

COVID impacts on wildlife farms in Vietnam

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Research questions

1. What are COVID impacts on wildlife farm owners in Vietnam ? Their strategies to response and mitigate to COVID's impact ?
2. What are government policies on wildlife conservation/responses to COVID ? and their effectiveness ?
3. Implications for sustainable wildlife conservation

Literature review

- Policies
- Reports and available statistics
- Scientific papers and media report

Key informant interviews

- 28 key informants including CSOs and central and provincial government officials

Online survey

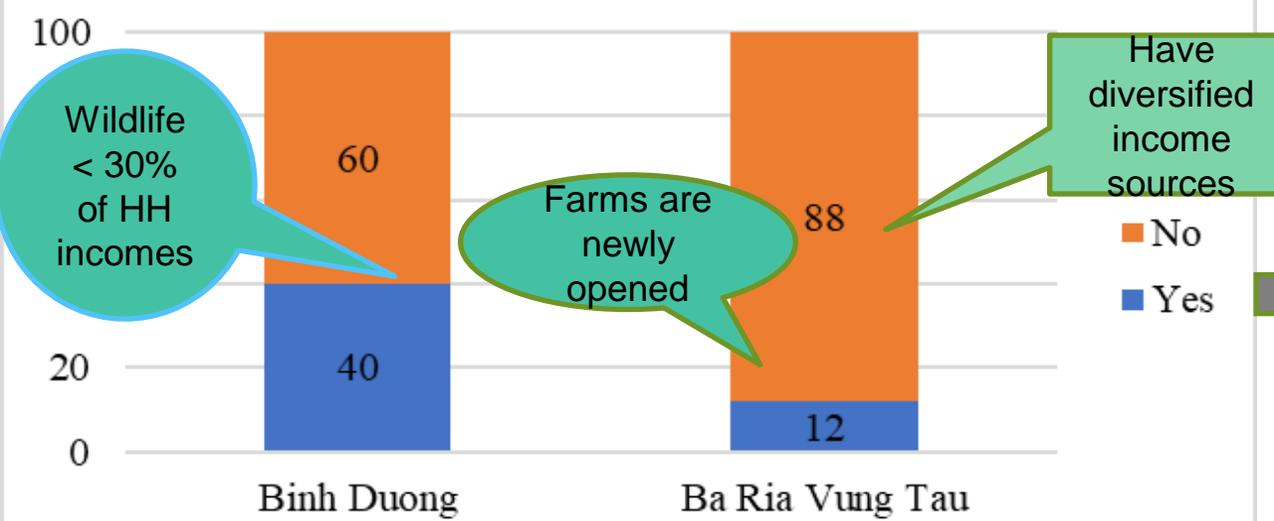
- 62 government officers across Vietnam

Household surveys

- 92 wildlife farm owners (42 in Binh Duong and 52 in Ba Ria Vung Tau provinces)

