

National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)
Tactical Assessment
November 2016
Public version



Security Classification:	NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
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Owner:	Chair of UKTCG
Date Completed:	28/02/2017
Version:	Final for publication

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Introduction

Aim

The main objectives of the Tactical Assessment are to:

- Analyse all intelligence submitted to the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) since the last assessment was written. The period analysed was from 1st April – 30th September 2016.
- Provide an assessment of the current control strategy (encompassing the UK wildlife crime priorities) and identify current, emerging and future threats.
- Plan owners to provide an overview of activity in their priority area.
- NWCU, in collaboration with UKTCG members, to recommend objectives for each priority area. These will focus on prevention, intelligence and enforcement.
- Report on the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal and Organisational (PESTELO) factors that could have a bearing on wildlife crime. Where identified, PESTELO factors are included in each specific section – highlighted in blue boxes.

Purpose

The Tactical Assessment is a National Intelligence Model product aimed at providing an overview of the threats faced by the UK since the last Assessment was produced. It seeks to describe and explore the threats and harm caused by wildlife crime. It will review all six priority areas to understand whether the threat is still present, where this applies to and ultimately to recommend if each needs to continue to be a priority area of business. It will also take into consideration the priorities which are highlighted by the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) which are based on conservation status/concerns. It will also review all other non-priority intelligence to identify any emerging threats.

Methodology

The following data sources were used:

- Data held by NWCU in the Wildlife Intelligence Database (WID). WID contains intelligence from a number of law enforcement and partner agencies.
- Data held on the Scottish Intelligence Database (SID).
- Other information or data received from UK Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's).
- Other information received from partner agencies.
- Open source information.

Glossary

A glossary of terms is available at Appendix A.

UK Wildlife Crime Overview

Conference of the Parties to CITES

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) concluded in South Africa on the 4th October. Key outcomes include:

- All eight pangolin species, 4 found in Africa and 4 found in Asia, were included in Appendix I.
- The African grey parrot, heavily sought after for the pet trade, was up-listed to Appendix I.
- The African Lion has been maintained in Appendix II, however, there is to be a zero annual export quota for commercial use of any bones, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth removed from wild species.
- All 9 species of devil rays, the 3 thresher shark species, and the silky shark were included in CITES Appendix II, resulting in international trade restrictions to ensure their exports are sustainable and legal.
- Key resolutions and decisions were made which deal with closure of the domestic elephant ivory markets; illegal trade in rhino horn; National Ivory Action Plans; the Decision Making Mechanism on elephant proposals; corruption; the critically endangered helmeted hornbill; illegal trade in cheetahs; sharks and rays; tortoises and freshwater turtles; amongst others.



Most species added to CITES Appendix I during CoP17 will enter into force on the 2nd January 2017.

POCA confiscations

George BUSH (sentenced in January 2016 on 4 COTES offences for selling monkey heads/hands via eBay) was required to pay £4,724.34 under POCA legislation in April 2016. He had previously been fined £800 costs and had been sentenced to 10 months (suspended for 2 years).

In June 2016, Shane BARTON from Plymouth, was ordered to pay back £104,147.00 at Bournemouth Crown Court, which is by far the most significant confiscation order obtained of its type to date. The order was the culmination of a multi-agency investigation following BARTON's arrest when he was caught fishing illegally in May 2014. He was originally given a three month prison sentence (suspended for 2 years) and a 12 month supervision order. The investigation was led by officers from Dorset Police who were assisted by the NWCU, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation and the Southern IFCA (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority).

Investigative Support

NWCU investigative support to police forces and all respective prosecuting bodies continues. Enhanced support is generally requested for the more complex CITES investigations and the four NWCU Investigative Support Officers have supported numerous CITES investigations in this tactical period. A summary of some key investigations is shown below:

3rd November 2016 – sentence for ivory trader

Chao XI from Portsmouth was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment (suspended for 2 years) for the illegal sale and export of elephant ivory from the UK at Portsmouth Magistrates Court on 3rd November 2016. XI pleaded guilty to two charges under the COTES Regulations and CEMA. The case resulted from a joint investigation by Hampshire Police and NWCU coupled with intelligence received from Border Force. In October 2015 the NWCU became aware of 'ivory' type objects being sold on eBay. Although described as 'Bovine Bone' it was strongly suspected the items were in fact ivory. Enquiries conducted with eBay revealed that over a two-year period XI sold 78 ivory items valued at £6408 of these, 59 items valued at £4881 were exported outside the EU. XI was also given a 1 year Community order with a requirement to do 150 hours unpaid work, costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £85 were also imposed. This case comes after two investigatory documentaries, recently shown on the BBC, highlighted the possible impact that the *legal* sale of ivory in the UK is contributing to the illegal sale of modern ivory. At the recent CITES conference in Johannesburg all 183

parties in CITES, including the UK, promised to close down any legal domestic market for ivory that is contributing to killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory.

13th September 2016 - seven months imprisonment for Cumbrian ivory trader

A 26 year old antiques dealer was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment for trading illegally in elephant ivory. Shane David BALL pled guilty at Carlisle Crown Court. The case was the result of an investigation by the NWCUC and Cumbria Police Wildlife Officers. In July 2015 officers noticed a number of adverts for 'Cow-bone carvings' appearing on eBay. Accompanying photographs of the items appeared to be elephant ivory. Enquiries with eBay identified the seller as Shane BALL, who over a 4 week period had posted 22 adverts for carvings all carrying the pre-1947 provenance.

Recorder Grice told BALL that inventing the provenance for the ivory as being pre-1947 was intended to deceive and was an aggravating factor of the offence. BALL was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to attend a 'Rehabilitation of Offenders' Course and pay £1134 costs, which was the cost of the Radio Carbon Dating analysis. The cost will be repaid to the Wildlife Crime Forensic Analysis Fund, which funded the tests.

7th September 2016 - Norwich Company fined for selling tiger parts

The discovery of a package containing four tiger paws and a tail by Border Force officers at Heathrow Airport's World Distribution Centre sparked an investigation which led back to Norwich. The package had been sent from an address in the city and was destined for Shanghai, but was intercepted before it could leave the country. Norfolk police were alerted to the find and began an investigation, together with the NWCUC, during which they executed a warrant at the home address of Ruolan MI, the director of MZ Trading Ltd, who had sent the package. Police interviews with the suspect revealed the tiger skin had been purchased on the internet before the parts were packaged up and sent onto an existing customer in China.

13th May 2016 - Antiques dealer fined for selling crocodile and monkey skulls in King's Lynn

Antiques dealer John McCabe pled guilty to selling a specimen of a saltwater crocodile, three specimens of Macaque monkeys and possessing cannabis. McCabe bought the monkey skulls on eBay (two from Indonesia and one from Germany) and the crocodile skull from an antique fair. He was fined £1,245 plus costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £31.

