



The Future of Animal Law

The 6th annual UK Animal Law Conference

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University of Birmingham, UK

WORKSHOP PLAN

AI IN PRACTICE:

**Leveraging AI, Animal Research,
and Technology in Legal Advocacy**

Prepared by:

Bryce Barthuly, Ph.D.

&

Yolanda Eisenstein, Esq.

OVERVIEW

Illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT) and environmental crime now operate as complex, transnational systems, enabled by digital infrastructures and embedded within broader organised criminal networks.

Despite this evolution, legal and enforcement responses remain constrained by fragmented intelligence systems, limited access to real-time, actionable data, and predominantly reactive approaches to intervention.

In response, there is a growing shift toward advanced, data-driven, and AI-enabled systems to support proactive, intelligence-led enforcement. Across sectors such as finance, healthcare, and security, AI is already embedded in decision-making, predictive analytics, and large-scale data processing. However, its application within conservation and environmental enforcement remains comparatively limited.

This workshop draws on the speakers' applied research, professional practice, and technology development (including ALERIS and ConservaID).

Participants will explore how AI and advanced technologies can be used to bridge this gap, enabling more coordinated, timely, and strategic enforcement responses.

Key Challenges include:



FRAGMENTED
INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS
LIMITING COORDINATION
ACROSS AGENCIES



LIMITED ACCESS TO REAL-
TIME, ACTIONABLE DATA



USE OF CLEARNET AND
DARKNET PLATFORMS TO
FACILITATE AND CONCEAL
ACTIVITY



CONVERGENCE WITH
WIDER TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANISED CRIME
NETWORKS

OVERVIEW

Participants will explore:



COLLECTION AND
ANALYSIS OF INTELLIGENCE
FROM CLEARNET AND
DARKNET ENVIRONMENTS



IMAGE RECOGNITION
SYSTEMS FOR IDENTIFYING
WILDLIFE PRODUCTS



PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS
FOR ENFORCEMENT AND
LEGAL STRATEGY



DEPLOYMENT OF AI TOOLS
IN CUSTOMS, BORDER, AND
FIELD CONSERVATION
CONTEXTS

Delivery Approach:

Through structured facilitation, interactive tools, and applied discussion, the session provides a practical and strategic framework for integrating AI into animal law and environmental enforcement.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Develop a clear understanding of how AI-driven technologies are applied in wildlife and environmental law enforcement
- ▶ Analyse the relationship between wildlife crime and transnational organised crime networks
- ▶ Evaluate the shift from reactive to proactive, intelligence-led enforcement strategies
- ▶ Assess real-world applications of AI tools across legal and operational contexts
- ▶ Critically reflect on the legal, ethical, and regulatory implications of AI deployment

WORKSHOP PLAN

0–15 MINUTES: INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT & INTERACTIVE SETUP

STEP 1: WELCOME AND FRAMING



The session begins with a brief introduction of the speakers, highlighting their applied research, professional experience, and development of AI-driven systems (including ALERIS and ConservaID). The structure of the workshop and intended learning outcomes are outlined to orient participants.

STEP 2: CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW



A short, facilitated overview situates illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crime as transnational, technologically facilitated challenges. Key constraints—including fragmented intelligence systems, limited real-time data, and convergence with organized crime networks—are introduced. This establishes the need for intelligence-led, proactive enforcement supported by AI and advanced data systems

STEP 3: AUDIENCE MAPPING (INTERACTIVE)



Participants engage in a live polling exercise (e.g., Mentimeter or show of hands) to map their professional backgrounds, familiarity with AI, and experience across legal, enforcement, and conservation domains. This enables facilitators to dynamically tailor the session.

STEP 4: FRAMING EXERCISE



Participants are introduced to how AI is currently deployed across sectors such as finance, healthcare, and security, where it is embedded in decision-making, predictive analytics, and large-scale data processing. This broader context situates AI as a mature and rapidly advancing technology.

The discussion then narrows to conservation and environmental enforcement, highlighting current applications such as species identification, remote sensing, and trafficking detection. By comparing these domains, facilitators identify the gap between the advanced, integrated use of AI in other industries and its more limited, fragmented adoption within conservation and environmental law enforcement, emphasizing the opportunity for more coordinated, intelligence-led approaches.

WORKSHOP PLAN

15–45 MINUTES: APPLIED SYSTEMS, INTERACTION & DECISION-MAKING

STEP 5: APPLIED SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATION



Participants are guided through a live or simulated walkthrough of AI systems developed through the speakers' research (ALERIS and ConservaID). The demonstration illustrates how these tools aggregate intelligence across clearnet and darknet environments, identify wildlife products using computer vision, and generate predictive insights to support enforcement and legal decision-making. These capabilities are contextualized through real-world use cases in customs, investigations, and field operations.

STEP 6: CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT (INTERACTIVE)



Facilitators guide a structured discussion examining the strengths, limitations, and operational challenges of the systems presented. Key themes include data silos across agencies, ethical and legal risks in AI deployment, system accessibility across diverse user groups, legal admissibility, and long-term sustainability within evolving policy and funding environments.

STEP 7: APPLIED REFLECTION EXERCISE



Participants consider how access to AI-driven tools would alter their current professional practice. Guided discussion explores how these technologies shift enforcement and legal strategies from reactive to proactive models.

WORKSHOP PLAN

45–60 MINUTES: LEGAL, ETHICAL & STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

STEP 8: STRUCTURED DISCUSSION



A facilitated discussion examines the role of AI in intelligence-led enforcement. Participants consider whether AI should function as a central or supplementary component of legal and enforcement decision-making.

STEP 9: LEGAL AND ETHICAL REFLECTION



Facilitators introduce key legal and ethical considerations, including bias, accountability, transparency, and the admissibility of AI-generated intelligence. Attention is given to regulatory gaps and uneven implementation across jurisdictions.

STEP 10: OPEN DISCUSSION



Participants reflect on how the tools and approaches presented could be applied within their own contexts. Discussion is guided by questions on feasibility, barriers, and opportunities for integration.

STEP 11: SUMMARY AND CLOSING



The session concludes with a synthesis of key insights and practical takeaways.

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co-hosted by:



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**Bryce Barthuly, Ph.D.
&
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bryce Barthuly, Ph.D.
 +1 971-701-4641

