



WILDLABS.NET
[The conservation technology network]

ANNUAL REPORT



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CREDIT: MARK STONE / UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

INTRODUCTION

*"As we mark ten years since **WILDLABS** was founded, I am struck by how our community has grown, not just in size, but in strength, ambition, and global relevance. What began as a collaborative experiment is now the world's leading conservation technology network, uniting over 12,000 people across 135+ countries with a shared mandate: To unlock the full potential of modern innovation for conservation impact."*

*In a world facing accelerating environmental challenges, **WILDLABS** embodies hope. We're sparking collaboration, ingenuity, and action across sectors to deliver impact where it's needed most. From informing global innovation agendas to equipping local practitioners through training and grantmaking, this year's report celebrates major achievements since our last update in 2022 and sets our sights on a bold vision for the years ahead. I couldn't be prouder to be part of this extraordinary team and community."*

A GROWING COMMUNITY

On 11 December 2024, we celebrated reaching **10,000 members on WILDLABS.NET**. This milestone represents nearly a decade of dedication to building a vibrant and engaged community. It is a testament to the collective efforts of our team, community members, steering committee, and funders who have supported and shaped **WILDLABS** into what it is today. As we look ahead, we remain committed to driving conservation technology forward, fostering connections, and enabling solutions for the sector.

CREDIT: JEREMY HOLDEN / FAUNA & FLORA



TALIA SPEAKER
Executive Manager

*"The sustained growth of the **WILDLABS** community, programmes and impact over the past 10 years is a testament to the hard work and creativity of the **WILDLABS** staff in responding to the needs and ideas of the conservation tech community to collaborate, innovate, and make lasting impacts. I've witnessed **WILDLABS** grow from an idea in 2014 to a global community of leaders, innovators, and collaborators, bridging the silos of technology, engineering, policy, and conservation to advance tech solutions to the Earth's most pressing challenges."*

Colby Loucks
Vice President and Deputy Lead, Wildlife Programme
World Wildlife Fund



ABOUT WILDLABS

To address emerging global conservation challenges, our sector needs access to better tools, more avenues for collaboration, and up-to-date resources to create and scale innovative solutions.

WILDLABS is the global hub for conservation technology. We bring together conservation and technology experts, practitioners, and innovators to tackle critical conservation challenges using technology. As a collaborative programme led by Conservation International, Fauna & Flora, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund, **WILDLABS**

provides a dynamic network for knowledge exchange, programmes that build capacity, and opportunities that empower conservation actors worldwide.

Through pioneering initiatives, open-access resources, and a vibrant community of over 12,000 people in 135+ countries, we support the development, adoption, and scaling of effective solutions. By fostering collaboration across disciplines, we are helping shape the future of conservation technology and accelerate impact on the ground.

OUR TEAM



TALIA SPEAKER
Executive Manager,
WWF



ADRIEN PAJOT
Project Manager,
Fauna & Flora



HENRY REES
Programme Development
Manager, Fauna & Flora



ALEX ROOD
Communications and
Community Associate
Specialist, WWF



VANESA REYES
Bioacoustics Research
Analyst, WCS



JAKE BURTON
Project Officer,
Fauna & Flora



**STEPHANIE
O'DONNELL**

We would like to extend our gratitude to Stephanie O'Donnell, who finished her last day with WILDLABS this year. Over the past 10 years, Steph has shaped our programme into the thriving global network and resource hub it is today. We're deeply grateful for all that she gave to WILDLABS, including a legacy of resilient community spirit and setting the team and programme up for success in the years to come.

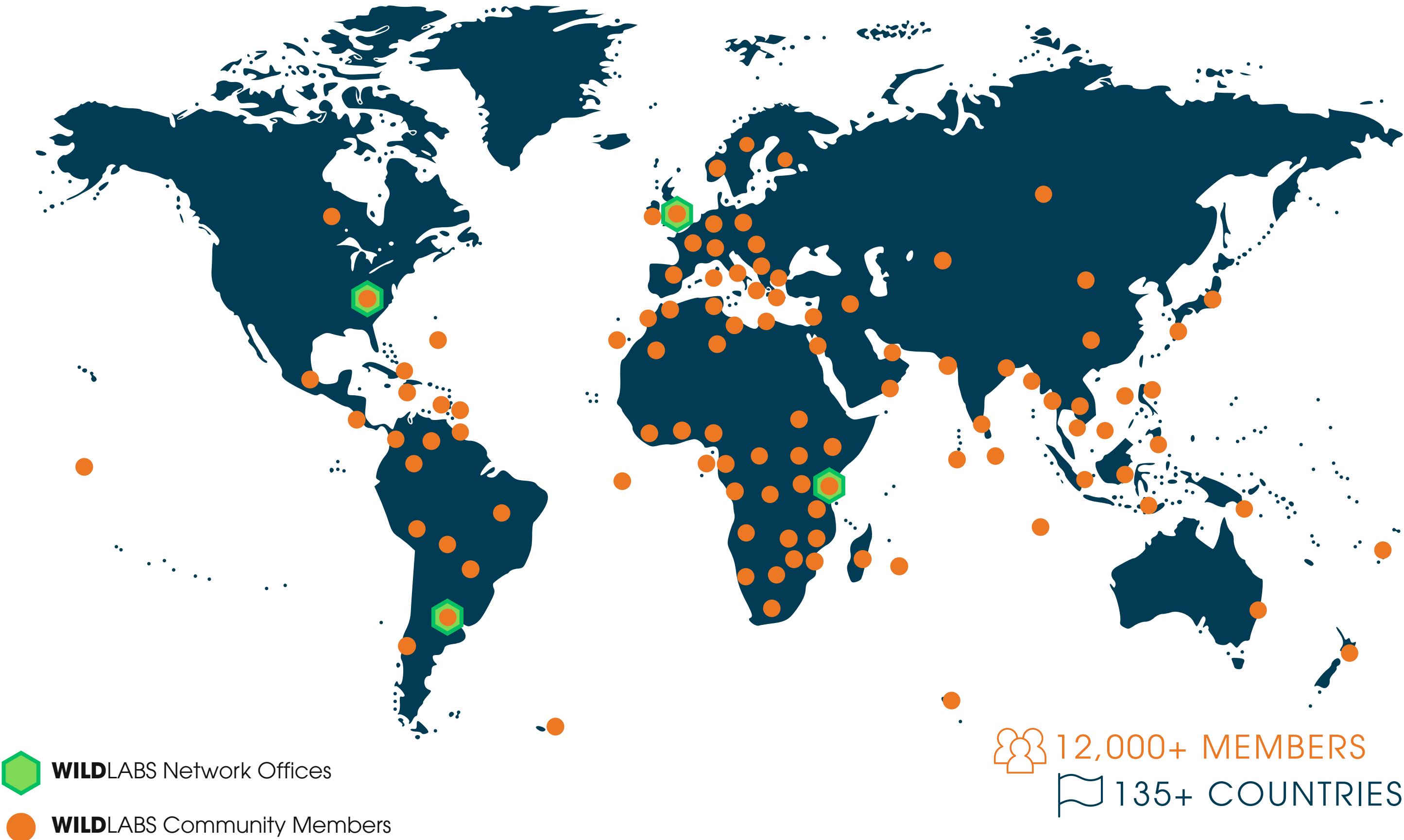
OUR APPROACH

To advance our mission, we take a three-pillar approach that activates and scales the sector. We use this model at local, regional, and global levels, as well as in emerging areas, such as animal movement, bioacoustics, and AI.

