

Press Releases: The 2018 Zoonhackathon Global Winner

Media Note
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The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs is pleased to announce Team Yamakapi, from the Zoonhackathon in San Diego, California as the 2018 Zoonhackathon global winner. The runners-up were Team CheeTrack, from Entebbe, Uganda and Team Zoonchini, from New Delhi, India.

Zoonhackathon supports U.S. efforts to reduce wildlife trafficking, raises public awareness among new and diverse audiences, and empowers participants to become part of the solution. During this year's Zoonhackathon, over 275 university students, software professionals, and wildlife enthusiasts created unique technological solutions to combat wildlife trafficking. Events took place in Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, Mumbai, New Delhi, Entebbe, and San Diego.

Team Yamakapi, participants of Zoonhackathon San Diego, developed "Conscious Consumer," a Google Chrome browser extension that educates online shoppers about product sustainability through sensitive key terms related to conservation. Consumers receive a notification alerting them if a product they are attempting to buy contains certain key terms, illegal wildlife parts, or is unsustainable. The browser extension aims to help change consumer purchasing behavior, reduce demand for illegal wildlife products, and prevent the extinction of wildlife species.

Team CheeTrack, from Zoonhackathon Entebbe, created an online solution that identifies and tracks cheetahs in captivity using artificial intelligence and machine learning. Team Zoonchini, from Zoonhackathon New Delhi, developed "Claw Net," a web tool and interactive platform that identifies web searches through "code words" commonly used to refer to illegal wildlife items. ClawNet also contains a map of trade routes for law enforcement, illustrating which buyers and sellers respond to the identified web searches.

For more information about Zoonhackathon, visit www.zoonhackathon.com or contact OES-PA-DG@state.gov. Follow Zoonhackathon on social media at [@StateDeptOES](https://twitter.com/StateDeptOES) and [#Zoonhackathon](https://twitter.com/Zoonhackathon).

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