

MAY 2025

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For general information
contact
WildAct Vietnam
26, TT26, Khu Do Thi Van Phu,
Ha Dong, Hanoi

+84 334 509 868
info@wildact-vn.org
www.wildact-vn.org

Registered Charity: A-1357



**NURTURING ROOTS
GROWING FUTURES**



**OUR CONSERVATION COURSE
5 YEAR IMPACT IN REVIEW**





ABOUT WILDACT

WildAct aims to protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems by empowering communities through education, sustainable practices and innovative conservation efforts. We strive to safeguard existing forest and wildlife, fostering a sustainable future for our planet.

www.wildact-vn.org
26, TT26, Khu Do Thi Van Phu
Ha Dong, Hanoi,
Vietnam.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey was conducted from December 2024 to April 2025 to assess the impact of WildAct's short courses and student conservation conferences on participants' academic and career development. Responses were collected from former participants between 2019 and 2024 to understand their continued engagement in conservation and identify barriers to full-time work in the field.

Findings show strong interest in further conservation education, though many participants are only involved part-time, indicating limited career opportunities. Courses were widely viewed as practical and relevant, with older participants (26–45) showing clearer career direction, while younger participants (18–25) expressed a

need for more guidance. Gender and location also influenced course experience—women valued communication skills more, and participants from urban areas reported better post-course engagement.

The results offer key insights to improve WildAct's future training programs and lay the groundwork for a tailored conservation education pathway for youth in Vietnam.



INTRODUCTION

In Vietnam, the future of conservation hinges on a skilled and motivated local workforce. Yet the sector faces a severe shortage of qualified national professionals. Many young people passionate about biodiversity protection lack access to formal conservation education, while senior roles at NGOs and within government agencies are often filled by expatriates due to the absence of suitably trained Vietnamese candidates. In many cases, even forestry officials and park managers are not equipped with the foundational ecological knowledge needed to make informed decisions.

At the same time, rapid urbanisation, economic growth, and global integration have fuelled demand for wildlife products, turning Vietnam into a major producer, consumer, and transit hub for the illegal wildlife trade. These threats to biodiversity are growing—

but Vietnam’s capacity to address them remains critically underdeveloped.

Since 2019, WildAct has addressed this challenge by delivering short courses and student conferences on topics such as wildlife welfare and illegal trade, in partnership with leading Vietnamese universities. These programs aim to equip young people with practical skills and connect them to career pathways in conservation.

To assess the long-term impact of these initiatives, WildAct conducted a survey of past participants between 2019 and 2024. The survey explores how these programs influenced their skills, academic pursuits, and professional choices, and provides a foundation for designing more structured and inclusive conservation education in Vietnam.



METHODOLOGY

A structured online survey was conducted using the Google Forms platform to assess the impact of WildAct’s short courses and student conferences on participants’ academic and career development from 2019 to 2024. The survey comprised 35 questions designed to evaluate changes in skills, knowledge, and professional orientation resulting from participation in these programs. It also collected feedback on the perceived quality of each course or event and their influence before and after participation.

