



WILDLABS.NET
[The conservation technology network]

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Contents

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, mottled frog. The frog is wearing a dark tracking collar with a red sensor. The background is a bright green plastic container.

'So far our loggers are being used on animals big and small - including disease transmission experiments in rodents and movement behaviour in Natterjack toads as well as studies involving sea lions, ground squirrels, crabs and even humans'

Dr. Luci Kirkpatrick, University of Antwerp, @MatsVanGestel1, @MijnNatuurpunt, Port of Antwerp

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03. Our Approach
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COVER IMAGE

'Nothing says #Tech4Wildlife louder than this bull elephant carrying a tracking collar. Using GPS real-time tracking, Save the Elephants monitors elephants to understand their behaviour and protect them better.'

Nina Constable | Save the Elephant, @ste_kenya

INTRODUCTION

With every step forward that **WILDLABS** takes, we aim to create pathways toward new and more immersive opportunities for our conservation technology community to grow, learn, and work together.

When **WILDLABS** first launched in 2015, we set an ambitious goal for ourselves: uniting the largest community of conservation tech users and makers in the world. Together, they would collaborate, learn, and innovate solutions to the many challenges facing our natural world. Every programme, event, and partnership we've built in these past years have made that goal a reality, and over 7,600 community members from around the world now call **WILDLABS** home. Our recently renovated platform is our community's gateway to the resources, connections, and support they need to continue making an impact in the conservation tech field, and as we continue developing immersive new features and engaging programmes to bring tech users and makers closer together, **WILDLABS** can only get bigger, better, and more integral to this field's growth than ever.

The depth and breadth of knowledge found in the **WILDLABS** community is unparalleled, and we've had the unique privilege of gaining insights directly from that community on what they need to thrive and make a difference in conservation, and building programmes that meet our members' needs within the always-evolving world of conservation tech. Whether through virtual and in-person events geared toward forging lasting professional connections, sparking innovative ideas and learning crucial skills, groundbreaking research into the present and future state of our field, innovative funding opportunities, an engaging new platform to share ideas, and much more, **WILDLABS** is proud to translate all we've learned from our expansive global community into resources that can make conservation technology more effective, accessible, and impactful.

2022 was a banner year for **WILDLABS** with many major milestones to celebrate, including our newly redesigned platform and the success of our Tracking Progress programme that explored key priorities for catapulting movement ecology tech into its next critical phase of evolution. And we have so much to look forward to as we continue to create new ways to discover tech tools and share expertise, connect online and in-person, and learn from the perspectives and experiences of diverse members about exciting projects happening on every continent and in every environment. But as we grow, we most of all look forward to continuing to provide the premiere platform for conservation technology online and in communities around the world

We'll see you in the **WILDLABS** community!

WILDLABS | ANNUAL REPORT 2022



We are testing AI as an accurate approach to identify and count marine iguanas from aerial images. Our main objective is to estimate the population size of this species in a short time and help improving conservation efforts in the Galapagos Archipelagos'

Iguanas from Above,
@IguanasAbove

PURPOSE

Technology is shaping the world of tomorrow. With huge challenges like wildlife crime and poaching, climate change, deforestation driving extinction and threatening ecosystems around the world, it's more important than ever for conservationists to have access to the tools, resources, and networks needed to rise to those challenges.

01

Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which the conservation sector benefits fully from modern tech innovations that are accessible, affordable and effective.

02

Our Mission

Our mission is to unite the conservation technology community to maximize the benefits of cross-sector innovation for conservation impact.

03

Our Values

'Community first' is our guiding principle and everything we do is grounded in what our community tells us it needs. In simple terms, we believe it is better to do it together instead of alone.

Coordinating efforts takes time and resources, but when we help our community speak with a collective voice and articulate shared needs, we can unlock partnerships and resourcing that is bigger and more impactful than what we can do individually.

OUR APPROACH

We catalyze the conservation technology sector by bringing people together, understanding their needs, and directing resources from across sectors to address shared challenges and realize collective opportunities.

Community: We bring the global conservation technology community together and make information discoverable



Resourcing: We form strategic partnerships to unlock cross-sector resources to answer collective needs



Research: We identify the community's most pressing needs



Community: We bring the global conservation tech community together and make information discoverable

WILDLABS is the doorway into the conservation technology sector. Our platform and events are the starting point to discover what is happening in the sector and the go-to place for conservation technology practitioners to connect with others working in the sector.

What we do:

- We make conservation tech tools, knowledge, and stakeholders discoverable through our online community platform and The Inventory
- Curate spaces for members of our community to interact, build trust, and exchange ideas/knowledge through our community forums and events
- Provide insights and curation to help cut through hype and facilitate benefit from shared learnings (helping people digest information better) through our events, publications and in-depth content



Research: We identify the community's most pressing needs

WILDLABS captures the pulse of conservation technology around the world, allowing us to identify and amplify shared challenges and opportunities for strategic intervention and investment.

What we do:

- Publish high-quality research
- Host impactful cross-sector conversations to set priorities
- Build the evidence base of the sector that our community can use to inform resource allocation
- Influence policy and funding decisions
- Gain insights into our own programs and impact for M&E and adaptive management



Resourcing: We form strategic partnerships to unlock cross-sector resources to answer collective needs

WILDLABS responds to the strategic priorities set by our community by forming partnerships that unlock access to critical resources, including funding, technology, knowledge and training.

