

National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)

Strategic Assessment

2013



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Summary of all recommendations

General recommendations

1. UKTCG to approve the new process for emerging threats.
2. All Priority Delivery Groups to re-assess their objectives to ensure they are focused, relevant and SMART. UKTCG to approve all the objectives.
3. The PIE (Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement) approach has been expanded in UK policing to a PIER (Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement and *Reassurance*) approach. Reassurance recommendations will mainly focus on media and press issues, where applicable, with the recommendation aim to be that of reassuring interested communities. This may include elements such as ‘measures to be further publicised to redress loss of public confidence’ etc. All Priority Delivery Group’s to focus on a PIER approach - ensuring prevention, intelligence, enforcement and *reassurance* elements of the issue are considered.
4. NWCUCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCUCU to plan accordingly.

Badger Persecution

Prevention

5. PDG to raise awareness of the threat of criminality in the press and media; particularly in the areas where sett disturbance is prevalent.

Intelligence

6. NWCUCU to review and update existing Information Sharing Agreements (ISA’s).

Enforcement

7. National Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to contain appendices relating specifically to badgers.

Bat Persecution

General

8. PDG to have active Plan Owner representation at PDG’s and UKTCG.

Prevention

9. PDG to continue to identify opportunities for media/press coverage e.g. conferences or seminars that developers may attend.

Intelligence

10. NWCUCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.
11. PDG to consider communicating the importance of including species information in all submitted information to the NWCUCU.
12. NWCUCU to consider specific recording of species on their intelligence database to aid future analysis.

Enforcement

13. National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to bats (as per previous Operation Bat).

CITES

General

14. National Crime Agency to be invited to sit on CITES PDG.
15. The ‘reptile priority with a focus on tortoises’ to be renamed and pulled back to just ‘reptiles’ reflecting the improved intelligence and compliance picture on tortoises in the UK.
16. The traditional medicines priority to be re-named ‘Medicinal and Health Products (including rhino horn)’.
17. The emerging issue of “sturgeon derivatives and extracts” to be considered as part of the CITES PDG.

Prevention

18. NWCUCU to facilitate formal law enforcement contact with eBay to discuss preventative measures under project ATLAS in relation to Ivory.

Intelligence

19. NWCUCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.

Enforcement

20. National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to CITES.

21. The costs associated with seizure and retention of specimens prior to court and disposal of specimens forfeited by courts impacts on the willingness of many police forces to undertake effective enforcement actions. Consideration needs to be given as to how this can be resolved. A mechanism needs to be identified which will allow recompense of costs from the offender.

Freshwater Pearl Mussels

Prevention

22. PDG to raise awareness of threat from criminality in press and media, utilising the PAW Scotland Media Group.

23. Representatives from PDG to attend appropriate meetings of river users and organisations to promote awareness of FWPM crime and responsible behaviour.

24. Consider further developing the LIFE project officer role to have greater investigative focus. This has shown to be particularly beneficial for the Bat Priority Delivery Group – when BCT employed a Bat Investigations Officer, the submission of intelligence increased significantly.

25. Maps showing past criminal activity and locations of pearl mussels in Scotland have been finalised. PDG to disseminate maps to local wildlife crime officers and use as the focus to recommend/encourage further targeted action (e.g. signage, surveillance, etc).

Intelligence

26. NWCUCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.

27. NWCUCU to build upon Operation Caesar to close intelligence gaps on the disposal market of FWPM.

Enforcement

28. National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to FWPM.

Poaching

General

29. Marine Scotland to join PAW Marine Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (MWEWG) and consider how to tackle the increase in electro-fishing.

Prevention

30. All police forces should consider robust yearly operations (such as Galileo in Lincolnshire and Lepus in Scotland) that are well publicised for their impact as a preventative measure.

31. All police forces should consider implementing rural operations that utilise volunteers, such as that done across the North East region in 2013. These keep pressure on criminals who target remote rural areas without draining scarce police resources.

32. MWEWG to consider raising awareness via the Health & Safety Executive and the Environment Agency regarding health risks from illegally sourced shellfish

Intelligence

33. Forces should link to Operation Liberal which is dedicated to tackling distraction burglary and doorstep crime in England and Wales.

Enforcement

34. NWCUCU/PDG's to consider how best to tackle the legal anomaly regarding lack of enforcement option for cost recovery of seized dogs. A legal mechanism to be explored which will allow recompense of costs from the offender.

35. ACPO to consider whether the key to ensuring police resources are allocated to wildlife crime is in emphasising its association with rural crime and by ensuring its rationale is centred on community focus.

36. The four affected ACPO East regions should coordinate efforts to tackle hare coursing via their regional enforcement groups or the creation of rural action teams. This would have wider positive benefits for the region as a whole.
 37. The ACPO South East region needs to set up an enforcement group.
 38. Police need to tighten up on standard operation procedures such as the seizure of dogs to ensure their force is not the one seen as the 'weak link' where coursing activity gets displaced to.
 39. Increased use of Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) investigations should be considered for poaching offences to tackle the significant criminal profits being made.
 40. A police focus on offenders legitimate business interests may uncover avenues of money laundering.
 41. Scottish Criminal Justice Agencies to consider full use of all available sentencing options.
 42. National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to poaching.
- Reassurance
43. Police need to take robust enforcement action and widely publicise the results in order to give reassurance to rural communities that they will take action against hare coursers.
 44. Wider uptake of Operation Galileo's use of community alert messages would reassure rural communities whilst also leading to increased intelligence.
 45. NWCU and partner agencies to publicise all linked actions undertaken supporting Project Trespass via websites, interviews, press, TV and radio in effort to ensure that poaching is recognised as a significant crime impacting on rural communities.

Raptor Persecution

General

46. More information from the England & Wales PDG is requested so that it is clear what action still needs to be done.

Prevention

47. Wildlife crime officers should make contact with their local Raptor Study Groups to better understand the impact of criminality upon local populations of raptors and to assist with strengthening impact statements at court.
48. PDG's should focus attention on illegal poisoning/pesticide abuse, utilising a PIER approach to any action considered.
49. PDG's should continue to publish poisoning maps highlighting hotspot area's for raptor persecution and consideration should be given to mapping confirmed cases of abuse of domestic animals/baits/other (non-raptor) wildlife as this highlights the wider issues of poisoning.
50. Publication of successful operations work as a preventative measure.

Intelligence

51. NWCU to consider specific recording of species on their intelligence database to aid future analysis.

Enforcement

52. National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to raptor persecution.
53. The sustained abuse of Carbofuran needs a coordinated enforcement response. NWCU/PDG's to consider how best to tackle this.
54. The alternative methods highlighted in the Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee report (2012/2013) in relation to the offence of *possession* of Carbofuran should be further considered. These recommendations were:
 - i) Utilise existing powers under UK pesticide legislation.
 - ii) Encourage participation in amnesty initiatives, such as the Home Office's pesticide amnesty.

Reassurance

55. Police need to take robust enforcement action and widely publicise the results in order to give reassurance to the public that they will take action against those who persecute raptors. National SOP to include clear media strategies for police forces to follow.
56. Any Scottish conviction for vicarious liability which may come about will serve as a major deterrent due to the reputational implications of land owners.

CITES – Timber

- 57. If the new process r.e. removing intelligence requirements is agreed, Timber should be considered as part of the CITES Priority Delivery Group.
- 58. The issue to no longer focus on Agarwood specifically but look at all CITES listed Timber.

Finch Trapping

- 59. Finch trapping to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.

Illegal taking of wild bird eggs

- 60. Illegal taking of wild bird eggs to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- 61. Operation Easter to continue as a national operation.

Illegal seal shooting

- 62. Seal shooting to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.

