

A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & CRIME PREVENTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM



Knowledge Sharing Event: Conservation Technology & Data Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Listen in English, French, or Spanish

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Stephanie O'Donnell

Event Facilitator

GWP Technical Advisor for Conservation Technology, and WILDLABS Executive Manager, Fauna & Flora International



Housekeeping

This event is being recorded (including chats and shared messages) for learning and archival purposes for access at a later time. Your participation in this webinar will be taken as your consent to the recording.

- Now:
 - Welcome! Use the chat to say hello and introduce yourself, where you're from and why you're interested in the topic
- During:
 - Use the chat to comment, share links + resources
 - Drop your questions into the chat we'll keep track
 - Use @NAME to direct question to a specific speaker or @group for a question for the panel
 - Discussion videos on, mute unless speaking
- After: If you need to be connected to anyone you met in the chat, email us: <u>community@wildlabs.net</u>

Agenda	Topic area	
Welcome	Welcome, setting the scene from GWP perspective Lisa Farroway	
Part 1: Hardware & Data Collection		
Talk 1	The State of Conservation Technology Stephanie O'Donnell	
Talk 2	Drone usage by ZimParks in the Zambezi Valley Chipangura Chirara, Zimbabwe Team	
Talk 3	How Technology Helps Coexistance between Humans and Jaguars in Panama Ricardo Moreno, Panama Team	
Talk 4	Development of a Database of Protected Species and Mobile Application for the Wildlife Identification Achmad Pribadi, Indonesia team	
Open Discussion	Guided by questions from registration and coming through during talks Panel and Audience, facilitated by Stephanie	
Break		
Part 2: Data Analysis & Insights		
Talk 1	Al in Conservation Dan Morris, Google Al for Nature and Society	
Talk 2	Geodata for Enhanced Effectiveness and Efficiency in Conservation Area Management Franziska Steinbruch, ANAC Mozambique	
Talk 3	Enhancing jaguar corridors and strongholds through improved management and threat reduction Yanira Pop, Belize Team	
Talk 4	Accelerating Conservation's Intelligent Edge with Private/Public Partnerships Sarah Maston, Microsoft & Project 15	
Open Discussion	Guided by questions from registration and coming through during talks Panel and Audience, facilitated by Stephanie	
Close	Summary and where you can go for additional support Stephanie O'Donnell	

Introductory Talk

State of Conservation Technology

Stephanie O'Donnell

GWP KNOWLEDGE EVENT: CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA

WILDLABS is the global, open online community dedicated to conservation technology

WILDLABS aims to build and support an active cross-sector community of conservationists and technology experts who use the WILDLABS online platform to:

- **1. Share information** to increase transparency and decrease replication of effort
- 2. Ask and answer questions to share best practices to increase efficiency and effectiveness of technology deployment to address conservation challenges
- **3. Collaborate** to improve existing technologies or develop new technologies that address identified conservation needs.



WILDLABS.NET

The conservation technology network]









A community of 7000+ experts across 120 countries

Community of 7,000+ conservationists, technologists, industry experts, and scientists collaborating on technology solutions in over 120 countries











WWF





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WHAT WE DO

Connect People and Projects on our Platform

On **WILD**LABS.NET, the leading community platform for conservation technology online, engaging, collaborating, and learning has never been easier thanks to our thriving forums and extensive resource library, all built for experts, beginners, and everyone in between.



With unparalleled access to rich data from the leading global community of conservation tech practitioners and developers, **WILD**LABS uncovers and shares unique, unprecedentedly insightful research through our State of Conservation Technology programme.

Deliver Uniquely Engaging Virtual Events

WILDLABS' virtual series and community events unite conservation technology experts with high-quality, professional facilitation in panels, tutorials, lectures, and more, all designed to make conservation tech's biggest topics accessible and engaging.



Create Conservation Tech's Future with Fellowships

WILDLABS Fellowships and Grants connect funding, mentorships, and support to impactful conservation tech projects in our community, helping tomorrow's conservation tech leaders turn inspiration into innovations.

