

# **National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)**

## **Tactical Assessment**

### **November 2017**

### **Public Version**



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**Table of Contents**

**Introduction** ..... - 3 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Overview** ..... - 4 -

**Intelligence Overview**..... - 6 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Badger Persecution**..... - 7 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Bat Persecution** ..... - 9 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – CITES issues**..... - 11 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Freshwater Pearl Mussels (FWPM’s)**..... - 16 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Poaching** ..... - 18 -

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Raptor Persecution** ..... - 24 -

**Non Priority Emerging Patterns and Trends** ..... - 28 -

**Appendix A - Glossary** ..... - 29 -

**Appendix B – Total Intelligence Submitted to NWCU (01/04/2017 – 30/09/2017)** ..... - 30 -

## Introduction

### Aim

The main objectives of the Tactical Assessment are:

- Analyse all intelligence submitted to the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) since the last assessment was written. The period analysed was from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
  - 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

### Investigative Guidance

The college of policing and NPCC made an executive decision that guidance will no longer be issued to police. As a result the wildlife crime 'guidance' is being split into 2 areas – Authorised Professional Practice (APP) will contain aide-memoirs for Call Handlers and first responders and Police On-Line Knowledge Area (POLKA) will hold Briefing Notes with lengthy details for full investigations. APP and POLKA are held on Force intranet sites for England and Wales and the script is written for all English and Welsh forces. The bat and badger sections are now published. Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Poaching are complete. Raptor Persecution is in second draft awaiting further work, whilst COTES will be written once the Statutory Instrument for the new legislation is laid before Parliament. It is likely that other chapters will be drafted before Christmas 2017.

### Habitats Regulations 2017

The various legislative amendments made to the Habitats Regulations since 2010 have now been consolidated into a new Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations 2017') which will update and replace the current Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended) and will come into force on 30th November 2017. Offences and police powers remain unchanged but the consolidation will change the numbering of the individual regulations that are often referenced. For instance, offences are now under regulation 43 instead of regulation 41. Similar consolidation and name change will affect the Offshore Habitats Regulations.

### Regional Enforcement Groups

The structure of the Regional Enforcement Groups (in England & Wales) has now been aligned to the ROCU structure (Regional Organised Crime Units).

### 23rd August 2017 – Welsh Wildlife Crime review

NWCU submitted a report - 'Review of the Prevention and Investigation of Wildlife Crime in Wales 2017'. The report was utilised to drive progress at a workshop on 23rd October which was chaired by CC Mark Collins, Dyfed Powys Police and examined the strategic aspect of the review with senior officers and members of the Welsh Government attending.

### 5th Sept 2017

NWCU finalised their contribution to the 2015/16 Scottish Government Annual Report for Wildlife Crime. It is hoped the report will soon be published by the Scottish Government.

### April 2017 - new CITES requirement to submit data on illegal trade to the CITES Secretariat

Since 2008, every 6 months NWCU and UKBF submit seizure data to TRAFFIC via Defra. The NWCU submission is done on behalf of all UK police forces and as such is based on police seizures as a result of warrants carried out 'in country', which augments the UKBF significant seizure data. The EC have now also requested the submission of an annual illegal trade report which stems from Notification 2016/007 agreed at SC66 last January. The first submission was completed by UKBF and NWCU in early November.

### 30th June 2017 - Former police wildlife officer wins PAW 'partner of the year' award

Retired Police Officer Craig Fellowes won the prestigious PAW 'Partner of the Year' award for his dedication and contribution to wildlife crime training. Craig has been involved in the fight against wildlife crime since the 1990's when he became Warwickshire's Wildlife Crime Officer. In the late 90's he developed the National Wildlife Officer's Foundation Course, which is still the only PAW accredited training course for Police Officers. In the past year he has delivered training to police on Badger Persecution and has worked with the NWCU to develop a 3 day CITES course for Police officers. Craig also organises and manages the Annual National Wildlife Crime Enforcer's Conference.



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30th June 2017 - PAW 'Award of Merit'



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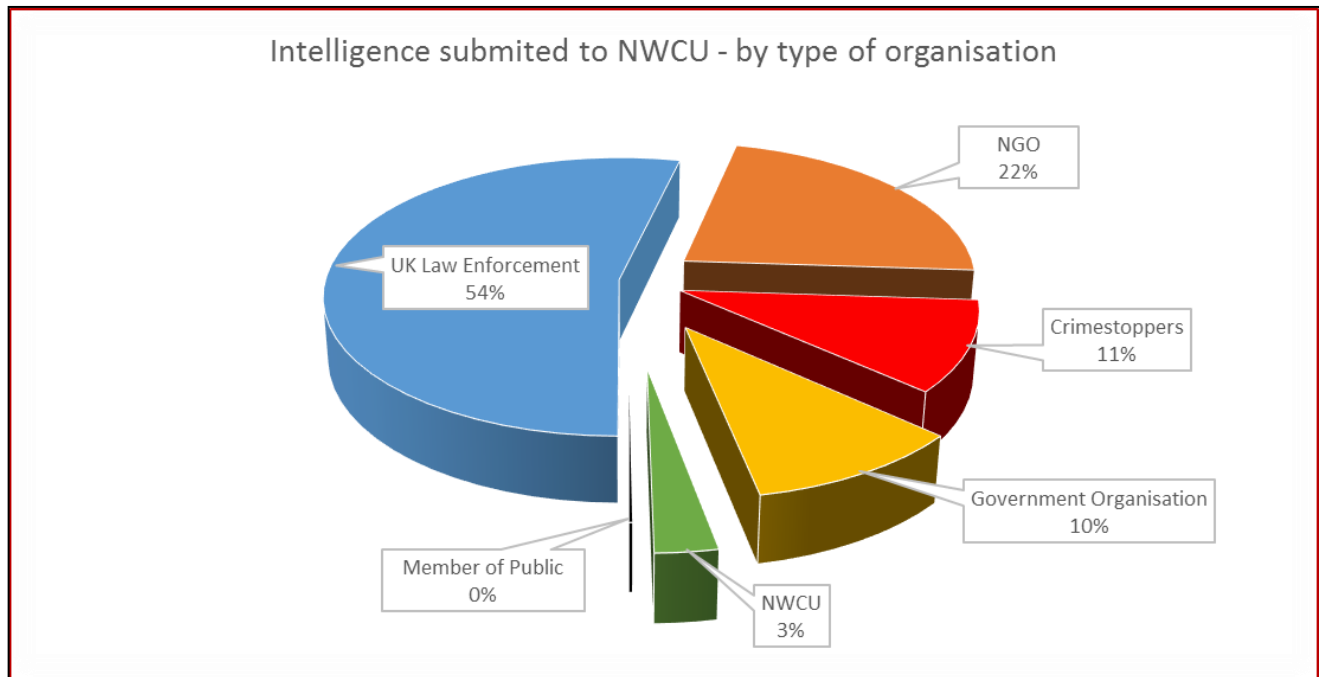
Guy Clarke of Border Force received a PAW 'Award of Merit' for his contribution to the PAW Training Group over the past 20 years. Presenting the award, Chief Constable Jones said, "Guy has been at the centre of wildlife crime training for many years and it is clear that his contribution, both here and abroad, had been extremely valuable and although he has recently had to step down from his position on the PAW group, I have no doubt he will continue to contribute and always be on hand for advice and guidance".

