

IoT Based Anti-Poaching System for Trees and Wildlife Monitoring System in Remote Area

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ABSTRACT

Illegal poaching and deforestation pose significant threats to biodiversity, leading to the decline of wildlife populations and environmental degradation. To address this issue, we propose an IoT-based Anti-Poaching System for real-time monitoring and activity detection in remote forest areas. The system leverages a Raspberry Pi as a low-power, cost-effective device for video streaming and uploading footage to cloud storage for further analysis. For animal detection, a machine learning-based model is employed to recognize species and track their movements. This enables wildlife conservationists to monitor animals' presence in different areas and detect any anomalies. Additionally, a YOLO (You Only Look Once) deep learning model is integrated for fire detection, allowing early identification of wildfires caused by illegal activities such as poaching camps or deforestation. The captured data is processed in real-time, and any detected suspicious activities, such as unauthorized human presence, gunshots (via sound recognition), or fires, trigger automated alerts. These alerts are sent to forest authorities via a mobile application or web-based dashboard, enabling rapid intervention. The system also supports GPS tracking for pinpointing the exact location of detected threats. By combining IoT, deep learning, and real-time analytics, this smart surveillance system enhances forest conservation efforts by providing automated monitoring, early threat detection, and rapid response capabilities. The proposed solution aims to minimize illegal poaching activities and protect endangered wildlife, ensuring a sustainable and secure ecosystem.

Keywords: IoT, Anti-Poaching System, Real-Time Monitoring, Raspberry Pi, Machine Learning, YOLO, Fire Detection, Wildlife Conservation, Deep Learning, Video Surveillance, Illegal Poaching, Deforestation, Smart Surveillance, Threat Detection, Automated Alerts.

INTRODUCTION

Illegal poaching and deforestation have become critical threats to wildlife conservation and ecosystem stability. Many species face extinction due to uncontrolled hunting and habitat destruction, while deforestation accelerates climate change and biodiversity loss. Traditional methods of monitoring forests, such as manual patrolling and fixed surveillance cameras, have proven inefficient due to the vastness of forest areas and the limited availability of resources. To address these challenges, technology-driven solutions incorporating IoT, machine learning, and deep learning have gained attention for their ability to provide automated, real-time monitoring and threat detection.

This project proposes an IoT-based Anti-Poaching System that leverages Raspberry Pi for video streaming, machine learning for animal detection, and YOLO (You Only Look Once) for fire detection. Raspberry Pi, a cost-effective, energy-efficient computing device, enables real-time video capture and uploads footage to a cloud-based platform for analysis. By integrating deep learning models, the system can distinguish between normal and suspicious activities, detecting unauthorized human presence, wildlife movement, and potential forest fires. This real-time automated surveillance can significantly enhance conservation efforts by reducing reliance on manual monitoring.

The animal detection module employs machine learning models trained on wildlife datasets to recognize and classify various animal species in captured video frames. This feature is crucial for monitoring the movement of endangered species and detecting poaching activities. Additionally, the fire detection module, powered by YOLO, can identify fire outbreaks caused by illegal activities such as poaching camps or deforestation-related fires. Early detection of such incidents allows forest authorities to take timely preventive actions, reducing the risk of widespread environmental damage.

Upon detecting suspicious activities, the system triggers automated alerts and notifications. These alerts are sent to forest authorities via a mobile application or web-based dashboard, providing real-time updates with video evidence, GPS location, and timestamps. This feature ensures faster response times and enables authorities to mobilize patrol units to the affected areas efficiently. Furthermore, sound recognition can be integrated to detect gunshots or unusual noises, enhancing the system's ability to identify illegal hunting activities.

By combining IoT, artificial intelligence, and real-time data analytics, this system presents an innovative and scalable approach to wildlife conservation and forest protection. The implementation of such an automated surveillance system can drastically reduce poaching incidents, prevent illegal deforestation, and contribute to global conservation efforts. This research aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating deep learning and IoT technologies in environmental protection and highlight the potential for future advancements in automated wildlife monitoring.