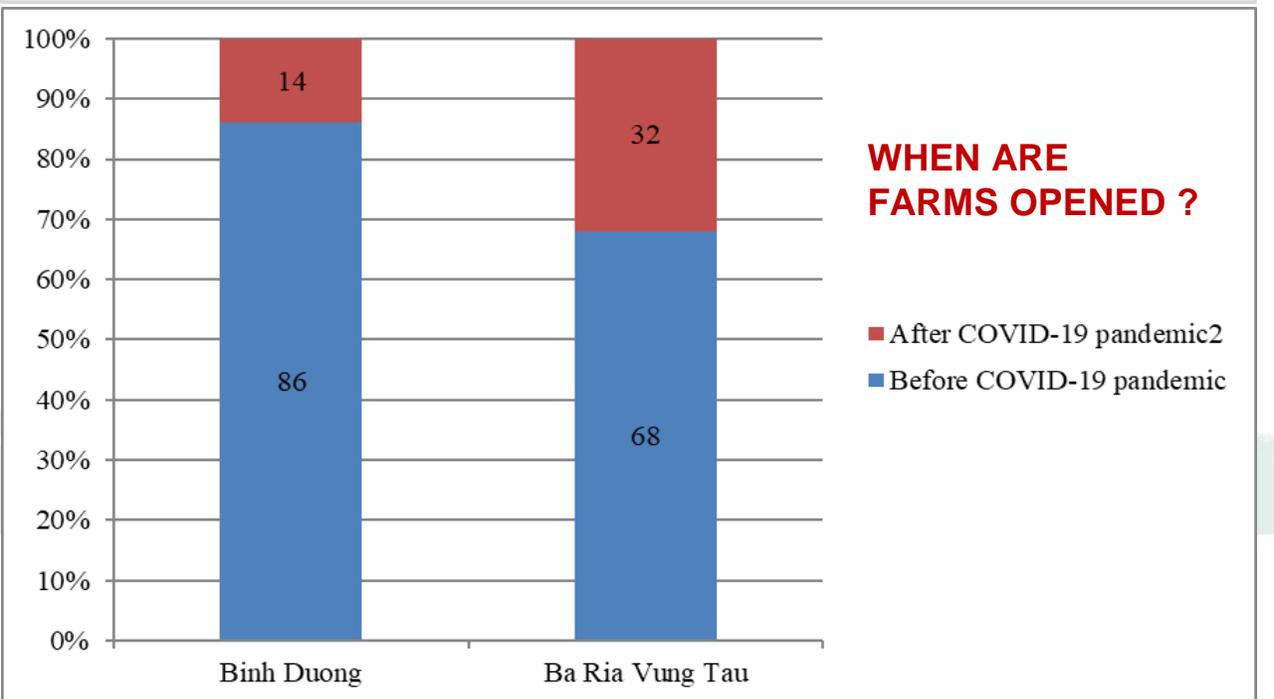
COVID impacts: Local people's views

Fig 1. Percentage of respondents asserting that COVID-19 had affected their farms



IMPACTS:

- Markets were closed (25%),
- Tourists were unable to visit their facilities (25%),
- Restaurants could not open due to lockdowns (50%)
- Increased costs for hiring laborers (75%),
- Strengthened policies around wildlife conservation, households
- Income loss



RESPONSES/STRATEGIES:

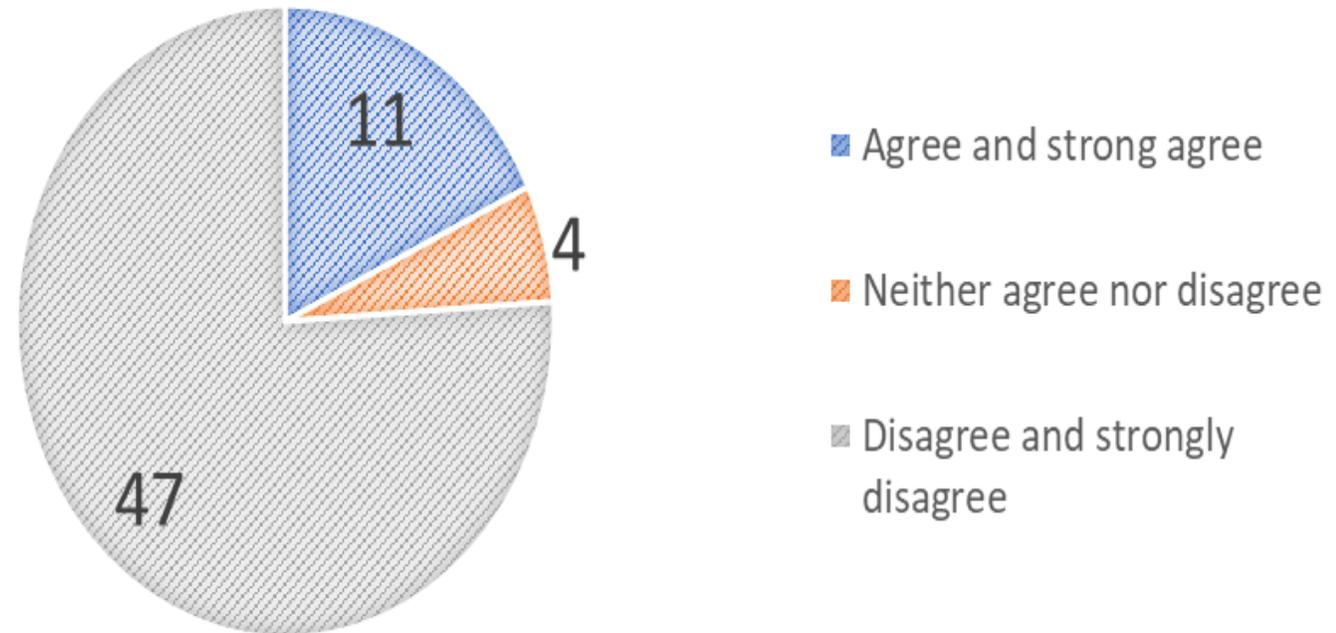
- Closing farms or sell to other owners (<10%)
- Continue to illegally trade wildlife (<10%)
- Long term strategy: continue with and expand their wildlife farming businesses, anticipating their future profits to cover any losses incurred (100%)

COVID impacts- Policy makers' views

COVID Impacts

- Negative impacts (e.g. Closing farms, reduce incomes) (54%)
- No impacts (limited contribution of wildlife to overall incomes, market and no. of farm have reduced before COVID so not due to COVID) (44%)
- Improved legal framework on wildlife management since the pandemic (31%) but weak enforcement (73%)
- Increased burden from wildlife rescue (35%)
- Increasing financial and technical support from both state and non-state programs on wildlife conservation
- Local awareness of wildlife conservation has increased through government and foreign programs.