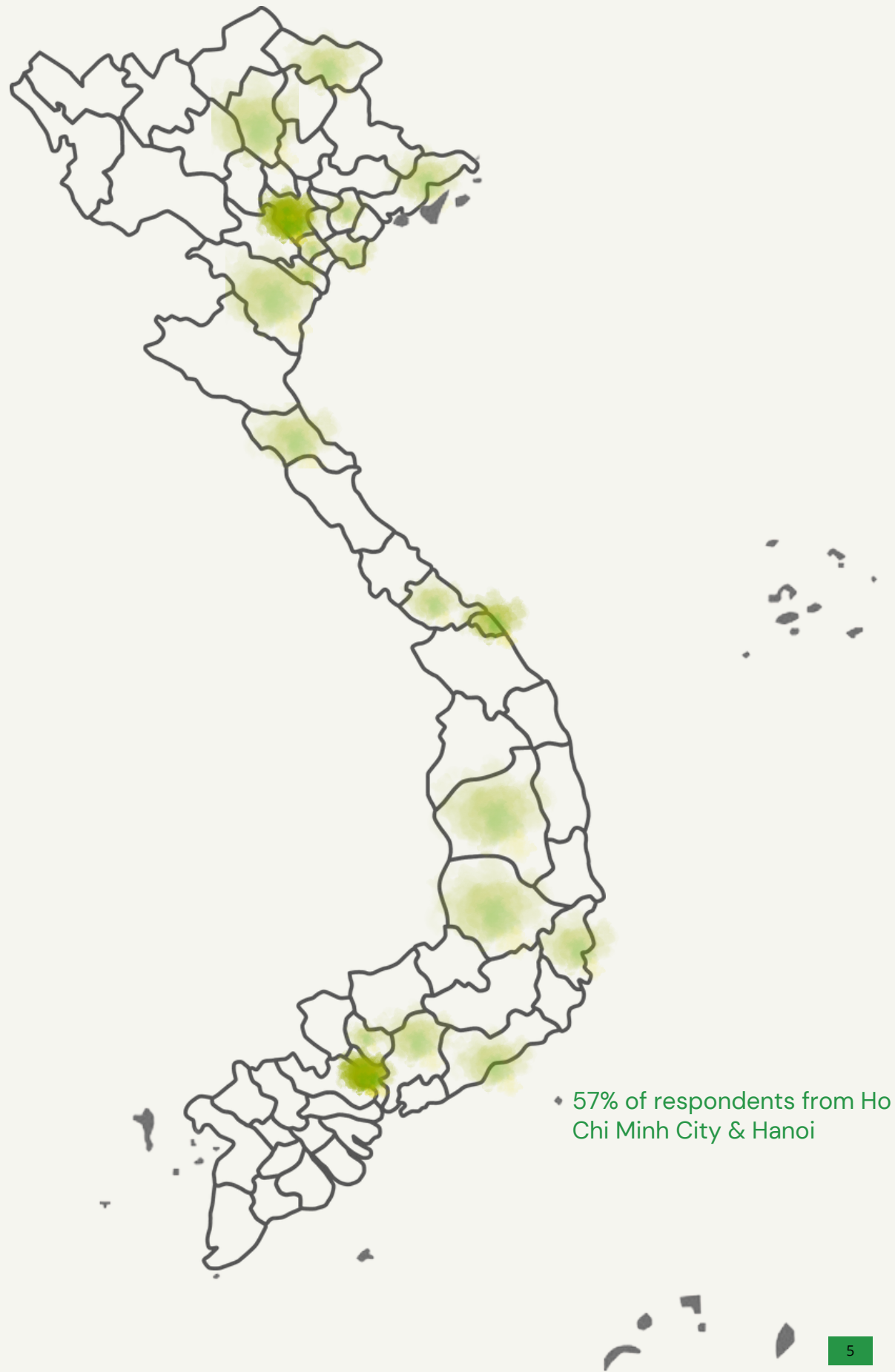
To reach respondents, WildAct contacted alumni through email and social media channels, inviting them to voluntarily participate in the survey. The questionnaire was divided into four main sections: (1) demographic information; (2) experience

during the course or conference; (3) impact on career orientation and development; and (4) participant evaluations and suggestions. Most questions were multiple choice to reduce survey fatigue and avoid prompting distress. For potentially sensitive or intrusive items, a “prefer not to say” option was included.

Participation was voluntary, and respondents were informed that they could withdraw at any time. Informed consent was obtained through a checkbox on the form. This survey represents a rapid assessment of WildAct’s education and outreach impact and provides targeted insights to inform future program design, though results are specific to this participant group and not intended for generalisation.



DEMOGRAPHIC



42
RESPONDENTS

*44.2% of alumni participated in the survey.