Illegal trade in parrots

- 63. Illegal trade in parrots to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- 64. However, parrot species score highly on WCCAG matrix. CITES PDG to consider the issues relating to illegal trade and assess whether the issue should be another priority within CITES PDG.

Introduction of invasive non native species

- 65. INNS to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- 66. However, it is recommended that the plan owner sets up a working group to:
 - i) Determine what the non native priorities should be in terms of intelligence gathering.
 - ii) Identify where effort should be focused in the gathering of intelligence.
 - iii) Put PIER plan into action.
 - iv) Consider creating guidance on the issuance of Adult Restorative Disposal Orders for non native species releases.
- 67. Working group to report to next UKTCG to recommend whether INNS becomes a priority or is removed.

Non priority issues

- 68. Persecution of otters is considered via the new process for emerging threats.

Introduction

Aim

The main objectives of the strategic assessment are to:

- Analyse all intelligence submitted to the NWCU for a 2 year period 01/04/2011 – 31/03/2013. NB: due to the postponement of the UK Tasking & Coordination Group (UKTCG) meeting, an additional 6 month period has also been analysed (01/04/2013 – 30/09/2013).
- Provide an assessment of the current control strategy, encompassing UK Wildlife Crime Priorities and UK Wildlife Crime Intelligence Requirements identifying current, emerging and future threats.
- Plan owners and Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement leads to provide an overview of activity in their priority area. Plan owner updates have been grouped together for ease of reference (see Appendix A).
- NWCU, in collaboration with UKTCG members, to recommend Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) objectives for each priority area.
- Report on the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal and Organisational (PESTELO) factors that could have a bearing on wildlife crime. These are included at Appendix B.

Purpose

The Strategic Assessment is a National Intelligence Model (NIM) product aimed to provide a strategic overview of the threats faced by the UK during the last two years since the last strategic assessment was produced. It seeks to describe and explore in greater detail the significant threats and harm caused by wildlife crime. It will review all six priority areas and the intelligence requirements already in existence 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 non-priority intelligence to identify any emerging threats.

Methodology

The following data sources were used:

- Data held by the 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.

Dissemination

NWCU recommend that this Strategic Assessment will be produced with a 'Not Protectively Marked'¹ classification. A 'not protectively marked' document will:

- Reflect the range and scale of partnership information included in the analysis.
- Focus the content on strategic issues (there will be no inclusion of specific intelligence or nominal information).
- Negate the need to produce a sanitised version at a later date.
- Allow plan owners (some of whom do not have secure email) to be fully included and consulted throughout.
- The report will be disseminated through email. After the UKTCG has ratified the document it will be published on the NWCU website and the police on-line knowledge area (POLKA) which is a restricted website.

Glossary

A glossary of terms is available at Appendix C.

¹ Government Protective Marking Scheme

UK Wildlife Crime Strategic overview

Wildlife crime strategic update

- Chief Constable Simon Prince, Dyfed-Powys police, has been appointed as the new Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead for Wildlife Crime.
- The CITES² Conference of the Parties (CoP) took place in Bangkok in March 2013. This was attended by 149 member states.
- There has been an increased political focus on illegal trade in wildlife across the globe³:
 - UK – March 2013 – implementation of Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and EU Timber regulations⁴.
 - UK – May 2013 - HRH Prince of Wales hosted an international event on 21st May 2013 asking Governments from 20 states to refocus on the need to tackle illegal wildlife trade and to do so across Government Departments. This conference was the first stage in a process which may result in key countries signing a “Declaration” at a high level UK summit taking place in February 2014. This will show a commitment at the highest levels, to reduce the illegal trade in wildlife.
 - Northern Ireland – June 2013 - commitment made to tackle wildlife crime at the G8 conference.
 - USA – July 2013 - President Obama issued an Executive Order to establish a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking which identified poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their derivative parts and products as an escalating international crisis that is in the national interest of the United States to combat⁵.
 - Germany - July 2013 - German Ministries met CITES Secretary-General to discuss measures to combat wildlife trade, including a project to develop forensic methods to determine the age of elephant ivory⁶.
 - South Africa – July 2013 - Rhino Issue Management Report⁷ published. Proposals for CITES CoP17 (2016) considered r.e. lifting 36 year ban on commercial trade in rhino horn⁸.
 - Botswana –December 2013 – the IUCN Elephant Summit produced 14 urgent measures to address the illegal trade in ivory⁹.
- The introduction of Police Crime Commissioners (PCC's) across England & Wales has started to have a positive effect on the resourcing of wildlife crime enforcement. The PCC's are being updated on local wildlife concerns by their communities and they are in turn, asking their Chief Constables for more local accountability.
- Wildlife crime was included as an integral part of the Association of PCC's conference in July 2013. PCC's around the country are also hosting local events with inclusion of wildlife crime issues.
- There are significant issues in relation to achieving successful prosecutions occurring across England & Wales which will be addressed via the new ACPO lead for Wildlife Crime and the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- UK Border Force have recently produced a restricted level Threat Assessment which includes CITES issues. Border Force will share this document with other law enforcement agencies. This will aid future analysis on CITES issues.
- Europol published their Threat Assessment into Environmental Crime in November 2013, which includes analysis of the trade in Endangered Species. Europol have produced both a restricted and a publically available version of the document¹⁰.

Project Atlas strategic update

The internet has opened up the world from everybody's living room and inevitably this has included illegal trade in wildlife. The Defra funded project Atlas has been designed to establish how the legal trade in wildlife and wildlife products compares with the unlawful trade. It is possible, through searches such as the CITES website, to establish the number of declared imports and exports of CITES

² Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species

³ JNCC

⁴ RBG Kew

⁵ International Illegal Trade in Wildlife: Threats and U.S. Policy Congressional Research Service, July 2013

⁶ JNCC

⁷ <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/plan-to-trade-rhino-horns-on-jse-1.1553103#.UfKIEtKmg1J>

⁸ JNCC

⁹ PAW

¹⁰ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/threat-assessment-2013-environmental-crime-eu>

controlled products but trying to quantify illegal trade is inevitably a best guess. The project has set out to make this best guess by looking at previous surveys, interviewing organisations identified as the vehicles for illegal trade and internet research. It would be impossible to research all species in trade so certain target groups have been identified on which to focus attention.

Also, there are those who would seek to ban all advertisements of controlled items. As well as not being practical, it is not helpful to enforcement as the species are merely renamed and moved elsewhere. One of the objectives of project Atlas is to find ways of thwarting the serious offenders whilst preventing unknowing buyers becoming subject of enforcement attention. Work is ongoing in this regard.

What has become clear so far into the project is that from historical surveys where previously doors have been closed, the internet has reopened them and illegal trade is a growth industry.

NWCU Strategic update

The UKTCG decided in early 2012 that the NWCU should stop collecting incident data and re-focus on intelligence. This has enabled the unit to:

- Clear the backlog of intelligence (the new part-time intelligence officer's processed 700 logs between June and November 2013).
- Develop and provide support to a wildlife crime community on POLKA.
- Introduce a weekly tasking process to ensure a focus on key criminality.
- Deliver subject profiles to aid operation activity.
- Publish a 2-weekly intelligence bulletin.
- Launch a new website on 3rd June 2013.
- Implement a new working practice with Natural England/Chemical Regulations Directorate, SASA (Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture) and Welsh Government in an effort to ensure that investigative opportunities are capitalised upon in cases involving raptor and associated poisoning. Any Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) case is now alerted to law enforcement immediately (rather than after the scientific analysis is completed). This allows a real-time intelligence assessment to be made by the NWCU and the most appropriate course of action considered.
- Coordination of support to Interpol's Project Predator (partially funded by Defra) aimed at tackling illegal trade in tigers during late 2012 and into spring 2013. This involved providing specialist intelligence training and operational support from UK police advisors to Nepal's Criminal Intelligence Bureau staff during the operational phase (Operation Prey).