RELATED WORK

This study presents a novel Internet of Things (IoT)-based smart wildlife monitoring system that uses a range of sensors and devices to measure environmental factors and animal movements in real time. The authors demonstrate how the system tracks habitat changes and provides crucial data for wildlife conservation efforts using environmental sensors and GPS technologies. The results demonstrate that the system significantly enhances the ability to recognize and respond to poaching incidents, which contributes to better wildlife reserve management. [1]

This article's writers look at a variety of machine learning techniques for detecting poaching. They examine the effectiveness of methods including random forests, support vector machines, and deep learning models in predicting poaching incidents based on historical data and environmental variables. The findings show that machine learning can significantly improve poaching prediction accuracy, enabling conservationists to more efficiently allocate resources in their battle against wildlife crime. [2]

This project looks into using drones equipped with cameras and sensors to monitor wildlife reserves for instances of poaching. The authors present a methodology that uses computer vision techniques to identify suspicious human activity in aerial imagery. Case studies demonstrate how drone surveillance may efficiently identify poaching incidents in a timely manner, allowing wildlife officials to act promptly. The results of the study suggest that drones may be a helpful tool for bolstering species conservation initiatives. [3]

This paper discusses the development of a smartphone application for wildlife monitoring in local communities. The authors emphasize the need of including local communities in conservation efforts by providing them with the ability to report poaching incidents and submit evidence through the app. The study shows how the application has increased awareness and participation in wildlife protection, highlighting the potential of mobile technology to support community-driven conservation efforts. [4]

The authors of this study propose an integrated system that combines Internet of Things devices and artificial intelligence to enhance wildlife management strategies. The framework includes smart cameras and environmental sensors that collect data on wildlife numbers and human behavior. The authors demonstrate how artificial intelligence (AI) systems use this data to predict potential threats such as poaching or habitat degradation. The research indicates that this integration can significantly improve the processes used to make decisions about conservation management. [5]

This review research looks at the various applications of AI in animal conservation, with a focus on habitat monitoring and preventing poaching. The authors look at how successfully AI techniques, like picture recognition and predictive modeling, detect illegal behavior and assess ecosystem health. The findings emphasize the potential of AI to enhance

animal preservation efforts while also emphasizing the need for additional research and development in this area. [6]

This study presents an IoT-enabled anti-poaching system that tracks protected areas and detects unauthorized activities. The authors provide a detailed description of the system architecture, which includes cameras, sensors, and a centralized monitoring platform. The study found that by immediately notifying park rangers of suspicious activities, the approach significantly improves reaction times and supports wildlife conservation efforts. [7]

This article explores the use of video analytics technologies for wildlife monitoring and poaching activity identification. The authors provide many methods for examining trail camera data that enable automated detection of human intrusions and identification of animal species. The results of the study show that video analytics can significantly reduce the time and resources needed for animal monitoring, allowing conservationists to focus on strategic interventions. [8]

This study investigates the potential of technology to promote community participation in wildlife conservation efforts. The authors offer case studies that illustrate how local communities might be involved in reporting poaching incidents and sharing conservation information through social media and mobile applications. The findings suggest that technology can enhance community engagement, leading to improved conservation outcomes. [9]

The review's authors look at the opportunities and challenges associated with IoT technology adoption in wildlife conservation. Among the subjects they address are data management, connectivity in rural areas, and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration. The report highlights successful case studies where IoT technologies have been successfully adopted for conservation, providing insights into best practices and possible directions for future research in this field. [10]

This paper described a election based modified method for energy efficient routing in WSN Algorithm used in paper forms a hierarchical routing protocol by dividing network into cluster. The modified algorithm shows good performance in balancing the energy and prolonging network lifetime. [16]