IECH

SEASON FOUR EAST AFRICA

FEBRUARY



ARTHUR MUNEZA Thursday, 9 Feb How do I fit GPS satellite tags to remotely track giraffe movements?

KENNEDY MURIITHI

Thursday, 16 Feb How do I get started with setting up my camera trap to monitor wildlife?



MARCH



PHOEBE ODUOR

Thursday, 16 March How do I get started with using Landsat for land use and land cover mapping?

MOSES OTIENDE

Thursday, 23 March How do I select an ivory sampling method to generate intelligence data?



VARIETY HOUR Wednesday, 22 February



VARIETY HOUR Wednesday, 29 March



VARIETY HOUR Wednesday, 26 April

APRIL

ALINA PETER

Thursday, 13 April

Thursday, 20 April

How do I extract spatial data

from EarthRanger to create

maps on QGIS & ArcGIS Pro?





HOWARD FREDERICK Thursday, 11 May How do I create a flight plan for an aerial survey sample count?



RICHARD LAMPREY Thursday, 18 May

How do I get started with systematic reconnaissance flights for wildlife surveys?



Thursday, 25 May How do I get started with collecting mobile digital data to combat IWT?



VARIETY HOUR Wednesday, 31 May

Image: Stephanie O'Donnell / WILDLABS

The WILDLABS Tech Tutors are here to answer your 'How do I do that? questions of conservation technology.

This season, our expert speakers will cover tools and topics that help address conservation challenges unique to East Africa, while also opening up new tech skills for our global community.

Wherever you are in the world, we hope you'll join us!

THURSDAYS 4PM EAT / 1PM GMT

MAY

THE VARIETY HOUR

The **WILD**LABS Variety Hour is your monthly connection to the exciting projects, research, and ideas that are happening in conservation tech right now.

Wednesday 22nd Feb, 4pm GMT | 11am EST

wildlabs.net/variety-hour

Supported by

aws





JOSH SELTZER

ChatGPT for conservation



DR. ANDREA KÖLZSCH 7 mins Moveapps: A no-code analysis platform for animal tracking data

7 mins



HARI PRASATH & 7 mins ABHIJIT KUMAR NAGESHKUMAR Developing a radio telemetry system to study green turtle movements in India

DR. GILBERTO CÂMARA 15 mins Big Earth Observation Data Analysis: What separates the offerings from Google, Microsoft, and others?



ASK, OFFER, NEWS 5 mins Open forum to jump in and ask for something you need, offer your help, or share some news

THE STATE OF ERVA



[The conservation technology network]



2021





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Current Tools

Graph of technology use and average reported proficiencies





Challenges and Constraints





Challenges and Constraints

- I. Inequality in financial accessibility to end-users: End-users in countries with developing economies were more likely to report being constrained by both upfront costs and maintenance costs
- 2. A gender divide in perceived technical skills: Female end-users were more likely to report being constrained by technical skills than male respondents
- 3. Inequality in sustained financial support for developers: Both female developers and those in countries with developing economies were also more likely to report struggling to secure funding throughout the technology development cycle



Reasons for Optimism







Opportunities

- Collaboration & info sharing
- Interoperability
- Data analysis at scale
- Bespoke/fit for purpose tools
- Data collection & sharing (efficiency & scale)
- Local capacity building & ease of use

Looking Ahead

- A few of the key elements mentioned included:
 - Targeted investment in infrastructure (like open, community-curated data repositories) to support collaboration among willing actors
 - Resourcing and defining industry standards
 - And improved coordination and scaling of efforts, potentially through a body along the lines of an international lab





Connect into Community

- More information at www.wildlabs.net
- Contact: <u>stephanie.odonnell@wildlabs.net</u>



