serious problem for macaques and will continue to become an increasingly serious issue unless specific facilities are made available with suitable funding to receive animals.

The predominant alternative to placement at a legal facility has been release, with 593 of 924 confiscations [64%] resulting in releases.

The release of macaques and other wildlife back into the wild may appear to be a reasonable solution, however, release of animals that have been held in captivity is not an accepted solution. Firstly, macaques are rarely released to their original habitat, and thus are released into an unfamiliar area. Moreover, macaques from the wildlife trade may have been exposed to or be carrying specific diseases that could be introduced into otherwise healthy populations of macaques.

Likewise, animals that have spent time in captivity become accustomed to humans, particularly macaques raised in captivity from infancy, making it difficult or even impossible to adjust to living in the wild.

In all likelihood, releases result in the animal dying due to inability to adjust to the new environment, becoming prey, or being recaptured by hunters.



The sound release of an animal requires extensive planning, careful site selection, health screening, and monitoring post release to increase the chance of an animal’s survival in the wild after a stint in captivity.

Provinces where the majority of macaques are released following confiscation correspond with those provinces which lack accessibility to rescue centers, or lack rescue centers that accept macaques.

Note:
Additional maps showing seizure data by district and region can be found in Appendix II

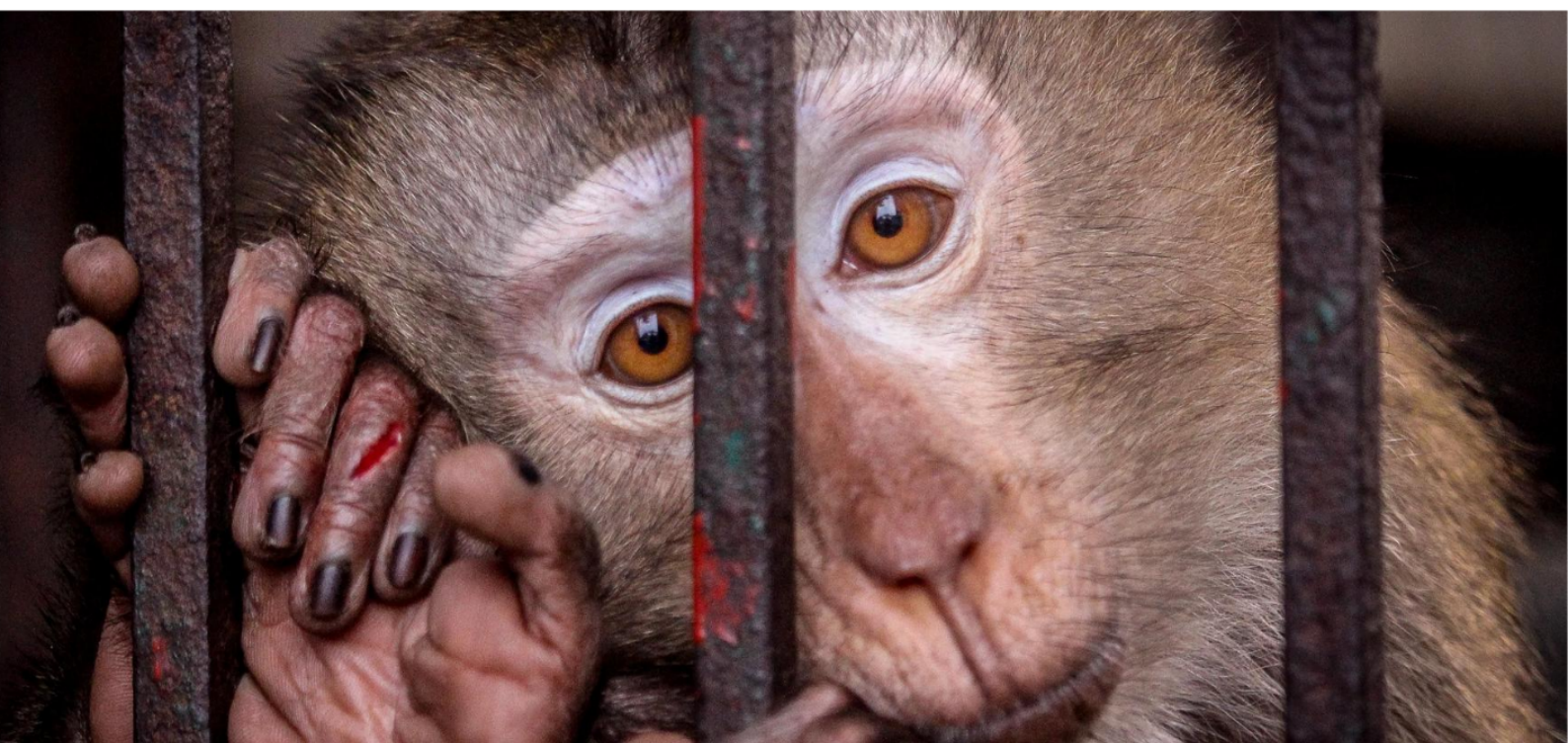
Table 4: Hotspots for macaque confiscations in Vietnam by province