**Intelligence Overview**

All submitted intelligence to the NWCU within the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 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: 01/04/17 – 30/09/17



These percentages are in much the same proportion as reported for the last tactical period, although the contribution from Crimestoppers has increased this period (from 5% to 11%). In relation to the 54% provided by UK law enforcement agencies, this encompasses police forces, UKBF and NCA.

22% of all intelligence submissions came from NGO's in this tactical period. This includes Angling Trust, Badger Trust, BCT, LACS, RSPB, RSPCA and Traffic.

## UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Badger Persecution

### Summary of Intelligence

Badger Persecution accounts for 10.1% (113) of all intelligence submitted to NWCUC. In addition, there were 23 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>1</sup> for Badger Persecution. The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table below:

Badger Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Dyfed-Powys	10	Badger Trust	38
North Wales	4	Crimestoppers	11
Derbyshire	3	LACS	8
North Yorkshire	3	Natural England	8
PSNI	3	RSPCA	4
West Yorkshire	3	EA	1
Cumbria	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>
Devon & Cornwall	2		
Surrey	2		
West Mercia	2		
Wiltshire	2		
Avon & Somerset	1		
Dorset	1		
Gloucestershire	1		
Greater Manchester	1		
Hertfordshire	1		
Humberside	1		
Staffordshire	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>113</b>

- A significantly lower volume of intelligence reports have come from Badger Trust this period, which is a direct result of the loss of their crime coordinator.
- The highest number of intelligence logs relate to badger **baiting**.
- Sett entrances continue to be blocked by persons suspected to be involved in Fox Hunting.
- Hunting with dogs and digging out setts remain a volume crime of badger persecution.
- Poisoning with paracetamol or mixed with dog meat, peanut butter or peanuts continues.

### Badger Incident Analysis

On 22nd August 2017, NWCUC submitted a bespoke analysis of Badger Trust and Scottish Badgers incident data on behalf of the Badger Persecution PDG. It is hoped that this will be published once data ownership issues have been progressed with Badger Trust.

<sup>2</sup> In 2016, the Badger Trust reported a high level of incidents of badger persecution within Dorset, resulting in the county being identified as a priority area for training. In May 2017, Dorset police officers attended a training course on badger persecution run by the Badger Trust and Naturewatch Foundation.

<sup>1</sup> From SID: 'wildlife' keyword in subject and 'badger' keyword in text

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.swanageandwarehamvoice.co.uk/news/15281788.Dorset\\_one\\_of\\_the\\_country\\_s\\_hotspots\\_for\\_badger\\_persecution/](http://www.swanageandwarehamvoice.co.uk/news/15281788.Dorset_one_of_the_country_s_hotspots_for_badger_persecution/)

### **Plan Owner Update**

Due to the loss of both the chair and the secretary there has been no capacity to provide a plan owner update for Badger Persecution. However, a summary of the last meeting has been created, as per below. Andy Swinburne has secured a new role within Naturewatch and has agreed to pick the secretariat role back up. There is a scheduled meeting of the Badger Persecution PDG on 24<sup>th</sup> November, which will go ahead with RSPCA as interim chair. NWCU will work to identify a new chair as soon as possible.

### **Summary of Badger PDG**

1. Three year targets under P.I.E. model now identified as:
  - Prevention - Newsletter to be produced and circulated twice a year.
  - Intelligence - Information Sharing Protocols to be developed and established in order to work towards an increase in intelligence to NWCU.
  - Enforcement - Proactive enforcement through police initiatives based on analytical data, with identified hot spots and timelines of locations and types of crime.
2. The group were reviewing the current membership list.
3. Creation of Operation Badger Poster - North Wales Police circulated examples of Badger Baiting awareness posters which are available for use by all PDG members. Production of overall Op Badger poster will hopefully be progressed by the new secretary in his position with Naturewatch.
4. Information Sharing Protocols to be developed or updated with PDG members. NWCU are to develop/renew ISP's with RSPCA, LACS, Scottish Badgers and SNH. ISP already in place between NPCC, CPS, NE and NRW. MOU with Badger Trust complete.



## UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Bat Persecution

### Summary of Intelligence

Bat Persecution accounts for 8.3% (93) of all intelligence at NWCUC. There have been no intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>3</sup> for Bat Persecution in the 6 month time period. The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table below:

Bat Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
West Yorkshire	1	BCT	86
		Crimestoppers	5
		Natural England	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>93</b>

- Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) are once again the single biggest 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.
- Within the intelligence received several species of bats have been noted ie Common Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared, Natterers and Nathious.

### Incident analysis

On 17th July 2017, NWCUC submitted a bespoke analysis of BCT incident data on behalf of the Bat Persecution PDG. Additional work has been commissioned to produce hotspot maps for those specific forces who have the highest levels of Bat Persecution.

In November 2016 BCT received funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation that secured the funding of their investigations project for three years. Their “Bearing Witness for Wildlife” project extends the work of BCT’s investigations officer to other species of conservation concern.

<sup>4</sup>On Thursday 5th October 2017, Paul William Floyd and Ronald John Floyd of Havant, Hampshire pleaded guilty at Portsmouth Magistrates Court to a charge of illegally destroying a bat roost. Each was fined £200 and ordered to pay £35 costs and an £85 victim surcharge. The Floyds are directors of a building company Havant Building Services Ltd. In February 2017 they were undertaking work on a house in Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, when a worker on site stripping roof tiles, discovered a bat. The finding of the animal and sightings of others in the roof was reported to the Floyds who initially stopped work. However some time later an employee reported that no more bats had been seen and the work recommenced. No ecological advice was at any time sought. During the police investigation a bat worker visited the address but no evidence of a roost was found.

### **Bat Habitats Regulation Bill (HL 2017)<sup>5</sup>**

Bat Conservation Trust have reported the existence of a private members bill (Bat Habitats Regulation Bill) sponsored by Lord Cormack that had its first reading in the House of Commons on 3 July 2017. The Bill proposes to amend the legislation to remove the protection given to bats where bats are present in places of worship. BCT recognise the problems that some churches experience with bats but they believe this bill is impractical and would be disastrous for bat populations. Rather, BCT advocate the need to find solutions for the bats in churches issue that support people, bats and the cultural heritage.

