

SAVE-THE-DATE: Wildlife Trade in Digital Media - Webinar and Hands-on Application - September 27-29, 2021, 1:00-5:00 PM

1 message

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WILDLIFE TRADE IN DIGITAL MEDIA

Online via Zoom

September 27-29, 2021 | 1:00-5:00 PM

September 27, 2021: General Overview and Results (Open to Public)

September 28-29, 2021: Hands-on Application (Open to participants with IT background)

Overview

Traditionally, illegal wildlife trade (IWT) has thrived on physical markets such as those found in Cartimar, Arranque, and Binondo in the Philippines. However, recent trends show that IWT transactions are moving to online platforms that include social media, e-commerce sites, country-specific platforms (e.g. WeChat), and the dark web.

These digital platforms offer optimal conditions for IWT to thrive. They are either easily accessible and have a high number of users, which makes it difficult to monitor and police. While there is a wealth of data available, human investigators manually scouring the internet are often only able to detect a fraction of the crime because of the volume of information and constraints of time and personnel.

Recent innovations in machine learning have shown great potential in biodiversity conservation. It allows mining and analysis of huge amounts of data found online in a cost and time-efficient manner. It can provide vital insights and leads (e.g. on transshipment routes and sales patterns) that can inform policy, capacity building, demand reduction, and enforcement efforts.

Machine Learning for Philippine Wildlife Conservation

The DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, through the DENR-ADB/GEF Project on Combating Environmental Organized Crime, has engaged the following to study wildlife trade in digital media.

University of Helsinki Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Conservation Science (HELICS)



Using a list of 156 wildlife species (94 plants and 62 animals) that occur in the Philippines and that are involved in the digital trade, HELICS has deployed a novel framework for automated content analysis using machine learning and natural language processing. The engagement has produced an anonymized database containing relevant content on species threatened by IWT in the country.



Mr. Ralph Regalado (in association with Senti Techlabs Inc.), National Consultant for Wildlife Trade in Digital Media

Using data generated by HELICS, the National Consultant has developed a "Machine Learning Analytics Dashboard" to visualize key information mined online and to allow users from government agencies and wildlife law enforcement units to interact with the data in simple, user-friendly ways.

Join us as we bring together government officials, law enforcers, conservation groups, academics, students, decision-makers, and organizations involved in machine learning and AI to discuss innovations on the use of machine learning to study wildlife trade in digital media.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FILE FOR THE PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Moderator: HELICS

CLICK [HERE](#) TO JOIN VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 879 7154 5370

Passcode: 964324

About the Project

The DENR-ADB/GEF Project on Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines (IWT Project) is a 3-year GEF-6-funded project executed by the DENR-BMB with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Implementing Agency. It is also a component of a Regional Knowledge Support Technical Assistance (TA) of ADB- TA 9641 on Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific and is a child project under the WB/GEF Global Wildlife Program.

The Project aims to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, capacity building in the full law enforcement chain, and to reduce demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife parts.

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