MACAQUES AS PETS: FUTURE OUTLOOK IN VIETNAM

If wild macaque populations are to be fully protected in Vietnam, the only viable option is to strengthen protection and reduce consumer demand for macaques as pets.

ENV has outlined the following measures that must be undertaken to ensure macaque protection:

1. Actively campaign to raise awareness and reduce consumer demand for macaques as pets. While ENV has already initiated macaque campaign efforts in this regard, a much broader and wide-reaching effort by multiple organizations and the government would strengthen this aim.
2. Sustain current efforts by authorities to respond to macaque possession crimes and confiscate macaques. Through continued law enforcement actions, combined with increased awareness, macaque possession can be deterred as the idea of keeping a macaque or other wild animal will be increasingly recognized and associated with illegal behavior.
3. Address the urgent need for legal facilities to receive confiscated macaques. Without these facilities, there will remain difficulties in securing successful enforcement interventions by authorities, and the release of macaques back into the wild will continue.
4. Reduce and eliminate the legal possession of macaques with valid papers, preventing visible possession from stimulating the desire of others to keep macaques as well.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ENV wishes to thank C4ADS for their contribution of maps for this summary report, and CFI for their contribution to ENV's broader efforts to examine macaque trafficking in Vietnam.

APPENDIX I: MACAQUE SEIZURE AND DISPOSITION DATA BY DISTRICT

Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
An Giang				
Chau Doc	2			
Chau Phu	1			
Thoai Son	4			
Tinh Bien	2			
Tri Ton	3			
Total	12	4	8	
Ba Ria Vung Tau				
Tan Thanh	6			
Vung Tau	34			
Long Dien	3			
Ba Ria	1			
Xuyen Moc	3			
Dat Do	4			
Phu My	1			
Total	52	1	51	
Bac Giang				
Bac Giang city	4			
Son Dong	1			
Tan Yen	3			
Total	8	8	0	
Bac Ninh				
Bac Ninh city	2			
Luong Tai	2			
Tien Du	1			
Tu Son	4			
Total	9	9	0	
Ben Tre				
Ben Tre	3			
Chau Thanh	1			
Giong Trom	3			
Thanh Phu	1			
Total	8	8	0	
Binh Dinh				
An Nhon	1			
Phu Cat	1			
Quy Nhon	1			
Van Canh	1			
Total	4	3	1	
Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Binh Duong				
Bau Bang	1			
Ben Cat	1			
Di An	13			
Tan Thoi Hiep	1			
Tan Uyen	3			
Thu Dau Mot	27			
Thuan An	9			
Total	55	11	40	4
Binh Phuoc				
Bu Dang	1			
Bu Dop	1			
Bu Gia Map	1			
Chon Thanh	2			
Total	5	2	3	
Binh Thuan				
Bac Binh	3			
Duc Linh	2			
Ham Thuan Nam	1			
Lagi	1			
Phan Thiet	12			
Tuy Phong	4			
Total	23		19	4
Ca Mau				
U Minh	1			1
Can Tho				
Can Tho	2			
Cao Bang				
Bao Lam	1			
Cao Bang	3			
Trung Khanh	1			
Total	5		4	1
Da Nang				
Cam Le	4			
Hai Chau	4			
Hoa Vang	4			
Lien Chieu	14			
Ngu Hanh Son	10			
Son Tra	6			
Thanh Khe	6			
Total	48	1	44	

Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Dak Lak				
Buon Don	7			
Buon Ma Thuot	31			
Cu Kuin	1			
Ea H'leo	1			
Krong Pak	1			
Total	41		39	2
Dak Nong				
Cu Jut	3			
Dak Glong	1			
Dak Mil	1			
Dak R'lap	1			
Gia Nghia	12			
Tuy Duc	2			
Total	20	7	10	3
Dien Bien				
Dien Bien city	1			
Muong Lay	1			
Total	2	1	1	
Dong Nai				
Bien Hoa	19			
Cam My	3			
Dinh Quan	3			
Long Thanh	2			
Thong Nhat	4			
Trang Bom	6			
Vinh Cuu	4			
Xuan Loc	7			
Total	48	2	41	5
Dong Thap				
Lap Vo	1		1	
Gia Lai				
Chu Puh	1			
Dak Po	1			
Duc Co	1			
Pleiku	2			
Total	5	1	3	1
Ha Giang				
Ha Giang	1		1	
Ha Nam				
Duy Tien	1	1		
Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Ha Tinh				
Can Loc	1			
Ha Tinh city	9			
Huong Khe	3			
Huong Son	1			
Ky Anh	2			
Thach Ha	4			
Vu Quang	2			
Total	22		22	
Hai Duong				
Chi Linh	3			
Hai Duong	1			
Kinh Mon	4			
Total	8	4	4	
Hai Phong				
Do Son	2			
Hai An	1			
Le Chan	2			
Thuy Nguyen	2			
Total	7	2	3	2
Hanoi				
Ba Dinh	3			
Ba Vi	4			
Bac Tu Liem	1			
Cau Giay	8			
Chuong My	1			
Dong Anh	2			
Dong Da	1			
Gia Lam	6			
Ha Dong	2			
Hoai Duc	1			
Hoan Kiem	2			
Hoang Mai	2			
Long Bien	6			
Me Linh	1			
My Duc	2			
Nam Tu Liem	1			
Phu Xuyen	1			
Quoc Oai	2			
Soc Son	1			
Tay Ho	3			
Thanh Xuan	1			
Xuan Dinh	1			
Total	52	48		

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Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Hau Giang				
Chau Thanh A	1			
Phung Hiep	1			
Chau Thanh	1			
Total	3	2	1	
Ho Chi Minh				
Binh Chanh	3			
Binh Tan	6			
Binh Thanh	7			
Cu Chi	3			
District 1	4			
District 10	2			
District 12	9			
District 2	2			
District 3	7			
District 4	1			
District 5	1			
District 7	12			
District 9	7			
Go Vap	3			
Hoc Mon	11			
Phu Nhuan	1			
Tan Binh	2			
Tan Phu	3			
Thu Duc	7			
District 11	1			
Total	92	78	8	6
Hoa Binh				
Cao Phong	1			
Kim Boi	3			
Luong Son	1			
Tan Lac	2			
Total	7	7		
Hung Yen				
Yen My	1	1		
Khanh Hoa				
Cam Lam	3			
Khanh Vinh	4			
Nha Trang	37			
Ninh Hoa	2			
Van Ninh	2			
Total	48		47	1
Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Kien Giang				
Hon Dat	1			
Kien Hai	4			
Phu Quoc	27			
Total	32		31	1
Kon Tum				
Dak To	4			
Kon Plong	2			
Kon Tum	2			
Total	8		8	
Lai Chau				
Sin Ho	1		1	
Lam Dong				
Bao Lam	3			
Bao Loc	1			
Cat Tien	2			
Da Hoai	1			
Da Lat	9			
Da Teh)	1			
Duc Trong	1			
Lac Duong	2			
Lam Ha	3			
Total	23	2	19	2
Lao Cai				
Bat Xat	2			
Lao Cai city	2			
Sa Pa	2			
Van Ban	4			
Total	10	5	3	2
Long An				
Ben Luc	2			
Can Giuoc	1			
Total	3	1	2	
Nam Dinh				
Y Yen	2			
Nam Dinh city	4			
Nam Truc	1			
Vu Ban	1			
Total	8	8		

Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Nghe An				
Anh Son	3			
Dien Chau	1			
Nghi Loc	1			
Nghia Dan	1			
Quy Chau	1			
Thai Hoa town	3			
Thanh Chuong	1			
Tuong Duong	1			
Vinh	6			
Total	18	3	15	
Ninh Binh				
Gia Vien	1			
Hoa Lu	6			
Tam Diep	2			
Yen Khanh	1			
Total	10	4	5	1
Ninh Thuan				
Ninh Hai	2			
Ninh Son	3			
Phan Giang Thap Cham	10			
Total	15		15	
Phu Tho				
Thanh Thuy	1			
Viet Tri	1			
Total	2	1	1	
Phu Yen				
Tuy An	2		2	
Quang Binh				
Bo Trach	14			
Dong Hoi	8			
Le Thuy	1			
Minh Hoa	1			
Quang Ninh	3			
Quang Trach	3			
Total	30	4	24	2
Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Quang Nam				
Dai Loc	3			
Dien Ban	1			
Dong Giang	5			
Duy Xuyen	4			
Hoi An	3			
Nui Thanh	2			
Que Son	4			
Tam Ky	1			
Thang Binh	7			
Tien Phuoc	1			
Total	31	1	28	2
Quang Ngai				
Binh Son	2			
Nghia Hanh	1			
Tra Bong	1			
Tu Nghia	1			
Total	5		4	1
Quang Ninh				
Ha Long	4			
Hoanh Bo	1			
Uong Bi	1			
Total	6	2	1	3
Quang Tri				
Dak Rong	1			
Dong Ha	4			
Gio Linh	1			
Huong Hoa	4			
Quang Tri town	1			
Trieu Phong	2			
Vinh Linh	4			
Total	17		16	1
Soc Trang				
Ke Sach	1			
My Tu	2			
Total	3		3	
Son La				
Mai Son	1			
Moc Chau	1			
Phu Yen	1			
Quynh Nhai	2			
Son La city	1			
Total	6	3	2	1