10th May 2016 – Scottish auction house fined for advertising ivory

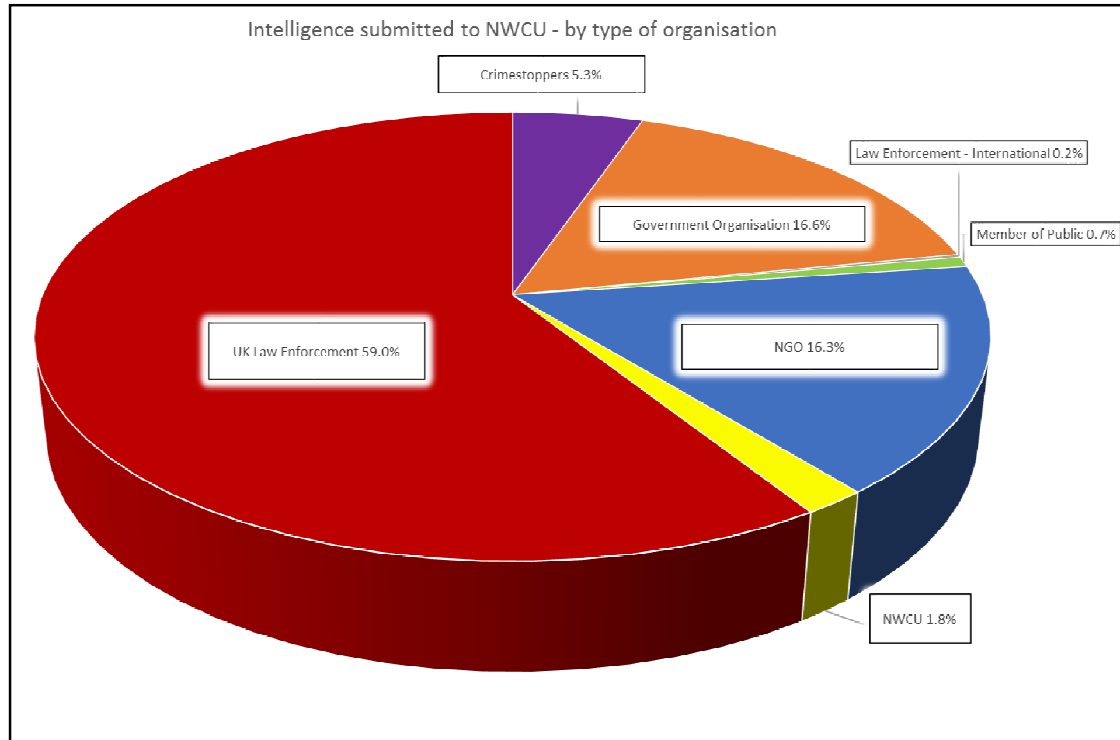
LS Smellie & Son auction house in Hamilton was fined £1,500 after offering for sale three lots of elephant ivory. The auction house pled guilty to a contravention of COTES regulations.

Intelligence Overview

All submitted intelligence to the NWCU within the period 1st April to 30th September 2016 was analysed. Total intelligence received is shown in Appendix B. A further breakdown of each priority area, showing which agency/force the intelligence came from, is included within the relevant sections.

NWCU collect intelligence from a vast number of different organisations. The distribution of submissions - by type of organisation - across the tactical period is shown in chart 1:

Chart 1 – intelligence submitted to NWCU: 01/04/2016 – 30/09/2016



In relation to the 59% provided by UK law enforcement agencies, this encompasses police forces, UKBF and NCA. In addition to their intelligence submissions, UKBF also submit seizure data to NWCU.

16.6% of all intelligence submissions came from Government Organisations in this tactical period. This includes Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), Defra, Environment Agency, SASA (Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture), FERA (Food and Environment Research Agency), devolved governments, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England (NE).

Cross Cutting Issues

There are several issues that continue to cut across all types of wildlife crime:

1. Significant criminal profit is being made from wildlife crime activity.
2. Wildlife crime issues create community tension. In particular, within this tactical period, there has been a significant increase in intelligence relating to 'sab' type activity. However, this is no longer confined to protesters interrupting fox hunting activity but has extended to:
 - a. protests over driven grouse moors/high levels of raptor persecution
 - b. protests over the badger cull
 - c. protests regarding a range of animal welfare issues (pig farms/greyhound racing)
3. Wildlife crime increasingly seems to be seen as a 'socially acceptable' pastime.

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Badger Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

Badger Persecution accounts for 9.2% (126) of all intelligence submitted to NWCU. In addition, there were 11 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Badger Persecution. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table below:

Badger Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Derbyshire	8	Badger Trust	65
Dyfed-Powys	5	Natural England	9
West Yorkshire	4	Crimestoppers	6
Avon & Somerset	3	LACS	3
North Yorkshire	3	RSPB	1
Dorset	2	RSPCA	1
Hertfordshire	2	FERA/CSL	1
North Wales	2	Member of Public	1
Cumbria	1	Total	87
Essex	1		
Humberside	1		
Lincolnshire	1		
South Wales	1		
Staffordshire	1		
Surrey	1		
Sussex	1		
West Midlands	1		
Wiltshire	1		
Total	39	Grand Total	126

- The highest volume of intelligence reports have come from the Badger Trust.
- Badger Trust intelligence contains a cross section of persecution ranging from shooting, to setts covered in earth by plant machinery, sett entrances being blocked suspected to be those involved in Fox Hunting to a badger skin rug offered for sale on EBay.
- Badger baiting using dogs and digging out setts are the most prevalent methods of badger persecution.
- Baited snares and cage traps are also being utilised, in one instance the skeleton of a badger cub was found within a cage placed at a sett.
- There have been several intelligence logs relating to the poisoning of badgers.

Operation Badger Twitter Week took place 7th November – 14th November 2016 to raise public awareness of the illegal persecution of badgers, asking for any criminal or suspicious incidents be reported to the Police or Badger Trust. The week was considered a success due to the high volume of posts, significant usage of the #OpBadger hashtag and by reaching over 1 million people. The support from influential names and organisations were able to reach a substantially larger following by retweeting posts. The twitter week has met the target of increased awareness with the hope of increased reporting of badger related persecution.

Plan Owner Update

Plan Owner Update:	Badger Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Barry Fryer (RSPCA)

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):	
Action	Update
PDG to run an Operation Badger 'Twitter week' again.	2016 Twitter week agreed and planned for 7 th to 13 th November inclusive. The Badger Trust Crime and Intelligence Co-ordinator, together with their Media Officer will be taking the lead. NWCUC have written to all forces and SPoCs highlighting the week. Badger Trust has written to all groups and members and will be compiling a press release for 7 th November. PSNI have responded with a co-ordinated media alert relating to the Twitter week.
Relevant PDG's to contact NRW to seek NRW representation within their group	Contact has been established with NRW.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:	
Action	Update
Advice note for enforcers and Badger groups.	Further development of advice note for enforcers relating to expert witness evidence.
Advice sought in relation to the use of covert cameras in Badger crime investigations	Advisory note on surveillance and investigations by NGO's is now with Senior Wildlife Champion at CPS for comment.
A clear need for has been identified for training at both force/organisation level and for volunteers prepared to assist police/enforcers with their enquiries.	Chair of PAW Training Group has now joined the Badger PDG. Badger Trust is providing training to Police forces in England and Wales.