AVERAGE

Age group

18 – 25

42.86%

26 – 35

47.62%

36 – 45

9.52%

Work sector

Prior

After

Government

37.57%

33.33%

Private

21.43%

28.57%

Non-profit

35.71%

30.95%

Newly graduated

7.14%

7.14%

Gender breakdown

♂

♀

Frequency

20

22

%

47.62

25.38

Job title

Prior

After

Volunteers/interns

26.19%

14.28%

Officers

61.90%

76.19%

Managers

9.52%

9.52%

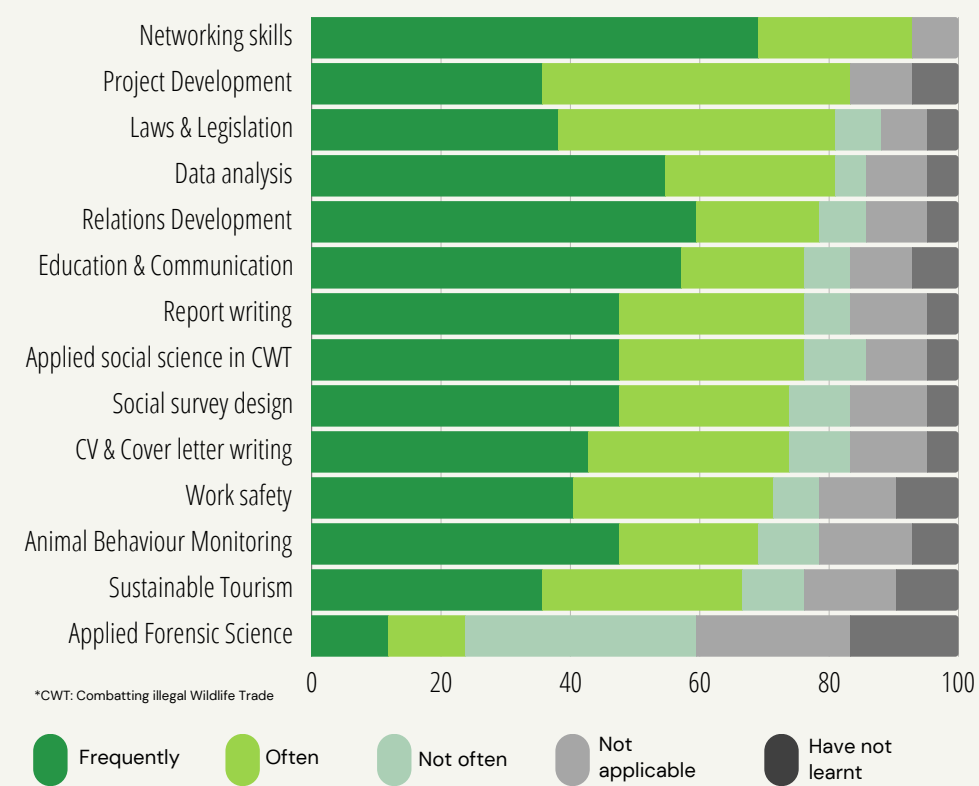
Directors

2.38%

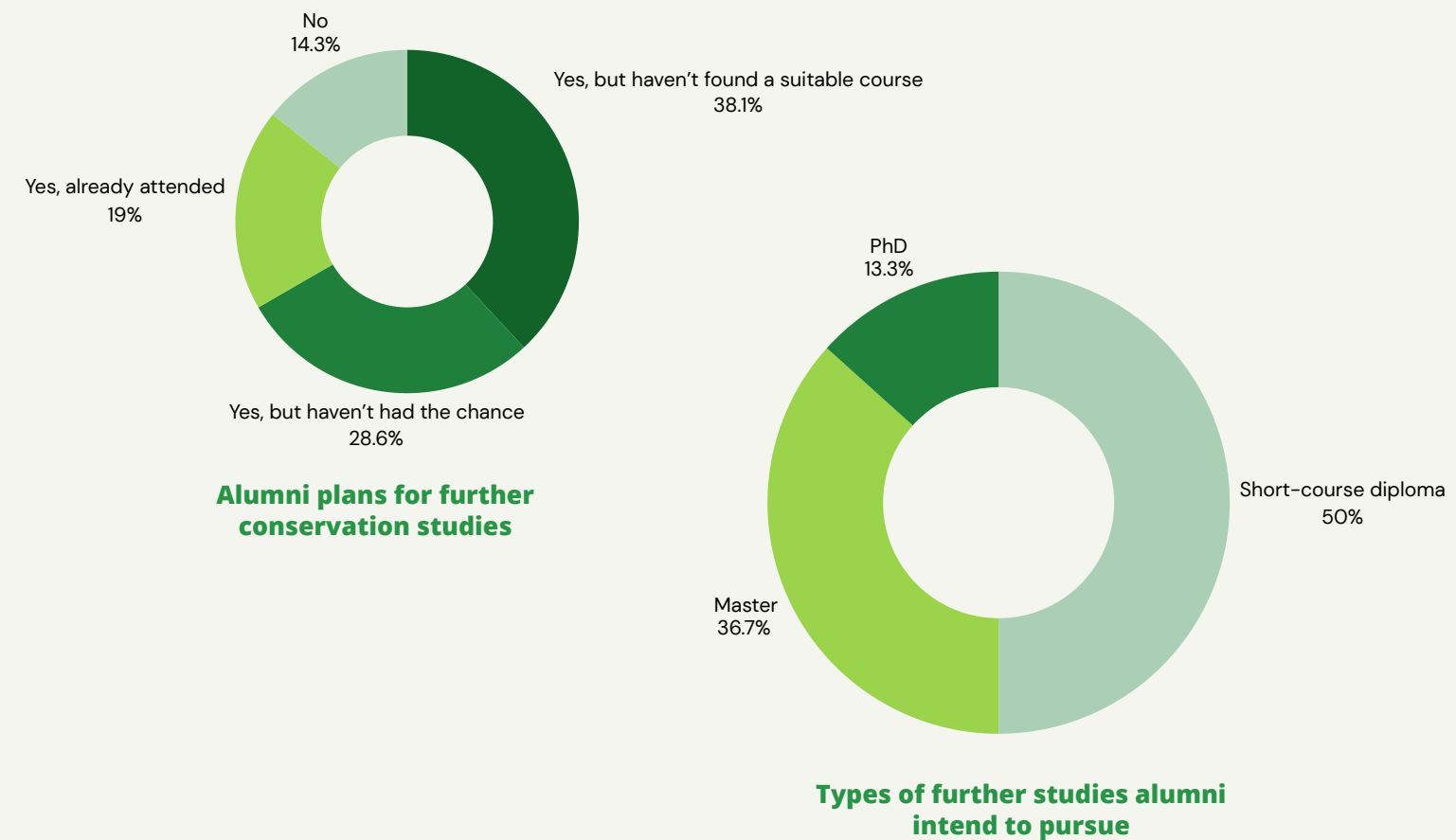
0%

COURSE IMPACTS

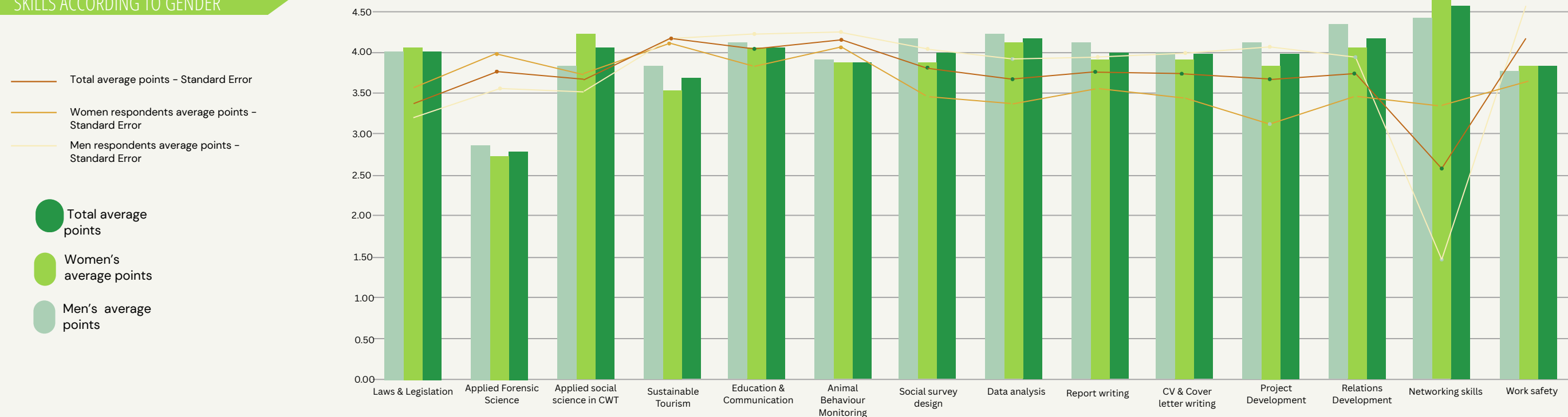
FREQUENCY OF APPLYING LEARNED SKILLS IN DAILY-WORK