Intro Talk

State of Conservation Technology

Stephanie O'Donnell

Agenda	Topic area
Welcome	Welcome, setting the scene from GWP perspective Lisa Farroway
Introduction	State of Conservation Technology I Stephanie O'Donnell
Talk 1	Drones Chipangura Chirara (TBC), Zimbabwe Team
Talk 2	Collars and Cameras Ricardo Moreno, Panama Team
Talk 3	Apps Achmad Pribadi, Indonesia team
Open Discussion	Guided by questions from registration and coming through during talks Stephanie & panel
Break	
Intro talk	Emerging technology, AI, where are we headed TBC
Talk 1	Earthranger, Smart, Satellite data Franziska Steinbruch, ANAC Mozambique TBC
Talk 2	National databases and management structures Yanira Pop, Belize Team
Talk 3	Cross sector partnerships and opportunities Sarah Maston, Microsoft
Open Discussion	Guided by questions from registration and coming through during talks Stephanie & panel
Close	Summary and where they can go for additional support Stephanie



Drone usage by ZimParks in the Zambezi Valley Zimbabwe Project Team





Chipangura Chirara Project Manager

GWP KNOWLEDGE EVENT: CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA

1. The Challenge

• ZimParks support **70% of their operations from tourism revenue**, with the remainder being derived from support of partners and donors in the private sector and NGO community

•ZimParks income was severely affected by **COVID-19** when the Zimbabwean government closed its borders (air and land) to all human traffic except for returning nationals, with the result that **tourism activities in the country almost completely stopped.**

•For surveillance, we usually **use people** and patrols. There ranger complement in ZimParks is already insufficient.

•Before covid, tourists in large areas were a strong deterrent, so those areas frequented by tourist didn't need intense ranger patrols.

•When covid hit, there was need to cover everywhere and we realized how **big the area was we needed to patrol**. That's when we started looking at **drones** to help us cover the area.



Threats to Wildlife



2. The Solution

- To cover a bigger area with available rangers, ZimParks used drones that they already had.
- These drones have a range of 5km at most and are used to short-range pursuit and checking uncertain or rough terrain
- Drones have cameras to capture real-time videos and pictures of patrol data like sightings of carcasses, poachers' camps, spoor and sightings of key species
- They also work to assist apprehend poachers as they have inbuilt speakers and a microphone on the remote control.
- There was some success with these drones.

2. The Solution

However:

- >There were challenges with endurance and more flight time was required
- > The data collected needed computers with better specs
- > More rangers needed to be trained in the use of drones
- > The project ordered new drones based on requirements from current experience

Key requirements for support:

- 1. Improved Flight time
- 2. Computer where you download data, these specs needed to be better/bigger
- 3. Training knowledge is needed



2. The Solution

Training

- We have put **1.5 x the budget** for buying drones into actual training.
- That knowledge is not there, we need to train rangers and field staff to use these drones without crashing them.
- We're getting external drone pilots to come and train them.
- Parks have insisted that external trainers use their own drones so they don't "come here and crash ours" during training



3. Why is this approach successful?

- Drones have proved useful, at times with unexpected benefits.
- An example is armed robbers who had hidden their loot in the park were detected by rangers and apprehended.
- There is the additional need for drones with night vision cameras that can also track poachers and animal movements during the night.
- Poachers cross boundaries in the project area and ZimParks will in future explore the use of Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) – Underwater Drones



4. What is your advice for anyone else looking to incorporate drones or new tech into their work?



Drones help surveil the vast area in need of protection

1,616,900

hectares in the project area are under improved protection

Thematic Focus





Knowledge Exchange



HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND JAGUARS IN PANAMA

Panama GWP Project Team





RICARDO MORENO FIELD BIOLOGIST

GWP KNOWLEDGE EVENT: CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA

1. The Challenge

Since 1998 we began to search for information on jaguars in Panama; but since 2000 we started working with camera traps and telemetry. At this moment, Fundación Yaguará Panama has the most extensive camera trap monitoring in the country and to date we have managed to place GPS collars in an area where we work with the community, trying to minimize the conflict between humans and jaguars.