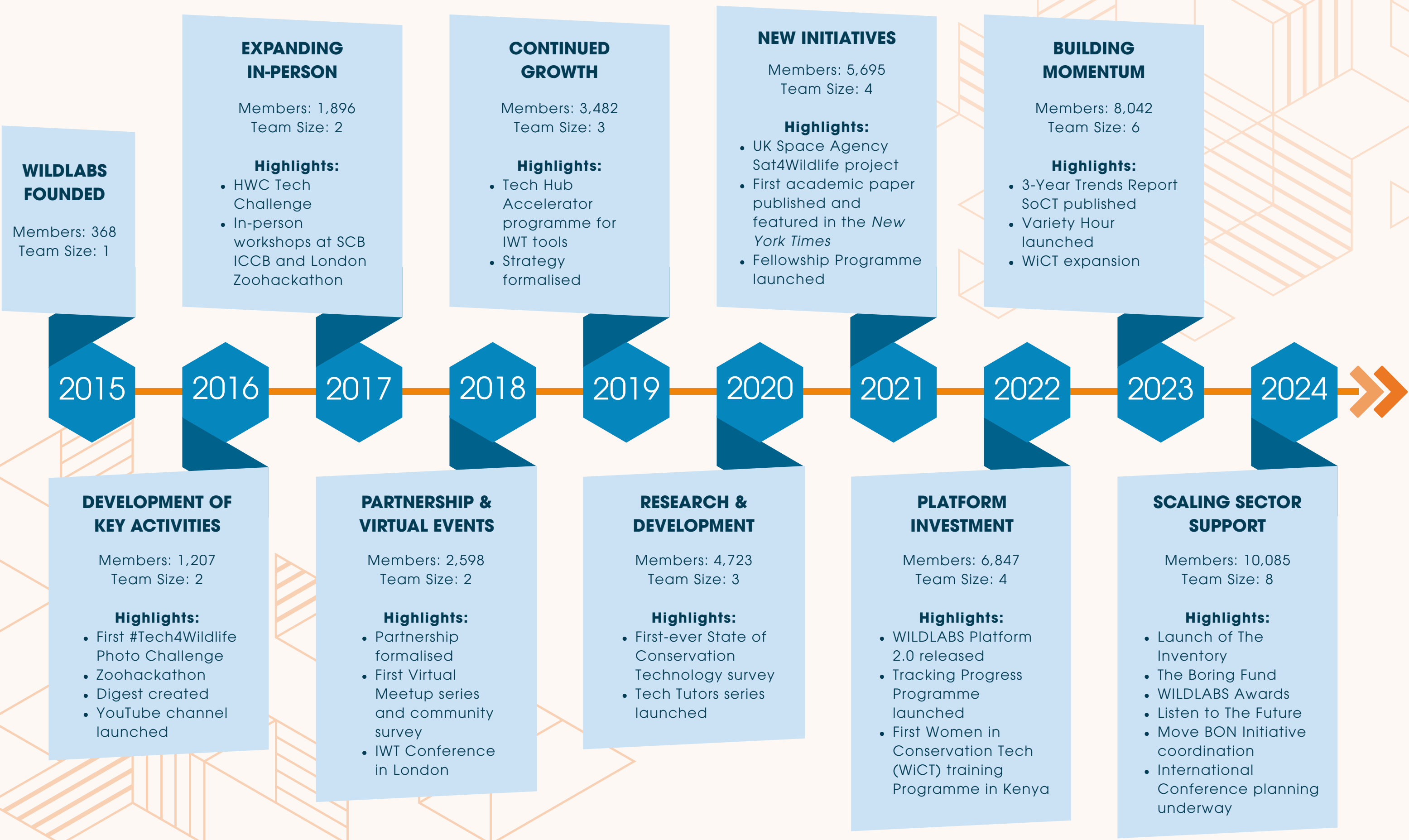


PILLAR	PROGRAMME	ACTIVITIES
COMMUNITY	WILDLABS.NET	Knowledge curation (resources, courses, The Inventory)
	Management	Forums, group leaders, engagement (#Tech4Wildlife)
	Convening	Virtual event series
	Convening	Conference & other in-person workshops/events
INSIGHTS	Community Research	Network surveys
	Sector Research	State of Conservation Technology
	Thematic Research	Movement ecology horizon scan
	Thematic Research	Bioacoustics horizon scan
	Policy Influence	Move BON
SUPPORT	Funding	WILDLABS Awards
	Funding	The Boring Fund
	Capacity Building	Women in Conservation Technology
	Capacity Building	AI for Conservation Office Hours

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY




10 YEARS OF WILDLABS



OUR IMPACT

COMMUNITY A GLOBAL REACH


 12,000+ Community Members


 135+ Countries Represented

 15,000+ Resources Shared


 7,300+ Newsletter Subscribers

 33 Community Groups


 17 Current Community Group Leaders

 500+ Events Facilitated


INSIGHTS DELIVERING KEY INFORMATION


 133 Expert Contributors

 50 Innovation Priorities Identified

 41 Key Policy, Research, & Media Citations

SOCIALS

 4,300+ Followers
134,000+ Annual Impressions

 2,500+ Subscribers
372 Videos Posted

*“Having grown stronger and more valuable over the past decade, **WILDLABS** is now better positioned than ever to empower WCS and our partners. This sharpened focus on enabling scaled, high-impact solutions is essential for the future of conservation.”*

Jonathan Palmer
Executive Director,
Conservation Technology
Wildlife Conservation Society

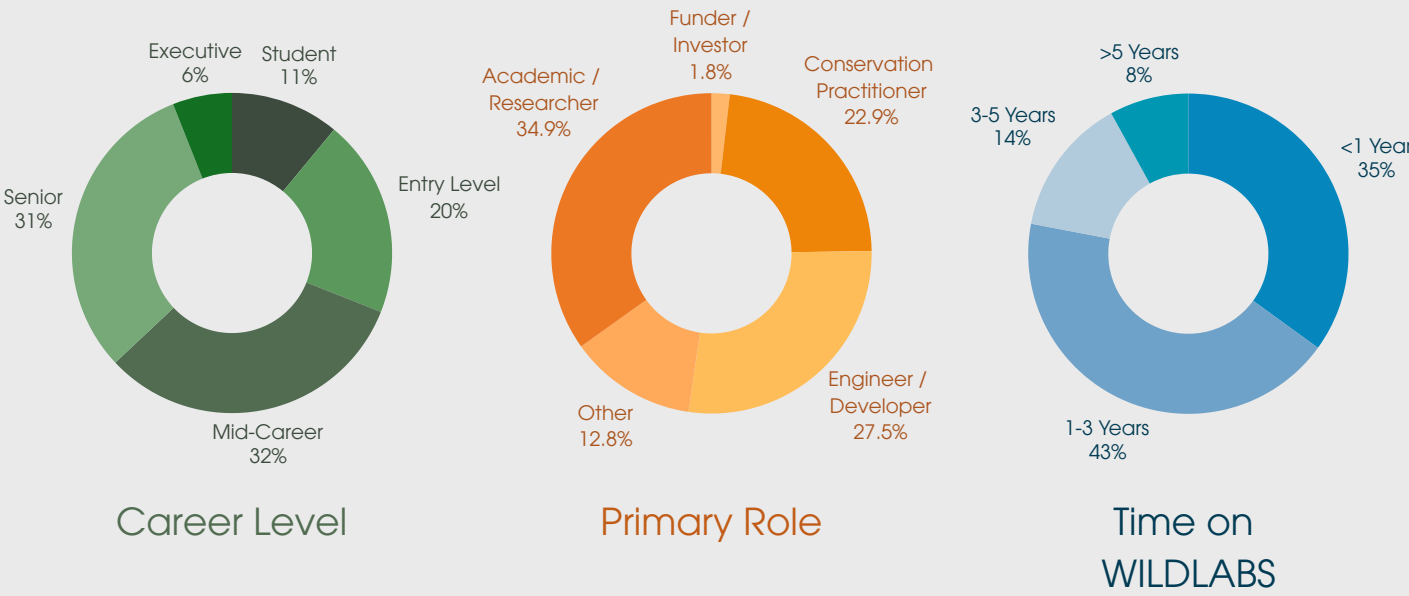
SUPPORT RESOURCES WHERE THEY’RE NEEDED

 \$1.2 MILLION Secured Investment in Community Projects

 330 People Trained

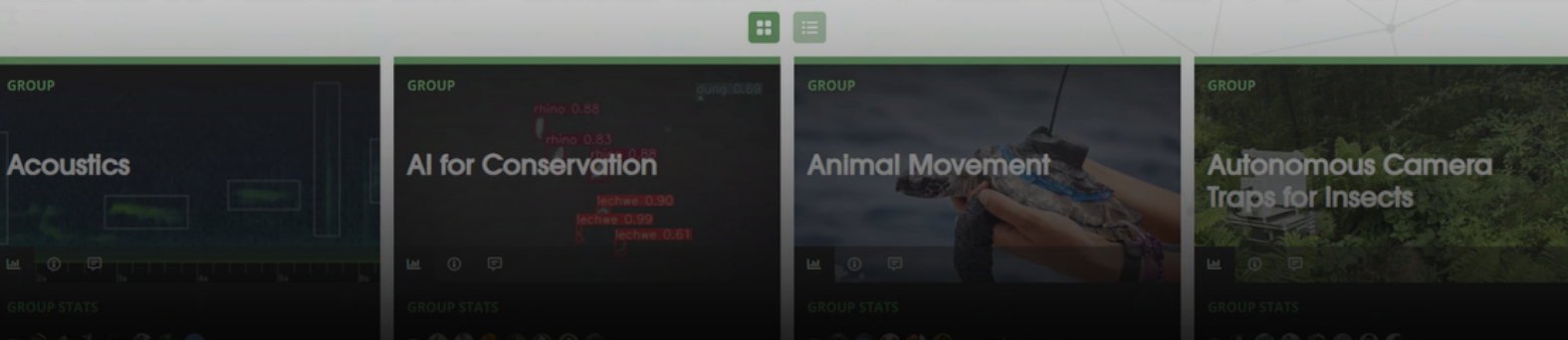
 71 Projects Supported

2024 COMMUNITY SURVEY WHO IS USING WILDLABS



Groups

WILDLABS' Groups are the heart of our community, where you'll find the conservation tech conversations and resources that matter to you and your work. Join a group now to connect with other members around the world, share your expertise, and get support!



STRENGTHENING OUR PLATFORM

Our platform is the beating heart of our global community. It's where our user base connects, collaborates, and accesses essential resources. We continually invest in new features and improvements to make it more dynamic, accessible, and useful. Since 2023, we have launched several major updates to enhance knowledge-sharing, engagement, and learning, leading to a 200% increase in website traffic during this period.

THE INVENTORY: PROVIDING A CONSERVATION TECH KNOWLEDGE HUB

In May 2024, we launched The Inventory, a community-driven, wiki-style database of conservation technology tools, R&D projects, and organisations. Built in response to a pressing need for a centralised knowledge hub, The Inventory has quickly become an important resource for finding trusted recommendations and essential tools. Its success is powered by our members, who contribute by updating

entries, leaving reviews of products, linking to relevant **WILDLABS** content, and adding new tools and projects. Already, more than 1,500 resources have been added, and The Inventory is well positioned to grow. We've actively engaged with conservation tech developers to expand contributions, and we invite all members to help grow this dynamic knowledge base.

CREDIT: ZAFER KIZILKAYA



BADGES: CELEBRATING OUR MOST ENGAGED MEMBERS

To make participation more interactive and rewarding, as well as highlight key roles within the community, we introduced **WILDLABS** Badges in March 2024. These badges recognise member contributions and activities like posting, commenting, attending events, engaging with The Inventory, and more. This fun yet meaningful addition celebrates our members' impact on the platform and helps the community easily identify champions, group leaders, and experts.