<sup>3</sup> From SID: ‘wildlife’ keyword in subject and ‘bat’ keyword in text

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/380/bat\\_crime\\_conviction](http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/380/bat_crime_conviction)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/368/bat\\_habitats\\_regulation\\_bill\\_hl\\_2017](http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/368/bat_habitats_regulation_bill_hl_2017)

**<sup>6</sup>11th April 2017 - convictions for bat crime at Leamington Spa Magistrates Court**

Keith Marchington, the owner of the property in question, and Samuel John Taylor, a builder contracted to renovate the property, both pleaded guilty to destroying a bat roost and were fined just £83 and £153 respectively. Both were ordered to pay £135 costs and a £30 victim surcharge. The property in question was a bungalow and barn that were to be demolished and replaced by a new dwelling. There was a lengthy planning history relating to the site and survey work confirmed roosts of brown long eared and soprano pipistrelle bats. The BCT press release for the case was critical of the CPS prosecutor and argued again for guidance on the sentencing of wildlife crime. The Bearing Witness for Wildlife project continues to lobby the Sentencing Council to produce such guidance.

**Plan Owner Update**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Bat crime Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>PC Andy Long, Essex Police.</b>

<b>Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (Nov 2016):</b>
No recommendations made.

<b>Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting:</b>	
Action	Update
List of actions included within action plan but not copied into plan owner template.	

<b>How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?</b>
Included within action plan but not copied into plan owner template.

<b>How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?</b>
At our next meeting, scheduled for January 2018 the group will review our progress against targets and will update if required.

<b>Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:</b>
No comments.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/362/convictions\\_for\\_bat\\_crime\\_at\\_leamington\\_spa\\_magistrates\\_court](http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/362/convictions_for_bat_crime_at_leamington_spa_magistrates_court)

**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 13.7% (153) of all intelligence submitted to NWCUC. In addition, there were 6 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>7</sup> for CITES. The total intelligence submissions (for **priority issues** – 101 logs) from every other force/agency is shown in the table 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
NWCUC		10	2		3			15
UK Border Force			14		1			15
Metropolitan	1		2		4	1		8
Police Scotland (East)						3		3
Derbyshire		2						2
North Wales	1	1						2
Devon & Cornwall		1						1
Greater Manchester		1						1
National Crime Agency	1							1
South Wales		1						1
Thames Valley						1		1
Warwickshire		1						1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Other Agencies</b>								
APHA		16	11		7		1	35
Crimestoppers		5			3			8
Member of the Public			1			1		2
Environment Agency	1							1
NGO - Other						1		1
RSPB		1						1
RSPCA		1						1
Traffic					1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101</b>

**Overview of all CITES intelligence**

There are not generally very high numbers of intelligence logs from UK police forces on any CITES issues, however, NWCUC generated intelligence on CITES is high as a result of investigations by NWCUC ISO's.

**CITES - eels**

**26th June 2017 - 48 arrested in EU for trafficking European eel**

In 2015, with the support of the European Commission within the framework of the European Union Action Plan against wildlife trafficking, Europol initiated Operation LAKE, alongside several law enforcement agencies from France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom and Eurojust. The operational activities carried out during the current fishing season (2016-2017) have seen 48 persons

<sup>7</sup> From SID: 'wildlife' keyword in subject and 'CITES' or 'endangered species' keyword in text

arrested and 4000 kg of glass eels seized, amounting to a total value of approximately EUR 4 million. Investigations proved that more than 10 tonnes of glass eels had been smuggled from the EU to China, with an estimated profit of EUR 10 million. One of the organisations investigated would have earned some EUR 280 million in the last five years, which paints a clear picture of the dimension of this illegal activity.

28th Nov 2017 - planned meeting regarding prevention of illegal eel fishing

NWCU have pulled together a meeting for all UK enforcement parties in preparation for the next elver fishing season. As a result of other fisheries identified, representation will be larger than previous years.

**CITES – ivory**

9th Nov 2017 – custodial sentence for illegal trade in wildlife

Allawi ABBAS, a man who was investigated for illegal wildlife trade by the Met Police Wildlife Crime Unit, was sentenced at Harrow Crown Court and received 14 months immediate custodial sentence for illegal purchase, keeping for sale and selling parts of endangered species. He was arrested, charged and sentenced as follows:

- Keeping/offering for sale three rhinoceros horns and offering to purchase rhinoceros horns, contrary to the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 – 14 months imprisonment;
- Keeping/offering for sale two elephant tusks and offering for sale 40Kg of elephant ivory – seven months' imprisonment, to run concurrent; and
- Keeping offering for sale four hippopotamus teeth (tusks) – three months' imprisonment, to run concurrent

There is also to be a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing in due course. Her Honour Judge Dean commended the Met Police officers for their work on this case.

**CITES - Rhino**

August 2017 – crime prevention advice to zoo's with captive rhino

NWCU gave out crime prevention advice to two forces who have captive rhino in their force area. The forces were asking for additional advice to offer their zoo's in relation to prevention of an attack to captive rhino.

29th Sept 2017 – Irish National pleads guilty to smuggling rhino horn

Michael Hegarty pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in Miami to fraudulently facilitating the transport and concealment of a Libation Cup carved from an endangered rhino horn that was illegally smuggled from the United States to Great Britain. The prosecution of Hegarty is part of Operation Crash, a continuing effort by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to detect, deter, and prosecute those engaged in the unlawful trafficking of rhinoceros horns. In April 2012, Hegarty and his co-conspirator attended an auction in North Carolina and made a winning bid for a rhinoceros horn libation cup. Hegarty and his co-conspirator received the rhinoceros horn libation cup in Florida. The co-conspirator then smuggled the libation cup out of the United States in his luggage, failing to declare its export. The co-conspirator, along with two other Irish nationals, was arrested by Metropolitan Police in London, while attempting to sell the same rhinoceros horn libation cup to a Hong Kong native. Hegarty was arrested on the charges through an INTERPOL Red Notice and extradited to the United States from Belgium. His co-conspirator was convicted on unrelated charges in England, is currently incarcerated there, and is still wanted to face wildlife trafficking charges in the Southern District of Florida. Hegarty will be sentenced on the 14th November 2017 and faces a maximum penalty of up to ten years in prison, followed by a term of supervised release of up to three years, and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or up to twice the gross gain.

**CITES – Other (non-priority issues)**

The total intelligence submissions (for non-priority issues) from every force/agency is shown in the table below:

<b>CITES ~ all other non-priority issues</b>	
<b>UK Law Enforcement</b>	<b>#</b>
NWCU	12
UK Border Force	4
Metropolitan	2
Lincolnshire	1
National Crime Agency	1
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Other Agencies</b>	<b>#</b>
APHA	21
Crimestoppers	7
Marine Management Organisation	2
Traffic	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52</b>

The majority of non-priority CITES intelligence continues to relate to illegal trade, which is clearly facilitated by the internet.

Parrots – increased intelligence

There were more intelligence reports regarding parrots (particularly African Grey) in this tactical period than there has been previously – a consequence of African Grey parrots being up listed to Appendix I at CITES CoP17.