As an ACPO-linked unit the NWCU must comply with the following policing requirements:

- a. Application of new NIM minimum standards - a review of the NIM was completed in 2013 which has reduced and simplified the standards. Key objectives for the NWCU are to be set which align to the new standards and allow achievements to be quantifiable.
- b. Support the development of the National Crime Agency and the UK Serious and Organised Crime Strategy by:
 - i. Supporting tasking and coordination processes through direct support to the Acquisitive Crime Threat Group
 - ii. Complying with the Organised Crime Coordination Centre requirement to map Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity related to wildlife crime. This will feed into the Acquisitive Crime Threat Group process and will look at all levels of criminality (see Appendix D for explanation of levels of criminality).

The NWCU is now required to feed monthly updates into the Acquisitive Crime Threat Board via a law enforcement agency based 'Wildlife Crime Working Group'. No such group currently exists and the current 6-monthly UKTCG processes and practices need to be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose. A separate briefing paper has been prepared for the UKTCG in relation to this review.

NWCU propose a new process for consideration of intelligence requirements. The key objective for every intelligence requirement is to 'increase submissions of intelligence'. However this is clearly not working for any of the current requirements as none of them have shown significant increases over the

2 year period. Therefore, NWCUC recommend issues are no longer considered 'intelligence requirements' but are considered via the following process:

- a. NWCUC, Priority Delivery Group's (PDG's) or the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) identify emerging threats.
- b. Emerging threat measured on the WCCAG's matrix in relation to conservation status.
- c. If level of threat deemed significant, UKTCG appoint a lead agency (can be done via email consultation rather than waiting for next meeting).
- d. Lead agency to hold meetings to fully quantify level of threat and either take issue forward as a priority or report back that issue not significant for action at that time.

Recommendations

- UKTCG to approve the new process for emerging threats.
- All Priority Delivery Groups to re-assess their objectives to ensure they are focused, relevant and SMART. UKTCG to approve all the objectives.
- The PIE (Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement) approach has been expanded in UK policing to a PIER (Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement and *Reassurance*) approach. Reassurance recommendations will mainly focus on media and press issues, where applicable, with the recommendation aim to be that of reassuring interested communities. This may include elements such as 'measures to be further publicised to redress loss of public confidence' etc. All Priority Delivery Group's to focus on a PIER approach - ensuring prevention, intelligence, enforcement and *reassurance* elements of the issue are considered.

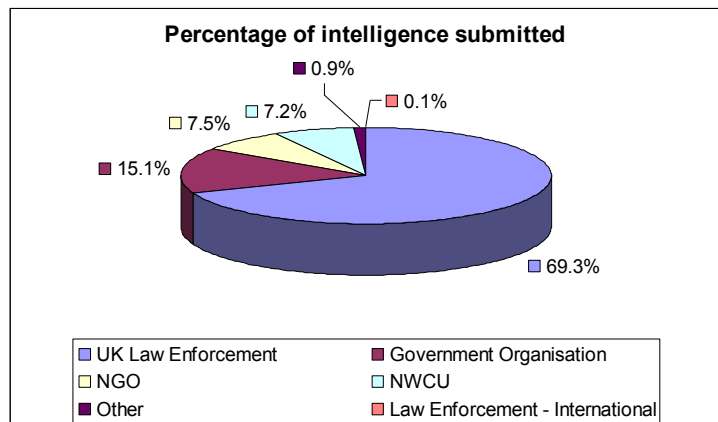
Intelligence Overview

Intelligence submissions to NWCU

- The 2 year strategic period that was analysed was 01/04/2011 – 31/03/2013. Due to the postponement of the UKTCG meeting, an additional 6 month period has also been analysed (01/04/2013 – 30/09/2013) to ensure an updated intelligence picture is provided. Updated analysis is specifically highlighted in each section.
- Analysis over the initial 2 year period shows that the submission of intelligence has maintained a steady level, with only an insignificant decrease of 8 logs year on year. However, in the last 6 months there has been a significant increase in volume of intelligence (from an average of 1273 logs in each 6 month period to 2111 logs in the updated period). The reason for this increase is believed to be twofold: 1) additional staff at NWCU clearing the data backlog and 2) ongoing work to ensure Force Intelligence Bureau's across UK copy NWCU into all wildlife crime intelligence.
- Total intelligence received (2 year period plus updated 6 months) is shown in Appendices E & F.

Chart 1 – intelligence submitted to NWCU

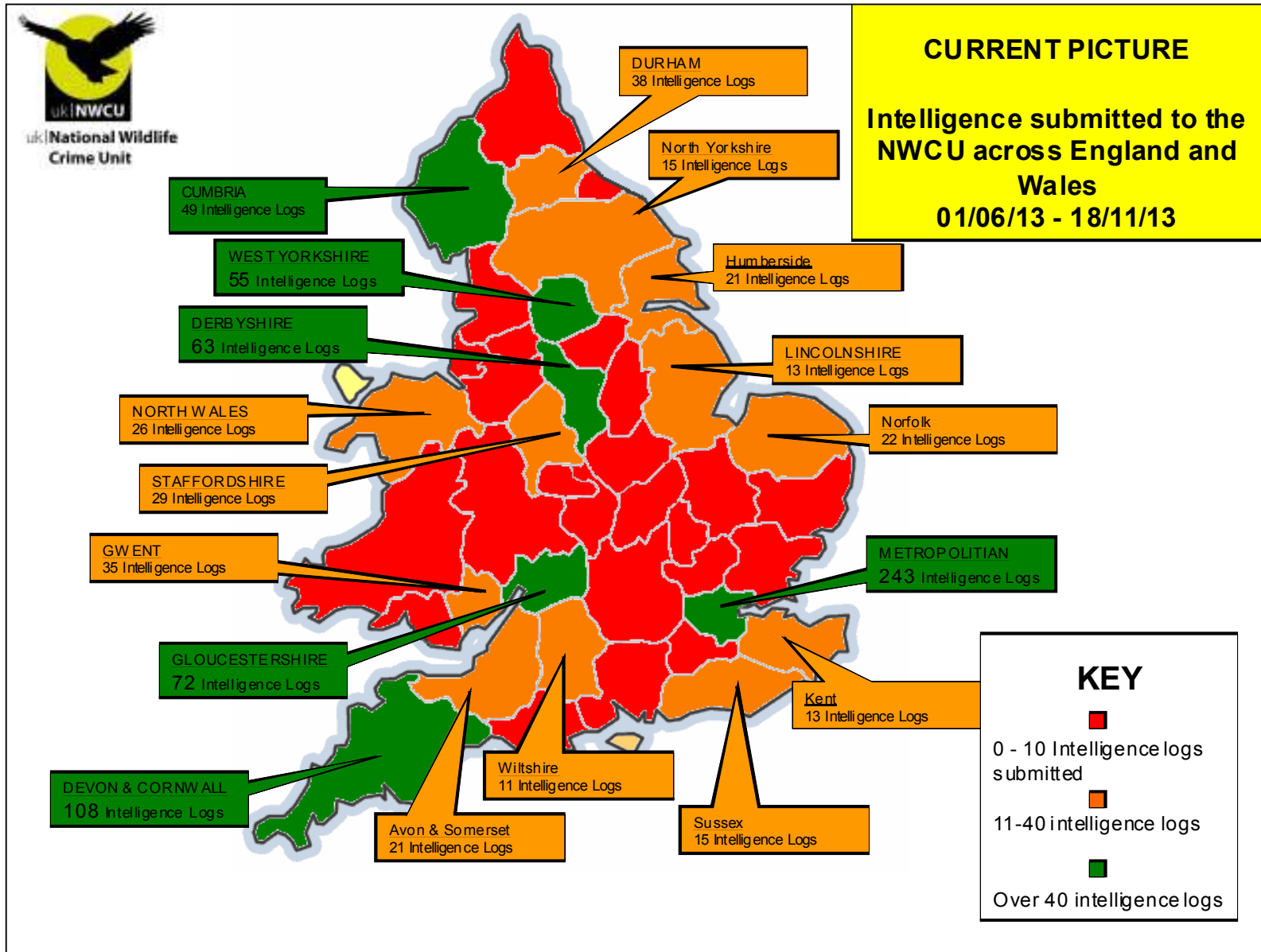
- NWCU collect intelligence from a vast number of different organisations. The distribution of submissions by type of organisation across the full 18 month analysis period (01/04/11 – 30/09/13) is shown in chart 1:



