



WILDLIFE CRIME TECH CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE PRIZE WINNERS

Our PRIZE WINNERS are developing innovations that impact marine wildlife crime.

FOR THE FISHES' Tank Watch mobile app educates and empowers consumers to make wildlife-friendly purchases for their marine aquariums. The app helps consumers quickly ID popular aquarium species to figure out if fish are captive-bred or illegally or unsustainably captured.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY is using data science to tackle illegal e-commerce. Their innovation leverages the power of machine learning to monitor hundreds of websites tied to wildlife trade, quickly flagging possible illegal activity and providing much-needed assistance in monitoring the digital wildlife marketplace.



ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The **Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge** is an initiative of the U.S. Agency for International Development, in partnership with National Geographic, the Smithsonian, and TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network. The Challenge rewards innovations that **combat terrestrial and marine wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.**

In 2016, the Challenge selected **16 exceptional Prize Winners** from a group of 300 global applicants. Each Prize Winner is hard at work advancing innovations that fight wildlife crime on land and at sea.

Our Prize Winners need an active community of supporters! Get in touch: info@wildlifecrimetech.org

KALEV HANNES LEETARU'S online platform leverages the GDELT Project's data mining and monitoring abilities to screen and contextualize global media reports of wildlife trafficking, including those related to marine species, and maps trends and patterns in real time.

MARS OMEGA'S JIGZAW web app stores, processes, and visualizes wildlife crime intelligence, helping authorities pool their data and record, predict, and respond to terrestrial and marine wildlife crime. JIGZAW aims to increase successful prosecutions, restrictions, and rates of confiscation to deter illegal activity.

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Illegal wildlife trade is often hidden in plain sight.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM'S "smart invoice" tool addresses this problem by digitizing, storing, and analyzing shipment invoices, alerting port inspectors to possible illegal wildlife trade, including trafficking of marine wildlife.

The **NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER CENTER'S** Global Wildlife Whistleblower Program is designed to fight corruption by incentivizing insiders to securely report marine and terrestrial wildlife crime. The program includes an online platform designed to protect whistleblowers' identities and inform them of their rights to obtain financial rewards for reporting crimes.

Sea turtle eggs are poached throughout Central America and beyond, but little is known about the routes these poachers use. Using fake sea turtle eggs equipped with hidden tracking devices, **PASO PACIFICO** plans to reveal the transport and trade routes used to smuggle sea turtle eggs.



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Traditional DNA sequencing takes days, is expensive, and must happen in a lab. The **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER'S** solution uses the MinION DNA sequencer to analyze DNA from terrestrial and marine samples in the field and could deliver results in just one hour, providing timely evidence to identify and prosecute wildlife crime.

The **UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY** is developing NOS.E, a portable electronic nose that allows frontline personnel to identify trafficked wildlife parts such as shark fins. Using the unique odor signatures of different species, NOS.E rapidly confirms whether and where a crime has occurred without the need for laboratory analysis.

Law enforcement within large and remote reserves is challenging. The **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON'S** Instant Detect multi sensor alarm system helps protect wildlife protected areas and detects illegal fishing vessels using satellites and fixed underwater acoustic sensors.

CONTACT US

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