International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) 
Monthly Update and Information for IUGS E-Bulletin, April 2023

MDPI Forensic Science Journal: Special Issue on Forensic Geology
The MDPI Forensic Science Journal has agreed a, 'Special issue on Forensic Geology'. Information on the special issue or the submission of a paper can be found on the link below or by contacting the IUGS-IFG Crime Scene Adviser (Prof Pier Matteo Barone).

MDPI Forensic Sciences journal
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mEOOds09enWmWT52lk32Z5uM4RPe/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114453841720862417062&rtmpo=true&sd=true
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Questionnaires on Geophysical Methods Applied in Criminal Investigation
The FBI Laboratory is conducting web-based questionnaires to gather information on the use of metal detectors and advanced geophysical methods (such as ground penetrating radar and electrical resistivity) to search for hidden or buried targets (clandestine graves, weapons, etc.) in criminal investigations. The intent of these questionnaires is to better understand how geophysical methods are deployed for law enforcement investigations and how effective the method was under case specific conditions. The questionnaires are anonymized and providing personal information is optional. Links to the questionnaires and contact details are below.

Geophysical Service Providers in Support of Law Enforcement:
https://govsurvey.us/survey/808748715106959361
Law Enforcement use of Geophysical Methods:
https://govsurvey.us/survey/806500985499025409
Metal Detectors use in Crime Scene Investigations:
https://govsurvey.us/survey/809910645015576577
Contact email: geophysics@fbi.gov.

Forensic Geology and the Geological Society of America
On 19 March 2023, the 2023 Northeastern/Southeastern Geological Society of America meeting held a session on 'Geoscience for National Security and Law Enforcement'. IUGS-IFG was represented and included; the goals and methods of forensic soil analysis, environmental DNA in dust and soil, a forensic palynology cautionary tale, standards development, remote sensing (SAR) for detection of illegal dredging, remote sensing for validation of the Kimberly process and the ongoing activities of IUGS-IFG.

Not All Gold is Equal: The Clean Gold Program
IUGS-IFG have been supporting and working in collaboration with the Clean Gold Program in Brazil. The Clean Gold Program was launched in 2019 to enable Federal Police create chemical fingerprints of samples, used to as a baseline to cross-reference the provenance of illegal or suspicious gold. This is aimed at the tackling the growing problem of illegal gold trade by criminal gangs and cartels. An article on the Clean Gold Program can be found on the link below, and a link on the IUGS-IFG involvement:

British Delegation Visits the Clean Gold Program in Brazil
On 17 April 2023, the Clean Gold Program was visited by a British delegation. Headed by the UK’s Minister of Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; Lord Zac Goldsmith and Stephaine Al-Qaq UK's Ambassador to Brazil. The delegates were provided with an overview of the Clean Gold Program and examined gold samples recently collected at the Yanomami Indian Territory, in Amazonia, Brazil.

Crime Museum and Forensic Soil Analysis, USA
The Crime Museum, in Washington DC, USA, provides an educational resource on forensic science, crime history and law enforcement, and also contains information on forensic soil analysis to aid criminal investigations
https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/forensic-investigation/forensic-soil-analysis/

Source: Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair, IUGS-IFG