- In relation to the 69.3% provided by UK law enforcement agencies, this encompasses police forces, UK Border Force and SOCA (Serious and Organised Crime Agency). In addition to their intelligence submissions, UK Border Force also submit seizure data to the NWCU.
- Despite the exceptionally high levels of intelligence from UK police forces, there are still several Force Intelligence Bureaus (FIB's) in England, Wales and PSNI who have disseminated very little intelligence to NWCU. This is highlighted by the map on the next page. This gap is being addressed via the methods below:
 1. Making direct contact with police forces Directors of Intelligence.
 2. Reporting poor performance to PCC's at rural and wildlife crime events.
 3. Making references on both POLKA and the NWCU 2 weekly Intelligence Bulletin.
 It is hoped there will be significant increases in intelligence submission to NWCU in future.
- The traffic light system of mapping, as illustrated on the next page, will be used to drive improvement across the UK. Once consistent levels of intelligence submissions are made the NWCU can ensure operational assistance is focused where most needed and raise its 'footprint' with relevant police forces.

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Figure 1: Map to show intelligence submitted to the NWCU across UK Police Forces in the last 6 months



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UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Badger Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

- Badger persecution accounted for 9% (448) of all intelligence reports submitted, with a 36% increase year on year.
- Badger baiting is the most prevalent method of badger persecution.
- All ACPO regions have experienced badger persecution¹¹.
- The Scotland region reported the greatest number of intelligence logs (85%; 69).
- The largest increase in intelligence reports were reported by LACS (League against Cruel Sports) and RSPCA (Royal Society for the Protection of Animals). This was primarily due to these organisations having recruited intelligence officers.
- Quad bikes are commonly being used to either injure badgers or to drive over the top of active setts causing collapse to both sett entrances and roofs.
- There has been a documented increase of images, video footage and comments describing acts of digging out badgers being posted on Facebook and other social network sites.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- Badger persecution accounted for 7.4% (157) of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months.
- There have only been 7 intelligence logs relating to the badger cull. One report highlighted that farmers who had recently become affected by TB took matters into their own hands and carried out an unofficial cull in Pembrokeshire. The allegation is that they have killed up to 50 badgers, which were then dumped at sea.
- There have been 12 intelligence logs relating to the poisoning of badgers during this 6 month period. Methods vary from bread spread with peanut butter/crushed paracetamol to corn mixed with rat poison.
- There has been an increase in intelligence logs relating to the gassing of badger setts. The most commonly used gas is Talunex. It can be legally used to kill rats and rabbits by authorised users who comply with the relevant conditions. On contact with moisture the contents of the flask produce phosphene gas. A father and son who pleaded guilty to blocking badger setts on their farm and piping car exhaust fumes into the soil to gas the badgers to death were fined £1,370 each by Yeovil Magistrates. They admitted blocking 17 entrances to a sett on Batcombe Vale Farm (Avon & Somerset).

Recommendations to UKTCG

Prevention

PDG to raise awareness of the threat of criminality in the press and media; particularly in the areas where sett disturbance is prevalent.

Intelligence

- NWCUC to review and update existing Information Sharing Agreements (ISA's).
- NWCUC to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCUC to plan accordingly.

Enforcement

National Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to contain appendices relating specifically to badgers.

¹¹ See Appendix G for ACPO regions.

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Bat Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

- Bat Persecution is not a great volume contributor to wildlife crime in the UK, currently only accounting for 2.3% (116). However, the impact of crime has significant conservation implications in the UK.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of intelligence logs submitted year on year (from 25 to 91 logs) due to submissions from the BCT (Bat Conservation Trust), which accounts for 68% (62 logs) of the overall intelligence count. Subsequently, only 15 intelligence logs reported to the NWCUC originated from a police force. This is a situation unique only to bat persecution and shows the value of having an investigations officer (ex-PWCO (Police Wildlife Crime Officer)) employed by BCT.
- The development of land and property is the greatest concern to bat persecution and as such is the main focus of prevention work. Work conducted to develop or demolish properties accounted for 80% (23) of the intelligence logs submitted.
- The felling of trees is the second greatest risk to bats. In the majority of these cases the complainant suspected the work was being carried out on behalf of the local authority.
- Assessing the geographical distribution of crime does not appear appropriate for bat persecution. It is likely that there is a correlation between areas where *awareness* of bat persecution is greater and the higher numbers of intelligence logs being submitted.
- Where the species type is known the common pipistrelle and the brown long eared bats were the most affected. The brown long eared has been outlined as one of species listed on the UK Biodiversity Action plan for their priority concern. Overwhelmingly though, the species type is not mentioned in the intelligence submitted, therefore determining the impact of criminality upon particular bat species is not possible at this time.
- Fraudulent provision of false ecological surveys has resulted in roosts being destroyed/disturbed and bats being killed.
- Recent reports highlight that both live and dead bats are being offered for sale on eBay.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- Bat Persecution accounts for 4.4% of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months. Again, the majority (73%) was submitted by BCT (68 logs).
- There continue to be reports of the sale of bats on eBay, gumtree and even newspapers. It is likely that these adverts are an offence but each individual case needs to be researched under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the Conservation Natural Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 or the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 (Scotland) to establish the most appropriate offence. There is no evidence or reason to suspect that the sale of bats, their parts, or their derivatives is impacting on the conservation status of any species of bat.

Recommendations to UKTCG

General

PDG to have active Plan Owner representation at PDG's and UKTCG.

Prevention

PDG to continue to identify opportunities for media/press coverage e.g. conferences or seminars that developers may attend.

Intelligence

- NWCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCU to plan accordingly.
- NWCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.
- PDG to consider communicating the importance of including species information in all submitted information to the NWCU.
- NWCU to consider specific recording of species on their intelligence database to aid future analysis.

Enforcement

National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to bats (as per previous Operation BAT).

**UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – CITES Issues
(Ivory, tortoises, traditional medicines and illegal trade in raptors)**

All CITES

- CITES accounts for 17% of all intelligence submitted to the NWCUC.
- There has been a slight decrease in the logs submitted (from 436 to 421).

Ivory

- Intelligence concerning ivory is relatively low with 2% accounting of the overall intelligence count.
- There has been a 49% increase (from 31 to 61) year on year. This is due to the increase in submissions from AHVLA (Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency).
- Intelligence reports suggest that attempts have been made internationally to alter the appearance of ivory (it is made to look older than it is or made to look like it is plastic or wood).
- The receipt of international intelligence indicates that a strong market still exists in the trade of ivory with large seizures still occurring.
- Ebay has now banned the sale of ivory products which resulted in offenders having to find other means to sell the commodity. Wording other than 'ivory' is being used to avoid identification of adverts selling illegal goods.
- Undoubtedly the single biggest influencing factor is financial gain. The wholesale price per kilogram of ivory has tripled from 2006 – 2011¹².