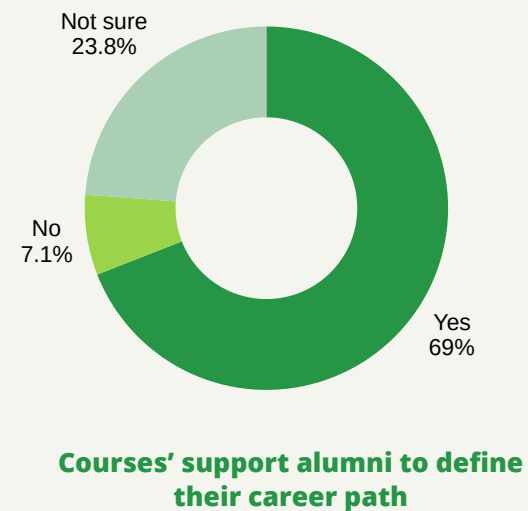
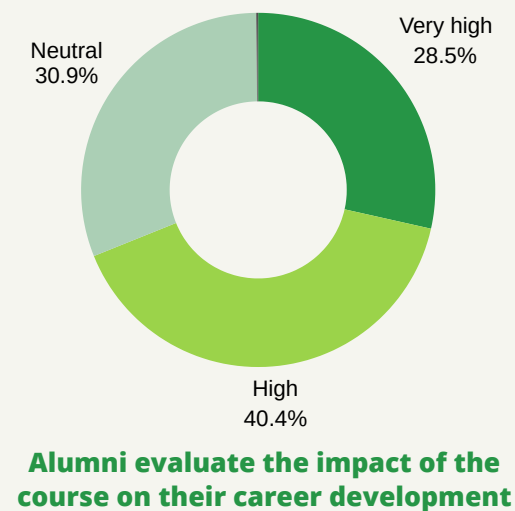
FURTHER EDUCATION IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FIELDS