COURSES: EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

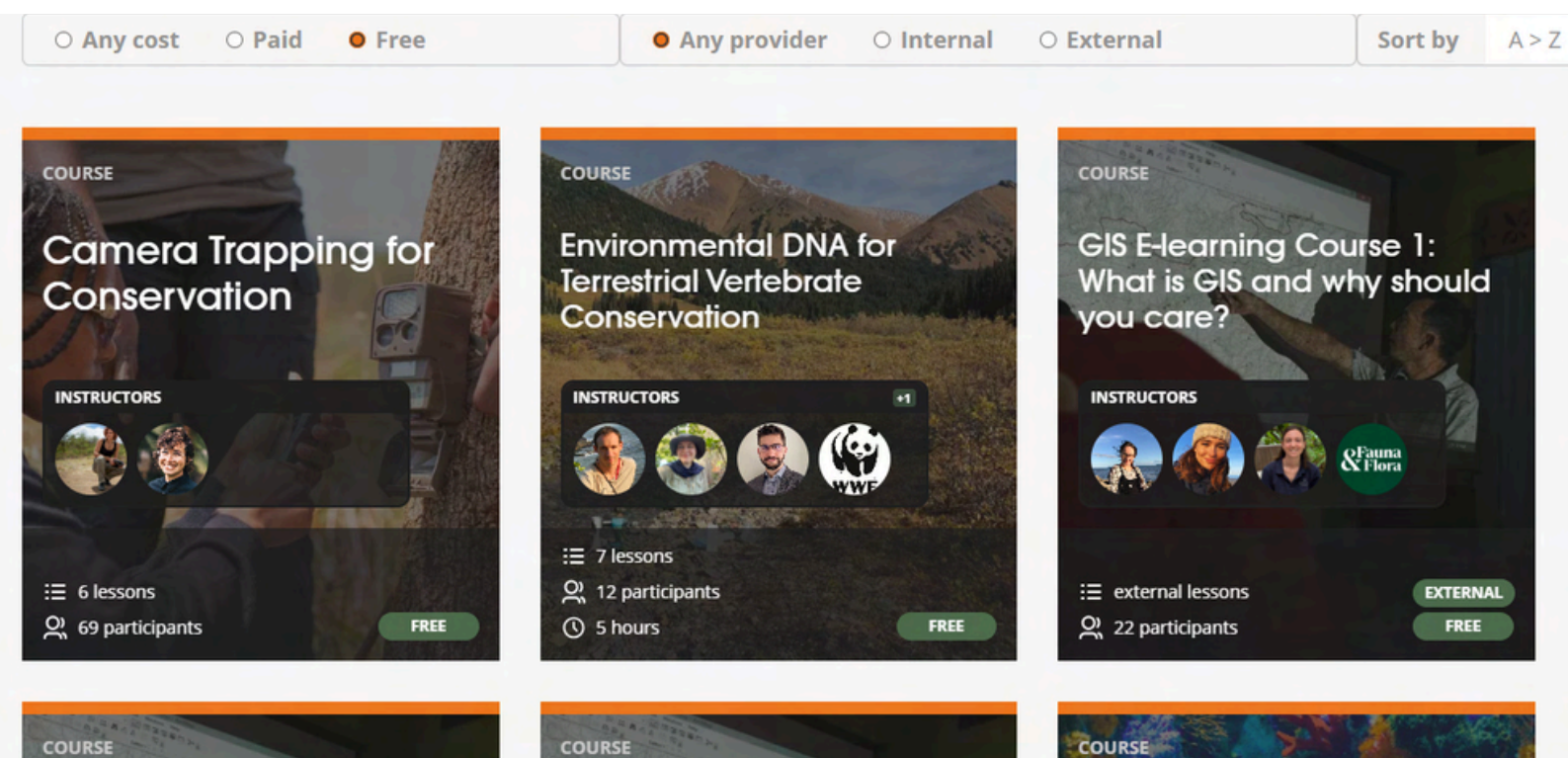
This year, we took major steps to enhance the **WILDLABS** platform's functionality. With support from Arm, we partnered with Octophin Digital to create a new course functionality that enables members to take and create self-led conservation technology courses. These courses can cover topics ranging from eDNA, camera traps, and AI-powered wildlife monitoring, and more.

Community members across various career stages and tech types have been interested in this type of feature for some time, and we are thrilled to deliver a resource that can equip them with essential skills.

THE FUTURE OF OUR PLATFORM

Every update we make is driven by our commitment to empowering the conservation technology community. Improving access to tools and knowledge, celebrating engagement, and facilitating knowledge-exchange all help shape **WILDLABS** into an even stronger resource. We will continue to invest in updates to our platform in 2025 and beyond, with an immediate focus on improving discoverability of existing information, data collection, and accessibility.

"It's a wonderful community of conservation-minded experts in a variety of fields and represents an opportunity to engage together efficiently and effectively."



BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

As **WILDLABS** continues to grow, we are working harder than ever to ensure our community programme delivers benefits that meet our network’s needs. Our virtual and in-person events, new platform, and outreach to different geographical and technological communities ensures that the conservation technology sector is collaborative, connected, and community-oriented.

10 years in, our users are still using **WILDLABS** to find helpful information, exchange ideas, learn new skills, find collaborators, and more. We love to hear impact stories of how the **WILDLABS** community helped facilitate tangible impacts in conservation, and we look forward to seeing many more stories unfold as we continue to grow our community programme at large!

GROUP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME
Group leaders have been a part of the **WILDLABS** experience since our inception, but in 2024, we took steps to better support this volunteer position by creating the Group Leadership Programme.

In the inaugural 2024-2025 cohort, 17 community members are leading seven **WILDLABS** groups, including two new groups: Funding & Finance and Latin America. These additions mark significant progress in advancing our mission and broadening opportunities for collaboration. Learn about the new groups below:

FUNDING & FINANCE
This group provides a dedicated space for members to explore funding opportunities, refine grant applications, and connect with potential collaborators.

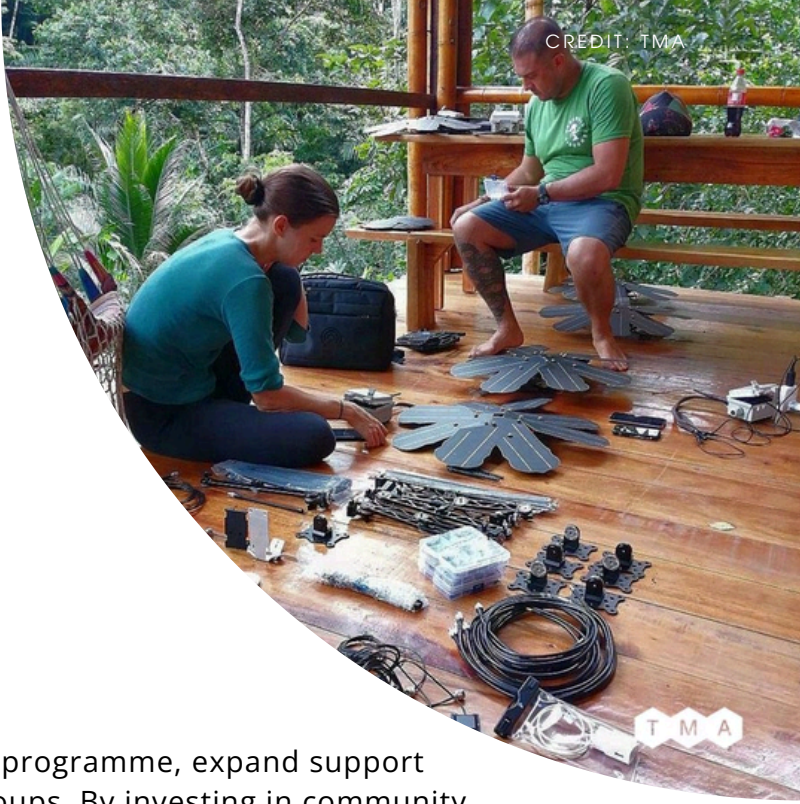
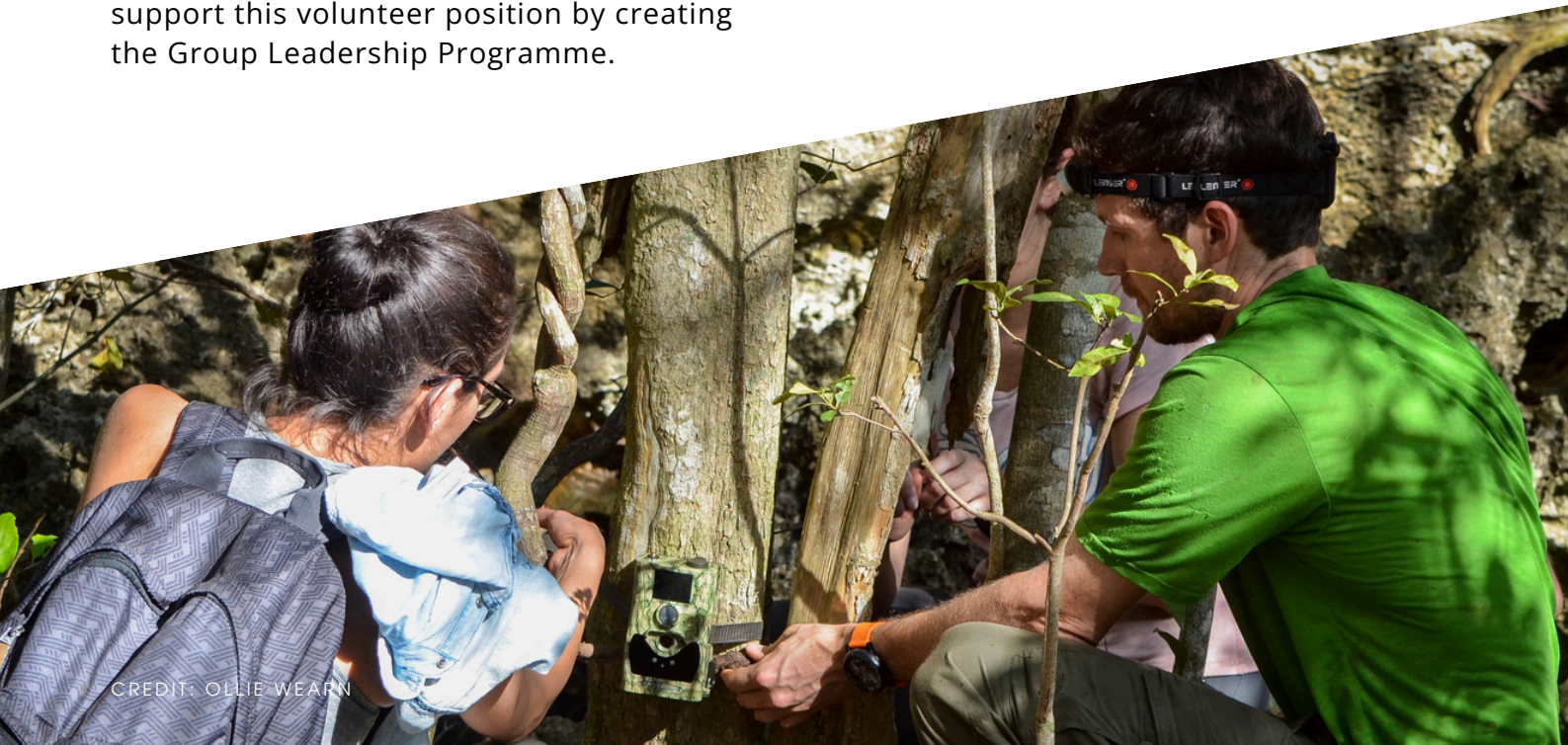
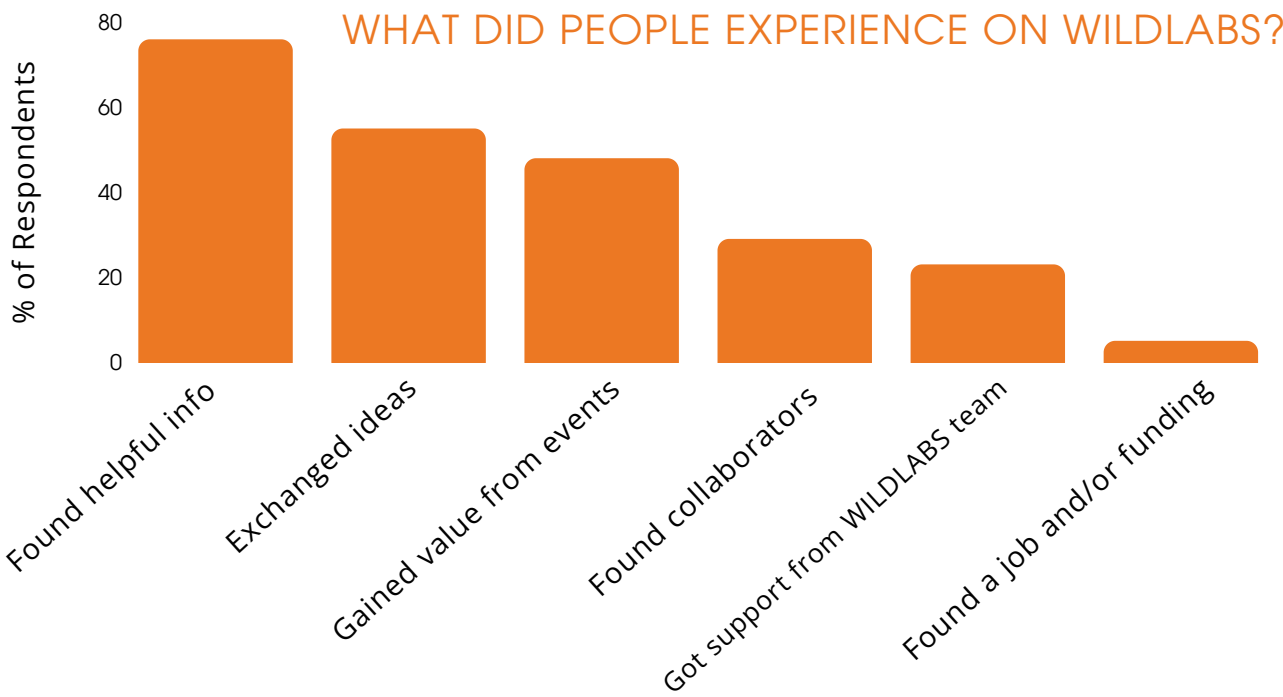
LATIN AMERICA COMMUNITY
This group provides a platform for connection, knowledge sharing, and fostering cross-border collaborations through virtual events and networking opportunities.