What we do:

- Deliver industry supported training and mentoring through programmes like Office Hours and the Women in Conservation Tech Programme
- Matchmake conservation projects with tech sector partners offering funding and additional support/resources through our Awards and Fellowships programme
- Secure support and reduce costs for critical collaboration and documentation activities through the Boring Fund and collective bargaining activities
- Convene cross sector conversations to influence policy, funding and innovation priorities and initiate cross-sector coalitions to deliver priority projects



'Last week we translocated 4 critically endangered kakapo back to mainland NZ - the first time in living memory. One way we'll keep a close eye on them is through their smart transmitters connected to a data network - as on other kākāpō islands.'
Dr Andrew Digby, @Takapodigs



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

Among our biggest achievements last year was launching the long-awaited **WILDLABS 2.0**, our brand-new and improved platform that opened new avenues of engagement and connection to our global community. Starting important discussions with fellow community members, finding potential collaborators, sharing your own work through case studies and articles, and finding resources and events relevant to your own conservation tech work and interests is now easier and more streamlined than ever thanks to features designed around the needs of our many members.

And we'll reach another huge milestone when we introduce our long-awaited

and groundbreaking project, **The Inventory**, an interactive and expansive wiki-style database to help users and developers alike explore their conservation tech tool options and make the right choices for their projects. Along with highlighting tools' stats and uses, providing a space for honest reviews, and collating relevant resources, Inventory users will also be able to explore projects using specific tools, learn about organizations working with conservation tech, and more. This database is developed around needs voiced by our community for years, and we are thrilled to finally throw open the doors and provide access to what we hope will become an invaluable tool to conservation tech users and makers no matter where they're working in the world.

Following up on **2021's State of Conservation Technology** research, 2022 saw **WILDLABS'** team delve further into researching areas primed for impact. In our **Tracking Progress programme**, with the support of the

Moore Foundation, an advisory committee of movement ecology experts, and our vibrant community, we delivered a global horizon scan to assess key gaps and opportunities to advance movement ecology through tech innovation and direct targeted funding to create real impact. These efforts have also carried over into 2023 as we now prepare to host in-person workshops based on these findings, and use this same framework to explore similar potential for impact and innovation in bioacoustics.

As we expanded into critical conservation regions, we also expanded our ability to build regional capacity and support future leaders through our first **Women in Conservation Technology Programme in Kenya** in partnership with Fauna & Flora and Ol Pejeta Conservancy. This programme's first outstanding cohort of early career conservation leaders received support through funding, bespoke guidance and training, and networking with industry partners and leaders from the tech

sphere. Following this first successful cohort in Kenya, **WILDLABS** and Fauna & Flora are partnering with the Grumeti Fund in Tanzania to support a new cohort of early career women to take their first steps into a career in conservation technology.

With secure funding for our future development, **WILDLABS** can now use our depth and breadth of knowledge to expand our programmes boldly and ambitiously. In 2023, we are set to bring vital training and community engagement, expanding into key regions like Latin America and Southeast Asia, catalyze bioacoustic technologies' future evolution with research, focus groups, and in-person workshops based on our previous biologging research framework, begin evolving our existing series into the basis of a media programme that presents conservation technology stories in innovative and captivating ways while furthering connections between tech and conservation sectors, and commence planning the first global conservation technology conference for 2024/25.



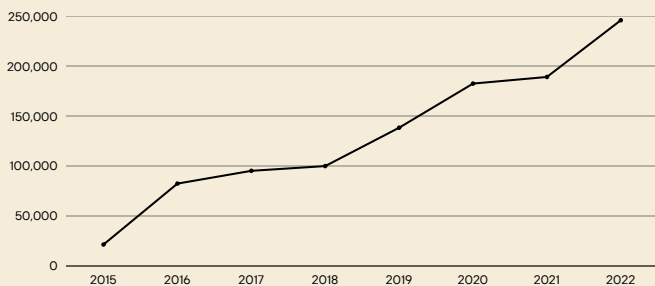
WILDLABS 2.0: A NEW HOME FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In 2022, seven years after we first launched **WILDLABS.NET**, we went live with **WILDLABS 2.0**, the new and improved version of our community platform. Enabled by support from the UK Space Agency and Arm, we worked with our community to dream, design and build an online home for conservation technology that would support users working on every continent and with every type of conservation tech.

The impact of the new platform has been immediate and significant. By improving design and useability based on our community's diverse needs, we have seen steady increases in visitors and active engagement with our platform, particularly as we've continued to update the platform and respond to user functionality requests since bringing the new system online.

Between **WILDLABS 2.0's** debut in May 2022 through to the end of 2022, we added 1,200+ new registered members to our global community, and launched four new community groups managed by teams of trained community members. And in 2022, we hit a major milestone, crossing 1,000,000 pageviews. We've had 68,000 people visiting our platform in this year alone, a wonderful sign for the future of our community and of conservation technology's growing importance, and we are so excited to watch **WILDLABS** continue to grow.

Seeing the community embrace our new platform and explore all the ways to leverage our new technology infrastructure to collaborate and communicate together has been incredibly encouraging, proving that our insights into the community's needs translated into useful tools that can



Activity (pageviews) on the WILDLABS online platform. After launching WILDLABS 2.0 in May 2022, we saw engagement trending significantly upward across all metrics, including a 49.21% increase in pageviews and 1,200 new registered members.