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?
<p>Increase awareness (Enforcement) – Wherever possible obtaining coverage of the outcomes of Badger related prosecutions in the press and media. All case articles are forwarded to the Badger PDG secretariat at Badger Trust for inclusion in newsletter.</p> <p>Increase awareness (Intelligence) – Timeline document has been drawn up by Badger Trust/Scottish Badgers demonstrating the likely times of year when the various types of Badger related offences are committed.</p>

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?
<p>Specific 3 year targets are still to be set, however, under primary objectives there is a general requirement to improve and increase the recording of incidents, crimes and intelligence for Badger Persecution. Whilst improvements have been made in relation to the recording of incidents (the main crime file being maintained, updated and regularly produced by the Badger Trust and Scottish Badgers), the information supplied and recorded comes mainly from NGO's. Attempts to increase the responses from police forces across the UK have so far failed. It is hoped that bringing in a Police Plan Owner to the group will assist in increasing the engagement and response from police forces throughout the UK.</p>

Other Issues:
<p>Plan owner suggested & PDG members agree that we should seek to recruit a new plan owner with a policing background. It was felt that a senior police PDG owner would help to generate enthusiasm and cooperation from all UK forces with regard to the Badger PDG objectives and priorities, together with increased incident reporting. NWCUC agreed to assist in identifying potential candidates. From 2017 the NWCUC have agreed to produce 3 monthly analytical charts and statistics to coincide with Badger PDG meetings.</p> <p>NWCUC have identified Regional police representatives, who will in future attend Badger PDG meetings. Badger Trust have developed a revised online reporting system and process for dissemination to NWCUC. Incident data received from NGO's and online reporting totals over 500 reports so far in 2016. Statistical breakdown of incidents as follows:-</p>

Sett interference	36%
Baiting	23%
Unlawful Killing & Hunting	14%
Snaring	10%
Shooting	6%
Poisoning	4%
Other	7%

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Bat Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

Bat Persecution accounts for 7% (96) of all intelligence at NWCU. There have been no intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Bat Persecution in the 6 month time period. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table below:

Bat Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
NWCU	2	BCT	86
Hertfordshire	1	Natural England	3
National Food Crime Unit	1	Crimestoppers	2
Sussex	1	Total	91
Total	5		
		Grand Total	96

- Bat Persecution is not a high volume intelligence contributor in the UK; however there are significant conservation implications for any crime against bats.
- Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) remain the biggest single contributor of intelligence received.
- Development/Construction work is the main cause of concern in relation to Bat Persecution.
- Tree felling is also a great risk to bats.

Police asked a developer to write a letter of their experience as part of the Restorative Justice agreement made following a Bat Persecution case. The letter advises developers to read the survey reports carefully and follow recommendations, and where relevant make sure they have the correct licence from Natural England in place before commencing any development works¹.

Plan Owner Update

Plan Owner Update:	Bat Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Pete Charleston, Bat Conservation Trust

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):	
Action	Update
8. Relevant PDG's to contact NRW to seek NRW representation within their group.	Completed, NRW were represented at our last PDG meeting in July 2016
Bat PDG to continue to identify opportunities for press/media/social media coverage, including conferences and seminars, to raise awareness with developers (both corporate and private) and estate agents on the impact of Bat Persecution.	Action amended and accepted. Progress to be reported to PDG in January 2017
Bat PDG to consider linking with residential surveyors who may identify bat roosts when carrying out home reports for houses about to be placed on the market for sale.	Action amended and accepted. Progress to be reported to PDG in January 2017

¹ http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/336/a_property_developer_shares_his_story

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

Update on action and progress on objectives shown in Bat PDG action plan.

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

At our last meeting the PDG did not discuss setting new three year targets. Our present targets are still considered to be fit for purpose.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – CITES issues**(eels, illegal trade in raptors, ivory, medicinal & health products, reptiles, rhino horn and timber)****CITES intelligence**

CITES accounts for 16.9% (231) of all intelligence submitted to NWCU. In addition, there were 7 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for CITES. The total intelligence submissions (for priority issues) from every other region/agency is shown in the tables below:

CITES ~ priority issues								
UK Law Enforcement	CITES European Eel	CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	CITES Ivory	CITES Medicinal & Health Products	CITES Reptiles	CITES Rhino Horn	CITES Timber	Grand Total
NWCU		13			1	2		16
Avon & Somerset	9	5						14
Derbyshire		8						8
Metropolitan		2	1		2	2	1	8
Port of Dover Police				2	1			3
Thames Valley		1				1		2
Cumbria			1					1
Devon & Cornwall		1						1
Kent			1					1
South Wales		1						1
UK Border Force			1					1
Total	9	31	4	2	4	5	1	56
Other Agencies								
Environment Agency	61							61
APHA		28	9		8		2	47
Member of the Public	1		2		1	2		6
Cefas	2							2
Crimestoppers		1			1			2
Interpol			1				1	2
NGO - Other						1		1
RSPB		1						1
Traffic					1			1
WWF		1						1
Total	64	31	12	0	11	3	3	124
Grand Total	73	62	16	2	15	8	4	180

Overview of all CITES intelligence

- There are not generally very high numbers of intelligence logs from UK police forces on any CITES issue.
- Focused investigations within Scotland has shown how critical it is for UK law enforcement authorities to conduct proactive intelligence gathering on the growing illegal internet trade.

Antiques Trade

In this tactical period there has again been significant intelligence regarding trade in CITES products via antique stores and auction houses. Awareness raising efforts across the antiques trade is a key measure to prevent future illegal sales. UKBF have been attending antique trade seminars for several years to publicise crime prevention around CITES issues with some outstanding results and improved compliance. NWCU have also been invited to attend a 'panel of experts' for another antiques trade seminar which has been organised for 19th January 2017 in conjunction with UKBF and the Met police.

CITES – Other (non-priority issues)

The total intelligence submissions (for non priority issues) from every region/agency is shown in the tables below. The majority of non priority CITES intelligence relates to illegal trade, which is clearly facilitated by the internet – eBay being the most commonly mentioned virtual auction house.