Having jaguar populations today depends directly on us humans. Panama is a country that is small and narrow. The strips of forests are even narrower and most of the cattle are free with traditional management and that is the perfect formula for there to be big problems where both parties lose, but the one that loses the most is the jaguar, since their populations they go down quickly. Between 1989 and 2023 we know of 338 jaguars killed in Panama.

It is here where we see that the technology of camera traps and GPS telemetry play a fundamental role in finding answers to promote Coexistence.




Área de bajoriesgo Zonas eguracon medida sde anti depredación Área vulnerable a depredación Área de vivienda Corral de tubo Chiquero de cerdos Área agrícola Área segura Río lagartito

Caminos servidumbres



We place cameras traps on the farms





We catch jaguars and we put GPS collars on them to know where they move



3. Why is this approach successful?





Mar 20

Mar 14

Mar 25

Mar 31

Apr 05

100



🕑 mapbox

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Feb 25

Mar 03

Mar 08

Apr 17

⊕ Mapbox
 ⊕ OpenStreetMap Improve this map
 ⊕ Maxar

Apr 11



4. What is your advice for anyone else looking build tech into their projects?



4. What is your advice for anyone else looking build tech into their projects?

Our goal is to have a cluster of 14 farms with sustainable management plans and antipredation measures.

Knowing about the spatial and temporal movement of various jaguars in the study area, which are the cattle farms, we will be able to know what they do on the farms.

All the data produced by the two methods -cameras and GPS collars- helps us to work with the producers, but we also use the videos and photos to sensitize the communities and the country in general. Apart from having a biological monitoring that helps us to know about the oscillations of the populations over time. Only in this way can we convince decision makers.

The communication and trust that is generated with the people of the communities will make the work more successful, this is important.





Development of a Database of Protected Species and Mobile Application for the Wildlife Identification

Indonesia GWP Project Team





ACHMAD PRIBADI NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER CIWT INDONESIA

GWP KNOWLEDGE EVENT: CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA

WHY database development & Technology is necessary?

In Indonesia, wildlife crime is the third organized crime after drug abuse and human trafficking. There are at least 723 protected wild animal species in Indonesia Regulation Ministry of Environment & Forestry Nbr. Customs Authority other related law enforcement officer **needs Practical device/application to assist them in identifying those such number of protected species which in turn can help them to proceed what kind sanction treatment cen be applied.**





The Challenge

- Exclusive photos/features of those 723 prohibited species are spread out belong to many sources. Photo from Google source need to be validated by Scientific Authority of CITES before utilized.
- How to building trust and coordinating with key stakeholders to collecting data information?
- Apply key determinant for identifying the species

How We Work?

Data Collection

- Collecting secondary data from several agencies, institutions, communities, photographers, and literature from animal species identification book.
- Secause the literature data is not fully available, then we collected data from field surveys at several animal rescue centers and zoos throughout Indonesia.
- The survey team collected data including photos of wild animals from various angles, animal descriptions, unique characteristics, distribution areas, names of species and subspecies.
- ✓ If the team can not obtain photo figures of particular species then the team is encouraged to take photos illustration of the species.

Preparation of the Application System

- ✓ IT Team prepared an application system from the description of the data collected. This include data analysis, database preparation, design preparation, flow charts, and interfaces.
- ✓ We implement a user interface and user experience (UI and UX).



COMBATTING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE (CIWT)

Why was this approach successful?



Not trying to use high tech such as AI if you don't have an adequate number of photos from various angel. Focusing on the need for the customer **"We provide What people need"**



Learned from previous experience

related to some applications that have been developed previously. So that we can learn the weakness and the strengths of the previous application..



Build coordination with key stakeholders to develop a database

and application for the identification of protected animals according to needs and it should be user-friendly. (tutorial guide for using the application is preferable to develop)



The application should be **interactive**, **real-time and easy to maintain at affordable cost.** The application development used the Android platform.



Advice to build an app or use technology?

- 1. Identify what are needed by users and choose the right technologies and development approach.
- 2. Availability of complete and informative data. Build trust and cooperation with various parties to gain complete data collection is very important
- 3. Data validation (from scientific authority) is needed before running the application.
- 4. For sustainability of use, we need to develop a *tutorial guide* for users so that data and application can be maintained
- 5. Training is also needed for users to apply the application.