PROPOSED SYSTEM

The suggested IoT-based Anti-Poaching System aims to enhance the monitoring and protection of wildlife and forest resources in remote areas in order to effectively tackle the issues of illegal poaching and logging. This system uses a network of strategically positioned cameras and related sensors dispersed throughout the designated areas. These sensors include acoustic sensors that record specific sounds like gunshots or chainsaw noises, motion detectors that identify unlawful movements, and environmental sensors that monitor variables like temperature and humidity that may indicate fires or other threats. High-resolution cameras capture clear images and videos to guarantee continuous monitoring day and night, and infrared cameras identify heat signatures to facilitate surveillance at night. The collected data is sent to a central server via dependable communication modules like ESP32, which can maintain long-range wireless connections even in remote locations. The central server must compile and evaluate the data using advanced machine learning algorithms that are able to identify suspicious activities in real time.

Proposed Architecture:

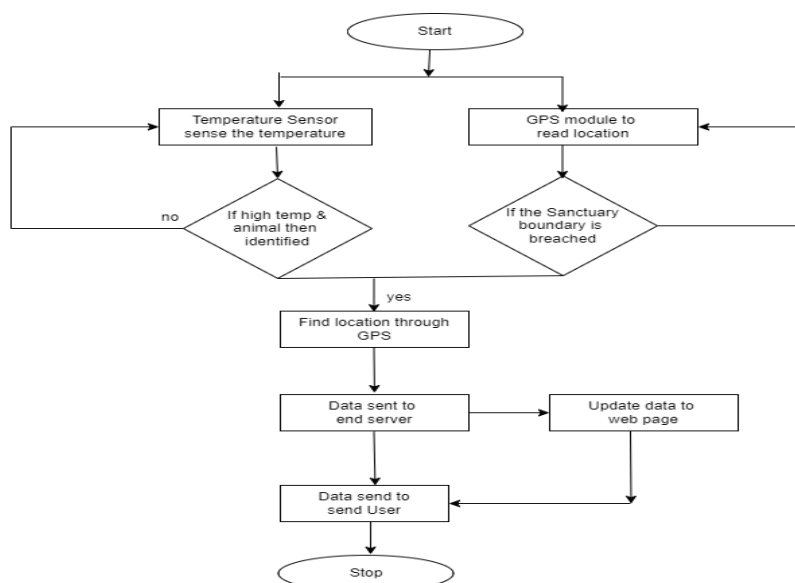


Figure 1. Proposed Architecture

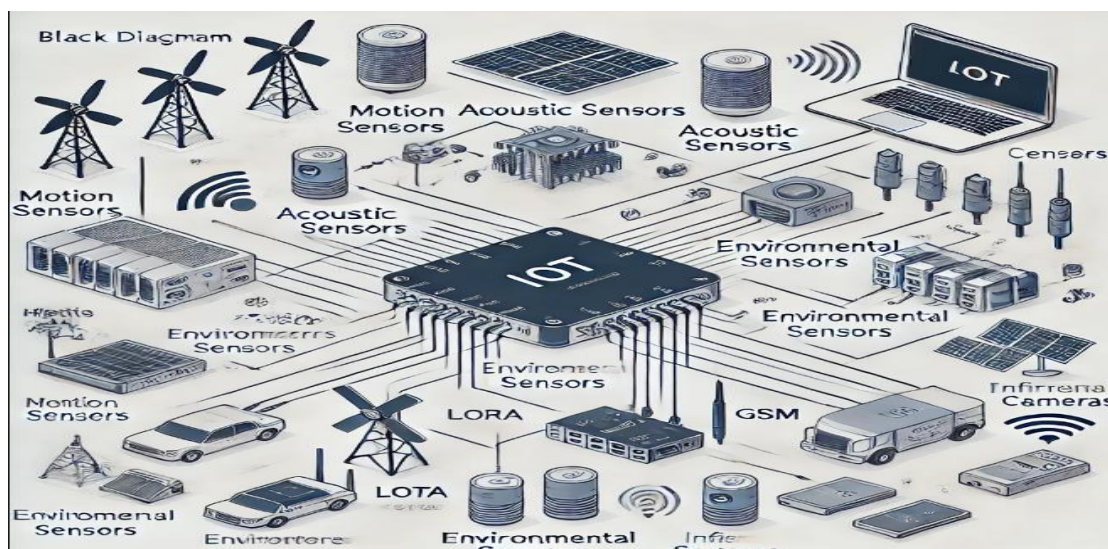


Figure 2 Framework Diagram

CNN Model

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are widely used in image classification and object detection tasks, making them ideal for real-time animal detection in forest environments. In this project, a CNN model is trained to detect and classify various animal species from video feeds captured by Raspberry Pi cameras. The CNN architecture consists of multiple layers, including convolutional layers for feature extraction, pooling layers for dimensionality reduction, and fully connected layers for classification. The model processes images by detecting essential features such as edges, textures, and patterns, enabling accurate identification of animals in their natural habitat. The input to the CNN model consists of images or video frames resized to a standard dimension, such as 224×224 pixels, and normalized for better processing. The convolutional layers extract spatial features from these images, while ReLU activation functions introduce non-linearity to capture complex patterns. To improve efficiency, max pooling layers are applied to down sample feature maps, reducing computational complexity while retaining essential information. The extracted features are then passed through fully connected layers, where the model learns to classify different animal species based on labeled training data. The final output layer uses a softmax activation function to predict the most likely animal class. To ensure high accuracy, the CNN model is trained on a large dataset of wildlife images,

which may include publicly available datasets like ImageNet, naturalist, or custom datasets collected from surveillance cameras. The training process involves data augmentation techniques such as flipping, rotation, zooming, and brightness adjustments to improve generalization and robustness. Additionally, pixel values are normalized to a range of 0 to 1, and animal categories are converted into numerical labels using one-hot encoding. The model is trained using a categorical cross-entropy loss function and optimized using the Adam optimizer, ensuring faster convergence and improved accuracy. Once the CNN model is trained, it is deployed on Raspberry Pi for real-time wildlife monitoring and detection. The Raspberry Pi captures video footage, processes frames, and classifies detected animals using the trained model. OpenCV