There were no other significant trends identified in this tactical period however there have been several ongoing investigations/convictions:

19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

A shop owner who built up a collection of endangered species, including a turtle shell, a crocodile head and part of a sawfish, was fined £4,000. Sasko Bezovski, 47, of Westminster appeared at Hammersmith and Fulham Magistrates' Court on 19 April. He pleaded guilty to a charge of purchasing, offering to purchase, selling or keeping specimens of endangered species. An officer from the Met's Wildlife Crime Unit discovered the items

after visiting the 'Kokon to Zai' shop on 15 July 2016. Bezovski must also pay £85 court costs and a £170 Government surcharge.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

NWCU assisted PSNI with a warrant following intelligence about Nepenthes pitcher plants (App I/Annex A) being sold on eBay. It was the first case of its type in Northern Ireland. The plants were being advertising as Nepenthes rajah cultivated from Mt Tambuyukon in Borneo. The only known authorised specimens taken from the wild were from Mt Kinabalu (it only occurs on these two mountains). The suspect had also sold other Nepenthes species to Norway and did not appear to have had export permits. During a voluntary search of the suspect's home address various plants were found, including three N rajah. Cannabis plants and a bypassed electricity meter were also discovered. The suspect indicated he had got the plants via a friend of a friend in England who had collected the seeds from the mountain in Borneo. On 6th November 2017 the suspect received an adult caution for COTES offences.



29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

Peter Bailey of Lambeth was found guilty of six COTES offences and was sentenced to 26 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work and pay court costs of £4000. The items included a variety of skulls such as chimpanzee, drill, guenon, mangabeys, macaques and colobus as well as derivatives from other endangered species such as crocodiles, elephant, Asian Black Bear, whales. Many of the primate specimens originated from west or central Africa and were taken from the wild recently. This is of particular concern in relation to drills which are critically endangered species.

Common, Pelagic and Bigeye Thresher Sharks are now CITES listed (Appendix II/Annex B) as of 04/10/2017. CITES Appendix II does not prohibit the harvesting or international trade in any shark species, rather it has brought them under its strict trade controls to ensure that any trade is legal, sustainable and reported. Any trade in these species will now require a science-backed finding that the levels of trade will not jeopardize their survival in the wild, and confirmation that they have been legally taken.

**Plan Owner Update**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>		<b>CITES Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>		<b>Grant Miller</b>
<b>Evidence on how objectives have been progressed:</b>		
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 Anguilla	<p><b>Prevention:</b> CPDG sub group formed of key partners to tackle ongoing threat. 2018 Fishing season planning ongoing. UK Meeting 11/17</p> <p><b>Intelligence:</b> BF &amp; NWCU attendance at Europol events under Op Lake banner. Request to MS for photographs and details of smuggling attempts.</p> <p><b>Enforcement:</b> Excellent cooperation in multi - agency proactive casework on going. NCA Prosecution case going forward.</p>	
Ivory:	<p><b>Prevention:</b> Collaboration with NAVA ongoing, Ivory removal initiative launched 11/17, articles published in trade press to accompany launch.</p> <p><b>Intelligence:</b> BF have implemented a new intelligence dissemination process to NWCU focussing on ivory seizures. Additional intelligence to be disseminated.</p> <p><b>Enforcement:</b> Export detections referred to police, who with continued significant support from the NWCU have achieved excellent results. One ongoing case with approximately 600 ivory pieces seized.</p>	
Rhino Horn	<p><b>Prevention-</b> Ongoing: 20+ police forces in UK tasked by NWCU to visit and assess the security arrangements of UK premises housing live Rhinos.</p> <p><b>Intelligence</b> – NWCU to consider new Rhino related intelligence briefing. No specific Rhino related intelligence available.</p> <p><b>Enforcement</b> –. Seizure of Horns by Metropolitan Police.</p>	
Medicinal and health supplements	<p><b>Prevention:</b> On going work in CITES plant community looking at ways of amending and simplifying CITES plant annotations with delisting or some extracts a distinct possibility.</p> <p><b>Intelligence:</b> New products continue to be identified 60+ seizures identified at UK of one new product.</p> <p><b>Enforcement-</b> High level of trade over the Internet continues. Noticeable change in ingredients' from CITES Animal to plant species maintained during this reporting period.</p>	
Raptors	<p><b>Prevention</b> – Low level intelligence on possible export of peregrines. Ongoing.</p> <p><b>Intelligence-</b> Intelligence provided by NWCU to international enforcement partners relating to laundered birds, forged leg rings and invalid Article 10 certificates.</p> <p><b>Enforcement:</b> limited enforcement activity during this reporting period although ongoing enquiries still being actioned.</p>	
Reptiles	<p><b>Prevention:</b> Good levels of compliance being maintained by UK reptile dealers.</p> <p><b>Intelligence:</b> Low level work being undertaken on Caribbean iguanas. Limited intelligence on individual traders.</p> <p><b>Enforcement;</b> Low level seizures at border, nothing linked to OCG activity.</p>	
Timber	<p><b>Prevention</b> – CITES Timber guide published by RBG Kew to be updated on line to reflect CITES CoP 17 amendments. Timber guide for enforcement officers still only in draft form. High level discussions between EU member states looking at possible amendments to Dalbergia annotations.</p> <p><b>Intelligence</b> – Dalbergia spp -Intelligence being developed on musical instrument trade due to number of seizures. No specific intelligence on furniture although work is at an early stage.</p>	



	<p>Little intelligence developed on importers of Agarwood.  <b>Enforcement</b> – 20,000+ unlicensed musical instruments seized at UK border. Additionally consignments of unlicensed guitar parts made from Dalbergia have been detected &amp; seized. Other products made from Dalbergia including 100+ gladiators' swords with Dalbergia handles have been seized! Seizures of furniture now being made.                  Requirement for Intelligence assessment to be undertaken.</p>
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**Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG**

Action	Update
AP1 <i>CITES PDG to consider increasing their work with the antiques trade and auction houses</i>	Collaboration with NAVA ongoing, Ivory removal initiative launched 11/17, articles published in trade press to accompany launch. Referrals from the Auction Houses to BF are continuing.

**Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting (25<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

Action	Update
AP1 <i>The NWCU to prepare a threat assessment on Primates &amp; their derivative parts for consideration by the CPDG.</i>	To be actioned.
AP2 <i>For all attendees at the next CPDG to provide ideas for future enforcement operations in 2018.</i>	To be actioned

**Other Issues:**

BF in partnership with the World Customs Organisation has successfully conducted an assessment of the Tanzanian Revenue Service (Customs) ability to address the illegal wildlife trade passing through its national borders.

NWCU in cooperation with Wildlife Training continue to deliver Police CITES course as a follow on to the police Wildlife Foundation course, further courses are planned in 2017/18. Additional CITES presentations have been delivered to Police Scotland officers with tentative plans to expand to a bespoke Scottish Police focussed CITES course

NWCU continue to support investigations into diverse range of CITES related derivative items including Kashmiri Musk deer oil for sale, Orangutan skulls, Sun bear skulls, *Nepenthes raja* seeds etc, all of the products have been seized with cautions administered.

BF & NWCU assisting in early planning for Court training day as a follow on to successful NHM & Leeds events.