AVERAGE POINTS OF APPLYING LEARNED SKILLS ACCORDING TO GENDER



CAREER DEVELOPMENT PATH



1/7 RESPONDENTS PRODUCED A REPORT OR CONDUCTED RESEARCH AFTER THE COURSE

1/5 RESPONDENTS RECEIVED AN AWARD RELATED TO CONSERVATION SECTOR

1/21 RESPONDENTS WAS PROMOTED AFTER THE COURSE

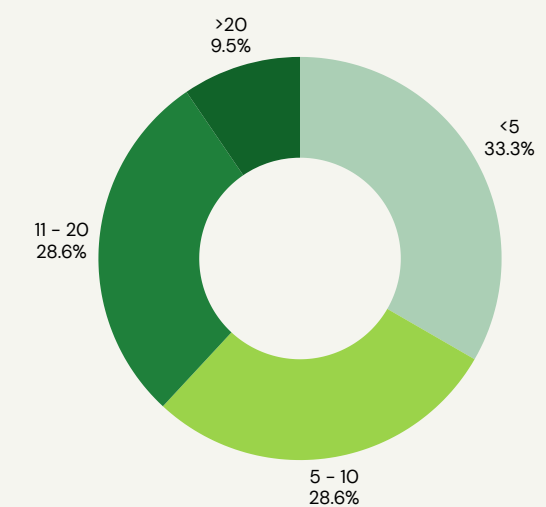
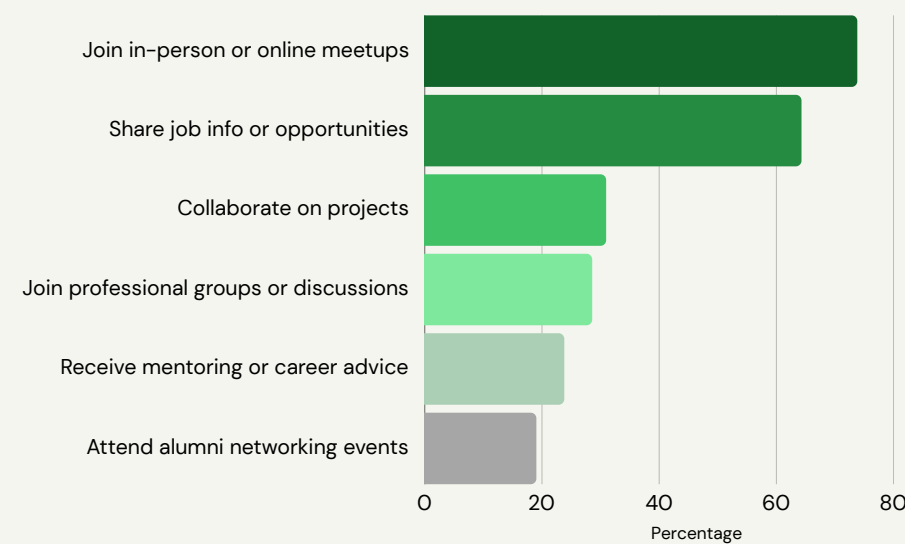


"Thanks to the course I found a full-time job in biodiversity conservation"

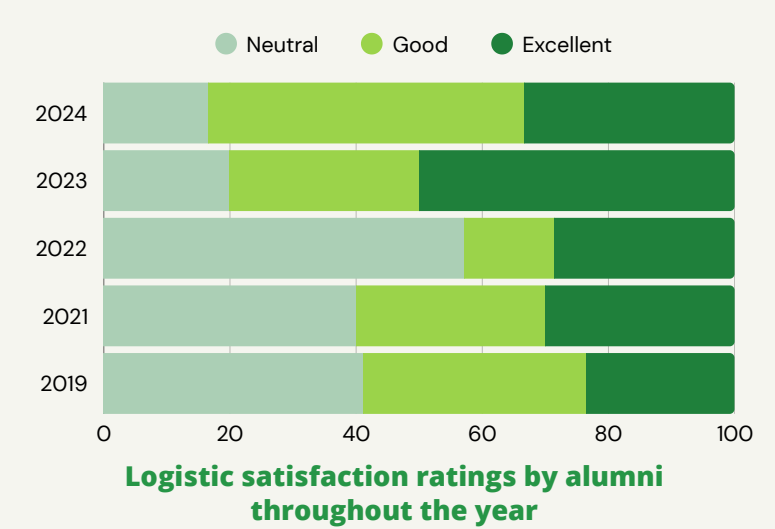
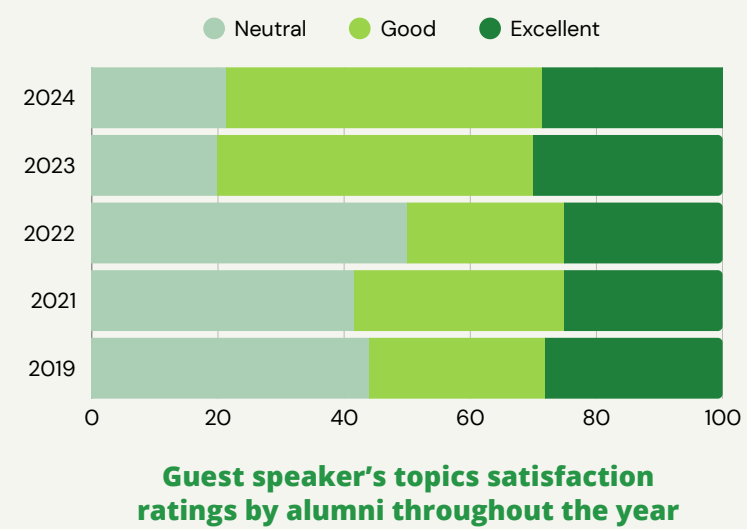
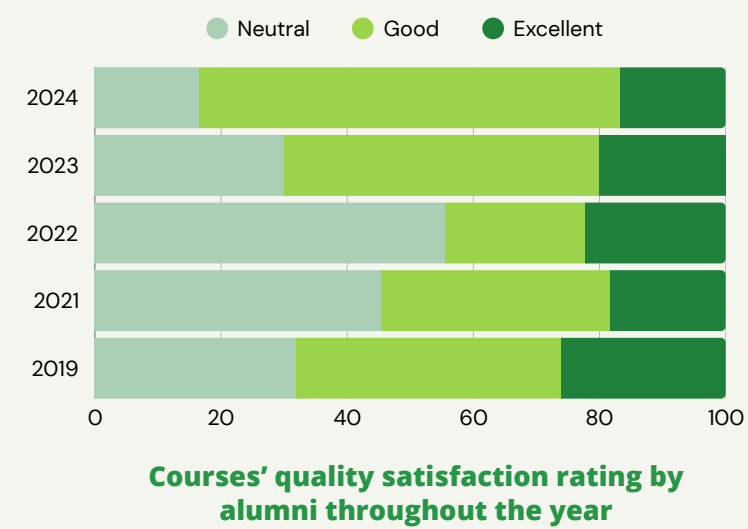
ALUMNI COLLABORATION