EARLY SUCCESS
In just six months, the Group Leadership Programme has proven its impact:

- We’ve seen a 19% increase in discussions in leader-led groups (compared to 12% in others).
- 11 community events were held with over 400 attendees hosted by the East Africa Community, Geospatial, Software Development, Open-Source Solutions, Geospatial, Funding & Finance, Latin America Community, and Animal Movement groups with more on the way.

Looking ahead, we will continue to refine this programme, expand support for leaders, and launch additional regional groups. By investing in community leadership, we are strengthening the foundation of **WILDLABS** and creating lasting connections that drive innovation in conservation technology.

*“Hearing about the work other people are doing, most people are in the same boat, doing conservation-oriented wildlife research, trying to find practical cost-effective solutions. We need affordable solutions, and this community is a really valuable place for that kind of insight. The main reason I enjoy being part of **WILDLABS** is learning about the research everyone else is doing.”*



DIGITAL CONNECTION

With our global community spread across over 120 countries and countless time zones, virtual programming continues to be a key channel for connection, learning, sharing ideas, and building networks. Since our last report, we've built out our virtual community by evolving our community engagement initiatives, providing regular opportunities to connect and learn, and launching initiatives that bridge knowledge gaps and prepare the community for continued growth and scaling in the sector.

#TECH4WILDLIFE CHALLENGE

Even after nine years, the #Tech4Wildlife Photo Challenge continues to be a highlight of our community calendar, celebrating the evolution, ingenuity, and passion of the

sector and providing an entryway to become more familiar with the work happening in our community. With interns leading the initiative each year, the challenge has grown and evolved through the inclusion of videos and long-form "stories" and increasing engagement through community awards.

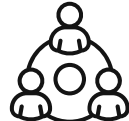
At its core, the #Tech4Wildlife Photo Challenge is not a competition, but rather a celebration of progress, ingenuity, and community. Each entry not only showcases innovation, but also inspires the broader sector to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible with conservation technology.



282
Submissions



21
Countries Represented



116,433
Social Impressions



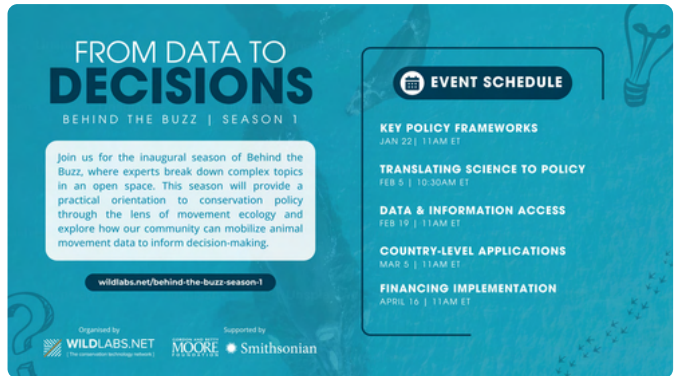
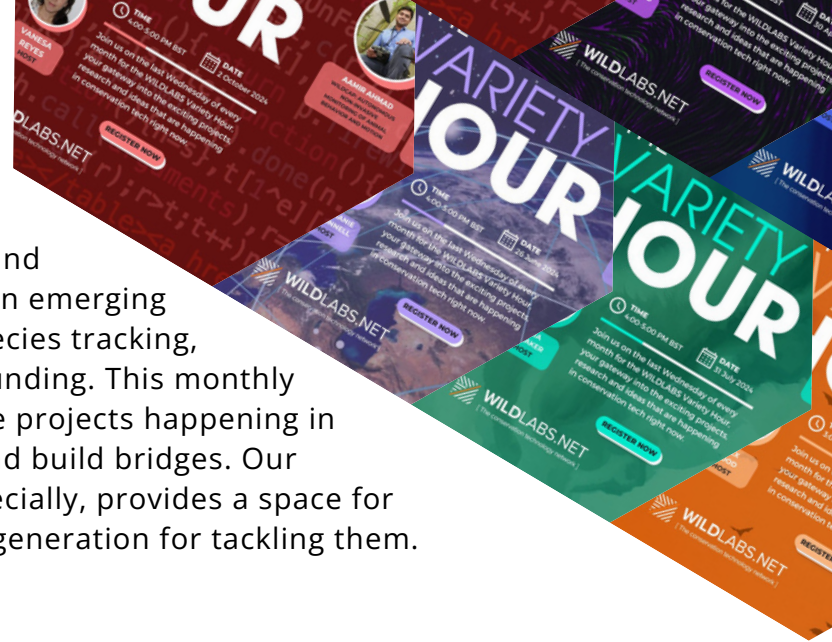
VARIETY HOUR

Our Variety Hour series continued in 2023 and 2024, featuring rapid-fire and longer talks on emerging topics including AI, acoustic monitoring, species tracking, human-wildlife conflict, and conservation funding. This monthly event is not just a chance to learn about the projects happening in the sector; it's an opportunity to connect and build bridges. Our unofficial "after hours" after the event, especially, provides a space for open dialogue around challenges and idea generation for tackling them.

VIRTUAL SERIES

While convening the community in settings like Variety Hour are a great way to foster connection, series like our Virtual Meetups are intended to lay the groundwork for establishing consensus, transferring in-depth knowledge to communities of practice, and providing a stepping stone for sector research.

During Listen to the Future, our 2024 Virtual Meetup series, we brought in experts in bioacoustics to host foundational conversations on this key emerging area and discuss opportunities for rapid technological advancement and increased impact. These discussions provided a critical foundation for our bioacoustics horizon scan work, which convenes experts to prioritise key areas for investment and will ultimately result in a published manuscript that provides an evidence base for decision making.