is integrated for video capture, and the model predicts the animal species in each frame. If an animal is detected, real-time alerts and notifications can be sent to forest authorities via a mobile application or web dashboard. This enables faster response times, allowing authorities to take necessary actions to prevent poaching and illegal activities. In summary, CNN-based animal detection plays a crucial role in wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts. By leveraging deep learning and IoT, this system provides an automated, scalable, and efficient solution for monitoring forest environments. The integration of real-time image processing, cloud storage, and automated alerts ensures continuous tracking of animal movements, improving conservation strategies and security measures for endangered species. Future improvements may include object tracking, sound recognition, and integration with thermal cameras to enhance detection accuracy in low-visibility conditions.

YOLO Model

The You Only Look Once (YOLO) model is a real-time object detection algorithm that is highly efficient for fire detection in forest environments. In this project, YOLO is used to detect fire from video feeds captured by Raspberry Pi cameras, enabling quick alerts and preventive actions to control wildfires. YOLO's single-stage architecture makes it significantly faster than traditional object detection methods, allowing it to analyze real-time video frames and accurately identify fire incidents. The YOLO model processes video frames by dividing them into a grid system, where each grid cell predicts multiple bounding boxes and assigns confidence scores to objects present. For fire detection, the model is trained to recognize flames, smoke, and fire intensity in different environments. Unlike conventional methods that rely on pixel intensity changes, YOLO uses deep learning-based feature extraction, enabling it to detect fire even in challenging conditions such as low light, fog, or partial obstructions. The training dataset for YOLO-based fire detection consists of images containing various types of fire, smoke, and non-fire scenarios to ensure high accuracy. Datasets such as Flame Dataset, FireNet Dataset, or custom datasets collected from surveillance cameras are used for training. The images are annotated with bounding boxes around fire regions, and the model is trained using a loss function that minimizes localization errors and false positives. Data augmentation techniques such as brightness adjustment, noise addition, and rotation are applied to improve robustness against environmental variations. Once the YOLO model is trained, it is deployed on Raspberry Pi with OpenCV and TensorFlow or Darknet to process real-time video streams. The model continuously scans each frame, detecting fire outbreaks within milliseconds. When fire is detected, an alert system is triggered, sending notifications to forest officials or firefighters via SMS, mobile apps, or cloud-based monitoring systems. Additionally, an automated response system can be integrated to activate fire suppression mechanisms, such as water sprinklers or fire-resistant barriers, in high-risk zones. YOLO-based fire detection provides a fast, efficient, and accurate solution for preventing wildfires in forest areas. By integrating deep learning and IoT, this system enhances real-time monitoring, allowing immediate action to mitigate fire hazards. Future improvements may include thermal imaging integration, drone-based fire surveillance, and AI-driven risk assessment to further enhance the system's reliability and effectiveness in fire prevention and control.