Tortoises

- Tortoise intelligence only accounts for 1.4% of all intelligence at the NWCUC.
- The majority of the intelligence was provided by AHVLA (42%).
- Where the species type is known, Hermann's (20 logs) and Spur Thighed (18 logs) tortoises were the most commonly traded. It is believed that Hermann's tortoises can be more easily captive bred than Spur Thighed.
- JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) have outlined top 5 tortoise species endangered by illegal trade:
 1. *Atrochelys radiata* (Radiated tortoise)
 2. *Testudo kleinmanni* (Kleinmann's tortoise / Egyptian tortoise)
 3. *Geochelone platynota* (Burmese Star tortoise)
 4. *Pyxis arachnoids* (Madagascan Spider tortoise)
 5. *Pyxis planicauda* (Flat-backed Spider/Flat-shelled Spider/Flat-tailed/Madagascar Flat-shelled tortoise)
- Trading via the internet continues but on a small scale.
- Intelligence states that the average tortoise is being sold for around £100 - £150.

Traditional Medicines

- Traditional Medicines intelligence accounts for 4% of all intelligence at NWCUC.
- There has been a 46% decrease in logs submitted (from 140 to 75). The vast majority of these logs relate to the theft of rhino horn. The NWCUC recorded far less rhino horn intelligence in year two because the unit passed over a significant operation to SOCA.
- All ACPO Regions have reported intelligence during the strategic period with the majority coming from the London Region (18 logs).
- The demand for rhino horn has resulted in 22 thefts from museums during the period under review, with 4 occurring in the UK.
- Organised crime groups are involved - with criminals travelling long distances to target sources of rhino horn across Europe (museums, zoos, stately homes, etc).
- Recent intelligence suggests that the new status symbol of wealth in China and Vietnam is wearing rhino horn and ivory jewellery (particular bracelets).

¹² <http://www.pnewsire.com/news-releases/elephant-ivory-stockpile-sales-help-create-a-deadly-new-currency-in-china-156967525.html>

- Recent open source research mentions that affluent young adults in Vietnam are using rhino horn to cure hangovers. If rhino horn products are viewed positively by the young fashionable population, the demand for rhino horn is going to increase even further¹³.

Illegal trade in raptors

- Just 3% (168 logs) of the overall intelligence at NWCUC relates to illegal trade in raptors.
- Raptors taken from the wild are being used commercially and laundered via fraudulent registration practices.
- Raptors have a commercial value and this can drive birds being illegally taken from the wild. Peregrines and goshawks are particularly sought after as falconry birds and nest robberies may impact locally on populations of these species.
- The illegal trade in raptors is clearly facilitated by the internet.
- The UK participated in Interpol's Operation Cage with two subsequent operations focusing on the illegal trade in raptors. Significant offending was identified and convictions were obtained, resulting in imprisonment in some cases. The UK operations have directly restricted the ability of criminals to launder wild species of raptors.

CITES Other¹⁴

- Illegal trade in many CITES species continues to be fuelled by the internet.
- Intelligence continues to be received regarding Caviar (especially with regard to mislabelling offences).
- The WCCAG commented that there is increasing concern that wild caviar is being laundered into the system through aquaculture facilities, notably in Bulgaria and Romania and finding its way into UK stores.
 - A recent re-export application was refused after the information on labels indicating beluga caviar *Huso huso*, re-packaged in Germany, sourced from Bulgarian aquaculture farms, was found to be false leading to speculation about where it came from.
 - In 2009 German authorities seized caviar smuggled into the EU and labeled as Bulgarian farmed caviar where isotope analysis demonstrated the caviar had originated from the Caspian Sea. This case demonstrates how permitted caviar farming was exploited to launder illegally sourced caviar into legal trade and potentially may be happening again.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

Ivory

- Intelligence concerning ivory remains low accounting for 1.7% of the overall intelligence count and no new trends emerged.

Tortoises

- Tortoises account for 0.6% of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months.
- Various Annex A and Annex B CITES listed tortoises, some of which are extremely rare in captivity in the UK and some subject to various import bans are being sold on Facebook.

Traditional Medicines

- Traditional Medicines accounts for 1.6% of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months.
- Lion bones are being used as substitutes for tiger bones in traditional Chinese tonics. The international market value of lion bones ranges between £180 and £300 per kilogram. Lion is listed on CITES Appendix II / EU Annex B so legal trade is allowed so long as permits are acquired. The trade in lion bones is mainly from captive bred populations so this does not pose a threat to the conservation status of wild lions. However, wild lion populations are under threat from a variety of other factors – the main one being habitat loss. Most of the reduction in the

¹³ <http://wildlifeneews.co.uk/2013/value-of-rhino-horn-halves-in-3-years-but-does-it-mean-a-drop-in-demand/>

¹⁴ All non-priority CITES intelligence

wild lion population has come in the last 50 years due to massive land-use conversion and burgeoning human population growth. Besides habitat loss, another major driver of decline is human-caused mortality. This includes poaching, retaliatory killing, and trophy hunting. There is concern that increasing amounts of lion bones will be misleadingly claimed to be tiger bone which may have a further negative impact on wild lion populations in future.

- Conservationists have warned that Indian tigers are being killed with pesticides. Poachers are laying traps for tigers – lacing animal carcasses with Carbofuran – and selling their skin, teeth, claws and organs for thousands of pounds to Tibetan and Chinese traders.

Illegal trade in raptors

- Intelligence levels have risen, with illegal trade in raptors now accounting for 4.1% of the overall count (87 logs).
- The majority of the intelligence was submitted by AHVLA (37%).
- There have been several significant ongoing operations in the time frame, which accounts for the increased levels of intelligence.

CITES Other

- There has been an increase in intelligence relating to illegally traded big cat skins.

Recommendations to UKTCG

General

- National Crime Agency to be invited to sit on CITES PDG.
- The 'reptile priority with a focus on tortoises' to be renamed and pulled back to just 'reptiles' reflecting the improved intelligence and compliance picture on tortoises in the UK¹⁵
- The traditional medicines priority to be re-named 'Medicinal and Health Products (including rhino horn)'.
- The emerging issue of "sturgeon derivatives and extracts" to be considered as part of the CITES PDG.

Prevention

NWCU to facilitate formal law enforcement contact with eBay to discuss preventative measures under project Atlas in relation to ivory.

Intelligence

- NWCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCU to plan accordingly.
- NWCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.

Enforcement

- National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to CITES.
- The costs associated with seizure and retention of specimens prior to court and disposal of specimens forfeited by courts impacts on the willingness of many police forces to undertake effective enforcement actions. Consideration needs to be given as to how this can be resolved. A mechanism needs to be identified which will allow recompense of costs from the offender.

¹⁵ Provided by Grant Miller, UKBF

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Freshwater Pearl Mussels

- The intelligence recorded is low when compared to other UK wildlife crime priorities, but the impact is *disproportionately* large and has significant conservation implications in the UK. One crime can (and already has) made entire populations extinct. This is exemplified in a case in Cumbria where approximately 80,000 mussels were lost between March and June 2012 because of the destruction caused by low flow levels of water as a result of actions by a water company ,
- There has been a small decrease in logs submitted (from 10 to 6).
- 75% (12) of the freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) intelligence logs were reported by Police Scotland. This is not surprising as more than 95% of the UK population is in Scotland.
- Intelligence provides that Scottish pearls have historically been disposed of through overseas markets, specifically in Paris and South America. It is unknown if these markets still exist and this is a key intelligence gap that needs informing in order to facilitate enforcement responses.
- The initial declines in pearl mussel populations were caused by pearl fishing and pollution. It has been estimated that some Scottish populations could be wiped out in less than 20 years¹⁶. The JNCC species assessment for freshwater pearl mussel states that the range of the species is decreasing, populations are decreasing and the future prospects for the species are bad and deteriorating.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- Fresh water pearl mussels account for 0.9% of intelligence submitted to the NWCU during the last 6 months.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of logs submitted (from an average of 4 logs per 6 months to 18 logs in the updated period). This is due to the ongoing awareness raising work, particularly through the 'Pearls in Peril' LIFE project which employs a 'riverwatcher' to proactively seek out evidence of criminality in Scotland.