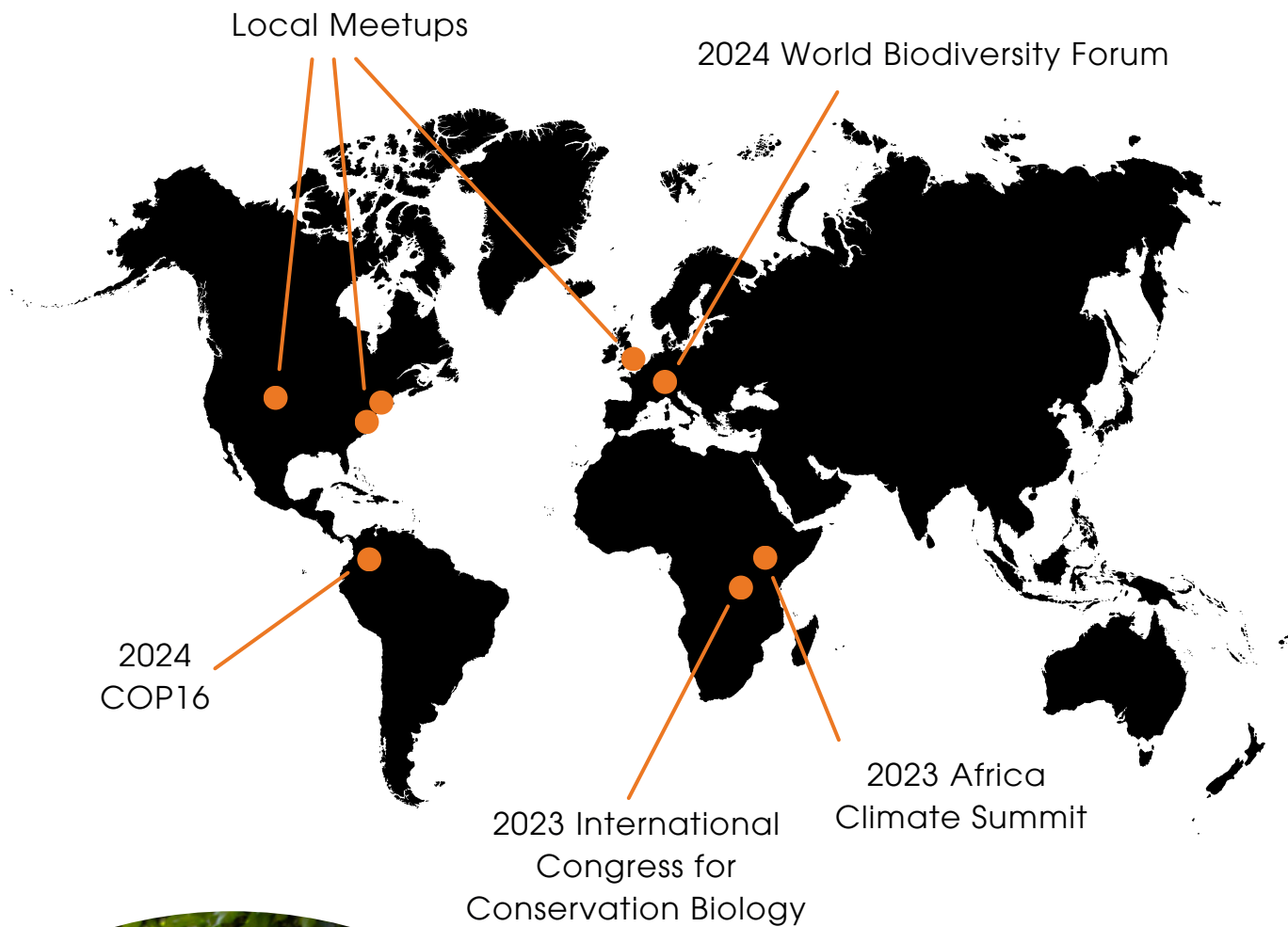


We also launched an entirely new series, Behind the Buzz, which focuses on breaking down complex topics in a safe space where there are "no dumb questions."

This first season focused on breaking down the basics of global conservation policy frameworks through the lens of animal movement and exploring how our community can better translate movement data to decision-making. Our community had expressed that the science-policy pipeline was confusing, full of jargon, and unapproachable. In this first season, attendees came away with a better understanding of how the data our community produces actually gets transformed to actionable outputs for decision-making.

EVENTS

WILDLABS has continued organising and participating in events that strengthen our global network and build bridges toward collaboration. From hosting expert-led workshops to engaging at major conferences, these events allow us to connect with key partners, share groundbreaking research, and support the development of cutting-edge solutions.



ALL IMAGE CREDITS: STEPHANIE O'DONNELL

COMING SOON: ICTC
Planning is underway for the inaugural International Conservation Technology Conference in 2026, with several major supporters confirmed and potential venues identified in South America. The event will unite conservation practitioners, researchers, and tech developers from across the sector to advance conservation technology collaboratively.

CBD COP16
At COP16 in Colombia, **WILDLABS** took centre stage to highlight the power of conservation technology in addressing biodiversity loss. At our booth at the Innovation Expo, we showcased groundbreaking initiatives like The Boring Fund and Women in Conservation Technology, drawing attention to often-overlooked areas of impact and inclusion in the conservation tech space.

We also led dynamic side events focused on AI applications in conservation and advancing movement ecology, which fostered dialogue between technologists, conservationists, and policymakers. Our presence at COP16 strengthened global partnerships and reinforced the critical role of digital innovation in achieving the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework.



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY
In 2024, **WILDLABS** had the honour of addressing the United Nations Assembly to mark World Wildlife Day. Our Executive Manager opened the event with a powerful talk on the urgent need to scale innovation in conservation technology, underscoring how digital tools can help bridge the gap between people and planet.

As an official partner for World Wildlife Day 2024, **WILDLABS** co-hosted a high-impact networking event alongside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Wild, Microsoft, and GitHub. This gathering spotlighted the #Tech4Wildlife campaign and brought together a diverse global community of technologists, conservationists, and policymakers around the theme: "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."

STATE OF CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

WILDLABS published its first State of Conservation Technology (SoCT) report in 2021, which tracked emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities across our sector. The responses from this annual global survey allow us to better understand the tools, innovations, and support structures needed to drive impactful solutions for biodiversity conservation and effective ecosystem management.

In 2023, we published the State of Conservation 2023 Trends Report, which gave a three-year analysis that offered deeper insights into how our sector has evolved over time. The report provided a clearer picture of the sector’s progress, needs, and future.

- KEY TAKEAWAY MESSAGES:**
- **Growing trends:** Camera traps and GIS remain the most widely used technologies, but AI applications, data management tools, and biologgers are increasing in adoption.
 - **Core challenges:** The main ongoing challenges are competition for funding, duplication of efforts, and access barriers, particularly for marginalized groups. Gender and geography are the most critical factors in access gaps.
 - **Future directions:** Improving the interoperability and scale of tools present key opportunities. Engagement with WILDLABS had a measurable positive impact on members in some key areas.

THE FUTURE OF SOCT

Our upcoming 2025 report will deliver the first-ever five-year trend analysis in this field, offering valuable long-term perspectives on conservation technology’s evolution and investment needs. These insights will help inform funding strategies, policy decisions, and the development of new tools that address conservation’s most urgent needs.

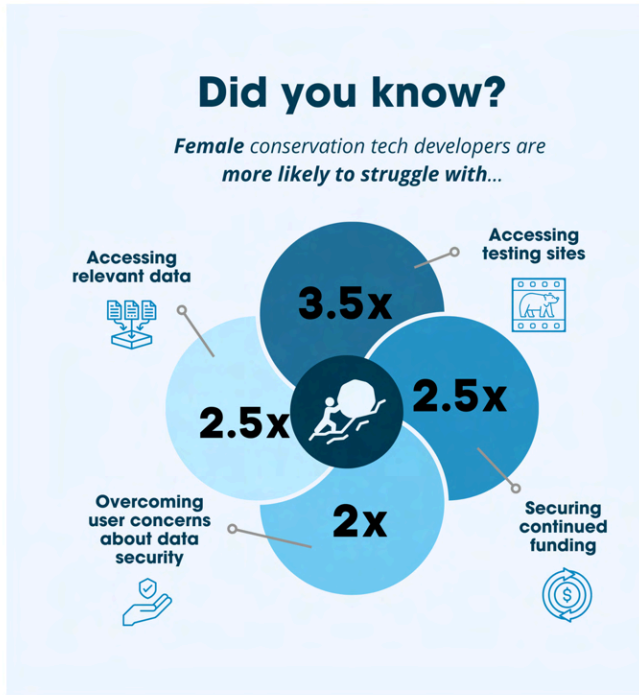
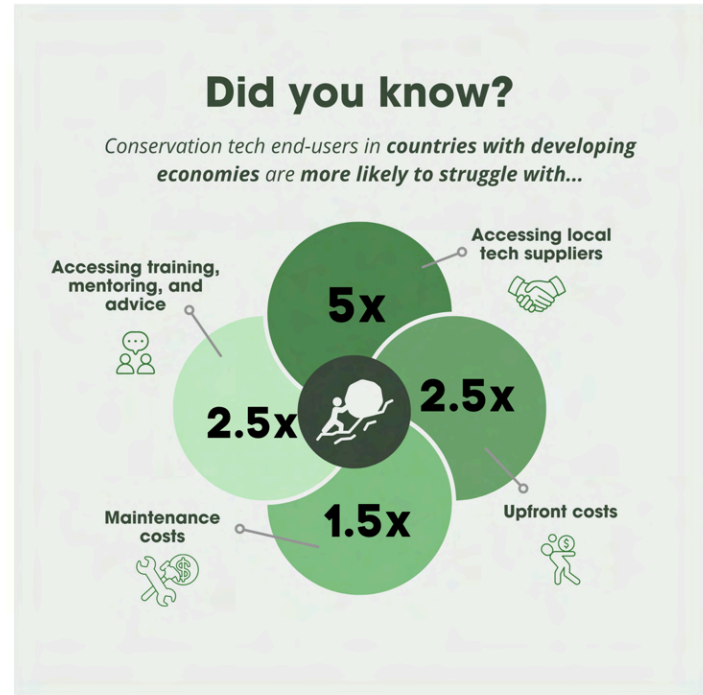
Through our continued research, we aim to empower conservationists, technologists, and policymakers with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions and drive impactful innovation for the planet.