The Raspberry Pi Zero is a compact and cost-effective microcontroller that can be used for real-time video capturing and uploading in IoT-based anti-poaching and fire detection systems. When integrated with a Raspberry Pi Camera Module, the device can capture video streams and upload them to a server or cloud storage for further processing using machine learning models such as CNN for animal detection and YOLO for fire detection.

1. Hardware Setup

The setup consists of:

Raspberry Pi Zero (W/WH) – A lightweight microcontroller with Wi-Fi support.

Raspberry Pi Camera Module – A compatible camera for capturing video (e.g., Raspberry Pi Camera v2 or NoIR for night vision).

MicroSD Card – Stores the operating system and required software.

Power Supply (5V, 2A) – Provides stable power to the Raspberry Pi Zero.



Figure 3 Zero Raspberry PI

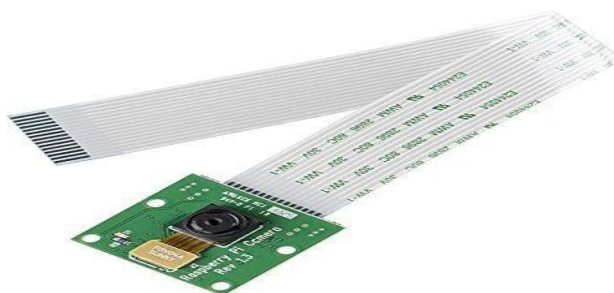


Figure 4 Raspberry PI Camera Module

The Raspberry Pi Camera Module is a compact, high-resolution camera designed for capturing images and videos in Raspberry Pi-based projects. It connects to the Raspberry Pi's CSI (Camera Serial Interface) port, enabling high-speed data transfer. In IoT-based anti-poaching and fire detection systems, this module plays a crucial role in video surveillance, real-time monitoring, and AI-based detection of animals and fire.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

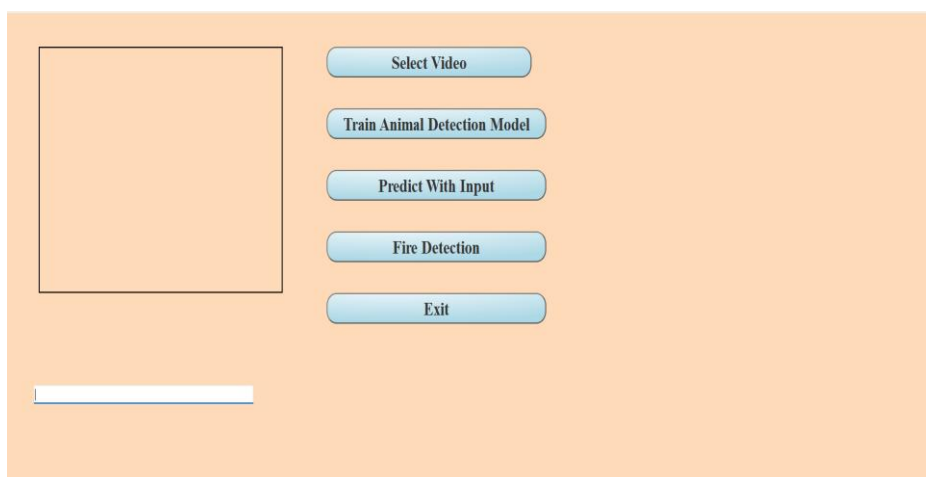


Figure 5 Main UI Part

The figure 5 shows the main UI part where user can select the video, train the model and predict animal and fire.