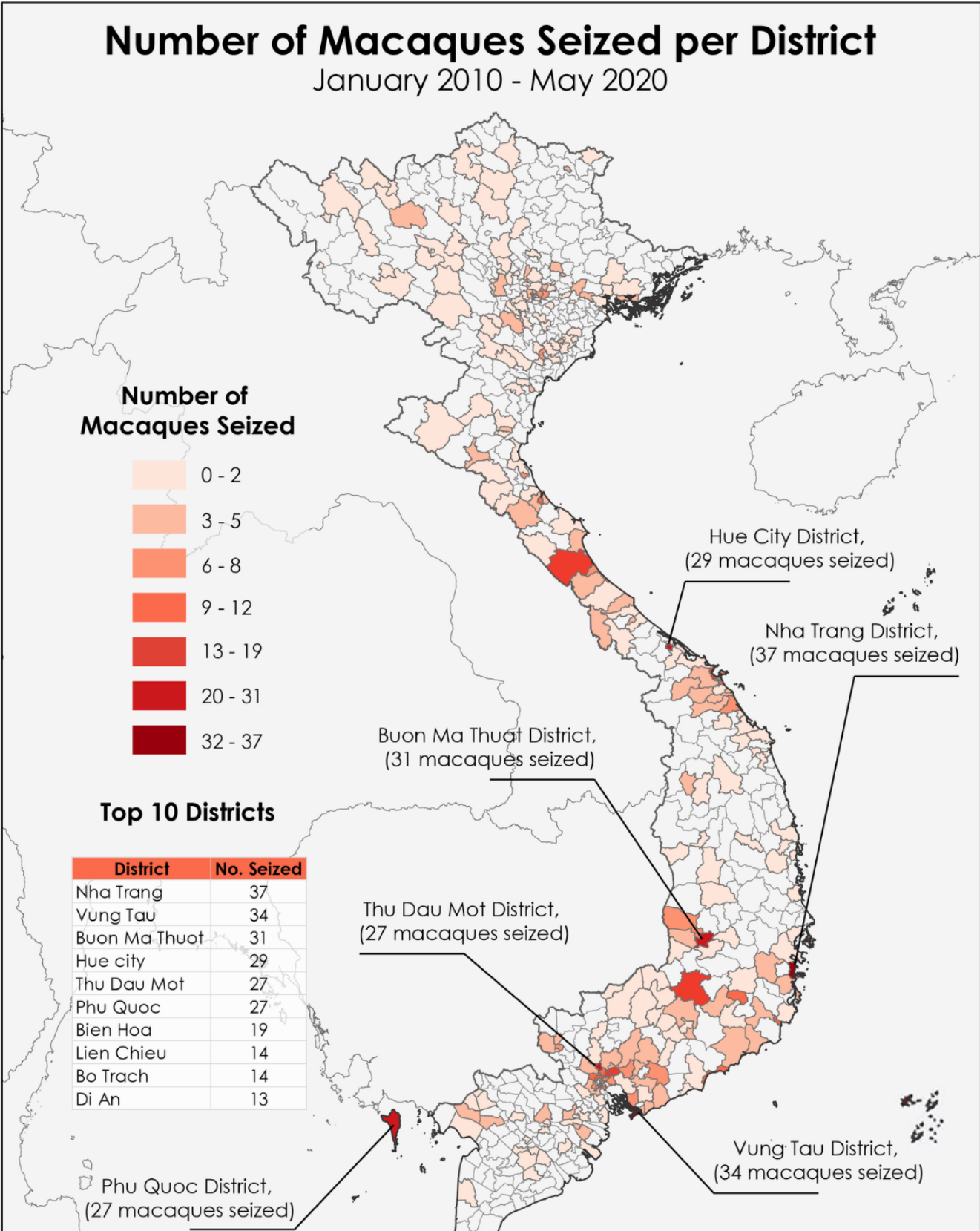
APPENDIX I: MACAQUE SEIZURE AND DISPOSITION DATA BY DISTRICT

Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Tay Ninh				
Chau Thanh	4			
Hoa Thanh	8			
Tay Ninh city	3			
Total	15		15	
Thai Binh				
Thai Binh	2			
Dong Hung	2			
Vu Thu	1			
Total	5	5		
Thai Nguyen				
Dinh Hoa	2			
Thai Nguyen city	1			
Total	3	3		
Thanh Hoa				
Ba Thuoc	1			
Cam Thuy	1			
Sam Son	1			
Thach Thanh	1			
Thanh Hoa city	5			
Thieu Hoa	1			
Trieu Son	2			
Total	12		12	
Thua Thien Hue				
Hue city	29			
Huong Thuy	2			
Phu Loc	2			
Phu Vang	1			
Total	34	11	19	4
Tien Giang				
Cai Be	4			
Chau Thanh	3			
Cho Gao	1			
Go Cong Dong	1			
Total	9	4	5	
Tra Vinh				
Cang Long	2		2	
Tuyen Quang				
Chiem Hoa	2			
Na Hang	2			
Son Duong	1			
Total	5		5	

Province	Macaques	Disposition		
		Rescue Center	Released	UNK
Vinh Long				
Long Ho	1	1		
Vinh Phuc				
Lap Thach	2			
Phuc Yen	5			
Vinh Tuong	1			
Vinh Yen	2			
Total	10	10		
Yen Bai				
Luc Yen	1			
Tram Tau	1			
Tran Yen	2			
Van Chan	1			
Yen Bai city	2			
Total	7	2	4	1
Total: 60 provinces	924	271	593	58