BF have withdrawn the "free training resource" from the Police CITES courses due to the introduction of a commercial partner, the HOU has offered to deliver commercially as a "sub-contractor".

BF HOU working with IATA on Illegal Wildlife Trade participating in and speaking at numerous international events.

NWCU continue to monitor and investigate the illegal wildlife trade on the Internet.

NWCU continue to address the issue of un-worked ivory exhibits being handled by UK domestic auction houses

BF continues to work in partnership with Heathrow Airport Limited and United for Wildlife in promoting the fight against the illegal wildlife trade with Public Displays and awareness sessions for Heathrow staff.

BF & NWCU attended EU EWG 34 to promote CITES enforcement initiatives & development of EU Action plan including identifying representatives for the new EU enforcement priority species.

NWCU providing significant assistance with multiple CITES cases in Scotland.

BF & NWCU handling numerous cases involving mammal & reptile skulls and big cat claws both illegal import and sale. This area of illegal trade could be worthy of an intelligence assessment.

BF led a UK transport sector group to Hanoi where they met with their counterparts from Vietnam. The DEFRA sponsored initiative objective was to raise awareness of the benefits of partnership in fighting the illegal wildlife trade. The UK delegation was represented by BF, NCA, Heathrow airport, IAG group (British Airways), and the City of London Corporation.

BF & NWCU represented the UK at the Interpol Wildlife Enforcement conference in Singapore.

BF & NWCU represented the UK at the extremely successful Society for Wildlife Forensic Science conference in Edinburgh.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments.

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

### Summary of Intelligence

- There have been no FWPM intelligence logs submitted to NWCU in the 6 month time period, however, the impact of one offence of FWPM killing can erase an entire population of the species.

### Plan Owner Update

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Iain Sime</b>

<b>Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (Nov 2016):</b>	
Action	Update
Scottish PDG to continue sharing protocols with England & Wales to ensure populations of FWPM are safeguarded	English and Welsh colleagues are members of the full PDG and protocols shared early in 2017.

<b>Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting: 10<sup>TH</sup> August 2017</b>	
Action	Update
River patrol dates to be confirmed for September	Patrols scheduled for September and school visits also took place
Liaison with traveller groups to be maintained and briefing to be prepared for local police officers	Briefing document drafted and due to be circulated amongst group members for comment in Nov 2017.
Social media week of action to take place during September. Suggested that 'Facebook Live' event should be included.	Unfortunately this did not take place during September. However news releases associated with publication of monitoring and research reports due to come out in late autumn and will include possible live social media event.
In order to commence surveillance of vulnerable sites, PDG to confirm 3G network in rivers vulnerable to persecution and identify most appropriate cameras	Confirmed mobile network coverage, cameras selected and securing permission from land and house owners.
Following earlier visits to Highland craft fairs, which confirmed no pearls for sale, to summarise outcome of Operation Caesar	Outcome confirmed and note circulated to PDG.
To confirm training dates for rangers services during 2018.	Due to be confirmed late in 2017.
PDG to advise Transport Scotland on appropriate signage at vulnerable pearl mussel population on A82	Advice provided and discussions ongoing to install signage.
Advice on how to confirm age of pearl mussel shells found dead on riverbanks to be distributed to PDG	Complete
Scotland hot-spot maps – to confirm they should be produced on a 3-5 year basis, rather than annually or biannually.	Discussions ongoing.
PDG to arrange e-briefing for Police Scotland N Division intranet	Ongoing



**How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?**

There has been satisfactory progress. Proactive patrols took place during 2017, in collaboration with fishery bailiffs. Early in 2017 further "Riverwatch" patrols took place in the final stages of the Pearls in Peril project, and these detected further criminal incidents that have been investigated by Police Scotland.

Social media coverage of the PDG's work has not taken place as planned during 2017 to date, however publication of reports on pearl mussels are planned for release later in 2017 and, if possible, will be coordinated with social media events such as 'Facebook Live' which has been successfully used to promote other initiatives by Police Scotland.

Guidance to help police officers and river managers identify the time when pearl fishing incidents took place (based on aging of the shells) has been produced and disseminated to all PDG members.

Planning to install signage and surveillance cameras at 3 high risk populations is ongoing.

Since the last PDG, the Pearls in Peril project (which included PDG work on wildlife crime), has been shortlisted for the RSPB's Nature of Scotland award 2017. This follows awards and commendations from the River Restoration Centre and Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management earlier in 2017.

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

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.**

During 2017 to date 2 news releases were issued and picked up by a variety of media. This has resulted in stories in the national and local print press (e.g. Scotsman, Inverness Courier) and online. Further news releases are planned for later in 2017, linked to publication of survey and monitoring reports and use of social media.

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 2017 all suspected criminal activity were reported directly to the police. Including suspected pearl fishing in the Highlands, Outer Hebrides and 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 2017, two pro-active operations were initiated and actioned by Police Scotland. This brings the total of operations to eleven since 2015, all done in collaboration with key partners. It is also worth noting that other 'riverwatch' patrols by the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, and the Ness & Beauty Fisheries Trust, have also taken place as part of the successful Pearls in Peril project. These patrols number at least 30 over the same time period, and yielded valuable intelligence and information which has been passed to the NWCU and Police Scotland.

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

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments.

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

**Summary of Intelligence**

**Poaching overall**

All forms of poaching account for 41% (459) of all intelligence submitted to NWCU.

Category	Total	% of total
Hare Coursing	149	32.5%
Poaching Other	116	25.3%
Poaching Fish	108	23.5%
Poaching Deer	86	18.7%
Poaching (all)	459	

Deer Poaching			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Devon & Cornwall	18	Crimestoppers	12
Avon & Somerset	10	LACS	2
Dorset	9	Angling Trust	1
Surrey	4	RSPCA	1
Derbyshire	3	Trading Standards	1
North Wales	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>
West Yorkshire	3		
Cumbria	2		
Humberside	2		
Staffordshire	2		
Suffolk	2		
Bedfordshire	1		
Dyfed-Powys	1		
Essex	1		
Gloucestershire	1		
Hertfordshire	1		
Kent	1		
Lincolnshire	1		
Norfolk	1		
North Yorkshire	1		
Sussex	1		
Wiltshire	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86</b>

**Deer Poaching**

18.7% (86) of all the poaching intelligence (459 logs) submitted to NWCU is in relation to Deer Poaching. In addition, there were 38 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>8</sup> for Deer Poaching. The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table to the left.

- There has been a drop in the number of intelligence logs submitted overall, which is a consequence of the NWCU’s new focus on quality intelligence over quantity.
- The highest numbers of reports are from Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset and Dorset.
- The main motivating factor is money.
- Shooting and hunting with dogs remain the most prevalent methods of

poaching.

<sup>8</sup> From SID: ‘wildlife’ keyword in subject and ‘deer’ keyword in text

**Fish Poaching**

23.5% (108) of all poaching intelligence (459 logs) submitted to NWCU is in relation to Fish Poaching. In addition, there were 56 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>9</sup> for Fish Poaching.