6,855

Active members

1,253

Resources & Events posted

1,486

Conversations started

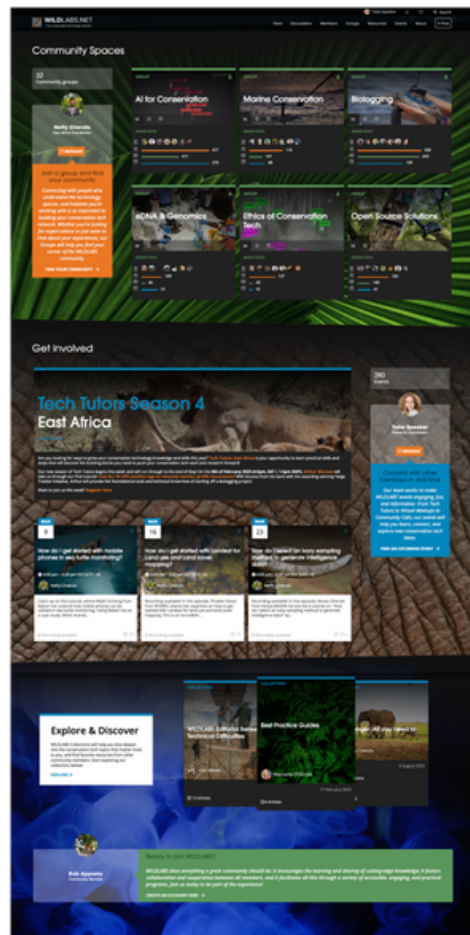
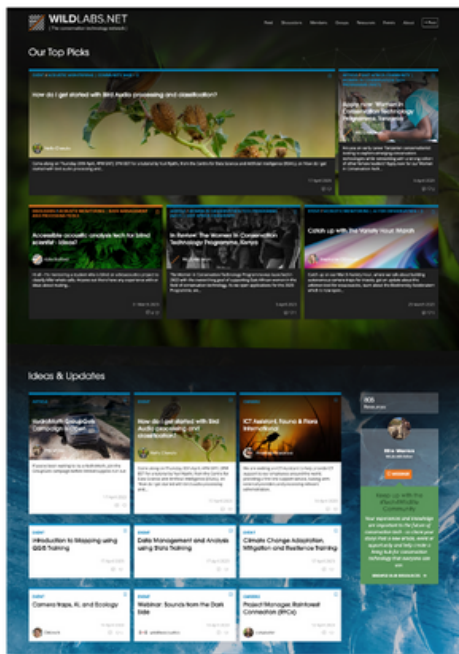
1.06M

Pageviews

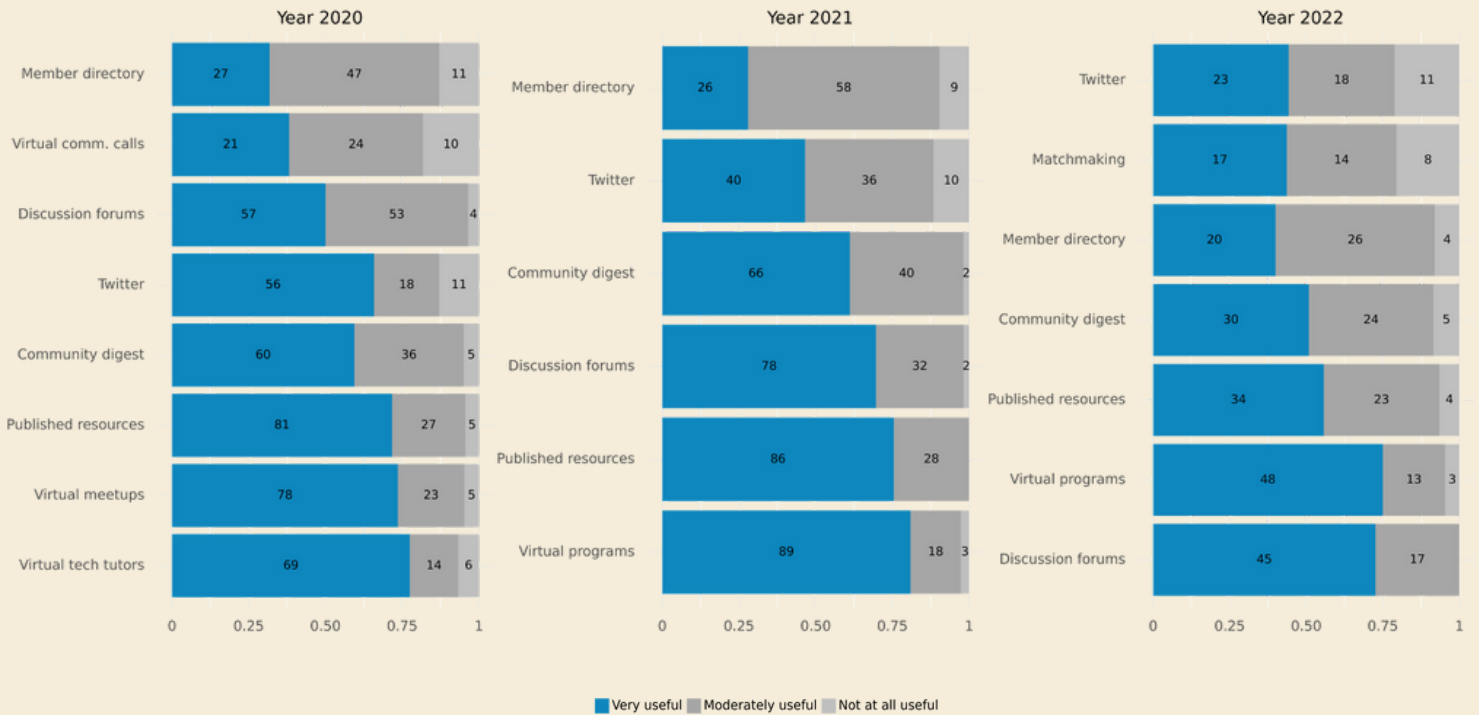
benefit the conservation technology field as a whole. In our community survey, one member described **WILDLABS** as having “Fantastic community members who are very open to collaboration [and] excellent guidance and advice from experts,” and our new features are intended to make connections easier than ever for users like this around the world.

But what we couldn’t have anticipated was the positive impact the new platform would have on how **WILDLABS** is perceived beyond our core membership by external audiences and potential partners. Our new platform positions **WILDLABS** more firmly than ever as the leading home of conservation technology online and in communities around the world - the

wealth of knowledge and global reach of our network is easy to discover from the moment you enter our homepage. Because our improved platform is the ideal place to share knowledge from across conservation tech’s sectors, we are now fielding a wide variety of propositions from leaders in both technology and conservation. These opportunities for **WILDLABS** to build lasting relationships with partners, supporters, and champions who have expertise and resources to share with our community can open up new avenues for our community members and their innovative projects, and bring even more useful tools, knowledge, and training to our platform and programmes, all suited to our community’s evolving needs.