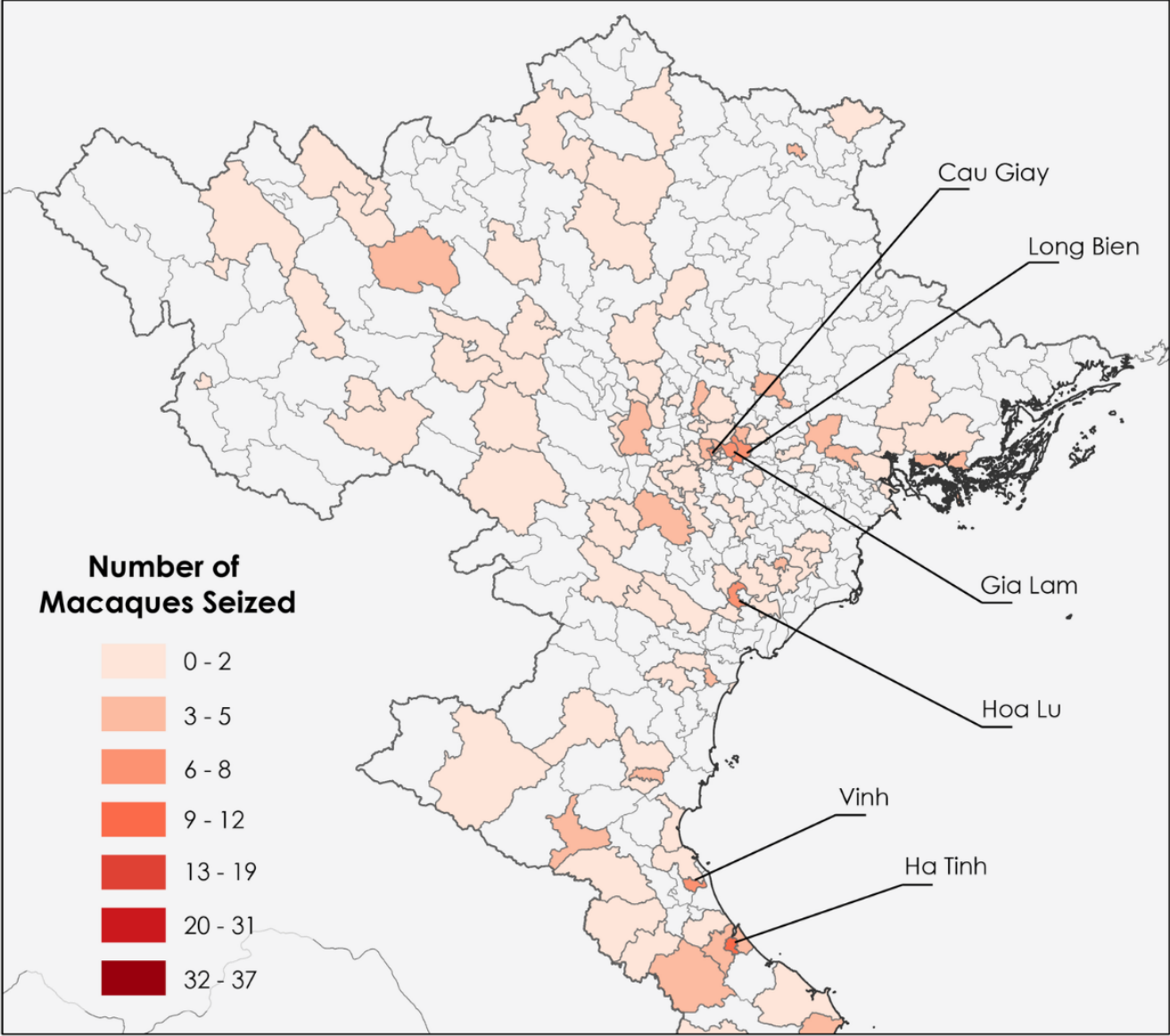


APPENDIX II: SEIZURE DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY DISTRICT AND REGION



APPENDIX II: SEIZURE DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY DISTRICT AND REGION

Number of Macaques Seized per District