100%

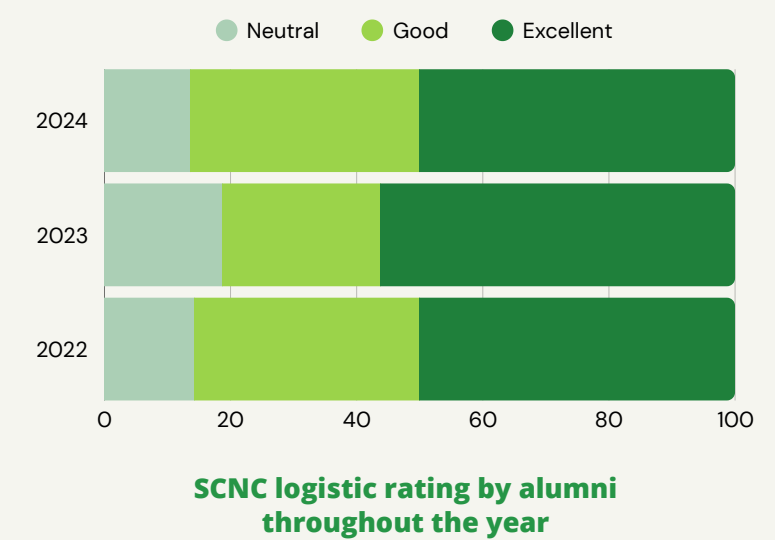
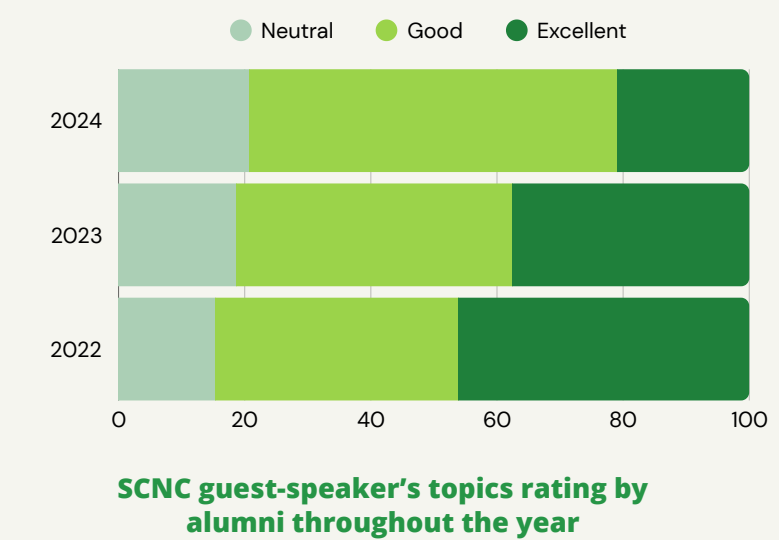
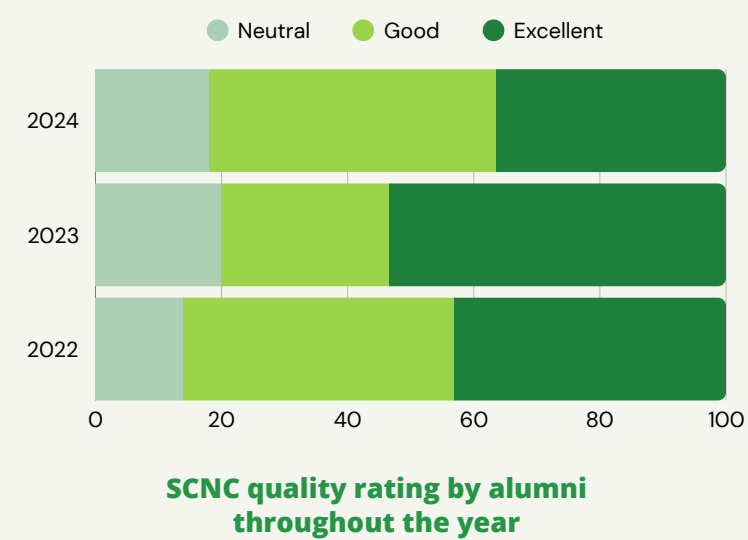
Respondents have stayed connected and continue to value the professional network built through the course