What value do our members get from the **WILDLABS** Community?



Feedback from our annual survey suggests members are finding virtual programming to be the most useful, with discussion groups trending up since 2020. Improving the utility of our discussion forums and discoverability of information was at the core of our platform rebuild, so this result is gratifying to see.

Respondents in our annual survey mainly commented on learning experiences and the connections they made

Learning about new technologies

I mainly experience WILDLABS as a mental boundary extender. It's great to learn about stuff I didn't know before

The use of AI on small devices that can be deployed in the field. (How cool is that?!)

The tech tutor series has been incredibly useful in furthering my understanding of how to run machine learning algorithms for nature applications

Making valuable connections

The Tech Tutors meet-ups and q&a afterwards have been so incredibly helpful in building informal connections with folks I otherwise would not have known of

Through message boards and the INCREDIBLE Stephanie, I have been connected with new collaborators who helped me create new technologies

A lot of issues that I previously found intimidating areas of research (like AI) seemed more approachable after hearing about other users' work

Learning from each other

It is very helpful to see real-world experience and know that others are facing the same challenges

Hearing people's enthusiasm for what I'm doing has made me feel like I have something to offer

Met so many awesome collaborators and like minds; helped solve some problems (hopefully) and gotten a million (approximately) great ideas and tips

DELIVERING TOOLS, TRAINING AND EVENTS TO SUPPORT THE GLOBAL CONSERVATION TECH SECTOR

Our platform overhaul was two years in the making, drawing on a well of knowledge about what features our community members would put to good use, and what they have requested through the years. And our effort to bring conservation tech users and makers a useful and engaging online experience will continue as we introduce more groundbreaking platform additions like The Inventory, an interactive user-driven wiki-type database of tech tools, and launch programmes that facilitate connections and collaborations in the online sphere and in real life.

Our functionality roadmap for the **WILDLABS** technology infrastructure is already developed for the rest of 2023 and beyond, and includes layering multilingual capabilities onto the site, improving curation, group management and intuitive recommendation tools, and new data layers and analytics that will feed into the insights shared in our ongoing State of Conservation Technology research. This roadmap is designed to lay the groundwork for even more growth into new global regions and technology areas, and open up more avenues for us to translate our knowledge about conservation tech's current and future state into future innovations in the technology sector.





Among our recent successful programmes with enormous potential to grow and deliver in-depth training in key regions is our **Women in Conservation Technology Programme**, organized in partnership with Fauna & Flora International and Ol Pejeta Conservancy, and supported by Arm. Our first cohort was based in Kenya, a crucial location to build capacity and train new conservation leaders. In 2022, 15 early-career women completed a 6-month immersive tech training and professional development course, an experience we believe will set them up for career success and position their vital perspectives and skills at the

forefront of conservation tech's next steps. At the conclusion of our 2022 cohort's trainings, one of the attendees said of the experience:

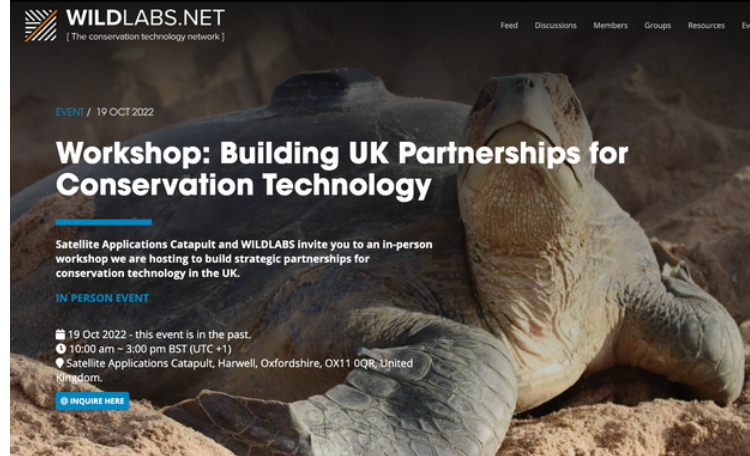
"It was all-inclusive, from technical sessions to practicals to having female Kenyan mentors that really opened our eyes on gathering the important skills to maneuver through a male-dominated space and balancing different roles in life as a woman to achieve personal and career goals."



And as we reinforce our in-person presence in the conservation tech field, we also made an effort to attend more events ourselves in 2022 to strengthen networks and a sense of community. In addition to joining AudioXD to represent **WILDLABS'** thriving acoustics community, we hosted a panel focused on engaging the tech sector in emerging conservation issues at Edge Impulse's machine learning-centric Imagine event, and led an event with Satellite Applications Catapult that united the UK space and conservation sectors to innovate future partnerships and solutions together.

In the future, we have our eyes on hosting the first Conservation Technology Conference in 2024. We know that our connection to our community and the deep networks we've build will allow us bring together conservation tech users and makers from around the world, in person, to collaborate and connect in the expertly facilitated spaces that **WILDLABS'** members have come to expect from us.

And these networking and collaboration seeding events were far from our only important events of the year! We continued to build our library of in-depth training programmes, adding the **Earth Observation 101** course in collaboration with Satellite Applications Catapult. This course equipped participants with practical skills focusing on remote sensing, a consistently growing area of conservation tech work in high demand with our community. Alongside this course, we also supported ZSL to publish **A Best Practice Guide to Satellite Technologies for Tracking Wildlife**.



We also introduced **The Variety Hour**, an interactive and engaging monthly event that connects our audience to people working on exciting conservation tech projects around the world, and space to openly discuss and debate emerging conservation tech issues like AI and NFTs, providing the opportunity to learn together, debate perspectives, and build a sense of community with peers from all around the world.