1. CNN Model Accuracy Training and validation

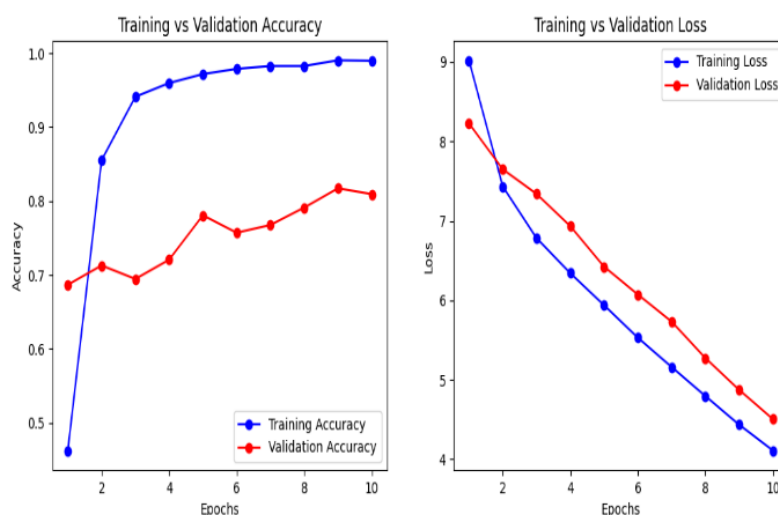


Figure 6 Training VS Validation Accuracy

The figure 6 consists of two plots: **Training vs. Validation Accuracy** (left) and **Training vs. Validation Loss** (right). These plots represent the performance of a machine learning model, likely a CNN, during training over 10 epochs. In the **Training vs. Validation Accuracy** plot, the training accuracy (blue line) rapidly increases, reaching nearly 100% by epoch 5, while the validation accuracy (red line) improves more gradually, peaking around 80% at epoch 10. This suggests that the model is learning well on the training data but may be experiencing some overfitting, as the validation accuracy does not reach the same level as training accuracy. In the **Training vs. Validation Loss** plot, both the training loss (blue line) and validation loss (red line) decrease over epochs, indicating that the model is learning effectively. However, the gap between them suggests potential overfitting, as the validation loss remains consistently higher than the training loss. Overall, while the model shows strong learning performance, the difference in training and validation accuracy and loss suggests that improvements such as **regularization, dropout, or more data augmentation** may help generalize better to unseen data.

2. Confusion Matrix

The classification results of the CNN model describe its performance metrics. The proposed CNN model achieves an accuracy of 90%, which is calculated by comparing the actual values with the predicted values. Accuracy is determined using the formula:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

Precision: It can be described by the range of accurate results the model produced or by the proportion of all positive categories that the model accurately predicted were really true. The precision in the aforementioned figure is 70%. It can be computed using the formula below.

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

Recall: It's outlined because the out of total positive categories, however model expected properly. The recall should be as high as doable. Our suggested system has a recall of 0.67. %

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

F1-Score: The F1-score is a harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a balance between the two metrics. It is useful when dealing with imbalanced datasets. The F1-score for this model is 0.72, computed as:

$$F1S \text{ core} = 2 \times \left(\frac{\text{Precision} \times \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}} \right)$$

These evaluation metrics help in understanding the effectiveness of the CNN model in classification tasks. While the model has a good precision, its recall suggests that further improvements can be made to enhance its ability to correctly detect positive instances.