SATISFACTION WITH THE COURSE



SATISFACTION WITH THE SCNC



RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis of survey responses from alumni of WildAct's short courses and student conservation conferences (2019–2024), several key recommendations are proposed to improve the design, delivery, and long-term impact of future training initiatives.

Recommendation 1: Tailor Course Content to Career Stages

Survey results indicate varying needs across age groups and career stages. Participants aged 26–45 responded positively to course relevance and demonstrated strong career orientation, while younger participants (18–25) expressed uncertainty about future career paths. It is recommended that future programs be tailored accordingly:

- **For the 18–25 group:** strengthen career guidance components, including personal development planning and exposure to conservation career pathways.
- **For mid-career professionals:** offer advanced, specialized modules and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **For senior participants:** introduce mentoring, experience-sharing formats, and updates on emerging conservation issues.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen Post-Course Networking and Alumni Engagement

Maintaining post-course connection was found to be critical to long-term impact, particularly among the 26–35 age group. It is recommended to develop a structured alumni engagement strategy, including:

- **A formal alumni network or platform** for sharing job opportunities and collaboration.

- **Regular alumni meetups** (in-person or virtual) to maintain community momentum.
- **A system to track alumni progress** and facilitate peer support and mentorship.

Recommendation 3: Address Gender and Geographic Barriers in Access and Engagement

The findings reveal notable differences in course experience by gender and location. Women valued communication and social science-oriented skills more, and many credited the courses for helping them transition into conservation roles. Participants from major cities showed higher levels of post-course engagement than those from rural provinces. Future programs should:

- **Integrate content that supports women's leadership** and professional growth in conservation.
- **Increase outreach and accessibility** to students in underserved areas, including flexible learning formats and scholarships for those from remote or rural regions.

Recommendation 4: Enhance the Role of Trainers and Facilitators

Trainers and course facilitators should be positioned not only as knowledge providers but also as mentors and network builders. Encouraging trainers to connect learners to professional groups, research opportunities, and collaborative projects can significantly enhance course impact.

Recommendation 5: Innovate Course Delivery through Flexible, Applied Formats

Given the varied backgrounds and learning needs of participants, future courses should adopt more flexible and practice-oriented approaches. These may include blended

learning, project-based modules, and increased use of technology to extend access to those in remote areas. Practical components such as simulations, case studies, and expert-led discussions should be embedded to strengthen real-world application and learner engagement.

By implementing these recommendations, WildAct can continue to build a more inclusive, relevant, and impactful training model—one that supports the long-term development of a skilled national workforce capable of addressing Vietnam's complex and urgent conservation challenges.