

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing two individuals in light blue uniforms, likely law enforcement or conservation officers, releasing a large sea turtle into the ocean. One person is holding the turtle's head and front flipper, while the other is supporting its body. The water is a deep blue-green, and the scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the turtle as it is released.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIVENESS

REPORT 2020

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. On average, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit receives about nine new cases reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline each day. After each report, ENV contacts the appropriate authorities to address the violation(s), tracking each case through to its conclusion and documenting the outcome on ENV's National Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database.

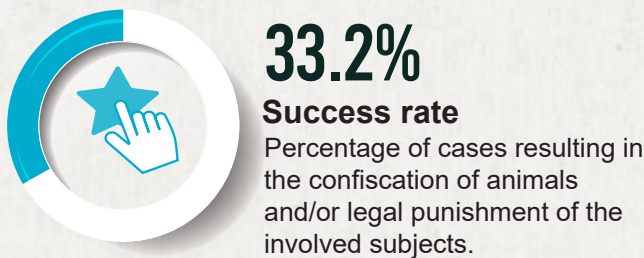
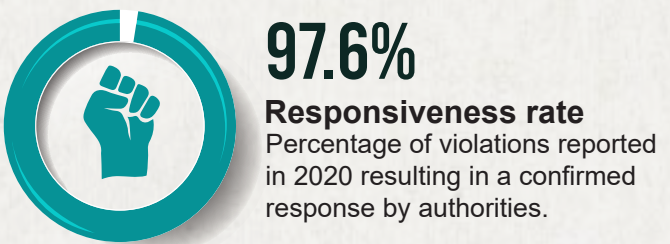
ENV considers responsiveness to wildlife crime by law enforcement critical for establishing an effective partnership between the public, who report wildlife crime, and authorities, who address wildlife crime.

In 2020, ENV initiated the Responsiveness Reporting System to evaluate the performance of local law enforcement agencies tasked with wildlife protection, comparing provinces' statistics while calculating the national average. 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 of authorities in Vietnam and the outcome of wildlife crimes that are publicly reported and tracked through ENV.

NATIONAL AVERAGE

The national average is based on the results of 63 provinces where crimes were reported to ENV by the public, and it serves as a national benchmark for provincial governments to compare the responsiveness of their subordinate agencies.



The top highlight of 2020 was the national responsiveness rate, which rose to nearly 98% - a considerable increase compared to the 84% national average in 2019. However, the overall success rate and the live animal success rate did not follow the same pattern of increase, as these success rates remained nearly the same as those recorded the year prior. This indicates that law enforcement authorities must improve the effectiveness of their response to publicly reported wildlife crimes in order to yield successful results.

BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Authorities in **Da Nang** and **Binh Duong** should be recognized for their outstanding performance in handling wildlife crimes reported by the public. Authorities in both provinces surpassed those in other provinces in all of the evaluation categories, from responsiveness rate to success rate. The responsiveness of the two provinces led to the successful seizure of wildlife products, removal of menu violations advertising wildlife, and the confiscation and transfer of 125 live wild animals in 2020.



100% Responsive Rate

Da Nang



Public reports

25



Success rate

64%



Live animal success rate

77.8%

Binh Duong



Public reports

29



Success rate

62%



Live animal success rate

78.3%

It is also worth mentioning that these two provinces were amongst the best performing provinces in 2019. ENV would like to congratulate the police and Forest Protection Departments, as well as other relevant agencies, who contributed to the consistent and successful protection of wildlife in Da Nang and Binh Duong. Their positive attitude when handling wildlife crimes reported by the public is a positive example of how authorities should interact with the public in addressing any kind of crime.