Per-Class Accuracy:				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Bear	0.5385	0.8400	0.6562	25
Bird	1.0000	0.8148	0.8980	27
Cat	0.8077	0.8750	0.8400	24
Cow	0.9444	0.6538	0.7727	26
Deer	0.9412	0.6400	0.7619	25
Dog	0.7000	0.8750	0.7778	24
Dolphin	0.5714	0.9600	0.7164	25
Elephant	0.9545	0.8077	0.8750	26
Giraffe	1.0000	0.9600	0.9796	25
Horse	0.8947	0.6538	0.7556	26
Kangaroo	0.5938	0.7600	0.6667	25
Lion	0.9524	0.7692	0.8511	26
Panda	0.9565	0.8148	0.8800	27
Tiger	1.0000	0.8400	0.9130	25
Zebra	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	27
accuracy			0.8172	383
macro avg	0.8570	0.8176	0.8229	383
weighted avg	0.8604	0.8172	0.8245	383

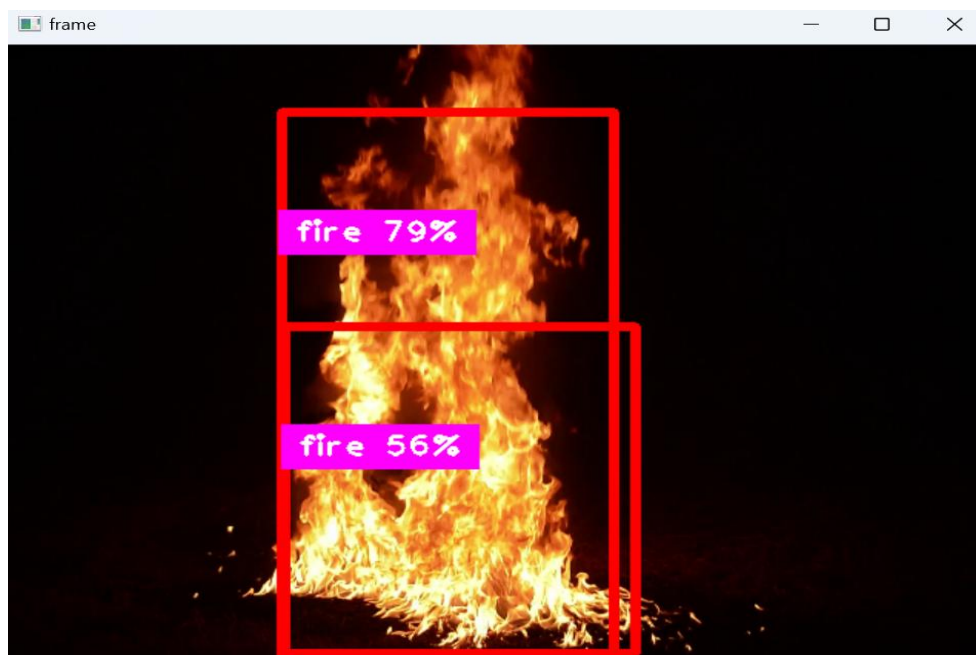
Figure 7 Confusion matrix

The figure 7 shows a classification report, showcasing the precision, recall, F1-score, and support for different animal classes in a machine learning model's performance. Each row represents a distinct class, detailing how well the model performs in identifying that specific class. Precision measures the proportion of correct predictions among all predicted instances of a class, while recall assesses how well the model captures all actual instances of that class. The F1-score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a balanced performance metric. The model performs exceptionally well for certain classes such as "Bird," "Giraffe," "Tiger," and "Zebra," achieving perfect precision and recall, whereas classes like "Bear" and "Kangaroo" exhibit relatively lower scores, indicating challenges in classification. The overall accuracy of the model is 81.72%, with macro and weighted averages also reflecting strong performance. The weighted average considers class imbalances, making it a more reliable indicator of the model's effectiveness across different classes.

**Figure 8** Animal Detection

The figure 8 shows the animal detection. When the animal is detected the system buzzer is on.

3. Fire Detection

**Figure 9** Fire Detection

The figure9 shows the fire detection from inputted video. When the fire is detected the system buzzer is on.