CITES ~ all other non-priority issues			
UK Law Enforcement	#	By Species:	
Metropolitan	8	Various Species	9
NWCU	3	Big Cats - Tiger	6
Avon & Somerset	2	Big Cats - Leopard	4
Cumbria	2	Scorpion	4
Port of Dover Police	2	Cockatoo	2
Cheshire	1	Pheasant	2
Derbyshire	1	Sawfish	2
Hertfordshire	1	Snowdrop	2
Total	20	Wildcat	2
		Bali Starling	1
Other Agencies	#	Big Cats - Lynx	1
APHA	25	Big Cats - Ocelot	1
Member of the Public	3	Butterfly	1
Crimestoppers	1	Caviar	1
JNCC	1	Coral	1
Traffic	1	Egg	1
Total	31	Frogs	1
		Hyacinth Macaw	1
Grand Total	51	Lemur	1
		Orchid	1
		Primates	1
		Red Ant Product	1
		Seal	1
		Tragopan	1
		Water Buffalo	1
		Whale	1
		Wolf	1
		Grand Total	51

Big cats – increased intelligence

The majority of intelligence logs in the 'CITES other' category were in reference to illegal trade in big cat species. NWCU continue to monitor the intelligence to ascertain if the trade begins to originate from wild populations of big cats (as opposed to the 'working' of antique products - old taxidermy being stripped of teeth/claws for fashioning into jewellery, for example).

There were no other significant trends identified in this tactical period.

Plan Owner Update

Plan Owner Update:	CITES Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Grant Miller, UKBF

Evidence on how objectives have been progressed:
Objective: Increase the number of disruption activities and detections of illegal trade in CITES priority species by increasing the amount of targeted compliance activity, increasing the number of intelligence submissions and intelligence products produced, improve the quality of analytical assessments and compliance in agreed timescales and increase the number of investigations and enforcement outcomes.
Evidence: Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement activity against key priority area.

Anguilla	Prevention: CPDG sub group formed of key partners to tackle ongoing threat. Enforcement: Excellent cooperation in multi - agency proactive case - work on going.
Ivory:	Prevention: Support to Duke of Cambridge's task force. Intelligence: NWCUC distributed draft of updated Ivory threat assessment for the UK. NGO conducted assessment of UK ivory market, exercise, report published and outcomes being considered. Enforcement: Successful Targeted operation on export Ivory. UKBF and NGO working in conjunction with a private company developing forensic tools for security and control of goods, report to be shared with selected institutions.
Rhino Horn	Prevention- APHA to re-issue advice to Museums, stately homes on securing rhino horn. Intelligence – NWCUC to consider new rhino related intelligence briefing Enforcement – Ongoing operations although details cannot be shared at this time. Ongoing casework with international partners.
Medicinal and health supplements	Intelligence: Excellent document provided to CITES CoP 17 by Swiss M.A. concerning medical products. Enforcement- High level of trade over the internet. Noticeable change in ingredients from CITES Animal to plant species.
Raptors	Enforcement: ongoing UK enforcement operations.
Reptiles	Prevention: Good levels of compliance being maintained by UK reptile dealers. Enforcement: Listing of some species of concern at CoP 17 including <i>Lygodactylus williamsi</i> & <i>Arbronia Spp.</i>
Timber	Prevention – Timber guide published by RBG Kew to be updated to reflect CITES CoP 17 amendments. Intelligence – No specific intelligence although threat remains Enforcement – First import of wood based products under the EU FLEGT licensing regime expected in November 2016 from Indonesia.

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):

Action	Update
Action 23	No documented action to date.
Action 31	No documented action to date

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting 26/01/16:

Action	Update
Ap1 – CITES law enforcement training in Scotland.	Matter sits with Police Scotland.
AP3- European eel risk intelligence brief requested.	NWCUC actioned - draft Intelligence brief disseminated
AP4 – Police Scotland attendance.	Police Scotland to be assigned as an Enforcement lead, formal letter of invitation to be sent by chair.

Other Issues:

Pssitacus erithicus African Grey parrots uplisted to Appendix I from Appendix II at Cop 17.
 BF has conducted three enforcement training missions in Malawi as part of the IWT challenge fund. Second mission in collaboration with NWCUC.
 BF signed United for Wildlife declaration.
 BF officer seconded to Heathrow Airport sustainability unit to work on Responsible gateway programme.
 BF participation in EIA enforcement film concerning illegal ivory trade funded under the IWT challenge fund.
 BF HOU attended CITES CoP 17 in Johannesburg including INTERPOL & wildlife enforcement working groups & 3rd IWT conference in Hanoi.
 BF input into UNODC publication on Timber forensics and World Customs Organisation CITES training assessment publication.
 BF attended EU CCWP to promote CITES enforcement initiatives & UK best practice on coordinated border enforcement of illegal wildlife trade.
 BF delivered latest CITES course in conjunction with RBG Kew during November 2016.
 NWCUC HOU presented with “Clark R Bavin” award for work undertaken on wildlife crime.
 NWCUC assisted with first case involving illegally imported CITES listed Butterfly specimens.
 NWCUC continue to address illegal wildlife trade on the Internet.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

Recommendations to UKTCG

Prevention

NWCU to attend antique trade seminars across the UK.

Intelligence

NWCU to consider how best to utilise available intelligence to make significant progress with CITES.

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Freshwater Pearl Mussels (FWPM's)

Summary of Intelligence

- There was no intelligence regarding Freshwater Pearl Mussels submitted to NWCUC in the 6 month time period.
- There was one intelligence log from Police Scotland.
- Intelligence recorded is lower than all other UK wildlife crime priorities; however, the impact of one offence of FWPM killing can erase an entire population of the species.
- A problem profile was produced by NWCUC for Police Scotland. A day of action took place alongside relevant bailiffs, people were engaged and posters were handed out to local shops. No arrests or offences.

Freshwater Pearl Mussels fall victim to over fishing in pursuit of their pearl (which they seldom produce), river pollution and engineering works. The 'Pearls in Peril' scheme was launched to aid recovery of mussels and exercise tighter controls on illegal activities affecting the species, this has been extended into 2017.

Plan Owner Update

Plan Owner Update:	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Iain Sime, Scottish National Heritage

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):	
Action	Update
Relevant PDG's to contact NRW to seek NRW representation within their group.	NRW have joined the pearl mussel group.
PDG to continue to raise awareness via social media on the impact of criminality, species decline and extinction and the overall impact on the environment and the economy.	A social media week of action for the PDG has been agreed – the intention is to have a week starting 28th Nov. Our intention is to have another in 2017, during the summer season when pro-active police patrols will be taking place.
PDG to consider if a representative from each specific police force with populations of FWPM's in England should join the PDG to ensure local populations of FWPM are safeguarded	Devon & Cornwall Police have joined the group

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting: 25th October 2016	
Action	Update
Raise awareness of the threat from criminality in the press and media	A week of action on social media is due to take place in November 2016. We also plan to contact the BBC Landward programme in early 2017 to cover our work. And will produce a media plan for 2017.
Attend appropriate meetings/events to promote awareness of freshwater pearl mussel crime	Members of the PDG have attended >5 events during 2015, with more planned for the autumn.
Publish annual map of crime hotspots for freshwater pearl mussels in Scotland	This has been delayed and due to take place by end of year.
Hold a minimum of 2 priority delivery group meetings per year, update action plan and report progress	Complete
Undertake research to confirm cause of pearl mussel losses at hot spots	Draft proposal to be shared with PDG members and funding secured