The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table to the right.

- Fishing without permits/licences on riverbanks by individuals remains high.
- Intelligence also relates to Eastern European or other foreign nationals fishing without permits/licences for their own personal consumption.
- A significant number of intelligence logs have been received from the Angling Trust in relation to theft of fish, in particular carp.
- 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	7	Angling Trust	54
Cambridgeshire	6	Crimestoppers	3
Dorset	6	EA	1
Dyfed-Powys	5	<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>
West Yorkshire	4		
Devon & Cornwall	3		
Kent	3		
Sussex	3		
Hertfordshire	2		
Staffordshire	2		
Wiltshire	2		
Avon & Somerset	1		
Cheshire	1		
Gloucestershire	1		
Metropolitan	1		
Norfolk	1		
Northamptonshire	1		
Surrey	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>108</b>

<sup>9</sup> From SID: 'wildlife' keyword in subject and 'fish' keyword in text

**Hare Coursing**

Hare Coursing			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Cambridgeshire	69	Crimestoppers	6
Bedfordshire	20	League Against Cru	5
Essex	8	Environment Agenc	1
Hertfordshire	8	RSPCA	1
Norfolk	7	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>
Humberside	6		
Kent	5		
Thames Valley	3		
West Yorkshire	3		
Staffordshire	2		
Derbyshire	1		
Durham	1		
Suffolk	1		
West Mercia	1		
Wiltshire	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>149</b>

32.5% (149) of all poaching intelligence (459 logs) submitted to NWCUC is in relation to Hare Coursing. In addition, there were 104 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>10</sup> for Hare Coursing. The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table to the left.

- There has been a significant decrease in the number of intelligence logs relating to Hare Coursing, which is again due to the NWCUC's new focus on quality intelligence over quantity.

**National seminar**

A national seminar is to be held in Warwickshire on 19<sup>th</sup> December between Police Forces that suffer with Hare Coursing and the Regional CPS prosecutors

<sup>11</sup>A Guisborough man was fined £5,000, which was an alternative to imprisonment, plus a further £600 and £720 for failure to appear. He admitting using dogs to hunt wild hares in Scotland. Seven dead hares were recovered lying in heather about 20m from where he had been stopped.

<sup>12</sup>A poacher threw a dead hare out of a car window during a high speed chase with the police. The 23 year old male appeared at Cambridge Magistrates Court on 27th September, he was ordered to forfeit his Subaru and three dogs, ordered to pay £250 compensation to three farmers, £5,353 in kennel costs, a £200 fine for poaching, £400 fine for no insurance and £145 costs and surcharges, he was also disqualified from driving for 12 months.

<sup>10</sup> From SID: 'wildlife' keyword in subject and 'hare' keyword in text

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/guisborough-man-fined-5000-hare-13486741>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/hare-thrown-out-moving-car-11298114>

**Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>England &amp; Wales Poaching Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Glynn Evans</b>

**Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2017)**

No recommendations given.

**Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting: 05/10/17**

Action	Update
AP1: ALL to feed any issues with problem police forces back to ■■■.	This is now a standing action point to provide a forum for members of the PDG to highlight and make individual forces aware of any issues. No issues had been forwarded since the last meeting. However it should be noted that some member organisations have raised issues directly with individual forces.
AP2: ■■■, ■■■ and ■■■ to discuss any specific training that the group could deliver and how they could deliver it to police forces and for ■■■ to report back at the next meeting.	Ongoing
AP3: ■■■ to contact Regional Enforcement Groups (REGs) so seek their views in relation to call handlers. Specifically if they are aware of the call handlers guide produced by the PDG and if and how it is promoted, if they deliver specific training to the call handlers in relation to rural crime and how they record any reports of poaching. Due by 15 December.	Ongoing
AP4: REG representatives to submit at least two news items to ■■■ within two weeks of request for inclusion in the Project Poacher newsletter.	Ongoing. The newsletter is currently in production with a view for release by 20/11/17
AP5: ■■■ & ■■■ to identify if here are any existing target hardening videos by 10 November.	Ongoing This is in relation to the production by the group of 'target hardening advice' and identifying the best use of resources.
AP6: ■■■ to discuss with Alex Butterfield if work has been done on target hardening by 10 November.	Ongoing as above action point 5.
AP7: ■■■ to review availability of a venue for MS.	Completed- A venue for the meeting of law enforcers and CPS to discuss specific issues has been arranged.
AP8: ■■■ to liaise with ■■■ to ensure each new REG is invited to have representation	Ongoing.
AP9: ■■■ to forward to ■■■ the "five forces" email regards to the first 3 year target.	Completed
AP10: ■■■ to circulate minutes including the new wording with all to submit comments within 10 days of its dispatch.	Completed.
AP11: ■■■ & ■■■ to review existing findings from surveys and other sources information in relation to the "vulnerable" status of rural residents and report back ahead of the next meeting.	Ongoing
AP12: ■■■ to research the Self Evidence app and report back to the group at the next meeting.	Ongoing. This is in relation to a self-evidence app and how it might complement or conflict with the Project Poacher app.

**How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?**

The first Project Poacher newsletter was published in April. Downloads for the Project Poacher app are just short of 7000 times with 156 reports sent in two years. The app itself has been updated to include advice in relation to police stop and search powers following a request by policing representatives within the PPDG.

Members of the PPDG have assisted the NWCUC with the production and review of specific professional practice advice.

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

The following targets were set in 2016 and reviewed at the last meeting 5/10/17;

**The NWCUC will identify five forces with a wide geographical coverage to establish a base line of activity, reporting and success**

The following forces; Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Devon and Cornwall and Dyfed Powys have been identified by the NWCUC in relation to confirming baseline figures to help assess and monitor progress.

**Ensure all 43 forces in England and Wales are aware of the PPDG, Project Poacher, NWCUC and the issues associated with poaching.**

All regional enforcement groups now have the opportunity for representatives to attend the PPDG meetings. The Project Poacher newsletter highlighting the PPDG and issues around poaching is now produced biannually.

**The continued wide range of representation within the PPDG of both NGO's and Law enforcers.**

There continues to be a wide range of participation (as referenced above). All members of the PDG submit an update at meetings on their efforts and activities in relation to tackling poaching and meeting the group's objectives and targets.

**Increased reporting of intelligence from individual forces to the NWCUC both in the terms of number and geographical coverage.**

Specific analysis will be provided by NWCUC prior to the next PDG meeting.

**Promote enforcement success to communities via a wide range media outlets to increase confidence in the process of reporting incidents and intelligence.**

This is an ongoing area with various members of the PDG disseminating 'news' and highlighting issues in different ways. For instance the NFU launched a Combatting Rural Crime report at the House of Commons in July which included reference to poaching. BASC and the CA highlighted the importance of reporting poaching offences at numerous game fairs, country shows and meetings. Collectively the Project Poacher newsletter contains information on 'successes' and all members will promote this. Representatives from the regional wildlife crime groups have a standing action point to provide sufficient news stories.