North Viet Nam, January 2010 - May 2020



Top 6 Districts

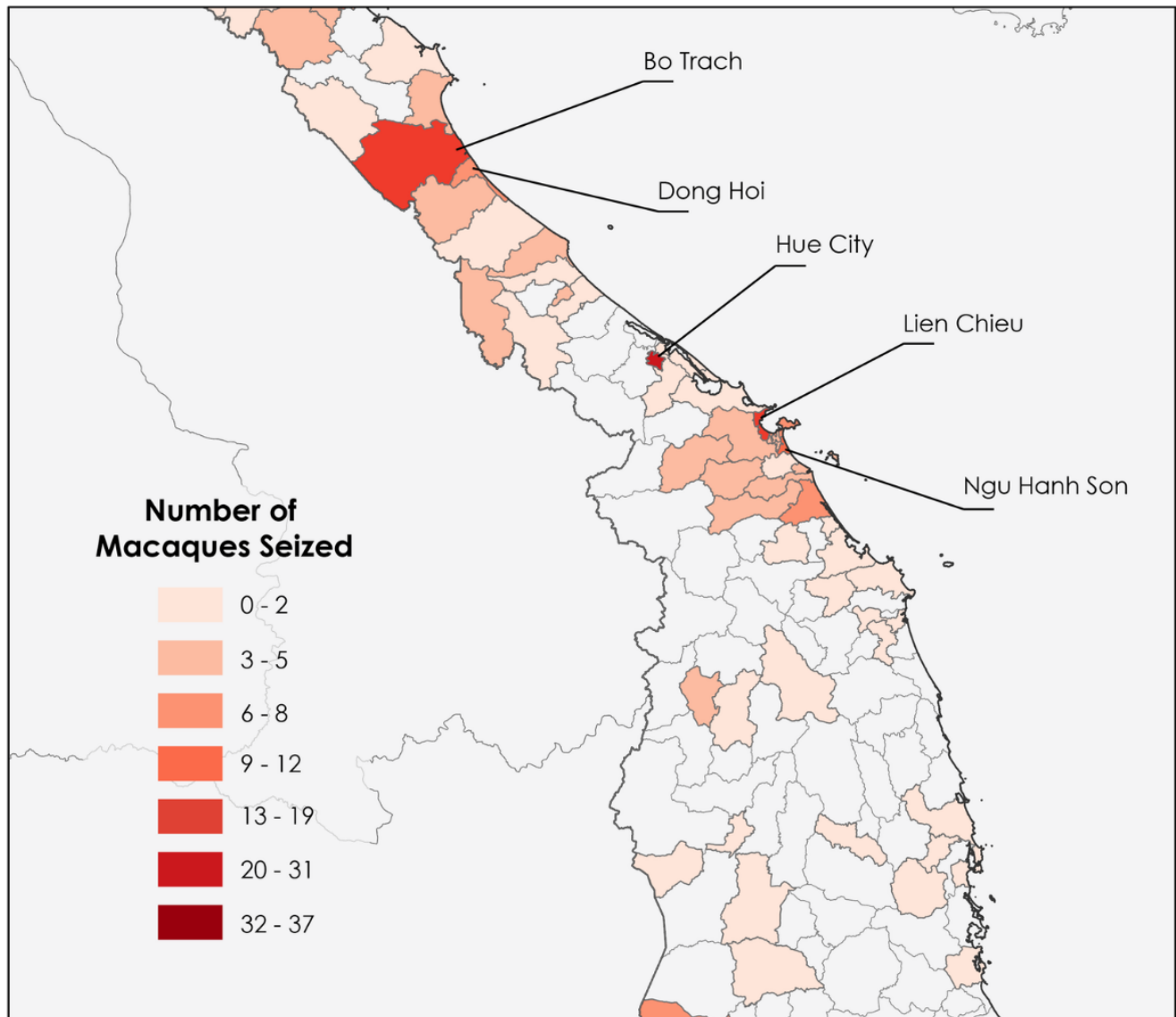
District	No. Seized
Ha Tinh City	9
Cau Giay	8
Gia Lam	6
Long Bien	6
Vinh	6
Hoa Lu	6

Data compiled by Education for Nature - Vietnam on June 30, 2020. Mapping completed by C4ADS.