This year, we'll continue building upon that sense of community with more virtual events that speak to specific community needs focused on key regions and technologies. Our popular Tech Tutors series has returned for a fourth season dedicated to the questions of our East African community, while also opening up new tech skills for our global viewership. As always, this season of **Tech Tutors** provides practical skills that serve as the building blocks for using conservation technology with confidence, and our diverse lineup of speakers highlights experts who can speak to East Africa's unique conservation tech challenges.

Of the importance of programmes like our Virtual Series, a community member in our annual survey said:

*"I am relatively siloed in my field within my organization, so **WILDLABS** is extremely helpful as a resource to connect with other professionals working on similar problems, and the webinar series are fabulous."*

Based on feedback like this gathered throughout the years of **WILDLABS'** growth, we know that our virtual series deliver value to participants attending sessions and viewers watching in our Youtube archives, and we look forward to expanding these programmes into a vibrant media network that captures expert voices, important discussions, and needed learning opportunities that span the conservation tech field.

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

MONTH	DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
FEBRUARY	Thursday, 9 Feb	ARTHUR MUNEZA	How do I fit GPS satellite tags to remotely track giraffe movements?
	Thursday, 16 Feb	KENNEDY MURIITHI	How do I get started with setting up my camera trap to monitor wildlife?
MARCH	Thursday, 9 March	MTALII OCHIENG	How do I get started with mobile phones in sea turtle monitoring?
	Thursday, 16 March	PHOEBE ODUOR	How do I get started with using Landsat for land use and land cover mapping?
APRIL	Thursday, 13 April	ALINA PETER	How do I extract spatial data from EarthRanger to create maps on QGIS & ArcGIS Pro?
	Thursday, 20 April	YURI NJATHI	How do I get started with bird audio processing and classification?
MAY	Thursday, 11 May	RICHARD LAMPREY	How do I get started with systematic reconnaissance flights for wildlife surveys?
	Thursday, 18 May	HOWARD FREDERICK	How do I create a flight plan for an aerial survey sample count?
MAY	Thursday, 25 May	JACQUILINE BUBI	How do I get started with collecting mobile digital data to combat IWT?
	Wednesday, 22 February	VARIETY HOUR	
Wednesday, 29 March	VARIETY HOUR		
Wednesday, 26 April	VARIETY HOUR		
Wednesday, 31 May	VARIETY HOUR		

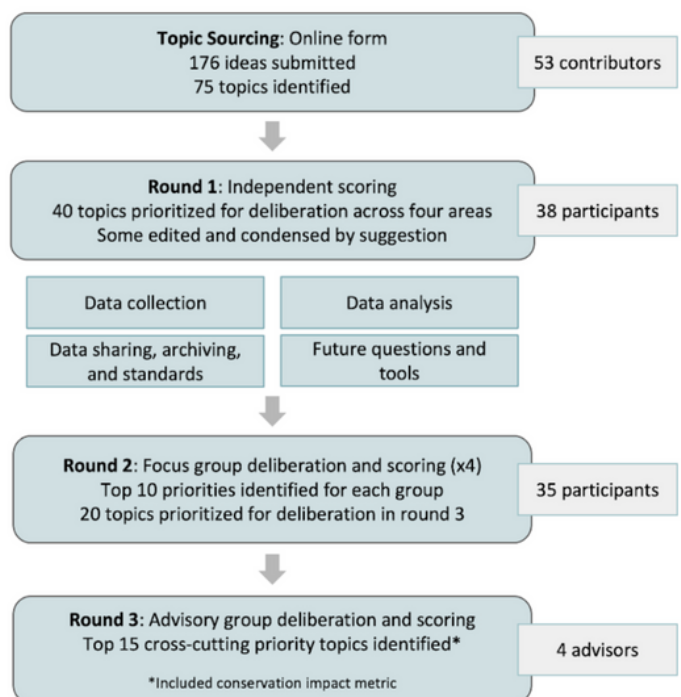
Image: Stephanie O'Donnell / WILDLABS

CONVENING LEADERS ACROSS SECTORS TO SET INNOVATION, INVESTMENT AND IMPACT PRIORITIES

Building on our groundbreaking State of Conservation Technology research published in 2021, which delivered the first global, community-sourced assessment of the current state of trajectory of our field, the **WILDLABS** research team took a deeper dive into the potential of technology through our Tracking Progress programme, supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. In this ongoing project, we aimed throughout 2022 to harness the collective expertise of the global **WILDLABS** community through expertly facilitated virtual meetups and focus group discussions to conduct the first global horizon scan of innovation in movement ecology.

In the first year of Tracking Progress, we leveraged forecast science to identify emerging developments that could advance the field through a global horizon scan on movement ecology innovation. Movement ecology presented a rich discipline for exploration, bringing together some of

the most critical questions and paradigm-shifting opportunities of modern conservation science. Advancing our ability to understand animal movement is essential to biodiversity conservation, presenting fascinating and



Horizon scan process used to identify and prioritize movement ecology innovations. The horizon scan consisted of an online form to source topics followed by initial scoring, group deliberation and rescoring, and a final prioritization following a modified Delphi technique.

important insights into human-wildlife coexistence and our changing natural world. Likewise, this area of study is primed for innovation, and WILDLABS' ability to convene experts who understand how technology can impact the current future trajectory of movement ecology studies allowed us to explore what is needed to create impact in this field with unprecedented and interdisciplinary depth.

Our goal is that the outputs of this work, set to be published later in 2023, will deliver community-sourced recommendations to the Moore Foundation and other funders and stakeholders identifying key areas of strategic investment in the sector. And by highlighting emerging projects and people, research questions, and technology innovations with the potential to advance the field within the

next twenty years, this programme has helped us seize the opportunity to catapult the evolution of tracking technology forward.

As we enter the second phase of Tracking Progress, we will hone in on selected priority areas identified during our horizon scan as those which **WILDLABS** is uniquely positioned to move forward. This new phase is a vital step forward for this programme and for **WILDLABS** as a whole, as it will showcase our ability to not only identify the needs of the conservation tech field, but to respond to those needs and bring tangible impact to their evolution. We are also pleased that our work in Tracking Progress will serve as the framework for a similar programme funded by the Moore Foundation to conduct a horizon scan on the state of bioacoustic studies and tools.