Identify and agree sites for appropriate signage to raise awareness of criminality	Discussions underway with Transport Scotland to erect signage at vulnerable site in Lochaber.
Establish and maintain riverwatch schemes in 17 protected areas in Scotland	Completed by Pearls in Peril LIFE+ project
Maintain a record of potential incidents and recorded crimes involving freshwater pearl mussels	Ongoing. Agreed to share intelligence from Scottish databases with England and Wales.
Continue to promote stakeholder contribution within our own organisation	Ongoing – continuing to provide up to date pearl mussel distribution information to key partners.
Introduce River Watch measures and add all Water Bailiffs to the Wildlife and Rural Crime alert system in Highlands	Training completed with water bailiffs
Deliver two specific operations annually to combat salmon poaching and Fresh Water Pearl Mussel (FWPM) crime	Completed in the Kyle of Sutherland and around Loch Ness during summer 2016.
Introduce training for all Probationary Officers and Special Constables in Northern Division	Training is to be arranged in N Division of Police Scotland via the local Wildlife Crime Officers.

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

Overall there seems to be good progress. Proactive patrols took place during 2016, and the Pearls in Peril project was extended into 2017, allowing more “Riverwatch” activity to take place. We have also agreed to raise the group’s profile via social media during November. And extended the group’s work to include Wales and England by increasing the group’s membership. Outstanding tasks, to consider signage and monitoring of key vulnerable populations using cameras, are still underway.

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

As outlined at the last UKTCG our 3 year targets (in bold) are:

1. Prevention: Increase awareness of freshwater pearl mussels and wildlife crime in the press and media. **The work of the PDG to generate >3 news releases that feature in local and national media per annum.**

To date this year we have more than 3 news releases. This has resulted in stories in the national print press (e.g. Observer, Scotsman) and online. We intend to issue further new releases in November as part of our social media week of action.

2. Intelligence: Improve the flow of intelligence about criminality to inform enforcement action, identify offenders and prevent further criminality. **More than 75% of suspected crimes to be reported directly to the police.**

During 2016 all suspected criminal activity has been reported directly to the police including suspected pearl fishing in the Highlands and two potential pollution incidents on Tayside.

3. Enforcement: **Over 3 years from 2015, at least 6 pro-active operations to be initiated and actioned by the police, in collaboration with key partners.**

During 2016, two groups of pro-active operations were initiated and actioned by Police Scotland. This is in addition to operations that took place on 7 rivers over 2 days in 2015.

At present all targets are on schedule to be met for 2016 and, overall, by the end of the 3 years (end of 2017). They will be reviewed at the next PDG meeting which is scheduled for March 2017.

Other Issues:

It is unfortunate that damage to key, designated populations continues to be reported, even in very remote locations such as this report in November: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-37876558>. However there have been a wider range of condemnatory comments, more perhaps than in some other cases.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Poaching
(Deer and Fish Poaching and Hare Coursing)**

Summary of Intelligence

Poaching overall

All forms of poaching account for 33% (450) of all intelligence submitted to NWCUC. Threats of violence and intimidation are associated with these criminals and therefore can negatively impact on the numbers of victims who are willing to come forward.

Category	Total	% of total
Poaching Other	144	32.0%
Hare Coursing	140	31.1%
Poaching Deer	94	20.9%
Poaching Fish	72	16.0%
Poaching (all)	450	

Deer Poaching			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Devon & Cornwall	26	Crimestoppers	2
Cumbria	11	Badger Trust	1
North Yorkshire	6	Total	3
Avon & Somerset	5		
Dorset	5		
West Yorkshire	5		
Cambridgeshire	4		
Hertfordshire	4		
Humberside	4		
Thames Valley	4		
Suffolk	3		
Derbyshire	2		
National Food Crime Unit	2		
Staffordshire	2		
Sussex	2		
Durham	1		
Dyfed-Powys	1		
Norfolk	1		
North Wales	1		
Surrey	1		
West Mercia	1		
Total	91	Grand Total	94

Deer Poaching

20.9% (94) of all the poaching intelligence (450 logs) submitted to NWCUC is in relation to Deer Poaching. In addition, there were 63 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Deer Poaching. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table to the left.

- Devon & Cornwall and Cumbria report the most intelligence on Deer Poaching.
- The main motivating factor is money. Poachers selling to local businesses ie Butchers, Restaurants and pubs can earn a considerable amount of 'cash in hand' per deer.

Fish Poaching

16% (72) of all poaching intelligence (450 logs) submitted to NWCU is in relation to Fish Poaching. In addition, there were 89 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Fish Poaching. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table to the right.

- Fishing without permits/licences on riverbanks by individuals remains high. There are several logs relating to individuals fishing without permits/licences who are unaware of UK procedures.
- Illegal electro-fishing for Razor Clams continues.
- Cockle picking and shellfish poaching continues, introducing fish into the food chain without the proper health checks for contamination.

Fish Poaching			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Derbyshire	10	Crimestoppers	3
Dyfed-Powys	7	Interpol	1
Metropolitan	7	Total	4
Hertfordshire	6		
North Yorkshire	6		
Cumbria	5		
Devon & Cornwall	5		
Kent	4		
Cambridgeshire	3		
West Yorkshire	3		
Avon & Somerset	2		
Dorset	2		
PSNI	2		
Surrey	2		
Wiltshire	2		
Bedfordshire	1		
Sussex	1		
Total	68	Grand Total	72

Project SCALE is an Interpol project to support member countries in identifying, deterring and disrupting transnational fisheries crime.

Hare Coursing

31.1% (140) of all poaching intelligence (450 logs) submitted to NWCU is in relation to Hare Coursing. In addition, there were 62 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Hare Coursing. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table to the left.

Hare Coursing			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Hertfordshire	28	LACS	5
Cambridgeshire	26	Crimestoppers	4
Humberside	12	RSPCA	2
Wiltshire	12	Natural England	1
North Yorkshire	10	Total	12
Thames Valley	9		
Essex	4		
Kent	3		
Norfolk	3		
Staffordshire	3		
Avon & Somerset	2		
Cumbria	2		
Derbyshire	2		
Dorset	2		
North Wales	2		
Suffolk	2		
Bedfordshire	1		
Dyfed-Powys	1		
Gloucestershire	1		
Lincolnshire	1		
South Yorkshire	1		
West Yorkshire	1		
Total	128	Grand Total	140

- The highest volumes of hare coursing reports are from the Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire areas. Participants are prepared to travel hundreds of miles out with their home area.
- League against Cruel Sports (LACS) and Crimestoppers continue to contribute toward the intelligence picture for Hare Coursing.
- Hare coursing events can have an ultimate prize of £30k.

Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales

Plan Owner Update:	Poaching Priority Delivery Group (England & Wales)
Submitted By:	Glynn Evans, British Association of Shooting Conservation (BASC)

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):	
Action	Update
43. PDG's to consider raising awareness via media and social media regarding the Health and Safety aspects of illegally sourced shellfish/venison/salmon. PDG's to progress this with Trading Standards and National Food Crime Agency.	We are in the process of finalising a Project Poacher news update to be released in mid-November. A representative of the Food Standards Agency has been invited to join the PDG.
45. A poaching 'app' for Smartphones has been designed to report crimes. BASC to report on how successful the 'app' has been with a view to cascading it into other wildlife crime priority areas.	Please see the below update in relation to specific figures. As well as its practical uses, as part of a wider project it has been a very useful way of raising the issue of poaching.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:	
Action	Update
Following discussion within the group it has been agreed to postpone the next meeting until after the UKTCG	

meet. This will mean that the PDG can better consider any recommendations from the UKTCG promptly. Therefore no meeting has been held since the last updates.

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

Seasonality wise the coming months are likely to see an increase in certain poaching offences so a renewed effort will take place to promote Project Poacher and the issues around poaching. A key element of Project Poacher is the reporting app for smartphones. Since its launch (less than 12 months ago) the app has been downloaded 3059 times, opened 9077 times with 109 reports sent. In addition to being a means of recording and reporting incidents the app also contains useful information on poaching offences and one police force has put the app on all of its MDTs (Mobile data terminals) which are issued to front line officers. Representatives from regional wildlife crime groups have been invited to join the PDG and attend the next meeting.

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

These were set ahead of the last UKTCG and we will review these and progress against them at the next meeting of the delivery group.

Other Issues:

- The national Poaching guidance for police is in its first draft. There are 4 chapters, namely:
 - Deer poaching
 - Hare Coursing
 - Fish poaching
 - Other poaching offences relating to Game offences

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland

Plan Owner Update:	Scottish PAW Poaching and Coursing Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	John Bruce, British Deer Society

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):	
Action	Update
PDG's to consider raising awareness via media and social media regarding the Health and Safety aspects of illegally sourced shellfish/venison/salmon. PDG's to progress this with Trading Standards and National Food Crime Agency.	To be considered at next meeting.
A poaching 'app' for Smartphones has been designed to report crimes. BASC to report on how successful the 'app' has been with a view to cascading it into other wildlife crime priority areas.	Awaiting further information from England and Wales Poaching & Coursing Priority Delivery Group.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:	
Action	Update
<i>The group has not formally met since the last meeting.</i>	
Consider a wildlife crime training provision for Police Communication Centres.	On-going. The Standard Operating Procedure for wildlife crime in Police Scotland is being reviewed and includes a section relevant to Police Communication Centres.
Publish an article on how to establish a local network scheme.	Not progressed. To be discussed at next meeting whether still required.

Research how the format for venison dealer's licence (VDL) records was established and to collate local authority policies around issuing VDL

On-going. SNH have reminded local authorities of their obligations under the Deer (Scotland) Act and duly received lists of current venison dealers and returns.

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

“To build a greater level of public awareness of poaching and coursing as serious wildlife crime, to continue to build working relations, communications and information share between all agencies and organisations and rural communities in order to increase prevention activity and enforcement (Scotland)”

Prevention

- Explore media options with “Scotland’s Natural Larder” to consider health and safety issues in wild sourced foods, including venison and salmon.

Intelligence

- Swabs from deer carcasses have been taken by SNH Deer Officers and submitted to SASA for DNA testing to establish if taken out of season and to gauge level of any criminality.

Enforcement

- Joint visit between SNH and Police Scotland on a Highland venison dealer. No offences detected.
- Operation Lepus 2016 launched in 3 Police Divisions (Forth Valley, Lothians & Borders, Highlands & islands).

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

To be discussed at next meeting.

Other Issues:

- DNA used to convict 3 hare coursers at Forfar Sheriff Court. One was imprisoned for 135 days but later released after a successful appeal.
- A person appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court for hare coursing in East Lothian and the Borders.
- Two persons have been reported for hare coursing in Midlothian and the Borders.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

Recommendations to UKTCG

Prevention

- PDG to ensure Trading Standards and the National Food Crime Agency continue to raise awareness via media & social media regarding Health & Safety of illegally sourced shellfish and meat from poaching.
- PDG to further consider how to tackle the numbers of poachers who are unaware of UK law.

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Raptor Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

Raptor Persecution accounts for 8.2% (112) of all intelligence submitted to NWCU. In addition, there were 18 intelligence logs from Police Scotland for Raptor Persecution. The total intelligence submissions from every other region/agency are shown in the table below:

Raptor Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Derbyshire	7	SASA	34
Hertfordshire	4	RSPB	21
Avon & Somerset	3	Natural England	9
Devon & Cornwall	3	Welsh Government	9
NWCU	2	Crimestoppers	4
Norfolk	2	FERA/CSL	3
North Yorkshire	2	LACS	2
West Yorkshire	2	Scottish Ag College	1
Dorset	1	Total	83
North Wales	1		
South Wales	1		
Thames Valley	1		
Total	29	Grand Total	112

- Shooting still remains a very prevalent method of persecution.
- The RSPB have offered a £1000 reward for information leading to a conviction in relation to a shot Peregrine in Avon & Somerset.
- Poisoning still continues at high levels. Carbofuran, Chloralose, Rodenticide and Strychnine all identified as causes of death in several cases reported by SASA.
- Peregrine Falcons taken from the wild or their eggs taken from nests is still an ongoing issue.
- In the Scottish Highlands and Islands there were reports of 8 Golden Eagles

and 1 White Tailed Eagle being persecuted, however cause of death remains unknown at this time.

A report into the illegal killing of Northern Ireland’s native birds of prey has been published by the Northern Ireland PAW group. It reveals there were nine confirmed illegal poisoning or persecution incidents, affecting 11 protected birds of prey, in Northern Ireland in 2014. This report follows on from the 2009 – 2013 Persecution Report published last year. Four of the incidents involved the use of the highly toxic pesticide ‘Carbofuran’, which has been banned across the EU since 2001.

Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales

Plan Owner Update:	Raptor Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Superintendent Chris Hankinson, Greater Manchester Police

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):

Action	Update
England & Wales Raptor PDG to carry out specific enforcement / preventative work with those police forces identified through the hot-spot maps as having the highest number of Raptor Persecution cases	The maps are close to publication on the Defra web-site “Multi-Agency Government Information on Countryside” (MAGIC). The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for the 8 th of December at Defra, Bristol where it is hoped that agreement for data to be included and protocols will be finalised.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:

Action	Update
3.9 Draft guidance on the use of gas guns in the Uplands to be drawn up due to their potential use near Raptor nests. Existing NFU guidance does not cover this.	A copy of the gas guns protocol has been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. Any comments should be forwarded to Moorland Association.
Group chair to consider the PDG mission statement and objectives	A draft statement of the Group’s aims has been circulated. Any further comments should be sent to Defra. The group were reminded

with a view of circulating to the group for comment	to send details of any lists of publications where the proposed press statement should accompany any publications.
Defra to consider the potential of a poisons surrender as per the Scottish model.	An update was given on the proposed Welsh pesticides amnesty. Looking to agree funding with Welsh Water. If funding agreed then initiative looking to be launched in 2017. For England, local initiatives are to be explored once the release of the Raptor persecution maps have gone public.
NEW ACTION 5.1: NE to consider the points raised and make necessary changes to the maps and circulate revised to the group for comment.	Natural England currently working on comments from PDG Members and will be in a position to circulate the amendments prior to the next meeting on the 8 th of December.
NEW ACTION 5.3: Agree map protocol by end of October (all)	The protocol feedback has meant that this is not wholly agreed by the end of October but should be complete within November and ready for discussion on the 8 th of December at the next Raptor PDG.

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

The prime focus of work has been on developing the Raptor Persecution Maps through a suitable medium. This has been resolved over the past 3 Raptor PDG meetings with the MAGIC software system of Defra being used. The poisons, shootings and trapping maps will need Ministerial "sign off" prior to going on to the MAGIC system and it is envisaged that once there is agreement on the specific inclusion of data, then Defra will present it for approval to Theresa Coffey MP, Biodiversity Minister.

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

- 1- National populations of 4 key species:
 - Hen Harrier – poor year with only 7 fledged chicks this season from 3 nests.
 - Peregrine Falcon – continued persecution around nests sites with poisonings and nest theft. Some key intelligence is being worked on with regards suspects for nest thefts
 - Goshawk – a better season this year and the Peak District has seen all known nests fledged. It is believed that media coverage of the Hen Harrier disturbance by a man with a decoy assisted in media coverage in highlighting the issue and preventing further disturbance in the locality.
 - Red Kite – poor in North Yorkshire and surrounding area due to the numbers of persecutions that occurred during the year. This relates to a number of poisonings and shootings that are being investigated.
- 2- Establish effective terms of reference for the group: Feedback has been given and the final Terms of Reference will be confirmed for next group meeting along with protocols.
- 3- Creation of poison maps in order to identify geographic hot-spots: Please see above as already highlighted.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland

Plan Owner Update:	Scottish PAW Raptor Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	DCS Sean Scott, Police Scotland

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2016):

Action	Update
PDG's to consider whether there is any scope for the UK creation of environmental compensation legislation such as that utilised in Finland.	Any consideration would need to be undertaken through PAW Scotland Legislation Group for future consideration by Scottish Government.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:

Action	Update
To pull together a list of articles which have been published which can be added to the PAW website.	Scottish Govt progressing
To consider the drafting of statements which can be used in court, and what information can be utilised.	COPFS now leading this and update being sought
Research who is the owner of a dead wild bird/mammal	To be referred to PAW Legislation Group

How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?

"Raise community trust and awareness to facilitate intelligence and incident reporting, leading to increased prevention and enforcement activity relating to Raptor Persecution"

Hen Harrier Action Plan - The project's aim is to identify reasons for nest failures. A range of estates participated in 2016 covering both grouse moors and agriculture. Cold weather, decreased vole populations and fox predation have affected nest success but 14 birds fledged from 5 successful nests. The project featured on BBC's Landward.

Golden Eagle Release Project – Planning for a five-year project to release Golden Eagles in Southern Scotland continues with a wildlife crime risk assessment being undertaken by NWCU designed to inform crime prevention activity in England and southern Scotland ahead of the release of any birds.

BASC have published an article about the use of night vision equipment, as there is evidence of increasing use of this equipment.

How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?

Still under consideration.

Other Issues:

Review of Satellite Tag and Evidence Gathering protocols to be reviewed and updated.

Members of the group helped staff PAW Scotland displays at the Royal Highland Show and Scottish Game Fair, and SNH Sharing Good Practice event on wildlife crime (including raptor crime).

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments from WCCAG

Non Priority Emerging Patterns and Trends

Other Intelligence

- The category 'other' (which includes all intelligence not related to the priorities) accounts for 25.6% (350) of all intelligence at NWCU.
- There were also 145 intelligence logs from Police Scotland in relation to other *non-priority* wildlife crime.
- The total intelligence submissions (350 logs), for all 'other' wildlife crime, from every other region/agency are shown in the table below:

Other non-priority issues			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Dorset	53	Crimestoppers	42
Hertfordshire	41	RSPB	24
Devon & Cornwall	28	Natural England	8
Avon & Somerset	21	SASA	5
Derbyshire	17	Welsh Government	4
Metropolitan	12	Badger Trust	3
Staffordshire	12	LACS	2
Cumbria	11	DEFRA	1
West Yorkshire	10	Environment Agency	1
Kent	7	Scottish Government	1
North Yorkshire	7	Total	91
Port of Dover Police	6		
Surrey	5		
Sussex	3		
Thames Valley	3		
Cambridgeshire	2		
Dyfed-Powys	2		
Lincolnshire	2		
North Wales	2		
PSNI	2		
Suffolk	2		
NWCU	2		
Durham	1		
Essex	1		
Gwent	1		
Humberside	1		
National Food Crime Unit	1		
Norfolk	1		
Northamptonshire	1		
South Wales	1		
South Yorkshire	1		
Total	259	Grand Total	350

This table clearly shows the range of organisations (in addition to police forces) that submit intelligence to NWCU.

After Police Scotland, Dorset and Hertfordshire have submitted the most intelligence.

It is only through the submission of 'other' wildlife that NWCU can fully monitor emerging threats. Although submissions from police forces are generally high for this catch-all category, it is unclear if all 'other' wildlife crime intelligence is being forwarded on. NWCU were tasked at the Strategic UKTCG to issue more regular requests to forces for 'other' wildlife crime intelligence (not specific to the priority areas) and this is ongoing.

NWCU continue to monitor all intelligence on an ongoing basis for issues of note.

NWCU fully sub-categorise all 'other' intelligence to allow for in-depth analysis of emerging issues. Throughout this tactical period, there were several issues that have re-emerged during the intelligence analysis:

1. Taking of wild bird eggs

The taking of wild bird eggs was a previous intelligence requirement and

NWCU continue to look at egg collectors under the yearly Operation EASTER campaign. In this tactical period there were several investigations into egg traders/collectors:

9th November 2016 – conviction for egg collection

William BEATON pleaded guilty to five charges contrary to the WCA '81 and was fined a total of £4750 plus £85 costs and £170 victim surcharge at Plymouth Magistrates Court. The case involved coordinated police investigations in Police Scotland and Devon & Cornwall.

BEATON started collecting eggs in earnest around 1990 and he took a number of trips to the far north of Scotland including Sutherland, Caithness and Orkney. Between 2012 and 2015 he took an annual egg collecting trip to Norfolk. Since 2005, it appeared he had an increased interest in the eggs of rare

breeding birds, with 12 eggs of Schedule 1 species taken. BEATON was previously convicted in Scotland following an incident in Orkney earlier in 2016 (see below).