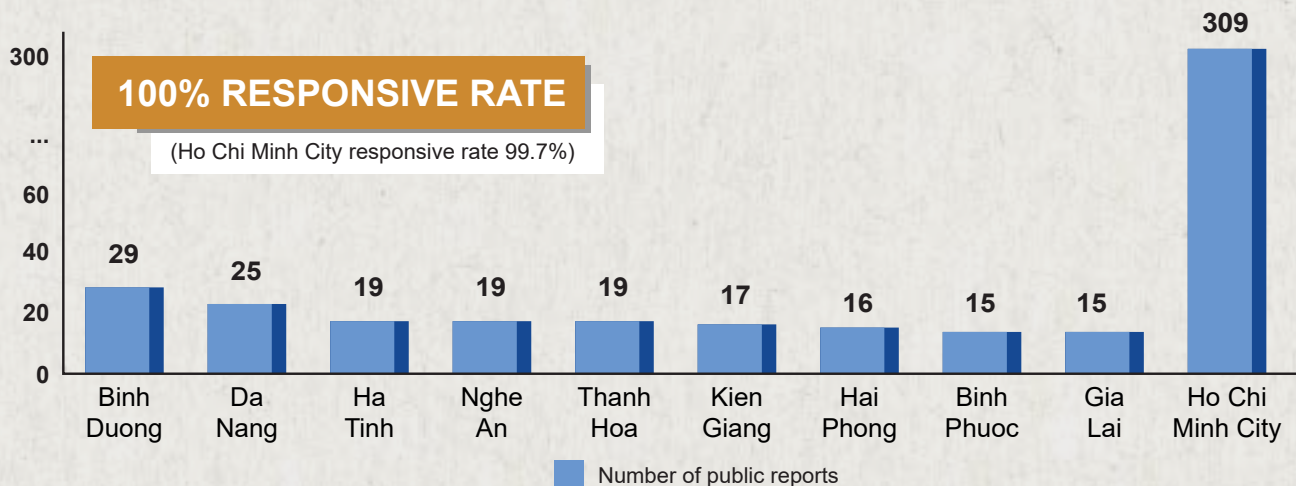


In total, 13 macaques, 46 snakes, three lorises, 10 turtles, a sea turtle, a civet, two gibbons, four great hornbills, a wreathed hornbill, 19 raptors, nine squirrels, a python, an otter, two birds, and 12 exotic animals were confiscated or transferred in 2020 as the result of law enforcement response in Da Nang and Binh Duong.



TOP 10 most responsive provinces

Note: Provinces with less than 15 cases were not considered in this ranking.



The 10 top-performing provinces have greatly contributed to the country's overall rate of responsiveness to wildlife crime reported by the public. Ho Chi Minh City authorities outdid their 2019 success by responding to nearly 100% of the 309 reports made by the public – an example of improvement that provinces across the country should follow. Gia Lai is also deserving of praise for responding to 100% of crimes reported in 2020 – a major improvement from the low-ranking 57% responsiveness rate they achieved in 2019.



TOP 5 most successful provinces in handling publicly reported wildlife crimes

Note: Provinces with less than 15 cases were not considered in this ranking.

LEA = Law Enforcement Authorities

No.	Province	Number of public reports	LEA Success rate
1	Da Nang	25	64%
2	Binh Duong	29	62%
3	Binh Phuoc	15	53.3%
4	Lam Dong	25	48%
5	Dong Nai	52	46.2%



At 64%, Da Nang achieved the highest success rate in handling publicly reported wildlife crimes. Similarly, Binh Duong authorities were also successful in addressing more than 60% of wildlife crime reports. Finally, success rates in Binh Phuoc, Lam Dong, and Dong Nai stand around 50%, ranking them amongst the five most successful provinces in handling publicly reported crimes.



TOP 5 most successful provinces in handling publicly reported live animal cases

Note: Provinces with less than 15 cases were not considered in this ranking.

No.	Province	Number of live animal reports	Live animal success rate
1	Dak Lak	15	86.7%
2	Binh Duong	23	78.3%
3	Da Nang	18	77.8%
4	Lam Dong	19	57.9%
5	Dong Nai	46	52.2%



Dak Lak authorities were the most successful in dealing with live animal cases, having successfully handled nearly 87% of live animal cases reported by the public. Binh Duong and Da Nang followed closely, with both provinces successfully handling nearly 80% of live animal reports. Finally, Lam Dong and Dong Nai authorities were able to successfully address more than 50% of the live animal cases reported in their provinces.

