

TrailGuard AI at Similipal — Odisha's Forest Department Uses Edge-AI Cameras to Catch Poachers in a Melanistic-Tiger Reserve

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · India

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Odisha's Forest Department has scaled the AI-powered TrailGuard camera network to 220+ units in Similipal Tiger Reserve, transmitting human/animal/vehicle classifications within 40 seconds; a July 2026 sweep led to four arrests and seized firearms threatening its black tigers.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-27

Odisha Forest Department (Similipal Tiger Reserve), with RESOLVE, the Global Tiger Forum and India's National Tiger Conservation Authority — accessed 2026-08-27

The Hans India: AI camera helps nab four poachers in Similipal — accessed 2026-08-27

Clemson News: TrailGuard AI featured in BioScience — accessed 2026-08-27

Insights on India: TrailGuard AI in Indian forests — accessed 2026-08-27

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