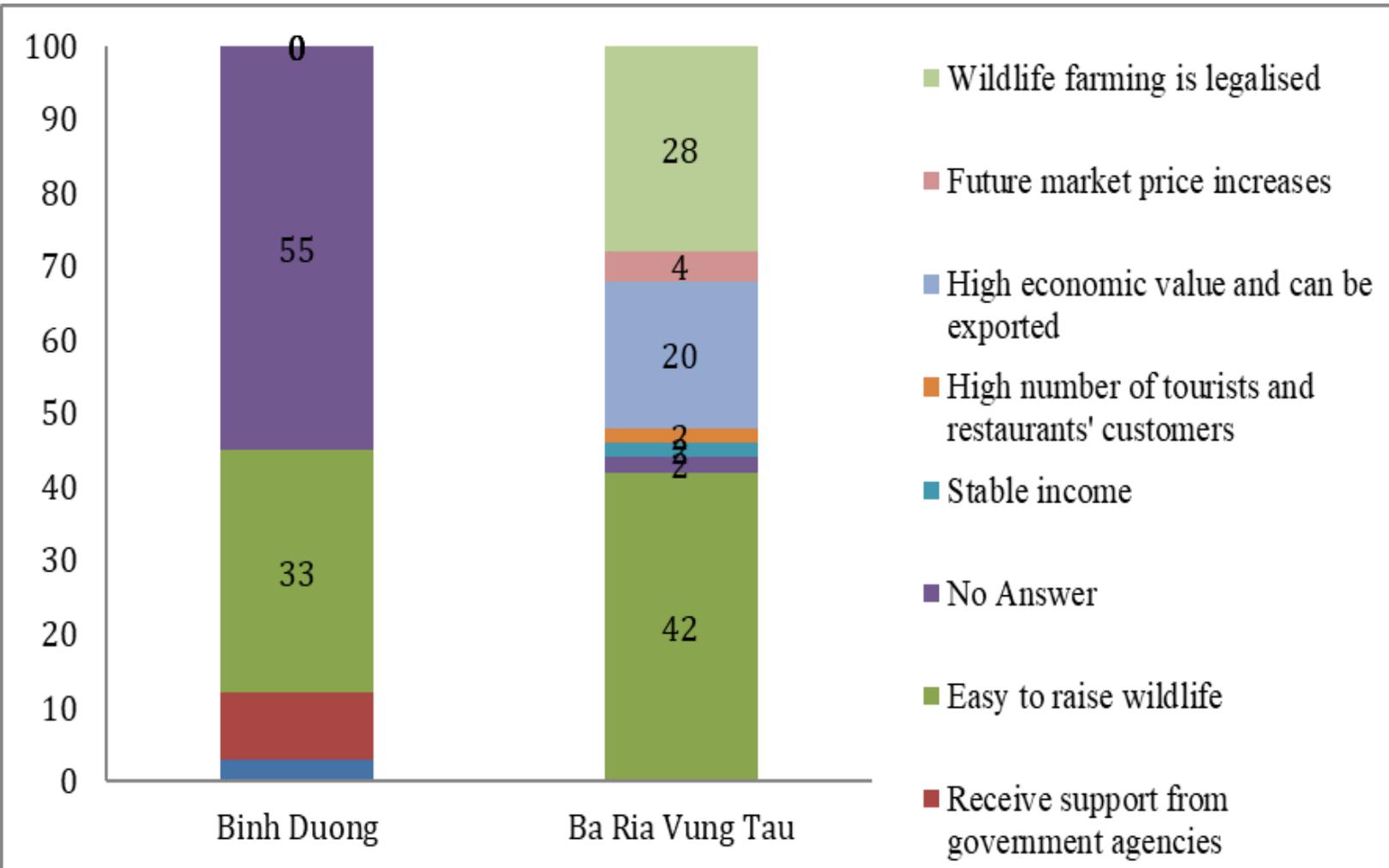
‘Do you agree the solution to COVID-19 and sustainable wildlife management is to close wildlife farms?’



STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS

Opportunities

Challenges



- Diseases
- Increasing numbers of new wildlife farms, with competition impacting profits
- Small scale leading to low profit margins
- Weak law enforcement and coordination
- Limited knowledge and understanding of both government officers and local people on environmental and veterinary standard
- Unclear and inconsistent wildlife management policies

Discussions

- COVID has mixed impacts
- Impacts are influenced by households' income sources, access and demand of both oversea and domestic market and law enforcement
- Closing wildlife farm is not “political” feasible
- Weak coordination and unclear legal framework lead to poor wildlife policy implementation
- An ongoing challenge is limited knowledge and capacity among government agencies and local people on environmental and zoonotic conditions.
- More research is necessary to understand both short term and long-term impacts of the pandemic on wildlife management



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