APPENDIX II: SEIZURE DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY DISTRICT AND REGION

Number of Macaques Seized per District

Central Viet Nam, January 2010 - May 2020



Top 5 Districts

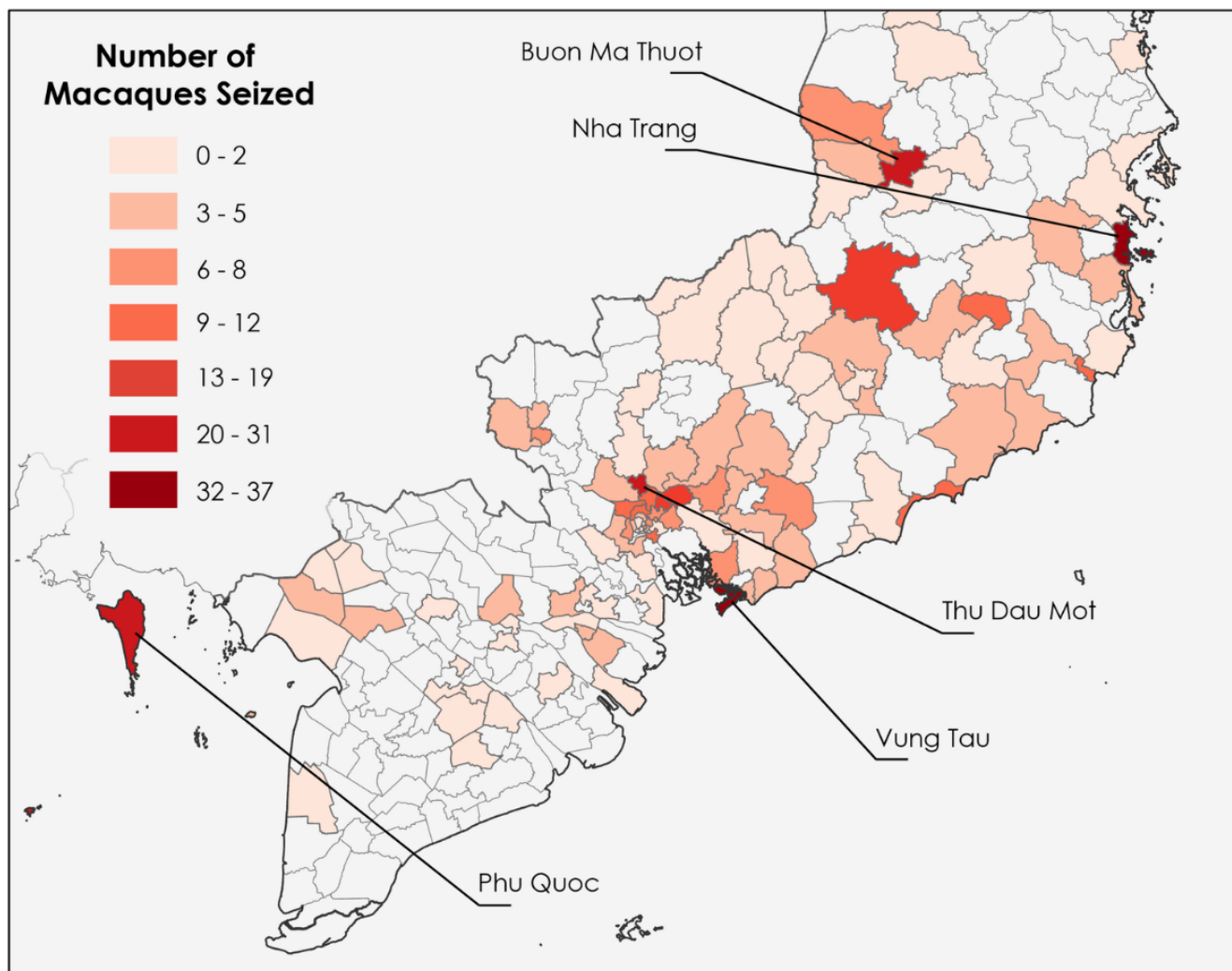
District	No. Seized
Hue City	29
Lien Chieu	14
Bo Trach	14
Ngu Hanh Son	10
Dong Hoi	8

Data compiled by Education for Nature - Vietnam
on June 30, 2020. Mapping completed by C4ADS.

APPENDIX II: SEIZURE DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY DISTRICT AND REGION

Number of Macaques Seized per District

South Viet Nam, January 2010 - May 2020



Top 5 Districts

District	No. Seized
Nha Trang	37
Vung Tau	34
Buon Ma Thuot	31
Thu Dau Mot	27
Phu Quoc	27

Data compiled by Education for Nature - Vietnam on June 30, 2020. Mapping completed by C4ADS.