

EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO DISEASES PREVENTATION BY WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN PERIOD 2010 - 2020

Nguyen Huy Nga², Nguyen Duy Long¹,
Nguyen Trong An¹, Tran Thi Khuyen¹

ABSTRACT

The project was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of policies on wildlife protection on the awareness and practice of party members. Within the framework of the study, 261 party members in 3 clusters were questioned with a set of quantitative questions. The results showed that policy documents were covered at a high rate in a variety of forms. However, the level of awareness and practice of the participants is not commensurate with this coverage, and there are differences between groups. 78,2% of respondents identified violations specified in policy documents related to wildlife consumption and use. The reason for not carrying out wildlife trade was chosen by 91,6% of respondents; Reasons for protecting wildlife; prevention of diseases transmitted from animals to humans; Ensuring the implementation of international commitments has 83,1% respectively; 71,3% and 65,9% identified. The rate of good practice accounted for the highest rate with 67,1%. The rates of good and bad practice were 26,8% and 6,5%, respectively. Changes in the form and method of dissemination are needed to improve the effectiveness of wildlife protection policy documents implementation.

Keywords: Evaluation, effectiveness, wildlife protection, awareness, policy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Vietnam is a country known for its illegal wildlife trade, and its rapidly growing urban prosperity is increasing domestic demand for wildlife products. Wildlife is considered a valuable source of pharmaceuticals and delicacies, and a variety of small mammals, birds and reptiles are traded and consumed by both rural and urban people. Wild animal meats, skin types are products that are used in significant demand [1].

Wildlife trade and use is a major risk factor leading to the emergence of zoonotic diseases that account for 75% of emerging infectious diseases in human populations [2], [3]. The interaction between humans and animals in wildlife trade activities creates factors that promotes the spread of pathogens from their natural reservoirs to other animals and humans. Furthermore, epidemics can spread through the movement of animals over long distances from their natural habitats to densely populated human environments [3].

Interventions aimed at consumers, including awareness campaigns and social marketing, and supply-side approaches such as raising wildlife to reduce demand for wildlife, are increasingly being promoted. In particular, a series of policy documents have been issued to change the perception and behavior of party members such as: Guidance No. 109-HD/BTGTW, Guideline

¹ Centers for Health Environment Research and Development – CHERAD

² Faculty of Public Health, Quang Trung University

Responsible person: Nguyen Huy Nga

Email: nhnga@qtu.edu.vn

Date of receipt: 19/8/2024

Date of scientific judgment: 23/9/2024

Reviewed date: 21/10/2024

No. 98-HD/BTGTW, Decision No. 29/CT-TTg. After 10 years of implementing these documents, it is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation and make adjustments for the next period.

II. OBJECTS AND METHODS

1.Methods: The study applies a cross-sectional descriptive research design using quantitative research methods.

2.Sampling: The study used a convenient sample selection method, the study subjects included all party members participating in the Consultation Workshop organized by the Central Propaganda Department in December 2020 in 3 clusters: North, Central and South. In total, the research reached 261

study subjects.

3. Questionnaires: Qualitative data collection method: Answer with a set of 14 questions, including the following contents:

- General information of the object of study

- Types of policy documents on wildlife trade were accessed.

- Knowledge of protecting wildlife.

- Practice on protecting wild animals: Bloom’ cut-off points were used to classify the levels of practice (Poor: <60%; Moderate: 60 – 79%; ≥ 80%)

4. Data processing method: data is entered and processed using SPSS 18 software.

III. RESEARCH RESULTS

1. Demographic characteristics

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study’s subjects

Character	Frequency (n)	Rate (%)	
Age group	18 – 30 years old	34	13,5
	Age 31 – 40	106	40,9
	Over 40 years old	121	46,6
Research Cluster	Northern	31	11,9
	Central	205	78,5
	Southern	25	9,6

The majority of study participants were in the group of 31-40 years old and over 40 years old, accounting for 40,9% and 46,6%, respectively. The cluster with the highest number of survey participants was central Vietnam with 78.5%; Northern and Southern clusters had similar rates of 11,9% and 9,6%, respectively.