14th June 2016 – retired solicitor stole wild bird eggs from Orkney

William BEATON from Devon pleaded guilty to wildlife crimes at Kirkwall Sheriff Court and was fined £4,200. The 73-year-old was caught collecting eggs on Shapinsay and presented an arctic tern egg when challenged. He was detained by police when he got back to Kirkwall on June 4 and was found to be in possession of two rock dove eggs. A search of his car revealed another eight eggs, including three Great Skua eggs and an extending spoon which is used to collect eggs.

6th April – Northumbria conviction for egg trading

Peter FRASER appeared at North Tyneside Magistrates Court where he pleaded guilty to fraud by misrepresentation and 7 offences contrary to COTES. The offences all related to the illegal trade in birds' eggs. Magistrates told Fraser that he had made financial gain from his activities and that it was only right that he should receive a financial penalty. He was fined £660 and ordered to pay costs and victim surcharge of £155 (Total £811). Magistrates gave him the maximum credit for his early guilty plea. Records indicate that a single Snowcock egg had been sold by Fraser to a buyer in Belgium for £351.

2. Finch trapping

Finch trapping was also a previous intelligence requirement. In this tactical period, finch trapping intelligence rose to higher than usual levels. It is unclear at this stage why intelligence has increased again – it does not necessarily represent an increase in crime. NWCUC will continue to monitor the situation.

Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)

The WCCAG previously noted that non-native species scored highly within their matrix. NWCUC have seen very little documented intelligence on non-native species (as reported in the Strategic Assessment). The Strategic UKTCG therefore tasked NWCUC to issue a specific intelligence request for non-native species. The only intelligence reports that were subsequently received at NWCUC were from the Met police. There was also one Japanese Knotweed incident from Northamptonshire police but there was no enforcement action needed.

There was no intelligence reported on species that were highlighted as being of the most concern in the UK (escapes from zoo's, etc - raccoon, coati, red-necked wallaby, prairie dogs, sacred ibis, siberian chipmunk, raccoon dog, beavers, wild pigs or the keeping of muntjac (Scotland) or the sale of banned aquatic plants (England only) - water primrose, water fern, parrot's feather, New Zealand pigmyweed or floating pennywort).

On 14 July the European Commission published Commission Implementing Regulation 2016/1141, which implements the first list of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern, comprising 37 species (23 animals and 14 plants). The list came into force on 3 August 2016. The Defra non-native team are aiming to work up ID sheets for all 37 species to which the EU Regulation on invasive alien species will apply. Defra have prioritised the ID sheets for the aquatic plant species as those are the ones expected to see traded/imported most frequently. There are no ID sheets for any of the animals yet but as soon as they are produced they will be circulated out to all Police Wildlife Crime Officers.

Recommendations to UKTCG

- NWCUC to ensure Defra ID sheets for INNS are promoted and distributed across POLKA, the NWCUC website and to all PWCO's.

Appendix A – Glossary

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
APHA	Animal & Plant Health Agency	NRW	Natural Resources Wales
APP	Authorised Professional Practice	NWCU	National Wildlife Crime Unit
BASC	British Association for Shooting Conservation	OCG	Organised Crime Group
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust	PAW	Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	PDG	Priority Delivery Group
CEMA	Customs & Excise Act	PESTELO	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, Organisational
CITES	Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species	POCA	Proceeds of Crime Act
CoP	Conference of Parties	POLKA	Police On Line Knowledge Area
COPFS	Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
COTES	Control of Trade in Endangered Species	PWCO	Police Wildlife Crime Officer
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	RBG	Royal Botanic Gardens
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	REG	Regional Enforcement Group
EIA	Environment Investigation Agency	RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
FERA	Food and Environment Research Agency	RIPSA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Scotland
FWPM	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
INNS	Invasive Non Native Species	RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade	SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	SID	Scottish Intelligence Database
LACS	League Against Cruel Sports	UKBF	UK Border Force
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency	UKTCG	UK Tasking and Coordination Group
NCA	National Crime Agency	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
NE	Natural England	WCA	Wildlife & Countryside Act
NGO	Non Government Organisation	WCCAG	Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group
NPCC	National Police Chief's Council	WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Appendix B – Total Intelligence Submitted to NWCU (01/04/2016 – 30/09/2016)

Intelligence submitted to NWCU 01/04/2016 - 30/09/2016					
Submitting Agency/Region	Total	% of total	Category	Total	% of total
South West Region	220	16.1%	Poaching (all)	450	33.0%
North Region	195	14.3%	Poaching Other	144	
East Region	151	11.1%	Hare Coursing	140	
South East Region	100	7.3%	Poaching Deer	94	
BCT	86	6.3%	Poaching Fish	72	
Midlands Region	86	6.3%	Other	350	25.6%
APHA	72	5.3%	CITES (all)	231	16.9%
Crimestoppers	72	5.3%	CITES European Eel	73	
Badger Trust	70	5.1%	CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	62	
Environment Agency	62	4.5%	CITES Other	51	
RSPB	47	3.4%	CITES Ivory	16	
SASA	39	2.9%	CITES Reptiles	15	
Wales Region	33	2.4%	CITES Rhino Horn	8	
Natural England	31	2.3%	CITES Timber	4	
NWCU	25	1.8%	CITES Medicinal & Health Products	2	
LACS	13	1.0%	Badger Persecution	126	9.2%
Welsh Government	13	1.0%	Raptor Persecution	112	8.2%
Port of Dover Police	11	0.8%	Bat Persecution	96	7.0%
Member of the Public	10	0.7%	FWPM	0	0.0%
FERA/CSL	4	0.3%	Grand Total	1365	
National Food Crime Unit	4	0.3%			
Police Service of Northern Ireland	4	0.3%	Category	Total	% of total
Interpol	3	0.2%	Other	350	25.6%
RSPCA	3	0.2%	Poaching Other	144	10.5%
Cefas	2	0.1%	Hare Coursing	140	10.3%
Traffic	2	0.1%	Badger Persecution	126	9.2%
DEFRA	1	0.1%	Raptor Persecution	112	8.2%
JNCC	1	0.1%	Bat Persecution	96	7.0%
NGO - Other	1	0.1%	Poaching Deer	94	6.9%
SAC (Scottish Agricultural College)	1	0.1%	CITES European Eel	73	5.3%
Scottish Government	1	0.1%	Poaching Fish	72	5.3%
UK Border Force	1	0.1%	CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	62	4.5%
WWF	1	0.1%	CITES Other	51	3.7%
Grand Total	1365		CITES Ivory	16	1.2%
			CITES Reptiles	15	1.1%
			CITES Rhino Horn	8	0.6%
			CITES Timber	4	0.3%
			CITES Medicinal & Health Products	2	0.1%
			FWPM	0	0.0%
			Grand Total	1365	