



Netherlands Forensic Institute
Ministry of Security and Justice

Protecting endangered species
with the **Netherlands Forensic Institute**



NFI Wildlife
forensics

A person wearing a white lab coat is holding a test tube in a laboratory. The background is filled with various pieces of laboratory equipment, including a computer monitor and other labware, all under a bright, clinical light. The person's hands are visible, holding the test tube carefully.

The NFI has a wide range of products and services to fight the illegal trade in, and capture of, endangered species in the wild.

Protecting endangered species

NFI Wildlife forensics

The Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) is an agency of the Netherlands Ministry of Security and Justice, and strives to be the most innovative and client-oriented provider of forensic services and tools in the world, with a broad national and international client base.

The NFI provides state-of-the-art products and services to international police forces and public prosecution offices, as well as to international criminal courts, tribunals, governmental organisations and special investigative services. The services offered by the NFI cover the areas of forensic casework, education and training, including consultancy. With over 30 forensic disciplines, the NFI is one of the few institutes to offer such an extensive range of high-tech forensic products and services within one organisation.

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Consultancy on wildlife forensics

Both nationally and internationally, the NFI can advise CITES organisations and help them with suggestions on how to perform investigations with respect to specific species of plants and animals, and can provide insight into which questions can and cannot be answered using specific methods of data collection.

State-of-the-art analysis of flora and fauna

The NFI offers state-of-the-art forensic examinations in the following areas:

- determining whether animals and plants belong to protected species
- determining whether specific animals have been bred or captured from the wild
- determining the geographic origin of animals

Using DNA analysis, the NFI can determine the species of animals or their derivative products listed on CITES Appendix I such as reptiles, birds, fish, crustaceans and shellfish, and plants. For certain animal species such as birds of prey, the NFI can also perform supplementary individualised DNA analysis, such as kinship testing, to verify the breeding of young animals in captivity or to investigate toxins on the skin to establish whether poison arrow frogs have been bred in captivity or captured from the wild.

In some cases, the geographic origins of (products of) animals or plants can also be determined. Aside from DNA analysis, isotope analysis may also be used for this purpose.

Wide range of forensic examination techniques

In addition to CITES-oriented research, the NFI offers a wide range of high-quality forensic examination techniques that can assist in combating wildlife crime. For example, fingerprints and/or traces of human DNA on confiscated packages of illegal traditional medicines can be examined, in order to identify who has handled them or had them in hand. Methods such as digital research into potentially fraudulent channelling of funds, or examinations of handwriting and documents to establish the authenticity of an import document, can also be deployed. The NFI would be pleased to advise you on all the options.

