

### **OVERVIEW**

Since 2005, ENV has served as a conduit between the public and law enforcement agencies combatting wildlife crime. On average, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit receives about nine new cases reported to ENV's 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 responsiveness of local law enforcement agencies tasked with wildlife protection, comparing statistics between provinces, as well as establishing a national average. Results are shared with provincial People's Committees to ensure provincial leaders are kept aware of how well their provinces are performing on a national scale.

The following report evaluates the responsiveness of authorities in Vietnam and the outcome of wildlife crimes that were publicly reported and tracked by ENV in 2021.

#### **PUBLIC REPORTS**

Number of public reports through the ENV Hotline, where information is transferred to law enforcement agencies via phone call, correspondence, or direct meeting.



#### **RESPONSIVENESS RATE**

Percentage of violations reported in 2021 resulting in a confirmed response by authorities.



# THE EVALUATION IS BASED ON FOUR CRITERIA

#### **SUCCESS RATE**

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



#### LIVE ANIMAL SUCCESS RATE

Percentage of live wild animal cases reported in 2021 resulting in a successful confiscation of the live wild animal(s). Live animal cases are a critical performance indicator, as they generally require a timely and effective response by authorities in order to yield success.



## **NATIONAL AVERAGE**

The national average is based on the results of 62 provinces where crimes were reported to ENV by the public (Bac Lieu province is excluded, as ENV did not receive any wildlife crime reports from the public in Bac Lieu during 2021). This average serves as a national benchmark against which provincial governments can compare the responsiveness of their subordinate agencies.



1,056

Public reports



97%

Responsiveness rate



28.9%

Success rate



29.8%

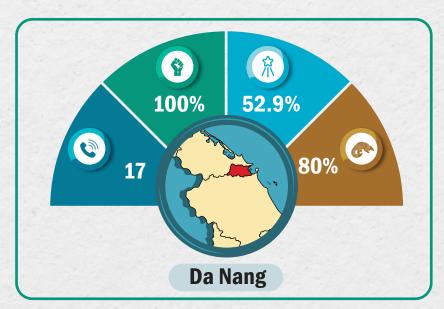
Live animal success rate

The report suggests a continued high responsiveness rate of 97% for all publicly reported wildlife crime on a national scale, similar to the rate recorded in 2020, which was nearly 98%. However, there was a marginal decrease in terms of the national success rate, especially with regards to the success rate on cases involving live animals. This can be partly explained by the severe impact of Covid-19 resulting in late enforcement responses in some cases. However, it also indicates the need for an improvement in law enforcement authorities' capacity to respond to and handle publicly reported wildlife crimes, in order to yield more successful results in the coming years.

# **BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

Authorities in Da Nang are to be commended for their excellent performance in handling wildlife crimes reported by the public. Results from this city surpassed those in all other provinces across most of the evaluation categories, from responsiveness rate to success rate.

In detail, Da Nang authorities responded to all 17 public reports made in 2021, achieving an overall case success rate of 52.9% and 80% for cases involving live animals. Da Nang authorities' responsiveness led to the successful seizure of numerous wildlife products, the removal of menu violations advertising wildlife, and the confiscation and transfer of 146 live animals in 2021.



It is also worth mentioning that Da Nang has consistently ranked amongst the best-performing provinces since ENV initiated the Responsiveness Reporting System in 2019, marking three consecutive years of commendable results.

ENV would like to congratulate the members of police and Forest Protection Departments, as well as other relevant agencies, who contributed to the consistent and successful protection of wildlife in Da Nang. Their "cando" attitude in handling wildlife crimes reported by the public is a positive example of how authorities should interact with the public when addressing any kind of crime.

#### **Top Most Responsive Provinces to Publicly Reported Crimes**

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



The top-performing provinces have greatly contributed to the country's overall rate of responsiveness to wildlife crime reports made by the public. Da Nang, Nghe An, and Ha Tinh provinces gain the title of most responsive to publicly reported crimes, with their response rates being maintained at 100% for two years in a row. Among the remaining top-ranking performers, authorities in Ho Chi Minh City continued to keep up with a comparatively massive number of public reports and were able to respond to nearly 100% of all publicly reported crimes in the province.

#### Top Most Successful Provinces in Handling Publicly Reported Wildlife Crimes

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

No.	Provinces	Number of live animal reports	Live animal success rate		
1	Thanh Hoa	17	82.4%		
2	Da Nang	17	52.9%		
3	Dong Nai	27	51.9%		
4	Lam Dong	29	51.7%		

At 82.4%, Thanh Hoa achieved the highest success rate in handling publicly reported wildlife crimes in 2021 – double the rate achieved by the province in the previous year. Da Nang, Dong Nai, and Lam Dong are also acknowledged for their success in handling roughly half of the cases reported in 2021.