WILDLABS NETWORK SURVEY

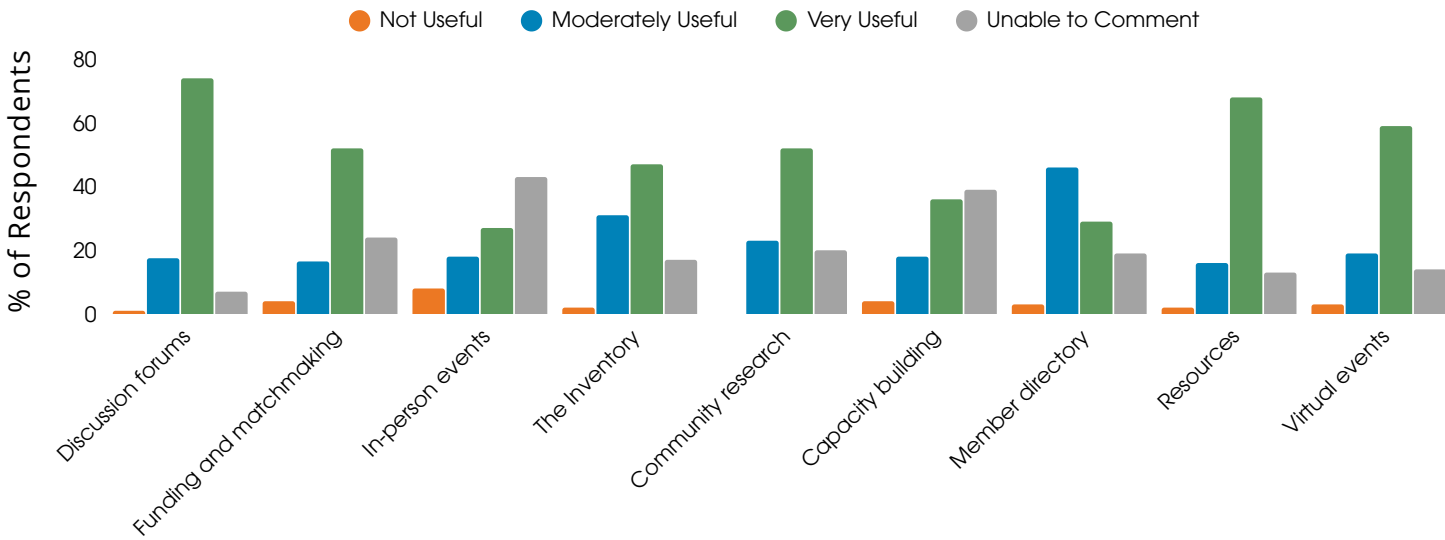
Since 2018, **WILDLABS** has conducted an annual Network Survey to gather valuable insights into how our community uses and perceives our platform and broader services. By understanding what keeps our community coming back and identifying areas for improvement, we can refine our programmes and offerings to ensure we are delivering on needs as best we can.

With over 170 responses in the 2024 survey, our community has demonstrated strong engagement and a willingness to communicate. Our most recent survey revealed a demand for more funding opportunities, enhanced training resources, and improved platform features, all of which we are actively pursuing or have already advanced.



Left, Constraints disproportionately reported by respondents in countries with developing economies; **Right:** Constraints disproportionately reported by female respondents

HOW USEFUL ARE WILDLABS SERVICES?



THEMATIC RESEARCH

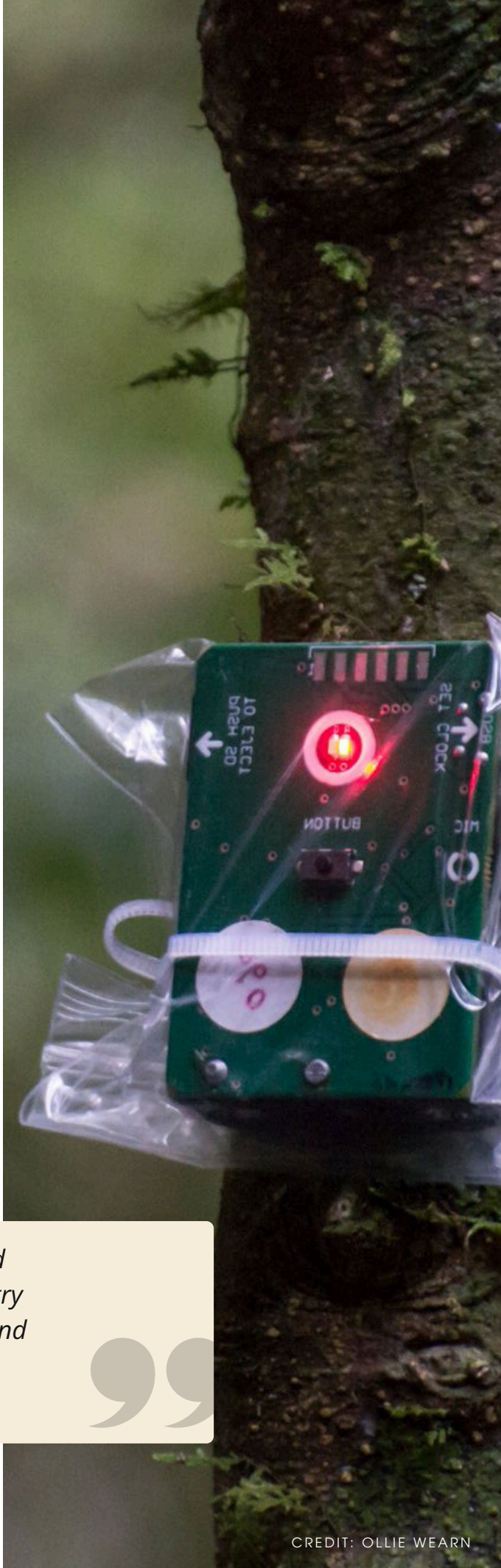
Focusing our research on specific themes allows WILDLABS to dig deeper into the most pressing challenges and opportunities in conservation technology. These targeted efforts help us uncover innovations, engage communities of practice, and shape the future of the field.

BIOACOUSTICS

In 2024, WILDLABS launched a global horizon scan to identify emerging technologies and priorities in bioacoustics. Led by Vanesa Reyes, Talia Speaker, and Omar Torrico (WCS), and supported by the Moore Foundation and an expert advisory group, this effort brought together 50 experts from 20 countries to chart the future of sound-based monitoring for conservation.

This work was amplified by our Listen to the Future Virtual Meetup series, which convened over 500 participants across four sessions exploring breakthroughs in hardware, data systems, AI, and policy. The scan generated 241 ideas, culminating in the identification of 20 innovation priorities. These findings will be published in 2025 to guide and accelerate progress in the field.

"The audio series was helpful for me to understand existing research work. I use these concepts [and] try to incorporate [them] into my own project. I also find the chats during and after each meeting to offer tidbits of insights and ideas."



CREDIT: OLLIE WEARN



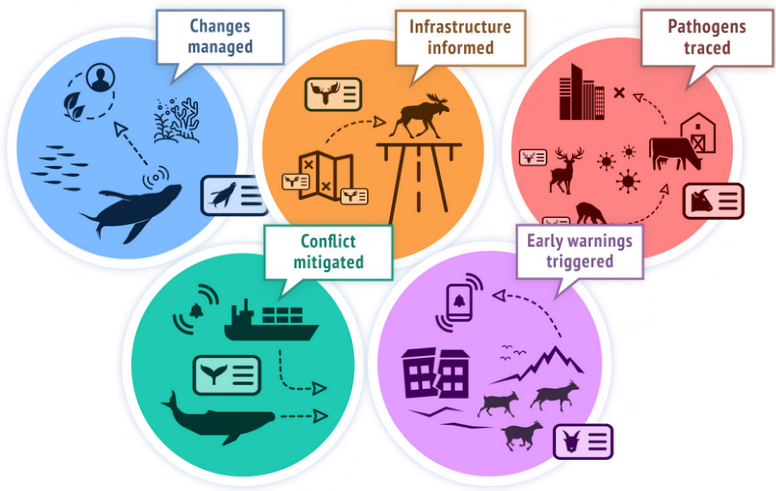
CREDIT: STEPHANIE O'DONNELL

MOVEMENT ECOLOGY

Building on our first horizon scan focused on animal movement, WILDLABS is advancing a global research and policy agenda to align bio-logging innovations with urgent planetary challenges. Our forthcoming peer-reviewed publication, developed in consultation with nearly 40 global participants and an advisory group, maps 30 high-impact engineering, analytical, and coordination priorities to guide the field over the next two decades.

To translate this research into action, we also introduced an initiative to establish an **Animal Movement Biodiversity Observation Network (Move BON)** under the GEO BON umbrella. Initially co-convened with the Smithsonian Institution, NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, and the Max Planck Institute for Animal Behavior, Move BON aims to integrate animal movement data into environmental decision-making across taxa, ecosystems, and regions.

In 2025, we are bringing together an international community of practice to formalize Move BON's structure, develop movement-derived indicators, and establish pathways for national and global policy adoption.



Speaker et al., In Prep

INNOVATIVE FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

Two flagship initiatives that launched in 2023 and 2024, the WILDLABS Awards and The Boring Fund, demonstrate our commitment to fostering sustained impact in conservation technology. The WILDLABS Awards support the adoption, innovation, and scaling of new tools, while The Boring Fund strengthens the foundational infrastructure that underpins the entire conservation technology ecosystem.

THE WILDLABS AWARDS

The **WILDLABS Awards**, launched in partnership with Arm in 2024, provide critical funding for groundbreaking conservation technology projects. During the first round of awards in 2024, we distributed **\$350,000 across 13 grants from a pool of 194 high-quality applications**. A rigorous review process involving expert judges across multiple

fields ensured that grants were given to projects that were the most impactful, innovative, and uniquely poised to benefit from this type of funding. The winners, announced in March 2024, are now finishing their projects and disseminating their learnings and insights to the broader conservation and biodiversity monitoring community.

THE BORING FUND

Recognising the critical but often overlooked elements of conservation technology, **WILDLABS** launched The Boring Fund in September 2024 with the support of Arm to provide \$40,000 in grants to projects that are difficult to fund through traditional avenues. This opportunity was **specifically designed to support essential yet underfunded areas** such as developing training materials, creating documentation, and maintaining infrastructure. The community response to this programme was overwhelmingly positive. With 227 applications, the

response underscored the need for continued support in these foundational aspects of the sector.