THANK YOU



Driving Innovations, Elevate Knowledge





Open Discussion 1



Acoustic monitoring in Gorongosa National Park

Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory **Piotr Naskrecki**, Ph.D.

1. The Challenge



Many acoustic animals (bats, birds, orthopteroid insects) are difficult to observe and monitor using traditional, visual methods. In Gorongosa National Park we have over 400+ species of birds, 50+ bats, and 100+ acoustic orthopteroid insects, many of which are of conservation concern or endemic.





- 1. We conduct acoustic monitoring using an array of automatic sound recorders.
- 2. Bats and ultrasonic insects are recorded with Wildlife Acoustics SM4BAT FS Ultrasonic Recorders.
- 3. Recording is triggered by an ultrasonic signal that meets specific parameters and only during the time of known activity of bats and insects.





- 1. Birds are recorded with Wildlife Acoustics SM4BAT Sound Recorders.
- Recording is periodical (10 minutes/hour/24 h/1-6 months) or continuous (up to 30 days).
- 3. This allows us to detect and record both diurnal and nocturnal bird species.



- Data are initially processed using automatic species recognition modules in Kaleidoscope v. 5 from Wildlife Acoustics.
- 2. Unknown/new species are detected via cluster analysis in Kaleidoscope, followed with a "manual" analysis in Raven Pro v. 1.6 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology).
 - Processed data provide information on the presence/seasonality of species but not abundance.

3. Why is this approach successful?

- **1**. A cost-effective, non-invasive method of data collection.
- 2. Ability to detect species that are difficult or impossible to observe.
- 3. Data can be collected and recorders maintained by technicians with a minimum amount of training and experience.
- 4. Data on known target species can be analyzed nearly automatically.
- 5. Ability to detect unknown and new species.

4. What is your advice for anyone else looking to incorporate data or new tech into their work?

- 1. Software needs to be trained to recognize target species.
- 2. Recorders collect a massive amount of data (one recorder can produce 10-100,000 recordings in a typical 1-month session).
- 3. May not work on closely related species.
- 4. High probability of false positives.
- 5. "Manual" species recognition very time-consuming.
- 6. Low efficiency in noisy environments e.g., near rivers, waterfalls etc.

BREAK (10 mins)



Speaker

Intro Talk: Emerging technology, AI, where are we headed





Dan Morris Google Al for Nature and Society

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Geodata for Enhanced Effectiveness and Efficiency in Conservation Area Management

National Conservation Area Administration, Mozambique Project Team





Dr. Franziska Steinbruch

Senior Officer of GIS and Research

1a)The Geography Challenge

Mozambique's conservation areas hold more than 25% of the terrestrial territory

➢Sparse road networks

- ➢Isolated during the rainy season
- ➢Reliance on aerial support for logistics and surveillance
- ➢Not enough rangers



1b) The Technology Challenge

Large remote wilderness areas

- limits to conventional methods

Many actors with often diverse interests on the ground

- need for leadership and procedures

Weak legal framework

- digital governance / information society

Conventional techniques are costly

- geolocation and remote sensing data systems are an alternative

Slow or reluctant knowledge uptake in daily operations

- need for live-long learning

2. An Apparent Solution


2. An Apparent Solution



Transition Issues



Conventional and analog technology

Does not integrate with new tech. It requires a complete system change.

Complexity of network-based technology



Multiple stakeholder's issue



Growing number of conservation areas - public and private



3a) Property and Service Provisions

Property of Asset monitoring sensors, devices, instruments, storages, transmission systems

Data property and intelectual property rights

Asset property and personal rights (Infrastructure, vehicles, wildlife, staff, tourists)

Public goods, public assets



Communication services (internet, WIFI, LoRa)

Instrument maintenance services

Data storage services

Data provider services

Security failures - cybersecurity - Vetting Hidden costs Access to instruments

Access to raw data

Access to processed data

Access to arquive

Access to metadata

Administrative roles

3b) Rights and Responsibilities

Source of instruments often determines ownership over data

- Donated to..
- Purchased by ..
- Lease arrangements (MoU, Credential)

Sharing of instrumentation (transmission network, etc)

Data sharing

Decommissioning plans

Purpose and priorities (first to publish or decision support?)