2. Coverage of policy documents on wildlife protection

2.1. Coverage rate of documents on wildlife protection

Table 2: Proportion of Party members accessing documents on wildlife protection

Current status of access		Northern (n = 31)		Central (n=205)		Southern (n=25)		Total (n=261)	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Access to the contents of policy documents	Yes	30	96,8	181	85	24	96	235	90
	No	1	3,2	24	15,0	1	4,0	26	10,0
Forms of access	Disseminated internally	6	19,4	46	23,0	17	68,0	69	26,4
	Via mass media	20	64,5	135	62,0	6	24,0	161	61,7
	Discussed at meetings, events	4	12,9	0	0,0	1	4,0	5	1,9

Table 1 results showed that most members had access to wildlife protection policy documents, with 90%. The two most common forms of access were internal dissemination and via mass media. In which, the most popular form was used in the Southern cluster is internal dissemination, with 68% of respondents; access via media was the most popular in 2 remaining clusters.

Table 3. Accessibility to policy documents on wildlife protection

Accessible texts	Northern (n = 31)		Central (n=205)		Southern (n=25)		Total (n=261)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Guidance No. 109-HD/BTGTW	10	32,3	60	29	16	64	70	26,8
Guidance No. 98-HD/BTGTW	17	54,8	121	59	20	80	138	52,9
Decision CP No. 29/CT-TTg	23	74,2	111	54	16	64	134	51,3
Others	1	3,2	16	8	1	4	17	6,5

The results of Table 2 shows that the two documents most visited by respondents are Guidance No. 98-HD/2013/BTGTW (52.9%) and Decision No. 29/CT-TTg (51.3%).

3. Knowledge on wildlife protection

Table 4. Violations specified in policy documents on wildlife protection

Violations: use wild animals as:	Northern (n = 31)		Central (n=205)		Southern (n=25)		Total (n=261)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Jewelry/cloths	26	83,9	157	76,6	21	84	204	78,2
Food	26	83,9	151	73,7	23	92	200	76,6
Medicine	23	74,2	140	68,3	19	76	182	69,7
Souvenir/Art	16	51,6	103	50,2	18	72	137	52,5
Spiritual goods	15	48,4	81	39,5	14	56	110	42,1
None	3	9,7	12	5,9	1	4	16	6,1
Other	0	0	1	0,5	0	0	1	0,4

Only 42,1% to 78,2% of surveyees identified violations specified in policy documents related to wildlife protection, namely: making Jewelry/cloths (78,2%); used as food (76,6%); medicine (69,7%), souvenir/Arts (52,5%); spiritual goods (42,1%). Southern clusters showed higher results in comparison with 2 other clusters; 6,1% of study subjects did not identify any violations.

Table 5. Reasons for restricting and prohibiting consumption of wildlife products

The reasons	Northern (n = 31)		Central (n=205)		Southern (n=25)		Total (n=261)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Protecting the ecological environment	26	83,9	172	83,9	19	76	217	83,1
Protect nearly – extincted animals	28	90,3	188	91,7	23	92	239	91,6
Prevention of diseases transmitted from wild animals to humans	29	93,5	142	69,3	15	60	186	71,3
Ensure the implementation of international commitments	21	67,7	129	62,9	22	88	172	65,9

The results of Table 5 shows that the reason for protecting, limiting and banning the consumption and use of wildlife products is the protection of nearly – extincted animal, accounting for the highest proportion – 91,6%; Reasons for protecting ecological environment; prevention of diseases transmitted from animals to

humans; ensuring the implementation of international commitments, are 83,1%; 71,3% and 65,9%, respectively. The study clusters had relatively different rates especially for the reason of preventing zoonotic diseases and ensuring international commitments.

4. Practices on wildlife protection

Table 6. Wildlife Protection Practices

Assessment levels	Northern (n = 31)		Central (n=205)		Southern (n=25)		Total (n=261)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Good	11	35,5	148	72,2%	15	64	175	67,1
Moderate	12	45,1	50	24,4%	5	20	70	26,8
Poor	6	19,4	7	3,4%	4	16	17	6,5

The rate of good practice accounted for the highest rate with 67,1%, the rate of moderate and poor practice was 26,8% and 6,5%, respectively. In terms of good practice, the highest rate was in the Central cluster (72,2%), the lowest in the Northern cluster (35,5%). In terms of poor practice, the highest in the Northern cluster and the lowest in the Southern and Central clusters.