Recommendations to UKTCG

Prevention

- PDG to raise awareness of threat from criminality in press and media, utilising the PAW Scotland Media Group.
- Representatives from PDG to attend appropriate meetings of river users and organisations to promote awareness of FWPM crime and responsible behaviour.
- Consider further developing the LIFE project officer role to have greater investigative focus. This has shown to be particularly beneficial for the Bat Priority Delivery Group – when BCT employed a Bat Investigations Officer, the submission of intelligence increased significantly.
- Maps showing past criminal activity and locations of pearl mussels in Scotland have been finalised. PDG to disseminate maps to local wildlife crime officers and use as the focus to recommend/encourage further targeted action (e.g. signage, surveillance, etc).

Intelligence

- NWCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCU to plan accordingly.
- NWCU to increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners.
- NWCU to build upon Operation Caesar to close intelligence gaps on the disposal market of FWPM.

Enforcement

National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to FWPM.

¹⁶ Cosgrove and Young, 2000

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

All poaching¹⁷

- All poaching accounts for 44% (2255) of total intelligence at NWCUC.
- The volume of intelligence received has decreased slightly (-28% year on year) but this equates to just 83 intelligence logs, so is insignificant. Despite this, the highest volume of intelligence submitted to NWCUC is for poaching.
- National project Trespass was launched via the poaching PDG in England & Wales. Trespass is considered to be an 'umbrella' project which is used to help promote existing (such as Operation Galileo in Lincolnshire) and future operations rather than be an unnecessary new operation.
- Offenders are well aware of weak spots in specific police areas and will communicate these to each other. If forces introduce policies *not* to seize dogs or vehicles, offenders could see them as easy places to course hare (or deer) as, even if caught, they know their dogs will not be confiscated.
- As with many other wildlife crimes, use of social media facilitates poaching and coursing, with offenders posting photographs and bragging about their kills.
- The subversive publication "earth dog running dog" continues to print articles promoting hare coursing and poaching.
- Poachers are getting more organised and more sophisticated, utilising night vision equipment, quad bikes, high powered rifles and large nets to commit poaching in unprecedented levels and earning significant criminal profit.
- Offenders are modifying their vehicles to enable easy poaching, creating integral sockets and switches to operate high powered spot lamps and infra red lamps.

Deer Poaching

- Deer poaching accounts for 14% (708) of all intelligence at NWCUC.
- Almost half the intelligence is provided by Police Scotland (48%).
- Amounts of intelligence remained fairly static year on year (from 365 to 343) indicating no significant progress in prevention.
- Undoubtedly the single biggest influencing factor is money. The increase in demand and consequent high value of venison is certain to result in a continued high volume of deer poaching.
- More recently though, there are reports that offenders are engaging in deer coursing for pleasure in the same manner as hare coursing or badger baiting.

Fish Poaching

- Fish poaching accounts for 11% (545) of all intelligence at NWCUC.
- There has been a small decrease in logs submitted (from 299 to 246) indicating no significant progress in prevention.
- All ACPO regions have experienced fish poaching. Police Scotland reported the greatest number of intelligence logs (78%; 371).
- The majority of fish poaching occurred during the summer months. This can be expected as during these months salmon numbers can build up in pools at time of low waters, especially in Scottish rivers.
- It is predicted that poaching will continue to increase in 2013 as offenders can net up to 100 salmon at a time, with a large fish worth around £100 on the black market.
- Much of the illegally rod-caught wild salmon in Scotland is believed to end up in top restaurants in London or on the continent.
- Analysis shows that offenders that are involved in fish poaching are linked to other areas of criminality mainly assault and housebreaking.

¹⁷ Hare Coursing, Deer and Fish poaching and all non-priority poaching

- Migrant workers, who come from cultures where coarse fish are regularly taken to eat, have taken many large fish in Scotland (both legally and illegally). In recent years they have also been responsible for killing other wildlife such as swans.
- Eastern Europeans are known to poach fish for personal consumption. The travelling fraternity, on the other hand, mainly poach fish for financial gain and if this continues it will have a considerable effect on the economy.
- We are seeing reports that use of air weapons is becoming a more common method used to take Salmon and Sea Trout (while the fish negotiate shallower waters).
- Illegal electro-fishing for razor clams is on the increase. Poachers drop an electrical cable onto sea bed which stuns the razor fish before divers collect them or a dredge is drawn across the surface of the seabed. This can have serious safety implications (a diver working in Fife died in 2011 while fishing for razor clams¹⁸) and also has a huge impact on marine organisms and habitats via:
 - Physical disruption and damage to ecosystems
 - The release of pollutants (particularly metals, e.g. copper) from electrolysis at the electrode points
 - Effects of electrical fields on razor clams and non-target species

Hare Coursing

- Hare Coursing accounts for 9% (455) of all intelligence at NWCU.
- There has been virtually no decrease in intelligence submitted (from 242 to 213) indicating no significant progress in prevention.
- Intelligence continues to implicate the travelling community as a key offending group.
- Hare coursing offenders are also engaging in many other types of crime including anti-social behaviour, violence and intimidation, metal theft, plant theft, distraction burglary and 'doorstep' crime such as rogue trader offences.
- Hare coursing intelligence is almost exclusively from police forces, with minimal information received from partner agencies.
- Intelligence predominantly refers to offenders actively hare coursing and is therefore helpful for tactical disseminations in the short term but makes strategic analysis difficult.
- Hare coursing disproportionately affects ACPO regions located on the agriculture intensive east of the UK. The four regions most predominantly affected should govern where hare coursing should be tackled as a priority:
 - Scotland (North and East regions) accounts for 57% (261)
 - Eastern region accounts for 17% (78)
 - South East accounts for 12% (55)
 - North East accounts 5% (23)

Concentrating efforts in these four areas alone will be the most effective and greater coordination within these regions is needed to drive this.

- Hare coursing competitions can last a week per 'round', with several rounds and a final to decide on the winner. Cash prize winnings of £8000 have been publicised.
- However, it is not necessarily all about the money but the 'sport' and kudos of having the winning dog.
- Open source research claims that offenders can make £30,000 from 3 months 'work' betting on coursing.
- An effective way to disrupt hare coursing is to seize the offenders' dog(s) but some senior police officers are reluctant to do so because of the expensive kennelling costs.
- Police forces are reluctant to seize dogs in the same way they are reluctant to seize any animal/bird which is expensive to house or is subject to charges (such as raptors) because police cannot claim costs back from the offender in the way that charities such as the RSPCA can – RSPCA were able to claim full kennelling costs of £3776 back from convicted hare courser Gary Eastwood in Norfolk in July 2013.

¹⁸ <http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/fife/divers-risking-death-by-electro-fishing-in-forth-1.94563>

- Hare coursing meets are increasingly being organised via social media.
- Hare coursers are becoming wise to the tactic of vehicle seizures and are therefore using scrap cars so as not to lose their own valuable vehicles.