4. The Advice

Plan in advance, have legislation in place

Know the data generation and information technology chain

Know the true cost

Manage risks

Develop protocols for communication flows, and for data and instrumentation sharing

Institute backups in-country

Decide and establish data licensing

Manage databases and metadata

Manage contracts with services providers





Thank you for your attention fsteinbruch@anac.gov.mz



Enhancing jaguar corridors and strongholds through improved management and threat reduction

Belize GWP Project Team





YANIRA POP FOREST OFFICER/PM

GWP KNOWLEDGE EVENT: CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY & DATA

Thematic Focus





Conserve Wildlife and Habitats



Promote Wildlife-based Economies



Combat Wildlife Crime



Reduce Demand

Knowledge Exchange

1. The Challenge

Data integration, quality, privacy and security: How

do we create collaborative networks that have sufficient incentives for stakeholders to participate, and share accurate, complete, and reliable data? How can we ensure that sensitive data are protected to avoid unauthorized access, misuse, or disclosure?

Stakeholder collaboration and coordination: Different stakeholders may have

different priorities, goals and interests. How can we bridge the inter-department gap that exists in wildlife management?

Wildlife-human conflict:

How can we attain balance between the need for biodiversity conservation and human activities? How do we change the perception that people/communities have on jaguars? What can be done to lower human-jaguar wildlife conflicts?





2. The Solution

1. First step, we are developing an MOU, a legal document that will support all organizations to collaboration. An MOU that outlines the specific data sharing agreement.

The goal is to set out terms that:

- > Coordinate efforts and ensure that stakeholders work together effectively
- Standardize data collection
- Standardize and promote effective use of data
- > Ensure everyone's data is protected
- Ensure ownership and the source of data is acknowledged



Longer term, the vision is to have a data repository and all data housed in department, and to have this central repository that will then allow further analysis and questions to be asked we haven't yet thought of. But right now, the first step is the solid agreement.

2. The Solution (cont'd)

- 2. Strengthening the relationship with partners, e.g., Ya'axche, CSFI.
- 3. Revising the Wildlife Protection Act.
- 4. Addressing the underlying socioeconomic factors that contribute to conflict.
 - Promoting coexistence between humans and wildlife
 - Implementing measures such as compensation for livestock losses, tourism packages, and community-based conservation programs that involve local stakeholders in conservation efforts
 - Establishing a wildlife response team





The Solution:



3. Why is this approach successful?

- Before we started, we asked: Why are we building this database? What do we want it to do? Answer: We want to make better decisions as a government. It will be a decision-making tool for policies to reduce HWC. This is where we focused, this is how we envisaged doing reports and so shaped our decisions.
- 2. We are talking to Mexico we are trying to learn from them. They have established something similar. They will present their database, and we have the long-term vision of seeing if we can make the databases talk to each other
- 3. We adopted a carrot and stick approach looking for ways to break down barriers/resistance to participate rather than enforcing participation. Where are the wins and the motivations for people to join (link to research permits; participation gives something they can point to in grants etc).







4. What is your advice for anyone else facing data sharing challenges?

Constant discussions and close collaboration with partners is key in ensuring the development of the national database.

Approach is integrated and participative (bottom to top)!



THANK YOU

For more information contact: Forest Officer Y. Pop <u>bmp.nipp@forest.gov.bz</u> OR jaguar-bz-asst@forest.gov.bz





Talk 5: Cross sector partnerships and opportunities

Sarah Maston, Microsoft



Open Discussion 2

Closing

Survey Link

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZL XHZR



Thank You!

For more resources on Conservation Technology please visit: GWP WildlLabs