PERFORMANCE OF PROVINCES WITH HIGHEST PUBLICLY REPORTED CRIME RATES

No.	Province	Number of public reports	Responsiveness rate	Success rate	Live animal success rate
1	Ho Chi Minh City	309	99.7%	23%	26.7%
2	Ha Noi	83	90.4%	31.3%	43.4%
3	Dak Lak	63	95.2%	34.9%	86.7%
4	Ba Ria - Vung Tau	56	98.2%	28.6%	30.8%
5	Dong Nai	52	94.2%	46.2%	52.2%

Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Dak Lak, Ba Ria - Vung Tau, and Dong Nai were the provinces with the highest number of reported cases. Of these, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Ba Ria - Vung Tau achieved relatively low success rates.

Hanoi authorities have improved since 2019 in dealing with live animal cases, with 43.4% of live animal cases reported in 2020 resulting in successful confiscations. However, Hanoi's responsive rate (90.4%) and success rate (31.3%) were below the national averages. Although Hanoi was not amongst the poorest performing areas, it is the capital city, and as such, Hanoi is expected to be a leader in the fight against wildlife crime.

Ho Chi Minh City had a very high responsive rate (99.7%) but a relatively low success rate (23.3%) and also a low live animal success rate (26.7%). It should be noted, however, that HCMC received 309 publicly reported crimes, much more than the four remaining provinces combined. ENV suggests the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee urgently dedicate more resources and instruct LEA to develop effective measures to address wildlife crime in the city.

Similarly, despite being responsive to publicly reported crimes, Ba Ria - Vung Tau only achieved a 28.6% overall success rate, which is below the national average. Moreover, the province is also amongst the poorest performing provinces in handling live animal cases, with a 30.8% success rate out of 52 live animal cases reported in the province.

Meanwhile, as mentioned above, Dong Nai authorities should be recognized for their performance in handling publicly reported wildlife crimes. Despite receiving a high volume of public reports, authorities in the province were able to successfully address 46.2% of the crimes reported, while 52.2% of the live animal cases in the province resulted in a successful outcome, marking the province amongst one of the best performing provinces in handling publicly reported wildlife crimes.

Last but not least, Dak Lak is the best performing province in the country when dealing with live animal crimes. Unfortunately, the overall success rate of the province only stands at 34.9%, mostly due to consistently ineffective responses when addressing the illegal ivory trade. More emphasis should be put on Dak Lak to clear out the major ivory retail happening in their jurisdiction, which remains the biggest area for illegal ivory trade in Vietnam.



NATIONAL STATISTICS

Note: Percentages in BOLD represent figures below the 2020 national average.