TRACKING PROGRESS

VIRTUAL MEETUPS | SEASON FOUR

This season, we're bringing together leading engineers, conservationists, and academics to explore the future of technology in movement ecology and ask where exactly investment is needed to catapult this field forward.

Join us to discuss emerging tools for data collection, analysis, and sharing, and imagine future tech innovations that could answer questions we haven't yet thought to ask.

DATA COLLECTION

APRIL 27 | 2PM BST



ROLAND KAYS
NC Museum of Natural Sciences



MELINDA HOLLAND
Wildlife Computers



YUUKI WATANABE
National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo University



VIKRAM IYER
University of Washington

DATA ANALYSIS

MAY 11 | 4PM BST



SARA BEERY
Caltech



SOMAYEH DODGE
UC Santa Barbara



CHRISTEN FLEMING
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute



MACKENZIE MATHIS
DeepLabcut, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne

DATA SHARING & ARCHIVING

MAY 25 | 3PM BST



SARAH DAVIDSON
Movebank, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior



ABBY BENSON
USGS



STUART MACKENZIE
Motus, Birds Canada



RAFAEL ANTELO ALBERTOS
WWF-Bolivia

FUTURE QUESTIONS AND TOOLS

JUNE 8 | 3PM BST



CHRISTIAN RUTZ
Int. Biologging Society, University of St Andrews



MARTIN WIKELSKI
ICARUS, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior



TANYA BERGER-WOLF
Wild Me, Ohio State University



RAN NATHAN
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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wildlabs.net/tracking-progress

Supported by
GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION



LEVERAGING OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS TO CHANNEL CRITICAL EXPERTISE, TALENT AND RESOURCES TO IMPACTFUL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

We've also recently launched **AI for Conservation Office** hours with Dan Morris from Google's AI for Nature and Society program. In this matchmaking programme we bring together conservationists and data scientists from Google, Microsoft and more tech industry leaders to provide bespoke advice on incorporating AI into projects. These 1:1 sessions are invaluable in helping community members conquer challenges with AI, one of the tech tools identified in our research as having tremendous promise for transforming the field, but also one with a large perceived learning curve.

By creating a space for experts and conservationists to unite and

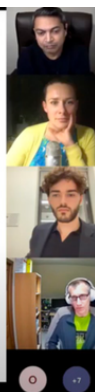
troubleshoot challenges together, we can not only set up conservationists for success in their work with AI, but let tech industry experts see firsthand how AI tools are being used in practice by our community, leading to positive learning experiences on both sides. Google's Dan Morris said of working with our community members in these sessions:

"Reading papers can only tell us what what the conservation technology community is already doing, and what tools they're already using. These office hours offer an amazing insight into what ecologists are trying to do, and why some tools aren't working for them, which helps guide the technology we develop and the resources we provide to get the most out of that technology."

Questions we'll try to answer together...

- Is this possible with AI at all, and what kind of accuracy might we expect?¹
- Has someone else already solved this problem for you...
 - ...completely? (never)
 - ...to the point where we should start from an existing model? (almost never)
 - ...to the point where someone else would have good advice on this problem? (common)

¹Basically we will try to guess accuracy to the level of "perfect", "good", and "bad"... if you can accurately predict accuracy before you do the work, you can have like five PhDs in machine learning.



And on a larger scale, **WILDLABS** is primed to enter a new phase of directly supporting conservationists working with technology through funding, mentoring, and access to our world-class network as our Awards and Fellowships programmes grow. In 2022, we piloted this programme with two fellows sponsored by Edge Impulse and one awardee sponsored by the Brun Bear Foundation. Of her experience as a fellow working with an Edge Impulse mentor, Loretta Schindlerová said,

“Throughout the fellowship, the guidance of my Edge Impulse mentor and the resources provided by WILDLABS have proven invaluable in my journey to become proficient in machine learning and its application in conservation biology. Before this fellowship, my understanding of machine learning was limited, but with their support and expertise, I have gained a deeper understanding of these methods and how they can be used to address conservation challenges. In particular, the regular meetings with my mentor have been instrumental in achieving good results in my project.”

With funding from the UK Space Agency, we were supported by the experts at the Satellite Catapult to develop a roadmap for scaling this fellowship programme in 2023 and beyond. This year, we are excited to work with Arm in the next phase of this project and work toward expanding this programme significantly, ultimately delivering on our goal of mobilizing new cross sector funding and technical resources to support the outstanding conservation tech projects emerging from our community that have the potential for impact.

In 2023, in partnership with Arm we'll be offering 15 awards in funding amounts of \$10,000 through to \$60,000 to support conservation technology work within our community. With our roadmap developed to scale even more over the course of the coming years, **WILDLABS** has eyes on creating real and lasting impact in the field through the outstanding cohorts we'll support now and in the future.

WILDLABS FELLOWSHIPS

wildlabs.net/fellowships

1 FUNDING
Grants are the fuel that take innovative ideas from the starting point to the finish line. Direct financial support for conservation technologists is critical to deliver new solutions and data needed to address conservation's biggest challenges.

2 MENTORSHIP
Our tech partners have more to offer to conservation than just funding. By providing mentorship, access to technology and training, or other forms of support, our tech partners will support Fellows to ensure their projects have long-term impact.

3 COMMUNITY
We'll support fellows to effectively document their project's progress on **WILDLABS**. Fellows will benefit from the support and advice of our expert community, and you help shape solutions that meet real-world challenges.