**To assist the NWCUC in the production and dissemination of Approved Professional Practice in relation to dealing with poaching offences.**

Following discussion at the last meeting it was agreed that this target had largely been completed it was agreed to amend this (subject to confirmation by the whole group) "to assist in the production and dissemination of best practice advice in relation to dealing with poaching offences and the criminal justice system"

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments.



**Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	PAW Scotland Poaching & Coursing Priority Delivery Group
<b>Submitted By:</b>	John Bruce

<b>Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (Nov 2016):</b>	
No recommendations given.	

<b>Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting: 22/02/2017</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
To take forward the reprint and development of the incident notebook.	1,000 incident notebooks republished and distributed at Scottish Game Fair 2017.
To meet with NFU Scotland to establish what action they pursue with their members regarding hare coursing and what support they may need.	Contact with NFU Scotland resulted in them running with a hare coursing article.
Produce leaflet on hare coursing.	Draft electronic leaflet designed. To be modified.
Consider effectiveness of venison dealers licences	Summary of issues surrounding licensed venison dealers drafted and awaiting discussion at next meeting.
Explore crime prevention opportunities with local authority Traveller Liaison Officers.	Briefing sheet for traveller site managers drafted and for discussion at next meeting.

<b>How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?</b>	
Attend appropriate meetings of rural workers and organisations to promote awareness of poaching issues.	Police presentations and/or attendance at Royal Highland Show, Scottish Game Fair and numerous other county shows.
Investigate opportunities to highlight poaching and coursing through neighbourhood watch schemes.	Engagement with Community Network Scheme.
Maximise all opportunities to produce successful prosecutions.	(1) Reprinting Incident notebook to aid witnesses regarding poaching activity, (2) engagement with Travellers Liaison Officers and NFU Scotland, (3) wildlife crime training (incl. poaching & coursing) delivered to Police wildlife and rural crime officers.
Encourage reporting of all suspected poaching incidents.	Production of an electronic leaflet planned.
Raise awareness of threat from criminality in press & media. Utilise PAW Media Group.	Media releases regarding (1) hare coursing incident in Aberdeenshire, (2) deer poaching incident in Inverness, and (3) hare coursing convictions in Scottish Borders.

<b>How have you progressed with the setting of your new 3 year targets (which sit under your primary objective)?</b>	
Not progressed. Group continuing to work towards original objectives set in 2015-17 plan.	

<b>Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:</b>	
No comments.	

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Raptor Persecution**

**Summary of Intelligence**

Raptor Persecution accounts for 8% (90) of all intelligence submitted to NWCUC. In addition, there were 14 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>13</sup> for Raptor Persecution. The total intelligence submissions from every other force/agency are shown in the table below:

Raptor Persecution			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Derbyshire	13	RSPB	20
Devon & Cornwall	6	Natural England	11
North Wales	3	Crimestoppers	9
North Yorkshire	3	SASA	5
Gloucestershire	2	LACS	2
Metropolitan	2	NRW	2
Norfolk	2	SAC	2
Cumbria	1	Welsh Government	2
Kent	1	Angling Trust	1
NWCUC	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>
Sussex	1		
Wiltshire	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>90</b>

- Shooting still remains the most prevalent method of persecution.
- Poisoning continues - with information received from SASA and Natural England.
- Peregrine Falcon chicks/eggs are still being taken from nests.

May 2017 - Annual UK Peregrine Watch Scheme begins in Northern Ireland  
 Following the successful launch of Operation Raptor in March 2016 the PSNI have continued to show their commitment to wildlife crime by contributing to a UK initiative named “Peregrine Watch”.  
 Peregrine Watch is an initiative to stop any peregrine persecution and this can include theft of eggs and chicks from nests and/or the killing of adults and/or chicks through poisoning, shooting or trapping.

June 2017 - expert group to be set up to look at managing grouse moors sustainably in Scotland:  
 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) research identified that almost a third of golden eagles being tracked by satellite died in suspicious circumstances. The majority of cases were found where land is intensively managed for driven grouse shooting. The report studied the movements of 131 young golden eagles over a 12 year period, and found more than 40 had disappeared in suspicious circumstances. It also found there was no link between fitting satellite tags and the disappearance of the birds of prey and ruled out any connection with the position of wind turbines. In response to the report, Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham outlined a



- package of new measures that the Scottish Government will take forward:
- Set up an independently-led group to look at the environmental impact of grouse moor management practices such as muirburn, the use of medicated grit and mountain hare culls, and to recommend options for regulation including licensing and other measures which could be put in place without new primary legislation;
  - Immediately review all available legal measures which could be used to target geographical areas of concern;
  - Increase resources for the detection and investigation of wildlife crime and work with Police Scotland to pilot the use of special constables in the Cairngorms National Park
  - Rule out giving the Scottish SPCA more investigative powers, in light of legal advice;
  - Examine how best to protect the valuable role of gamekeepers in rural Scotland;
  - Commission research into the costs and benefits of large shooting estates to Scotland’s economy and biodiversity.

<sup>13</sup> From SID: ‘wildlife’ keyword in subject and ‘raptor’ or ‘bird of prey’ keyword in text



**Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Raptor Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Superintendent Chris Hankinson</b>

<b>Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (May 2017):</b>
No recommendations given.

**Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Action	Update
██████████ to send ██████████ of Natural England the data for nest destruction incidents.	Completed and 9 incidents considered under nest destruction to which 7 accepted.
██████████ to circulate the terms of reference for the mapping system to be placed on MAGIC.	This has been done and comments taken forward for final draft that has now been approved by Natural England. All organisations that provided any data have now been sent the Terms and Conditions for feedback that will be incorporated into final version.
██████████ to send ██████████ the protocol guides for consideration by RSPB.	This is an on-going piece of work to which the RSPB have now formally responded to the second draft. ██████████ to review the RSPB response in order to compose third draft.
██████████ to ascertain from ██████████ what proportions of poisons were from Farmland in the Scottish poisons surrender.	As the project was done on a “surrender” basis, all submissions were anonymised so the proportion from Farmland cannot be ascertained.
██████████ to discuss with ██████████ to consider producing an alternative protocol that relates specifically to Hen Harriers.	To progress with ██████████ who is also involved in the Hen Harrier Action plan.
██████████ to circulate to the RPDG the RSPB response to the WIIS consultation.	To be discussed at the Raptor PDG on the 9 <sup>th</sup> of November 2017
██████████ to circulate a poster about the Welsh Pesticide disposal scheme.	Received poster from ██████████ and awaiting permission to circulate between members.

**How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?**

**Creation of Persecution maps:** This work is nearing complete for maps showing incidents of all poisoning, shooting, nest destructions and trappings of raptors over a 5 year rolling period. The first maps will show data between 2011 and 2015. The maps will be published on the Defra MAGIC website.

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

**Terms of Reference:** Completed.  
**Raptor numbers of 4 key species:** The 2017 breeding seasons for the Red Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Goshawk and Hen Harrier were previously discussed within the last plan update. Planning work for the 2018 season is being discussed at a meeting in December. A protocol for Hen Harriers will also assist if felt justified by Natural England.