Province	Number of public reports	Responsiveness rate (%)	Success rate (%)	Live animal success rate (%)	Province	Number of public reports	Responsiveness rate (%)	Success rate (%)	Live animal success rate (%)
An Giang	5	100%	40%	40%	Kien Giang	17	100%	41.2%	35.7%
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	56	98.2%	28.6%	30.8%	Kon Tum	8	87.5%	37.5%	66.7%
Bac Giang	8	100%	62.5%	40%	Lai Chau	2	100%	50%	100%
Bac Kan	7	100%	28.6%	40%	Lam Dong	25	96%	48%	57.9%
Bac Lieu	3	100%	0%	0%	Lang Son	4	75%	50%	100%
Bac Ninh	7	100%	28.6%	20%	Lao Cai	5	100%	40%	50%
Ben Tre	5	100%	60%	60%	Long An	4	100%	25%	33.3%
Binh Dinh	14	100%	50%	58.3%	Nam Dinh	8	100%	37.5%	50%
Binh Duong	29	100%	62.1%	78.3%	Nghe An	19	100%	26.3%	66.7%
Binh Phuoc	15	100%	53.3%	80%	Ninh Binh	3	100%	33.3%	33.3%
Binh Thuan	11	100%	27.3%	20%	Ninh Thuan	4	100%	25%	33.3%
Ca Mau	4	100%	75%	100%	Phu Tho	4	100%	50%	50%
Can Tho	7	100%	14.3%	16.7%	Phu Yen	2	100%	0%	0%
Cao Bang	1	100%	100%	100%	Quang Binh	5	100%	80%	100%
Da Nang	25	100%	64%	77.8%	Quang Nam	20	90%	30%	26.7%
Dak Lak	63	95.2%	34.9%	86.7%	Quang Ngai	6	100%	16.7%	33.3%
Dak Nong	10	100%	70%	100%	Quang Ninh	7	100%	42.9%	60%
Dien Bien	4	100%	25%	50%	Quang Tri	7	100%	42.9%	75%
Dong Nai	52	94.2%	46%	52.2%	Soc Trang	3	100%	0%	0%
Dong Thap	6	100%	33.3%	40%	Son La	3	100%	100%	100%
Gia Lai	15	100%	20%	14.3%	Tay Ninh	7	100%	28.6%	33.3%
Ha Giang	2	100%	100%	100%	Thai Binh	2	100%	50%	0%
Ha Nam	5	60%	60%	75%	Thai Nguyen	4	100%	25%	25%
Ha Tinh	19	100%	31.6%	40%	Thanh Hoa	19	100%	42.1%	40%
Hai Duong	6	100%	50%	50%	Thua Thien Hue	6	100%	83.3%	80%
Hai Phong	16	100%	6.3%	11.1%	Tien Giang	7	85.7%	0%	0%
Hanoi	83	90.4%	31.3%	43.4%	Tra Vinh	0	N/A		
Hau Giang	1	100%	100%	100%	Tuyen Quang	3	100%	0%	0%
Ho Chi Minh City	309	99.7%	23.3%	26.7%	Vinh Long	2	100%	50%	0%
Hoa Binh	4	100%	50%	100%	Vinh Phuc	4	100%	25%	25%
Hung Yen	1	100 %	100%	100%	Yen Bai	2	100%	0%	0%
Khanh Hoa	30	96.7%	6.7%	8%	National average	1035	97.6%	33.2%	39.5%



General Recommendations

In 2020, law enforcement agencies such as Forest Protection Departments and police responded to **97.6%** of public reports through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. This number reflects a proactive attitude when receiving a public report, which is critical to establishing an effective partnership between the public and authorities in addressing wildlife crime.

ENV would like to thank law enforcement agencies for their efforts to work directly with the public to tackle wildlife crime, and calls on all relevant agencies to keep up the great work. ENV also encourages law enforcement agencies who achieved responsiveness ratings below the national average to increase responsiveness to at least **97%** in 2021, equal to the national average.

While the responsiveness rates were very positive in 2020, the statistics illustrate a generally poor success rate overall (**33.2%**), similar to what was achieved in 2019, 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 challenges authorities from all provinces to increase the national success rate for handling publicly reported wildlife crime to at least **50%** in 2021.

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 in order to effectively eradicate wildlife crime in Vietnam.

Education for Nature – Vietnam

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment. ENV combats the illegal wildlife trade and aims to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about the need to protect nature and wildlife. ENV employs creative and innovative strategies to influence public attitudes and reduce demand for wildlife trade products. ENV works closely with government partners to strengthen policy and legislation, and directly supports enforcement efforts in the protection of endangered species of regional, national, and global significance.

ENV STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Since 2007, ENV has focused its activities on three major program areas that comprise ENV's integrated strategic approach for addressing illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam. These include:

- Working with policy-makers to strengthen legislation, close loopholes in the law, and promote effective application of laws and policy that protect wildlife;
- Strengthening enforcement through direct support and assistance to law enforcement agencies in combatting wildlife crime;
- Reducing consumer demand for wildlife products through investment in a long-term and sustained effort to influence public attitudes and behavior, including mobilizing public participation and action protecting wildlife by reporting wildlife crime.



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