Non-priority poaching

- Almost all intelligence is provided by police forces, rather than partner agencies.
- The vast majority of intelligence is provided by Police Scotland (37%).
- ACPO Region 3 (Midlands¹⁹) has never provided any non-priority poaching intelligence to NWCUC in the 2 year period.
- The only partner agencies who have provided non-priority poaching intelligence are LACS, RSPCA and UK Border Force (UKBF) but total amounts were minimal.
- Amounts of intelligence remained static year on year (from 263 to 284).
- Almost a third of reports relate to suspicious activity (meaning poaching was not seen but suspected), indicating landowners are concerned enough to report to police.
- Suspicious activity is generally 'men with dogs'. The target species is unknown but could be any mammal which is hunted by dogs for 'sport'.
- This type of activity coincides with damage to land and anti-social behaviour against rural communities.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

Deer Poaching

- The largest proportion of intelligence regarding all forms of poaching is in relation to *deer* specifically (21%).
- Intelligence on deer poaching has been supplied from every region of the UK.
- Social media such as Facebook continues to be used by poachers to both brag about their killing and offer illegal goods for sale.
- Clear links to a variety of other rural crimes continue to be reported. Many deer poachers are now being reported as being violent, suggesting the types of men who traditionally commit badger baiting are moving into poaching as well.
- Increasingly, intelligence refers to organised deer poaching. Although there continues to be high levels of intelligence about individuals poaching deer for personal consumption, recent trends highlight that high profit levels are encouraging more individuals to go into the 'business' of deer poaching. This includes:
 1. Organised deer poaching 'parties'.
 2. Selling of antlers (believed to be for the domestic dog chew trade and for the Chinese medicine trade - specifically Red deer).
 3. Overseas trade in mounted stag heads.
 4. Entire populations of deer being wiped out from specific areas.
 5. Use of expensive equipment such as infra-red lights.

The organised nature of deer poaching has significant potential to threaten UK populations of Red deer.

Fish Poaching

- Fish poaching accounts for 14.7% of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the 6 months.
- Again, all ACPO regions reported fish poaching.
- The majority of the intelligence logs are in relation to electro fishing for razor clams and illegal cockle picking. There are high risks to human health with reportedly tonnes of seafood entering the food chain before being properly treated. E.coli, novo virus and salmonella can all be found in contaminated molluscs²⁰.

¹⁹ Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Midlands

²⁰ http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/andrew-wasley/the-illegal-shellfish-trade-_b_1555210.html

Hare Coursing

- Hare Coursing accounts for almost 6% of intelligence submitted to the NWCU during the 6 months.
- The vast majority of the intelligence comes from law enforcement agencies.
- The main suspect group is still the travelling community. Violent behaviour continues to be reported, with threats being made to police officers and witnesses.

Poaching Other

- Poaching other accounts for 7.6% of intelligence submitted to the NWCU during the 6 months.
- Trends reported in Scotland in this period include deliberate fire-setting of moorland to 'smoke out' wildlife to be hunted down.

Recommendations to UKTCG

General

- Marine Scotland to join PAW Marine Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (MWEWG) and consider how to tackle the increase in electro-fishing.

Prevention

- All police forces should consider robust yearly operations (such as Galileo in Lincolnshire and Lepus in Scotland) that are well publicised for their impact as a preventative measure.
- All police forces should consider implementing rural operations that utilise volunteers, such as that done across the North East region in 2013²¹. These keep pressure on criminals who target remote rural areas without draining scarce police resources.
- MWEWG to consider raising awareness via the Health & Safety Executive and the Environment Agency regarding health risks from illegally sourced shellfish.

Intelligence

- NWCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCU to plan accordingly.
- Forces should link to Operation Liberal which is dedicated to tackling distraction burglary and doorstep crime in England and Wales.

Enforcement

- NWCU/PDG's to consider how best to tackle the legal anomaly regarding lack of enforcement option for cost recovery of seized dogs. A legal mechanism to be explored which will allow recompense of costs from the offender.
- ACPO to consider whether the key to ensuring police resources are allocated to wildlife crime is in emphasising its association with rural crime and by ensuring its rationale is centred on community focus.
- The four affected ACPO East regions should coordinate efforts to tackle hare coursing via their regional enforcement groups or the creation of rural action teams. This would have wider positive benefits for the region as a whole.
- The ACPO South East region needs to set up an enforcement group.
- Police need to tighten up on standard operation procedures such as the seizure of dogs to ensure

²¹ http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/crime/10457197.Chance_for_more_Farm_Watch_volunteers_following_major_rural_crime_operation/

their force is not the one seen as the 'weak link' where coursing activity gets displaced to.

- Increased use of Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) investigations should be considered for poaching offences to tackle the significant criminal profits being made.
- A police focus on offenders legitimate business interests may uncover avenues of money laundering.
- Scottish Criminal Justice Agencies to consider full use of all available sentencing options.
- National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to poaching.

Reassurance

- Police need to take robust enforcement action and widely publicise the results in order to give reassurance to rural communities that they will take action against hare coursers.
- Wider uptake of Operation Galileo's use of community alert messages would reassure rural communities whilst also leading to increased intelligence.
- NWCU and partner agencies to publicise all linked actions undertaken to support Project Trespass via websites, interviews, press, TV and radio in effort to ensure that poaching is recognised as a significant crime impacting on rural communities.

UK Wildlife Crime Priorities – Raptor Persecution

Summary of Intelligence

- 8.7% (441) of intelligence received at NWCUC was in relation to Raptor Persecution²² in the 2 year period.
- Whilst this may appear low in comparison to other areas of wildlife crime, research has shown that the illegal killing of some species has directly contributed to their decline.
- There was a minimal decrease (of just 25 logs) year on year, so levels of intelligence remain very steady indicating no significant in-roads in prevention.
- 50% of the intelligence comes from Scottish police forces and SASA (Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture).
- Amount of intelligence being received from elsewhere is generally very low - even including FERA (Food & Environmental Research Association) and Natural England, just 29% of raptor persecution intelligence comes from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The majority of intelligence is classed as ‘Other’ – this includes shooting and trapping of raptors. There has been no discernable year on year increase in shooting or trapping intelligence.
- The table below shows which species (where species is recorded) were subject to intelligence reports in the 2 year period²³:

Species	# intelligence reports
Buzzard	44
Goshawk	14
Peregrine	14
Sparrowhawk	11
Owl	11
Hen Harrier	9
Red Kite	6
Golden Eagle	5
White Tailed Eagle	1
Osprey	0

- Intelligence continues to indicate a strong association between raptor persecution and grouse moor management.
- 34% of intelligence relates to poisoning of raptors.
- WIIS reports show 40 confirmed poisonings of raptors across the UK²⁴ in the period analysed.
- As year on year figures remain steady (a decrease of only 2 cases) raptor poisoning across the UK shows no signs of abating and has been responsible for the death of key endangered species.
- 48%²⁵ of the confirmed poisonings involve use of Carbofuran - even though UK approval for use of this chemical expired in 2001.
- Use of banned substances such as Carbofuran presents a significant threat to human life.
- Intelligence continues to suggest that illegal pesticides (mainly carbofuran) are being sourced from outside the UK.
- Increasing reports are being seen in relation to pigeon fanciers targeting peregrine falcons and sparrowhawks.
- A pigeon fancier from Merseyside pled guilty to possession of ‘hawk catching jackets’ in January 2013. Robert Platt was given a 2 year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £2000 costs. The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) commented that “such jackets are used by pigeon

²² Includes all types of Raptor Persecution (Poisoning, Egg & Chick Theft, Taking from the Wild, Nest Disturbance, Shooting, Traps). Does not include illegal trade in raptors (see CITES section)

²³ Key species of conservation concern highlighted in yellow

²⁴ 25 England, 10 Scotland, 4 Wales and 1 Northern Ireland

²⁵ 10 England, 8 Scotland, 1 Wales

keepers to target birds of prey and are referred to as 'anti-mating jackets' to disguise their true purpose. The jackets fit a live pigeon and when caught by bird of prey, the bird is either bound to the pigeon or injured (or both). Either way the bird can no longer hunt, ultimately leading to its death²⁶.