IV. DISCUSSION

1. Demographic information

The majority of the study subjects belonged to the age group over 40, due to the convenient sample size selection of the study, it was impossible to accurately assess the perception and practice of the young Party members. In 3 study clusters, the Central cluster dominated with 78,5%, the remaining clusters were equivalent.

2. Coverage of policy documents on wildlife protection

Over 90% of the respondents had access to policy documents related to wildlife

protection, 96% of party members in the Southern and Northern clusters had access to policy documents to prevent wildlife trade, this rate in the Central cluster was only 85%. This may be because the Central cluster has more survey participants, the proportion of party members in charge of this related field is lower than the Central and Northern clusters.

The most common form of access is mass media, which shows that this is an effective channel to disseminate state policies. Therefore, there needs to be a holistic approach to take advantage of this form.

Guidance No. 98-HD/2013/BTGTW and Decision No. 29/CT-TTg were the most accessed, 52,9% and 51,3%, respectively. However, these figures are critically low. This can be explained that these documents were issued a long time ago. It shows that the policy documents after a while can be faded, so there should be ways of presenting with summary content, that are easy and effective to spread internally at updating events.

3. Knowledge and practice on wildlife protection

The highest percentage of survey respondents identifying violations specified in policy documents is 78,2% (making jewelry/cloths). This rate is quite low, even though these policy documents were issued for a long time. One possibility for this low rate is that party members who have access to these documents when the documents were first issued may have retired or rotated. This places requirements on the regular updating of the contents of these policy documents for party members, especially for new entrants.

The awareness on why not to consume wildlife products are 83,1% and 71,3% respondents identified the reason for prevention of diseases transmitted from animals to humans, ensuring the implementation of international commitments, respectively, even despite Covid 19 outbreak.

V. CONCLUSION

Policy documents covered at a high rate in various forms. cluster;

78,2% of respondents identified violations specified in policy documents related to wildlife protection. The Southern cluster gives higher results when compared to the other 2 clusters. 6,1% of study subjects did not identify violations.

The reason for not trading, using wild animals to protect wildlife was chosen by 91,6% of respondents. Prevention of diseases transmitted from animals to humans; ensuring the implementation of international commitments have 83,1%; 71,3% and 65,9%, respectively, respondent.

The rate of good practice accounted for the highest rate with 67,1%, the rate of good and bad practice was 26,8% and 6,5%, respectively.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

Develop concise and vivid dissemination documents suitable for many communication methods to improve the accessibility of party members as well as the whole population.

It is necessary to carry out regular annual activities to reiterate and update the contents on the prevention of hunting and use of wild animals, especially for young party members.

Northern branches should focus more on disseminating and monitoring the implementation of the contents specified in policy documents on the prevention of hunting and use of wild animals.

REFERENCE

1. **Davis, Elizabeth Oneita, et al**, An updated analysis of the consumption of tiger products in urban Vietnam, *Global Ecology and Conservation*, (2020), 22: e00960,
2. **Jones, K. E., Patel, N. G., Levy, M. A., Storeygard, A., Balk, D., Gittleman, J. L., & Daszak, P.** Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. (2008) *Nature*, 451(7181), 990-993.
3. **Smith, K. F., Behrens, M., Schloegel, L. M., Marano, N., Burgiel, S., & Daszak, P. (2009).** Reducing the risks of the wildlife trade. *Science*, 324(5927), 594-595.
4. **Coals, Peter, et al**, Preferences for lion and tiger bone wines amongst the urban public in China and Vietnam, *Journal for Nature Conservation*, (2020), 57: 125874,
5. **Dang Vu, Hoai Nam, and Martin Reinhardt Nielsen**, "Understanding utilitarian and hedonic values determining the demand for rhino horn in Vietnam," *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 23,5 (2018): 417-432.