

Contributing to Wildlife Detection System

Thank you for considering contributing to the Wildlife Detection System! This document provides guidelines and instructions for contributing to the project.

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Code of Conduct

This project adheres to a Code of Conduct that all contributors are expected to follow. Please be respectful, inclusive, and considerate in your interactions with other contributors.

Getting Started

1. **Fork the repository:** Create your own copy of the project on GitHub
2. **Clone your fork:**

bash

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```
git clone https://github.com/YOUR-USERNAME/WildlifeDetectionSystem.git
cd WildlifeDetectionSystem
```

3. **Set up the development environment:**

bash

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```
python -m venv venv
source venv/bin/activate # On Windows: venv\Scripts\activate
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

4. **Create a new branch for your work:**

bash

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```
git checkout -b feature/your-feature-name
```

Development Workflow

1. Keep your fork updated:

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```
git remote add upstream https://github.com/ORIGINAL-OWNER/WildlifeDetectionSystem.g
git fetch upstream
git merge upstream/main
```

2. Implement your changes: Make focused, incremental changes to the codebase

3. Test your changes: Ensure your changes don't break existing functionality

4. Commit your changes:

bash

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```
git add .
git commit -m "Add a descriptive commit message"
```

5. Push to your fork:

bash

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```
git push origin feature/your-feature-name
```

6. Submit a pull request: Create a PR from your fork to the original repository

Coding Standards

- Follow [PEP 8](#) style guide for Python code
- Use 4 spaces for indentation (not tabs)
- Document your code using docstrings
- Write meaningful commit messages that explain *why* changes were made
- Include comments for complex sections of code

Submission Guidelines

Pull Requests

1. Update your fork to the latest upstream version
2. Create a new branch for your feature or bugfix
3. Make your changes with appropriate testing
4. Submit a pull request with a clear description of the changes
5. Link any relevant issues in the PR description

Commit Messages

Write clear, concise commit messages that explain the "why" behind the changes:

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```
Feature/fix/docs/refactor: Short summary (50 chars)
```

```
More detailed explanation if needed, wrapped at 72 characters.  
Explain the problem that this commit is solving. Focus on why you  
are making this change as opposed to how.
```

```
Resolves: #123
```

Feature Requests

When requesting new features:

1. Check existing issues to avoid duplicates
2. Clearly describe the feature and its benefits
3. Explain how it fits into the project's goals
4. If possible, outline an implementation approach

Bug Reports

When reporting bugs:

1. Check existing issues to avoid duplicates
2. Include detailed steps to reproduce the issue
3. Describe the expected behavior and actual behavior
4. Include relevant logs, screenshots, or error messages
5. Mention your environment (OS, Python version, etc.)

Thank you for contributing to the Wildlife Detection System!