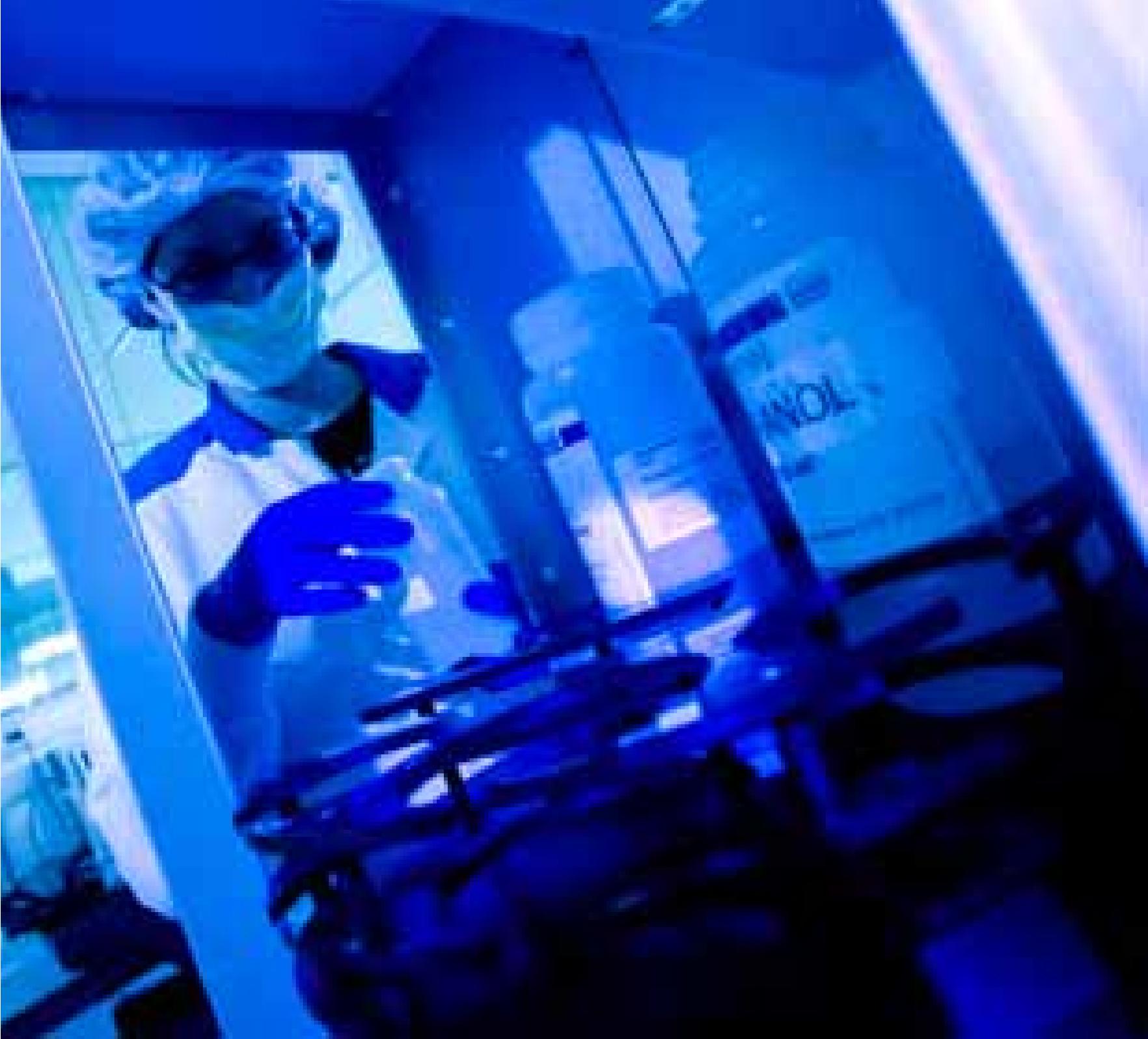
The NFI plays a prominent role in Europe in the examination of flora and fauna. The NFI:

- offers both CITES-oriented research and forensic analysis and examinations in many other expert areas;
- has a high quality standard and is accredited by the Dutch Accreditation Council for the analysis of non-human biological traces for the identification of biological samples;
- safeguards the chain of custody and is proficient in writing reports that are not only scientifically correct but legally valid as well, which is important for use as evidence in court;
- can quickly respond to new or changing wildlife issues by developing forensic examination techniques and methods, based on policy objectives.

A key to forensic knowledge; NFI Academy

In order to perform effective forensic examinations of flora and fauna, it is important that those directly involved in the field, from game wardens and customs officials to environmental inspectors, have a broad forensic awareness. How should they secure traces of wildlife species and trace evidence of wildlife crimes? What is the best way for them to package and store a biological sample? How should DNA traces and fingerprints be secured? How should research samples be delivered? Knowledge about these issues ultimately helps to ensure that examinations of the highest quality possible are performed, which significantly enhances the chance of good results.

The NFI Academy provides education and training in the area of forensics to international governmental organisations. The level of the training and/or education is tailor-made to the needs of the client, and can vary from a practical to an academic level. Training and education can be given at the NFI, or in-house at the client's location. Facilities for 'learning at a distance' can also be made available.





Information

For more information on the products and services of the Netherlands Forensic Institute, please contact:

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