#### **Top Most Successful Provinces in Handling Live Animal Cases**

Note: Provinces with less than 10 live animal cases were not considered in this ranking.

No.	Provinces	Number of live animal reports	Live animal success rate		
1	Da Nang	10	80%		
2	Dong Nai	22	59.1%		
3	Binh Dinh	13	53.9%		
4	Binh Duong	20	50%		

Da Nang authorities were the most successful in dealing with live animal cases, having successfully handled 80% of live animal cases reported by the public resulting in confiscations or transfers. Da Nang was followed by Dong Nai province, which delivered a 59.1% success rate in live animal cases, while Binh Dinh and Binh Duong authorities successfully addressed around 50% of the live animal cases reported in their provinces.

# Performance Among Provinces with the Highest Number of Publicly Reported Crimes

Some major cities have substantially more crimes reported than others. This measure evaluates overall performance of cities and provinces with roughly 30 or more cases reported by the public during the course of the year.

No.	Province	Number of public reports	Responsiveness rate	Success rate	Live animal success rate
1	Ho Chi Minh City	372	98.7%	15.9%	15.8%
2	Hanoi	99	97%	31.3%	37.1%
3	Dak Lak	44	97.7%	18.2%	42.9%
4	Binh Duong	29	93.1%	41.4%	50%
5	Lam Dong	29	96.6%	51.7%	39.1%

Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Dak Lak, Binh Duong, and Lam Dong were the provinces with the highest number of reported cases. Of these, Ho Chi Minh City and Dak Lak achieved relatively low success rates, both of which fell below the national average.

Hanoi authorities have shown consistent improvement with regards to responding to reported cases since 2019, with the 2021 responsive rate to publicly reported wildlife crimes at 97% compared to 2020's 90.4% and 2019's 74%. Although Hanoi's overall success rate and the success rate in dealing with live animal cases were both above the national average and coincided with similar rates achieved in 2020, Hanoi – as the capital of Vietnam – is still expected to perform better and be a leader in the fight against wildlife crime.

Ho Chi Minh City demonstrated excellent responsiveness to publicly reported crimes (98.7%), but achieved a relatively low success rate (15.9%) overall and 15.8% for live animal cases – both of these rates being far below the national averages.

However, it should be noted that Ho Chi Minh City continues to receive an exceptionally high and continually increasing number of publicly reported wildlife crimes, accounting for approximately 35% of the nationwide wildlife crime reports in 2021. A large number of these cases involve street vendors selling live animals, and while responsiveness to such reports are excellent, successful outcomes are rare.

ENV expects that the number of street vendor cases will continue to remain high until measures are taken to aggressively address the situation, including by openly banning such sales and communicating this widely in the city, as well as strictly handling violations, including by issuing fines and punishment to those who continue to engage in such activities, in order to deter these crimes.

Similar to previous years, Dak Lak remains one of the provinces receiving the highest number of wildlife crime reports from the public. Unfortunately, while the responsiveness rate in the province in 2021 was 97.7% – slightly higher than the rate achieved in 2020 (95.2%), the statistics illustrate a decline in performance in handling wildlife crimes in general and live animal cases in particular.

In 2021, Dak Lak's overall success rate of 18.2% fell below the national average, and while the province's live animal success rate of around 43% was higher than the national average, it represented only half of the live animal success rate that Dak Lak had achieved in 2020.

Amongst provinces receiving a high number of publicly reported wildlife crimes, Binh Duong should be recognized for their performance in responding to 93.1% of reports and successfully addressing 41.4% of these cases. Of interest, 50% of the live animal cases in the province resulted in a successful outcome, marking Binh Duong as one of the best-performing provinces nationwide in handling live animal crime reports.

Similarly, Lam Dong authorities were especially responsive to publicly reported wildlife crimes, responding to 96.6% of wildlife crimes reported by the public. Lam Dong also ranks among the best-performing provinces in handling wildlife crime, with 51.7% of reported wildlife crimes resulting in successful wildlife confiscations, arrests, fines, or prosecutions of relevant subjects.

# **NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Note: Percentages in bold represent figures below the 2021 national average for each criterium.