The inaugural grant recipients announced in December 2024 are working on projects that enhance tool usability, develop data exchange standards, and improve technical documentation. By strengthening the backbone of conservation technology, The Boring Fund helps support the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the sector.

Together, the WILDLABS Awards and The Boring Fund are shaping the future of conservation technology. We're delighted to be delivering these funding opportunities again in 2025 and 2026 in partnership with Arm, and we look forward to scaling the initiative with new partners in the years to come.

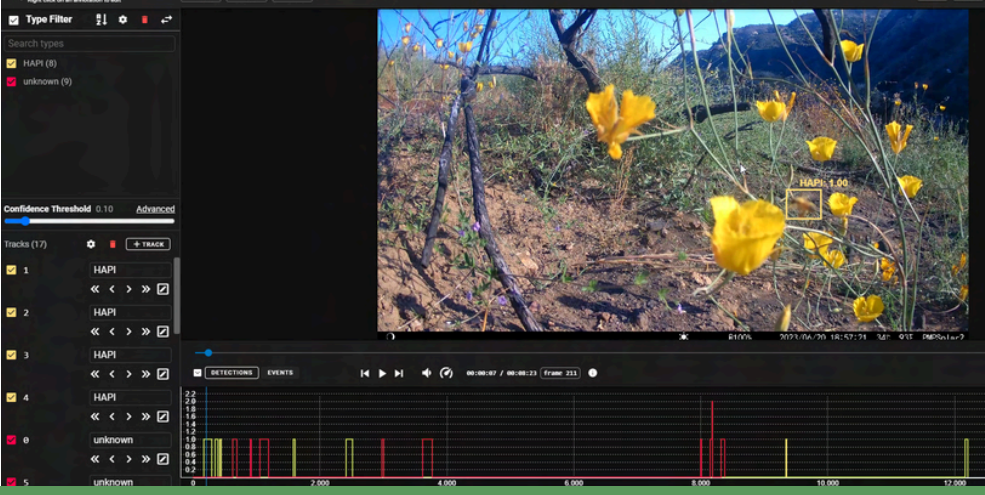
CREDITS (LEFT-RIGHT): LIAM MCGUIRE | DR. CHRIS MURRAY | FISHEYE COLLABORATIVE | MAURICIO SEBASTIAN AKMENTINS | JULIE JUNG | OCEAN SCIENCE ANALYTICS



675
Applications
received



33
Projects
supported



\$730K
Awarded
in funding

2024 WILDLABS GRANTEES

\$10,000 AWARDS	
BoutScout: Monitoring System for Avian Nesting Behavior Studies	Merges a multi-sensor datalogger with AI post-analysis to transform bird nesting studies, enhance data accuracy, and promote conservation awareness (Colombia)
BumbleBuzz	Creates a bioacoustics toolbox for efficient bumblebee monitoring (UK)
Enhancing Pollinator Conservation through Deep Neural Network Development	Employs cutting-edge technology, deep neural networks, and open-access sharing to monitor and understand pollinator-plant interactions (USA)
Fostering Bat Conservation and Citizen Science in Zimbabwe	Promotes bat conservation and citizen science by establishing bat groups and training individuals to use bat detectors and Kaleidoscope software effectively (Zimbabwe)
GreenCrossingAI: Wildlife Conservation using Sustainable ML	Implements green ML model pipelines using low energy consumption to analyze camera trap data for pre-construction monitoring of a proposed wildlife crossing (USA)
Innovative Sensor Technologies for Sustainable Coexistence: Advancing Crocodilian Conservation and Ecosystem Monitoring	Develops custom multisensor satellite trackers to monitor the behaviour of crocodiles, utilizing machine learning algorithms to generate a sensor ethogram based on motion data (Costa Rica)
Underwater Passive Acoustic Monitoring (UPAM) for Threatened Andean Water Frogs	Develops the first underwater passive acoustic monitoring programme to assess the conservation status and long-term monitoring of population trends of an Andean water frogs (Argentina)
\$30,000 AWARDS	
Developing AudioMoth for the Detection of Infrasonic Elephant Rumbles	Extends the frequency range of AudioMoth to detect low-frequency sounds, using the case study of the forest elephant (UK and Thailand)
FinDrop: Accessible Acoustic Monitoring for Mesophotic Marine Environments	Innovates on an open-source and affordable fish sound recorder for deep reef environments (USA and Curacao)
TimeLord: A Low-Cost, Low-Power and Low-Difficulty Timer Board to Control Battery-Powered Devices	Develops a channel timer that costs less than \$50 and is capable of sophisticated timing schedules (Australia)

\$60,000 AWARDS	
Mobilizing Motus	Provides innovative software solutions to sustain exceptional growth of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Canada)
MothBox	Develops an open-source tool that uses computer vision to make monitoring moths and other nocturnal insects more accessible to non-specialists (USA and Panama)
No-Code Custom AI for Camera Trap Species Classification	Provides conservationists with a code-free way to train custom species classification models on camera trap image data (USA)
BORING FUND	
Modernising the Xeno-Canto Code Base	Addresses the technical debt of Xeno-Canto, including a deep-dive in the code to root out possible vulnerabilities and to retroactively fix some existing code
MoveApps Usability Improvement	Improves core aspects of MoveApps, including the findability of Apps, public Workflows, documentation of features, and instructions to report errors to App developers
Safe and Sound, Exploring a Standard to Exchange Monitoring Acoustic Data	Standardises the exchange of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) data via workshops that assess if and how Camtrap DP can be applied to PAM and how its development process can be used in the eco-acoustic community
Sentinel Documentation and Tutorials	Creates high-quality, multilingual, clear documentation and online video tutorials that walk users through every step of Sentinel deployment—from unboxing and installation to troubleshooting and data review
Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Ecological Monitoring in Latin America	Conducts an AI for ecological monitoring workshop that covers machine learning development for camera traps, audio recorders, and airborne data collection

BUILDING CAPACITY: WOMEN IN CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY

Over the past two years, WILDLABS has strengthened the global conservation technology community by equipping individuals with essential skills, fostering collaboration, and expanding access to expertise. Through programmes like Women in Conservation Technology (WiCT) and AI for Conservation Office Hours, we have provided hands-on training, mentorship, and direct technical support that empowers the community to drive innovation and impact in their fields.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, we continued to grow the WiCT programme, expanding its geographic scope into Tanzania and deepening its impact through strengthened mentorship, new professional development modules, and structured peer support. In total, the WiCT program has now equipped 35 emerging female leaders in East Africa with the skills, confidence, and networks needed to thrive in conservation technology. With over 600 applicants and just 10-15 spots available each year, this highly competitive program combines hands-on technical training, mentorship, and leadership development.

Participants engage in a six-month journey anchored by two intensive workshops. The first workshop focuses on technical training in data-driven decision-making, providing participants with hands-on experience learning about mobile and sensor technologies, EarthRanger, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation tools. This is followed by six months of virtual programming to build connections and supplement in-person trainings, with regular meetings across cohorts.

The second workshop builds on this foundation with an emphasis on leadership, innovation, and communication skills, including pitching to funders and navigating career pathways as women in tech. Throughout, participants form a tight-knit support network that continues long after the programme ends.

Beyond the formal training, our WiCT programme provides long-term impact through continued mentorship and support. Each graduate receives a \$500 seed grant to launch a conservation technology project in their community, contributing to outcomes ranging from protected area management to community education and academic research. To date, we've distributed over \$17,500 in seed funding enabled by Arm, supporting projects tied to PhD and MSc programs, peer-reviewed publications, and global conference presentations.

The results speak for themselves: 100% of participants report increased confidence using technology and pitching to funders, and 91% say their professional visibility and leadership responsibilities have grown. Graduates have earned international scholarships, presented at high-level events, and even become mentors and trainers themselves, catalyzing a ripple effect of impact that extends far beyond the workshops.

"Through WiCT, I have developed confidence in leading a team of 31 people and started to develop a proposal to solve human wildlife conflict by empowering communities with the knowledge of wildlife."

"I am very grateful for this opportunity, and it is a life changing experience in my career journey."

*"The training programme was incredibly valuable and beneficial to me. I truly hope to receive more training like this from **WILDLABS** because I feel at home here. The supportive environment makes me feel comfortable, knowing that I can always get the help and assistance I need."*

AI FOR CONSERVATION: OFFICE HOURS

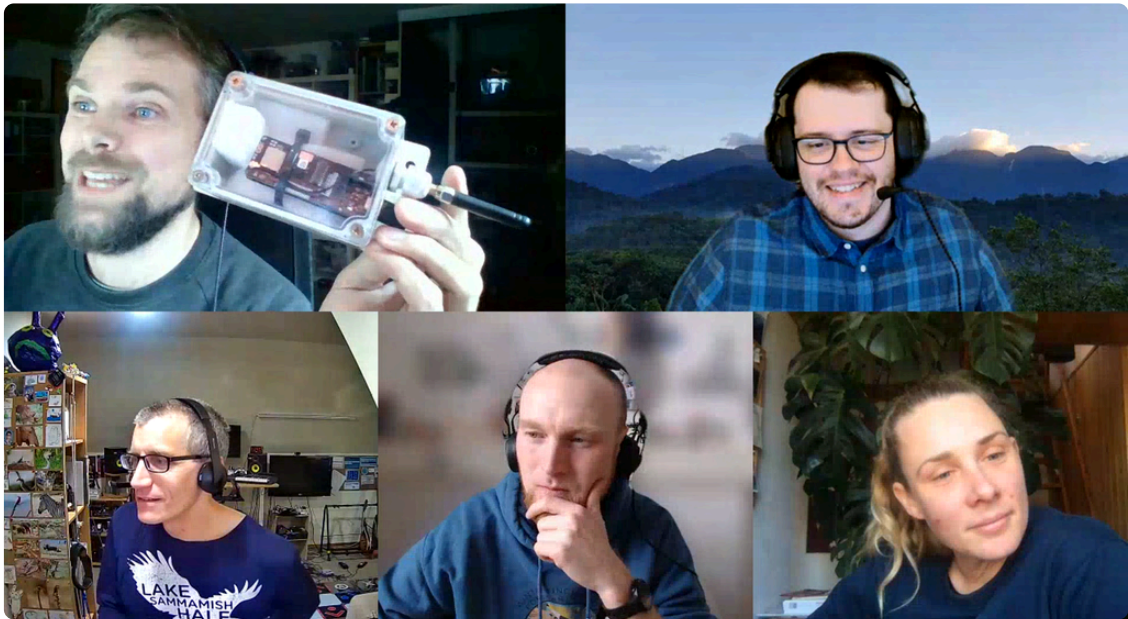
AI for Conservation Office Hours once again connected conservationists with AI specialists for direct, one-on-one support. Originally piloted in 2021 with Dan Morris from Google’s AI for Nature and Society Program, we refined the initiative in 2023 to increase accessibility and impact and ran a bigger, more effective initiative in 2025.

