

# Replication Guide for the WECPD Model

\*Wildlife and Environmental Crimes Prosecution Database\*

## Overview

This guide provides concrete steps for replicating the WECPD in other jurisdictions—whether U.S. states or international contexts. Designed for adaptability, the model can be modified to reflect different legal frameworks, enforcement systems, and levels of technological access.

### Step 1: Define the Scope and Jurisdiction

- Select the target jurisdiction (e.g., U.S. state, country, or province).
- Define the types of crimes included (e.g., wildlife trafficking, pollution, illegal logging).
- Identify relevant enforcement and legal authorities whose data will be captured.
- Determine the data timeframe (e.g., past 5–10 years of prosecutions).

### Step 2: Assemble a Multidisciplinary Team

- Researchers or analysts to gather and interpret case records.
- Legal experts to validate data and map charges to statutory law.
- Technologists to handle data integration and visualization (if using a new platform).
- Students/interns can assist with coding and data entry through academic partnerships.

### Step 3: Collect and Retrieve Prosecution Data

- For U.S. jurisdictions: Use PACER, state court systems, Attorney General websites, or FOIA requests.
- For international jurisdictions: Consult public judicial databases, ministry websites, or partner NGOs.
- Retain copies of court documents or official summaries for documentation and verification.

### Step 4A: Apply the WECPD Coding Framework (Full Replication)

- Use the official WECPD codebook to structure data:
  - District or region
  - Statutes cited
  - Species or environmental element involved
  - Defendant and case outcomes (fines, imprisonment, restitution, etc.)
- Input data into Excel or a compatible CSV format for further analysis and upload.

### *Alternate Step 4B: Submit Data for Integration into the WECPD Platform*

- *To reduce duplication and external costs, especially in low-resource settings, users may choose to code their data locally using the WECPD template and submit it to the existing platform.*
- *Contact the WECPD team for an intake form, codebook, and Excel template.*
- *Submit completed files to be reviewed and uploaded centrally, with attribution.*
- *This model ensures consistency, reduces technical burdens, and maximizes visibility.*

### **Step 5A: Build a Standalone Platform (if required)**

- Use open-source tools for backend infrastructure.
- For geospatial mapping:
  - Esri ArcGIS (licensed) or
  - QGIS / Leaflet.js (open-source alternatives)
  - Design a basic public-facing web interface for data browsing and downloading.

### ***Alternate Step 5B: Use the Existing WECPD Platform Infrastructure***

- *Skip custom platform development by integrating your jurisdiction's data into the centralized WECPD database.*
- *Benefit from existing visualizations, mapping, and search tools.*
- *This method enables quick onboarding with minimal technical setup.*

### **Step 6: Documentation and Transparency**

- Include a README or brief methodology summary with your data submission.
- Clearly define any modifications to the original codebook or structure.
- Provide a contact person for future updates or data clarification.

### **Step 7: Launch and Disseminate**

- If building a standalone version: Launch through your institution's website or a partner NGO platform.
- If integrating into WECPD: Your region will be credited on the official WECPD site, and your data will be published under a shared open-access model.
- Promote findings through academic publications, press briefings, or government stakeholder presentations.

### **Need Help or a Starter Kit?**

- To request:
  - WECPD Codebook
  - Data Entry Template
  - Submission Guide
  - Example Cases
  - Integration Request Form

#### **Please contact:**

Dr. Monique Sosnowski

Center for Criminal Justice Studies, Farmingdale State College

[sosnowm@farmingdale.edu](mailto:sosnowm@farmingdale.edu)