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	6	100%	33.3%	66.7%	Kon Tum	12	100%	41.7%	0%
Ba Ria Vung Tau	25	100%	20%	18.2%	Lai Chau	1	100%	100%	100%
Bac Giang	6	100%	16.7%	0%	Lam Dong	29	96.6%	51.7%	39.1%
Bac Kan	3	100%	33.3%	50%	Lang Son	6	100%	33.3%	0%
Bac Ninh	6	100%	16.7%	25%	Lao Cai	9	77.8%	33.3%	50%
Ben Tre	4	100%	75%	100%	Long An	11	100%	54.6%	55.6%
Binh Dinh	14	100%	50%	53.9%	Nam Dinh	6	100%	16.7%	25%
Binh Duong	29	93.1%	41.4%	50%	Nghe An	28	100%	25%	46.2%
Binh Phuoc	9	100%	77.8%	100%	Ninh Binh	4	100%	0%	0%
Binh Thuan	10	90%	20%	16.7%	Ninh Thuan	8	87.5%	25%	50%
Ca Mau	6	100%	33.3%	33.3%	Phu Tho	5	100%	60%	66.7%
Can Tho	10	100%	20%	14.3%	Phu Yen	3	100%	66.7%	0%
Cao Bang	2	100%	50%	50%	Quang Binh	8	100%	12.5%	20%
Da Nang	17	100%	52.9%	80%	Quang Nam	14	92.9%	28.6%	25%
Dak Lak	44	97.7%	18.2%	42.9%	Quang Ngai	8	100%	50%	42.9%
Dak Nong	9	100%	44.4%	57.1%	Quang Ninh	13	100%	30.8%	42.9%
Dien Bien	4	100%	50%	0%	Quang Tri	5	80%	20%	25%
Dong Nai	27	92.6%	51.9%	59.1%	Soc Trang	1	100%	0%	0%
Dong Thap	9	100%	55.6%	50%	Son La	5	100%	60%	66.7%
Gia Lai	19	73.7%	26.3%	20%	Tay Ninh	5	100%	80%	50%
Ha Giang	5	100%	40%	66.7%	Thai Binh	5	100%	80%	75%
Ha Nam	4	100%	25%	25%	Thai Nguyen	4	100%	25%	0%
Ha Tinh	15	100%	33.3%	83.3%	Thanh Hoa	17	94.1%	82.4%	71.4%
Hai Duong	6	100%	33.3%	33.3%	Thua Thien Hue	11	100%	45.5%	25%
Hai Phong	16	93.8%	25%	25%	Tien Giang	6	100%	16.7%	20%
Hanoi	99	96.8%	31.3%	37.1%	Tra Vinh	3	100%	66.7%	66.7%
Hau Giang	2	50%	50%	0%	Tuyen Quang	4	75%	25%	0%
Ho Chi Minh City	372	98.7%	15.9%	15.8%	Vinh Long	4	75%	25%	33.3%
Hoa Binh	1	100%	100%	100%	Vinh Phuc	6	100%	33.3%	25%
Hung Yen	3	66.7%	33.3%	N/A	Yen Bai	3	100%	0%	0%
Khanh Hoa	20	95%	5%	7.7%	National average	1,056	97%	28.9%	29.8%
Kien Giang	10	100%	50%	71.4%					



# **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

In 2021 overall, law enforcement agencies such as Forest Protection Departments and police responded to 97% of public reports made through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. This exceptional responsiveness rate reflects a valued partnership between the public and law enforcement agencies in tackling wildlife crime.

However, while the responsiveness rates were positive in 2021, the statistics illustrate a generally poor success rate overall (28.9%), and only one in three live animal cases reported resulted in a successful law enforcement interdiction (29.8%).

These rates are also slightly lower than what was achieved in 2020, suggesting that there is room for improvement. Low success rates may be attributed to slow enforcement responses (some as a result of Covid-19-related impacts), owners of establishments being tipped off before the arrival of authorities, or in some cases, inaccurate or non-specific information provided by the public. ENV continues to challenge authorities in all provinces to increase the national success rate for handling publicly reported wildlife crime to at least 50%.

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 consistent, sustained, and determined fashion, ultimately leading to the eradication of wildlife crime in Vietnam.

ENV would like to thank law enforcement agencies for their efforts, particularly in provinces where responsiveness and success rates exceed national averages.

# **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 proection 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 intergrated 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;
- Strenthening 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.



Block 17T5, 17th floor, Room 1701, Hoang Dao Thuy Str.,

Thanh Xuan Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: (84 24) 6281 5424 Fax: (84 24) 6281 5423 Email: env@fpt.vn

Website: www.env4wildlife.org