WILDLABS.NET
[The conservation technology network]

IMPACT

Community: We bring the global conservation tech community together and make information discoverable

Key indicators:

- 1154 new members registered, 536 new posts published, and 245,949 pages viewed in 2022.
- 39 speakers hosted by 3 facilitators across 14 public virtual events, featuring 40% women
- Key Events
 - The Variety Hour: 127 unique participants showed up in 162 check-ins across the 4 events, with average duration of attendance of 72 mins for our 60 min scheduled calls (we host an informal 'after hours' session after the main recorded event).
 - Earth Observation 101 Lecture Series: Videos have received 2,557 views on YouTube.
 - #Tech4Wildlife Photo Challenge: 230+ photos and videos showcasing how community members are using tech in their conservation work shared in our 7th Annual photo challenge on Twitter
 - 10 experts engaged in our 'Sustained Effort' editorial series, to be published in 2023
 - Best Practice Guide for Satellite Tracking prepared for publication in 2023
 - 10 experts engaged to speak in Tech Tutors: East Africa, launching early 2023
- On Youtube, our event recordings and virtual trainings received 21,179 views in 2022, clocking 1,731.2h of view time.

Research: We ask our community what they need

Key Indicators

- Virtual meetups ahead of formal horizon scan process engaged 517 unique participants from 71 countries. They showed up in 735 unique check-ins across 4 events. The average duration of attendance in our 90-minute calls was 84.4 minutes.
- 38 experts participated in horizon scanning, resulting in 30 identified priorities across 3 key areas
- 223 survey respondents to the annual State of Conservation Technology Survey (2022)
- Baseline and post workshop data from 15 participants captured to measure impact of Women In Conservation Technology Programme.
- The State of Conservation Technology 2021: The open-access **academic publication** has received 8 citations, 3 recommendations, 131 journal readers, 10 news stories from 8 outlets (including The New York Times), and 49 tweets from 33 users with an upper bound of 238,744 followers. Altmetric has tracked 23,848,132 research outputs across all sources so far. Compared to these this one has done particularly well and is in the 98th percentile: it's in the **top 5% of all research outputs ever tracked by Altmetric**. The **interactive public report** published on **WILDLABS** had 5,106 views in 2022.

Resourcing: We form strategic partnerships to unlock cross-sector resources to answer collective needs

Key Indicators:

In summary, 17 industry engineers from four tech partners provided advice and mentoring to conservation tech projects, \$22,000 in grants distributed to support 18 women with their conservation tech work. A further \$350,000 secured to distribute in 2023, and three new industry partnerships established.

Specific programme details:

- 22 people hosted at in-person cross-sector workshops and events
- 15 early career Kenyan women received training and support from seven female mentors and trainers involved in Women in Conservation Technology Programme: Kenya. All participants received additional \$500 grant to support further training and technology implementation efforts.
- 15 conservationists from 12 countries were supported with one-to-one project advice from five industry experts in AI from Google and other partners.
- 2 fellowships (\$7,500 each) and 1 award (\$800) provided funding and mentorship from industry partners to three female conservationists with their technology implementation projects.



'TMA has a long history of using #Tech4Wildlife, and we pride ourselves on staying on top of the newest and most powerful technological advancements in the fields of #wildlife, #research and #conservation. Today we share an example of our tech for @WILDLABSNET's photo challenge'

Third Millennium Alliance, @tma_earth

We've also found that **WILDLABS** had a measurable impact on members in key areas:

Members were **1.5x** less likely than non-members to report constraints relating to **accessing training** or **mentoring and advice**.

Members also found it easier to **match conservation and technical resources**, being **1.5x** less likely to report this as a challenge area.

Interestingly, **WILDLABS** members were **2x** more likely to identify **scaling technologies sustainably** as a primary challenge than non-members. This may reflect increased awareness of sector-wide dynamics due to deeper engagement with the global community.



FINANCIALS: POSITIONING WILDLABS TO SCALE

Behind the scenes, 2022 was a transformative year for **WILDLABS** operationally. Our most significant achievement of the year was to achieve the security of multi-year funding, and we entered 2023 with all of the key programmatic areas we are developing over the next 3 years supported with funding. For many of these projects, we now have roadmaps to seek additional funding and partners to grow their scale and impact, and with our core needs covered, we have the security of knowing exactly how to drive our programmes forward and how new partners can fit into this development plan. The positive impact of this security cannot be overstated in terms of our longterm goals. This is the first time we

have known where our funding is coming from more than a single year in advance, and the creativity and freedom this allows is transformative. While financial security has given us the ability to build our programmes with longevity and sustainability in mind, it has also given us the equally important ability to maintain our core team who have been absolutely vital to **WILDLABS'** success. Because of this, the people who understand our community's evolving needs best will be the ones leading, scaling, and designing programmes with the benefit of their hard-earned expertise and deep understanding of the field. Likewise, the core partnerships that are the backbone of **WILDLABS** can also remain consistent even as we grow

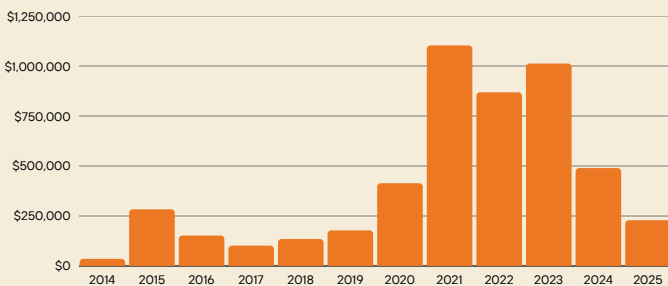
and welcome new partners to the fold, allowing us to build powerful networks and programmes with the world's leading conservation organisations.

This kind of stability goes beyond supporting jobs and allowing programmes to thrive - it also means that **WILDLABS** is positioned to become a major player in conservation tech when it comes to unlocking larger funding, as we've built a solid foundation of trust, demonstrated the high quality of our programmes, and proven our ability to execute them successfully. We began as a small platform with an even smaller team, we have worked hard to help our community thrive over the past seven years, and to now have the opportunity to put our biggest and boldest ideas into action with the trust and funding of major conservation and technology players is an incredible achievement.