4. Accuracy Over Epoch

Table 1 Accuracy over epoch

Epoch	Accuracy
10	82.77 %
30	90.20 %

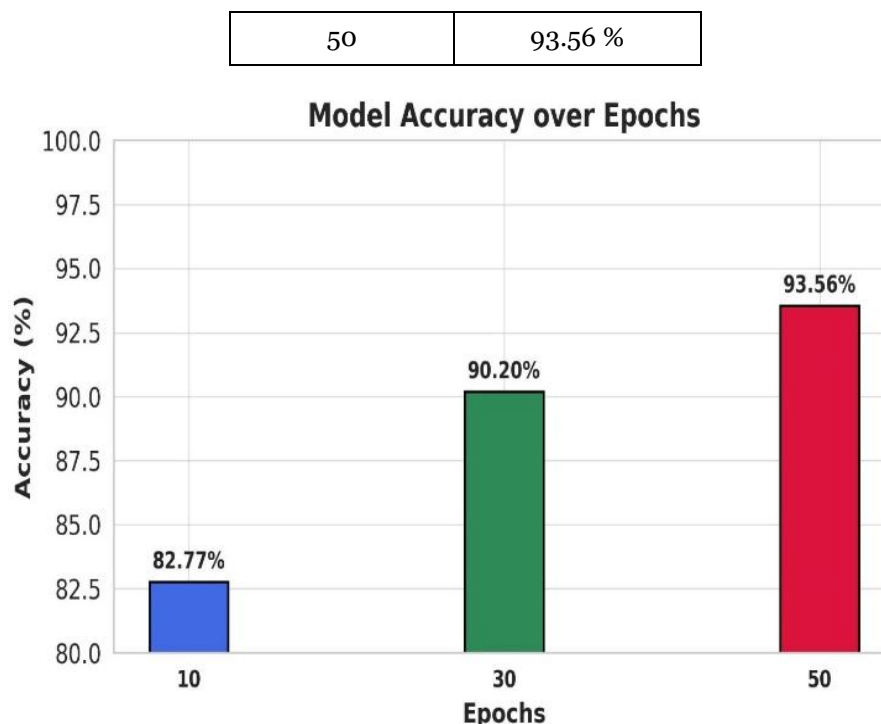


Figure 10 Model Accuracy over epoch

The bar chart in figure 10 illustrates the accuracy progression of a machine learning model over different epochs—10, 30, and 50. The x-axis represents the number of epochs, while the y-axis displays the corresponding accuracy percentages. As shown, the accuracy improves steadily from 82.77% at 10 epochs to 90.20% at 30 epochs, and further reaches 93.56% at 50 epochs. Each bar is color-coded for better visualization, and numerical values are displayed above each bar for clarity. The trend suggests that the model is learning effectively with more training epochs, though further increments should be monitored to prevent overfitting.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of an IoT-based Anti-Poaching Activity Detection System provides a real-time and intelligent approach to wildlife protection. By leveraging Raspberry Pi with a camera module for video streaming, CNN-based machine learning models for animal detection, and YOLO for fire detection, the system ensures continuous monitoring of protected areas. The integration of cloud storage, real-time alerts, and AI-based analysis enhances the system's ability to detect and respond to potential threats effectively. The system's accuracy and efficiency in identifying unauthorized human activities, poaching attempts, and environmental hazards like fire make it a powerful tool for conservation efforts. With low-power IoT sensors, remote monitoring, and automated alerts, it minimizes the need for human intervention while maximizing coverage. Despite its advantages, challenges such as network connectivity in remote areas, false positives in detection, and power management for continuous operation need to be addressed. Further enhancements, including edge AI processing, improved detection algorithms, and integration with drones, could make the system more robust and effective. In summary, the proposed IoT-driven Anti-Poaching System offers a scalable, cost-effective, and real-time solution for wildlife protection, ensuring better monitoring and rapid response to illegal activities in conservation areas.

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