Throughout November and December 2024, **WILDLABS** received 50 applications to participate in this programme. After a thorough review and selection process, we hosted **18 virtual Office Hours sessions** that provided one-on-one support in February 2025. Additionally, Dan Morris provided direct advice over email to over 24 applications.

Overall, we provided guidance and support to conservationists from **21 countries**. Expert advisors Dan Morris, Stefan Kahl, Tom Denton, Ben Weinstein, Caleb Robinson, Lauren Harrell, Timm Haucke, and Tomer Gadot provided tailored guidance on AI and machine learning challenges in conservation projects. The applications this year reflected a continued high demand for support in AI for acoustics, camera traps, and computer vision. We also saw an increased need for support with geospatial applications and an interest in applications for LLM or deep-learning models.

We are currently assessing the impact of our support through a feedback survey and gathering information on the progress of the projects we supported in 2025. We will consolidate and share this feedback alongside details of the topics covered, sharing how those facing similar issues can apply these principles and benefit from these insights.

Beyond immediate problem-solving, Office Hours has fostered lasting professional connections and enabled participants to continue their work with greater confidence and technical support. Additionally, insights from these sessions help **WILDLABS** identify emerging trends and challenges in conservation AI, informing future programming and resource development.



“The advice provided by the AI specialist was instrumental in refining the direction of our project. Specifically, the specialist helped me identify key areas where AI could streamline our data processing workflows, particularly around automating data classification”.



CREDIT: AGOSTINA JUNCOSA

THE ROAD AHEAD

WILDLABS has been on a remarkable journey since our inception in 2015. What started as an online forum for conservation technology has evolved into a cross-cutting support mechanism and resource hub delivering tangible impact for the sector. Our success is reflected by the steady growth and continued engagement of our wonderful community, funders, stakeholders, and champions. As we continue to hold steadfast in our core values and mission, our future direction is shaped by discussions with our community, team members, and steering committee. Over the past two years, these discussions have highlighted clear avenues for growth and impact.

In June 2024, the **WILDLABS** team gathered for a retreat in Cambridge, UK, bringing together our growing international team. This retreat was instrumental in refining our strategy, strengthening our team dynamic, and setting a clear vision for the years ahead. Through collaborative exercises, we identified funding priorities, mapped out impact assessment strategies, and established key milestones for 2025.

Looking ahead, one of our major focus areas is convening the first-ever International Conservation Technology Conference in 2026. Our community has requested a global, in-person conference that drives collaboration and meaningful discussions about the future of conservation technology for a long time.

In addition, we are working to expand our global engagement by developing more regional community groups and deeper connections to on-the-ground hubs to provide localised support and networking opportunities where they are needed most. We are also in the process of growing our partnership to include organisations from sectors that are in our community but not currently represented in our partnership.

By leveraging the insights gained from our surveys and community dialogue, we are ensuring that **WILDLABS** remains a dynamic and responsive programme that helps the community succeed, whether it is through providing access to tools, resources, knowledge, or connections. As with our past, our future will be built on collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to making conservation technology more accessible and impactful than ever before.

*"In the fast-paced, often daunting world of tech, **WILDLABS** is exactly what our conservation staff and partners need."*

Marianne Carter
*Director, Conservation Capacity
and Leadership, Fauna & Flora*

CREDIT: OLLIE WEARN

OUR 2030 TARGETS:

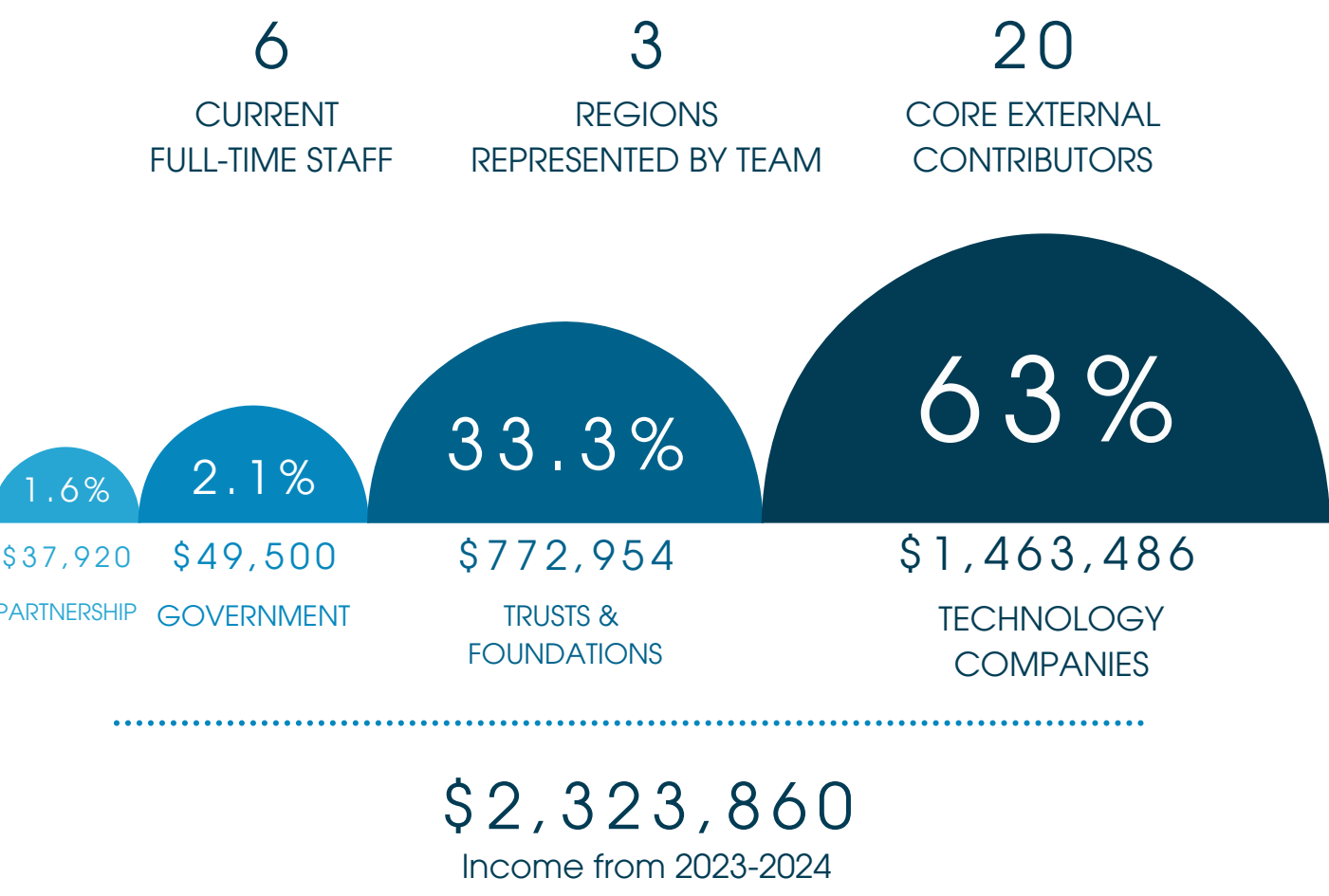
\$10 MILLION
UNLOCKED FOR
COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

50%
REPRESENTATION ACHIEVED FROM
DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

10,000
PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTED WITH TRAINING
AND CAPACITY RESOURCES

20,000
TOTAL MEMBERS

FINANCIALS & PARTNERS



STEERING COMMITTEE

MARIANNE CARTER
Director, Conservation Capacity and Leadership, Fauna & Flora

COLBY LOUCKS
Vice President and Deputy Lead, Wildlife Program, World Wildlife Fund
Steering Committee Chair

JONATHAN PALMER
Executive Director, Conservation Technology, Wildlife Conservation Society

ALI SWANSON
Director, Nature Tech and Innovation, Conservation International

THANK YOU

We're incredibly grateful to all our donors and supporters whose contributions make this work possible. From partnership resourcing and major donations to support through individual contributions and in-kind support, every bit plays a vital role in scaling our impact in conservation technology. Thank you for being part of this growing community!

THE WILDLABS PARTNERSHIP



FUNDING PARTNERS



KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



SUPPORT OUR WORK

We believe in a world where technology and innovation are harnessed to protect nature and empower communities. But we can't do it alone.

With your support, we can:



Address Critical Gaps

Strengthen sector-wide support for essential but underfunded needs through The Awards and Boring Fund models



Drive Smarter Investments

Generate actionable insights that shape funding, strategy, and innovation in conservation technology



Sustain a Thriving Community

Grow our global platform and partnerships that enable collaboration, learning, and real-world impact

How You Can Support:



Donate

Whether it's a major gift or a smaller contribution, every donation fuels our work. Donate here: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/appeals/wildlabs/>



Partner with us

We welcome strategic partnerships with organisations that share our vision. If you're interested in partnering with us directly, or would like to contribute time or equipment, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Talia Speaker, Executive Manager: talia.speaker@wildlabs.net



Spread the word

Champion our work by sharing our cause with your networks and helping us grow our impact and our community



WILDLABS.NET

[The conservation technology network]

CREDIT: TALIA SPEAKER



WILDLABS.NET

[The conservation technology network]

TO PARTNER WITH US GET IN TOUCH

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