The past seven years for **WILDLABS** have been leading to this moment in time when we can finally take everything we've learned along the way, every programme we've created, connection we've made, and the community we've brought together, and run toward a

brighter and more innovative future for conservation technology. We want to be more than just an online space for community members to connect and ask questions - we want to be THE place for all things conservation tech big and small, from funding and resources to networking and world-class events.

And that dream is within reach. With sustainable funding, the expertise of our core team, the ability to expand that team to scale our programmes, and the support of leading conservation organisations like WWF, Fauna & Flora, CI and WCS, funders like the Moore Foundation and the UK Space Agency, and technology companies like Arm, AWS, Google, Edge Impulse, Collabora and others, we know **WILDLABS** has everything it needs to identify the puzzle pieces from every part of this wide and diverse field, fit them together, and create impact through innovation. Our community of users have the ideas for making technology more effective for their work, tech companies have the tools to transform those ideas into real solutions, and **WILDLABS** has the frameworks, expertise, and optimism to not only bring those puzzle pieces together, but demonstrate why the big picture is vital to the future of conservation.



Funding secured for WILDLABS Programme activities through to 2025.

Secured funding through to 2025 will support team expansion to include dedicated business development and project manager roles, further investment into technology infrastructure like The Inventory, delivery of the Conservation Tech Conference, and grant making to support community led initiatives.

5

Full time staff members, with time covered for 30+ staff at partners organisations

16

Project collaborators and funding partners worked with in 2022

\$1.4M

Funding secured in 2022

\$5M

Total funding secured to support global conservation technology community

LOOKING AHEAD

WILDLABS has developed a unique and leading role in an expanding constellation of conservation technology partnerships. We have successfully galvanised support from a broad network of experts, to pair local knowledge with public and private technology expertise. With a growing number of strategic partnerships, **WILDLABS** is expanding our programmes to connect more conservation tech experts with the right projects, collaborations, and resources to make tomorrow's #Tech4Wildlife solutions a reality.

Community: We bring the global conservation tech community together and make information discoverable

Focus areas in 2023-25

- Launch The Inventory and continue investment into technology infrastructure
- Position **WILDLABS** to become the 'community of communities', which means working with key technology user communities and special interest groups to provide the community platform and community management training to empower them to host vibrant, engaged communities on **WILDLABS**
- Continue strategic development of regional conservation technology community hubs in East Africa, Latin America and South East Asia
- Convene partners and community to host the first global Conservation Technology Conference, with a view to hosting this event every 18 months

Research: We ask our community what they need

Focus areas in 2023-25:

- Monitor longitudinal sector wide trends through ongoing State of Conservation Technology research. Evolve data sources to include data from **WILDLABS** Platform and the Inventory.
- Publish results of Movement Ecology Horizon scan. Convene key stakeholders, decision makers and funding bodies to disseminate results and develop pathways forward for priority areas, and develop interventions for key areas **WILDLABS** is uniquely positioned to move forward
- Deliver Bioacoustics Horizon Scan. Convene key stakeholders, decision makers and funding bodies to disseminate results and develop pathways forward for priority areas, and develop interventions for key areas **WILDLABS** is uniquely positioned to move forward
- Support adaptive management of **WILDLABS** programme activities by enhancing M&E processes.

Resourcing: We form strategic partnerships to unlock cross-sector resources to answer collective needs

Focus areas in 2023-25:

- Scale up Awards & Fellowship Programme, securing new partners and unlocking significant funding and support for development and implementation of technology for conservation impact
- Expand match-making mentoring and training programmes like 'Office Hours' and 'Women in Conservation Technology' to new locations and technologies, responding to user needs captured by research team
- Convene partners and community to host the first global Conservation Technology Conference, with a view to hosting this event every 18 months

I THINK EVERYONE WANTS A
MAGICAL COURSERA COURSE THEY
CAN TAKE TO GET INVOLVED IN
CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY, BUT
HANGING OUT WITH THE
COMMUNITY IS STILL THE ONLY
FORMULA I'M AWARE OF, AND
WILDLABS REMAINS THE BEST PLACE
TO HANG OUT WITH THE
COMMUNITY.

DAN MORRIS

AI FOR NATURE & SOCIETY
GOOGLE

TEAM & PARTNERS

WILDLABS Team

Staff

- **Stephanie O'Donnell**, Executive Manager
- **Talia Speaker**, Research Specialist
- **Ellie Warren**, Communication Officer
- **Jake Burton**, Project Officer
- **Netty Cheruto**, East Africa Intern
- **Carly Batist**, Consultant

Steering Committee

- **Eric Fegraus & Ali Swanson**, Conservation International
- **Marianne Carter & Abigail Entwistle**, Fauna & Flora
- **Colby Loucks**, WWF-US
- **Jonathan Palmer & Li Ling Choo**, WCS

WILDLABS Partnership



Project Partners in 2022



Funding Partners in 2022



TO PARTNER WITH US GET IN TOUCH

The **WILDLABS** community has the skills to change the conservation world for the better. **WILDLABS** has the programmes and resources to connect community members to the tool and networks they need to make an impact. You can provide the support to let **WILDLABS** grow.

Without the financial support of organisations who believe that it takes a community to solve conservation's greatest challenges, **WILDLABS** could not reach conservationists, field biologists, researchers, engineers, tech developers, and conservation tech experts around the world.

By choosing to support **WILDLABS**, whether through sponsoring a programme or joining our donor circle, you're supporting our community's ability to create and use innovations that will shape tomorrow's conservation solutions.

Be a part of conservation technology's future by contacting the **WILDLABS** team today.

CONTACT

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community@wildlabs.net

BACKGROUND IMAGE
"The camera traps at Baiboosun are located within the snow leopard landscape, with some cameras reaching 3800 metres altitude. The task of collecting the footage and data involves a high level of risk for our team because of this."
Luciano Foglia and Baiboosun Nature Reserve