**Other Issues:**

**RSPB Birdcrime 2016 report:** Published on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2017. The report is to be discussed at the next Raptor PDG on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 with other members of the group.

**BBC Countryfile article on Peregrine nest thefts:** During the Summer BBC Countryfile ran an article involving the NWCU that looked at Peregrine Falcon nests having either fertile eggs or chicks being taken in order to enter the legal market. One particular nest theft caught on camera from Cheshire was shown and an appeal for identification of any of the suspects caught on an infra-red camera near the nest site.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments.

**Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Scottish PAW Raptor Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>DCS Sean Scott</b>

**Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG (Nov 2016):**

No recommendations given.

**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
To consider use of rolling 5 year hotspot maps to coincide with the wildlife crime annual report	Scottish Govt assessing feasibility

**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 2017 covering both grouse moors and agriculture. The project results for 2017 are to be presented to the group at the next meeting.

Golden Eagle Release Project – Planning for a five-year project to release Golden eagles in Southern Scotland has received £1.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Partners in the project include representative organisations from both the land management and conservation sectors. The first release of birds will now be in 2018. Wildlife crime risk assessment has been undertaken by NWCU to inform crime prevention activity in England and southern Scotland ahead of the release of any birds.

Scottish Government's report on the disappearance of satellite tagged Golden eagles has been published and an expert group will now look at (1) managing grouse moors sustainably and within the law, and (2) producing advice on the option of licensing grouse shooting businesses.

**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 in progress.  
Police Scotland officers with rural and wildlife interests attended a wildlife crime introduction day in September which included a presentation on raptor crime.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments.

**Non Priority Emerging Patterns and Trends**

**Other Intelligence**

- The category ‘other’ (which includes all intelligence not related to the priorities) accounts for 18.9% (212) of all intelligence at NWCU.
- There were also 107 intelligence logs from Police Scotland<sup>14</sup> in relation to other *non-priority* wildlife crime.
- The total intelligence submissions (212 logs), for all ‘other’ wildlife crime, from every other force/agency are shown in the table below:

Other non-priority issues			
UK Law Enforcement	#	Other Agencies	#
Devon & Cornwall	14	Crimestoppers	44
Kent	11	Natural England	11
Metropolitan	11	RSPB	11
West Yorkshire	11	Angling Trust	4
Surrey	9	Welsh Government	4
Derbyshire	8	MMO	3
Dorset	8	RSPCA	3
Avon & Somerset	5	SAC	2
Dyfed-Powys	5	Cefas	1
Sussex	5	DEFRA	1
North Yorkshire	4	LACS	1
NWCU	4	<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>
Cambridgeshire	3		
Gloucestershire	3		
Hertfordshire	3		
Norfolk	3		
Staffordshire	3		
West Mercia	3		
Wiltshire	3		
Humberside	2		
South Wales	2		
Suffolk	2		
Bedfordshire	1		
Cumbria	1		
Northamptonshire	1		
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1		
Thames Valley	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

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

- Crimestoppers are becoming a very significant contributor of intelligence.
- 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 was a re-emergence of previous issues relating to finch trapping. Finch trapping continues to occur across the UK.
- There were no other major issues of concern.

<sup>15</sup>Two buddhist monks were convicted by the MMO for releasing non native canadian lobsters and dungeness crabs. The two males received penalties of £28,220 between them, of which £18,000 is compensation for the MMO as they attempt to recover the crustaceans – the MMO are offering local fishermen £20 a head for every alien captured.

<sup>14</sup> From SID: ‘wildlife’ keyword in subject and no other specific priority keyword in text

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/shortcuts/2017/sep/25/buddhist-fangsheng-mercy-release-cruel-wild-animals>

<b>Appendix A - Glossary</b>
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Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
APHA	Animal & Plant Health Agency	NWCU	National Wildlife Crime Unit
APP	Authorised Professional Practice	OCG	Organised Crime Group
BASC	British Association for Shooting Conservation	PAW	Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust	PDG	Priority Delivery Group
BIAZA	British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums	PESTELO	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, Organisational
BPPDG	Badger Persecution PDG	POLKA	Police On Line Knowledge Area
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	PPDG	Poaching PDG
CITES	Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
CoP	Conference of Parties	PWCO	Police Wildlife Crime Officer
COTES	Control of Trade in Endangered Species	RBG	Royal Botanic Gardens
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	RCT	Rural Crime Team
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	REG	Regional Enforcement Group
DfID	Dept for International Development	RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
EU	European Union	RIPSA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Scotland
FCO	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	ROCU	Regional Organised Crime Unit
FWPM	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	RPPDG	Raptor Persecution PDG
IATA	International Air Transport Association	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
INNS	Invasive Non Native Species	RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
ISO	Investigative Support Officer	SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade	SID	Scottish Intelligence Database
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency	SNH	Scottish National Heritage
MMO	Marine Management Organisation	UKBF	UK Border Force
MS	Member States	UKTCG	UK Tasking and Coordination Group
NCA	National Crime Agency	UN	United Nations
NE	Natural England	UNEP	UN Environment Programme
NGO	Non Government Organisation	WCA	Wildlife & Countryside Act
NPCC	National Police Chiefs Council	WCCAG	Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group
NRW	Natural Resources Wales	WID	Wildlife Intelligence Database

**Appendix B – Total Intelligence Submitted to NWCU (01/04/2017 – 30/09/2017)**

Intelligence submitted to NWCU 01/04/2017 - 30/09/2017					
Submitting Agency	Total	% of total	Category	Total	% of total
UK Law Enforcement	601	53.7%	Poaching (all)	459	41.0%
NGO	251	22.4%	Hare Coursing	149	
Crimestoppers	118	10.5%	Poaching Other	116	
Government Organisation	116	10.4%	Poaching Fish	108	
NWCU	32	2.9%	Poaching Deer	86	
Member of Public	2	0.2%	Other	212	18.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1120</b>		CITES (all)	153	13.7%
			CITES Other	52	
			CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	40	
			CITES Ivory	30	
			CITES Reptiles	19	
			CITES Rhino Horn	7	
			CITES European Eel	4	
			CITES Timber	1	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of total</b>	Badger Persecution	113	10.1%
Other	212	18.9%	Bat Persecution	93	8.3%
Hare Coursing	149	13.3%	Raptor Persecution	90	8.0%
Poaching Other	116	10.4%	FWPM	0	0.0%
Badger Persecution	113	10.1%	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1120</b>	
Poaching Fish	108	9.6%			
Bat Persecution	93	8.3%			
Raptor Persecution	90	8.0%			
Poaching Deer	86	7.7%			
CITES Other	52	4.6%			
CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	40	3.6%			
CITES Ivory	30	2.7%			
CITES Reptiles	19	1.7%			
CITES Rhino Horn	7	0.6%			
CITES European Eel	4	0.4%			
CITES Timber	1	0.1%			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1120</b>				