- Intelligence indicates that land agents in Scotland have been changing their business practices by setting up management companies in order to distance themselves from any investigation under Vicarious Liability.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- There are still high volumes of intelligence regarding poisoning. The illegal use of Carbofuran is still the main method mentioned.
- There has been an increase in intelligence about shooting of raptors (from 39 logs in the entire 2 year period to 21 logs in the additional 6 month period). Intelligence also highlights that shot birds are being dumped by the roadside so they are mistakenly treated as road kill. Police wildlife crime officers are made aware of such methods via the NWCU fortnightly bulletin.

Recommendations to UKTCG

General

More information from the England & Wales PDG is requested so that it is clear what action still needs to be done²⁷.

Prevention

- Wildlife crime officers should make contact with their local Raptor Study Groups to better understand the impact of criminality upon local populations of raptors and to assist with strengthening impact statements at court.
- PDG's should focus attention on illegal poisoning/pesticide abuse, utilising a PIER approach to any action considered.
- PDG's should continue to publish poisoning maps highlighting hotspot areas for raptor persecution and consideration should be given to mapping confirmed cases of abuse of domestic animals/baits/other (non-raptor) wildlife as this highlights the wider issues of poisoning.
- Publication of successful operations work as a preventative measure.

Intelligence

- NWCU to provide bespoke analysis for each PDG. PDG to develop a Service Level Agreement outlining analysis needed. Analysis should be scheduled in advanced to allow NWCU to plan accordingly.
- NWCU to consider specific recording of species in their intelligence database to aid future analysis.

Enforcement

- National SOP to contain appendices relating specifically to raptor persecution.
- The sustained abuse of Carbofuran needs a coordinated enforcement response. NWCU/PDG's to consider how best to tackle this.
- The alternative methods highlighted in the Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee report (2012/2013) in relation to the offence of *possession* of Carbofuran should

²⁶ RSPB Legal Eagle, Issue 70

²⁷ Recommendation from WCCAG

be further considered. These recommendations were:

- i) Utilise existing powers under UK pesticide legislation²⁸.
- ii) Encourage participation in amnesty initiatives, such as the Home Office's pesticide amnesty.

Reassurance

- Police need to take robust enforcement action and widely publicise the results in order to give reassurance to the public that they will take action against those who persecute raptors. National SOP to include clear media strategies for police forces to follow.
- Any Scottish conviction for vicarious liability which may come about will serve as a major deterrent due to the reputational implications of land owners²⁹.

²⁸ The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 and the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

²⁹ Scottish Government

Intelligence Requirements

CITES – Timber (with focus on Agarwood)

Intelligence regarding CITES Timber only increased from 1 log to 5³⁰, which is a minimal change despite the fact it was made an intelligence requirement in Oct 2011.

In March 2013 the EU timber regulations came into force. The UK has put in place new legislation to implement this regulation and has set up a competent authority within the National Measurement Office. Additional resources will need to be allocated to ensure this new legislation is enforced and to meet the new regulatory burden³¹.

Nearly USD 40 million worth of timber was seized as part of Interpol's Operation Lead targeting illegal logging, forest crimes and the criminal networks behind them. Venezuela accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total, with 188,000 m³ of wood seized in a single month³².

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

There were 5³³ intelligence logs in the 6 month period and there were no significant issues identified.

Recommendations to UKTCG

- If the new process r.e. removing intelligence requirements is agreed, Timber should be considered as part of the CITES Priority Delivery Group.
- The issue to no longer focus on Agarwood specifically but look at all CITES listed Timber³⁴.

³⁰ Classified under 'CITES – Other'

³¹ TRAFFIC

³² <http://www.interpol.int/Crimeareas/Environmental-crime/Operational-support>

³³ Classified under 'CITES – Other'

³⁴ Provided by Grant Miller, UK BF

Finch Trapping

- Intelligence and operational activity confirms a market for wild taken finches still exists (albeit on a small scale) and this is not confined to specific parts of the UK.
- Finch trapping accounts for 1.3% (68) of all intelligence at NWCUC.
- There has been a small, but insignificant increase in logs submitted (from 32 to 36).
- The majority of the intelligence was provided by RSPB (62%).
- Finch trapping affects all ACPO regions with the most occurring in London Region (8 logs).
- Birds continue to be trapped with the use of glue sticks, lime, mist nets and chardonneret traps and this is predominantly occurring in domestic gardens.
- There is suggestion that birds are traded via the internet, though it is suspected that finches are mainly disposed through markets, auctions or at bird shows.
- There are adverts on eBay selling nylon mist nets and the advert shows birds caught in the net even though the advert states the nets are for display only.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

Finch trapping accounts for 0.7% of the intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months and no new trends are emerging.

Recommendations to UKTCG

Finch trapping to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.

Illegal taking of Wild Bird Eggs³⁵ (Operation Easter)

- The illegal taking of wild bird eggs remains a relatively low volume intelligence type accounting for 2% (93) of all intelligence reported.
- There has been a slight increase in the number of logs submitted year on year (39 to 54) this was due to the fact that Operation Easter was revamped in February 2013 which generated more intelligence.
- The South West and Scotland ACPO regions reported a rise in intelligence. This accounted for 18 logs.
- Intelligence indicates there has been an increase in websites advertising the sale of wild bird eggs in the UK.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- There have been 54 intelligence logs relating to illegal taking of wild bird eggs submitted to the NWCU during the last 6 months.
- Intelligence indicates that around 10 egg collectors from Britain are travelling to other countries in the EU to take wild bird eggs. NWCU will take steps to investigate this as part of Operation Easter.

Recommendations to UKTCG

- Illegal taking of wild bird eggs to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- Operation Easter to continue as a national operation.

³⁵ Also includes nest disturbance and illegal photography

Illegal Seal Shooting

- Illegal seal shooting accounts for 0.1% (3) of all intelligence at NWCU.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

There have been 3 intelligence logs relating to seal shooting within the updated period with no significant issues reported.

Recommendations to UKTCG

Seal shooting to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.

Illegal Trade in Parrots

- Illegal trade in parrots accounts for only 1% (34) of all intelligence at NWCUC.
- Types of intelligence received is varied:
 - i) Theft of high value parrots from private collections (for suspected illegal trade).
 - ii) Seizures of illegally smuggled parrots.
 - iii) Illegal trade in CITES Annex A listed parrots without Article 10 certificates, much of which is international trade, some of which is facilitated via the internet.
- Demand from the pet trade is significant and continues to fuel illegal taking from the wild.
- A long-term enforcement operation took place across the EU which uncovered international gangs of parrot smugglers.
- Many thousands of parrots were seized and nearly 4,000 people arrested during Interpol's Operation Cage in 2012. Many of the bird species trafficked were endangered and the involvement of organised crime networks was apparent³⁶.
- Several species of parrot remain high on the matrix from the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG).

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

Illegal trade in parrots accounts for 0.1% of intelligence submitted to the NWCUC during the last 6 months and there were no significant issues identified.

Recommendations to UKTCG

- Illegal trade in parrots to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- However, parrot species score highly on WCCAG matrix. CITES PDG to consider the issues relating to illegal trade and assess whether the issue should be another priority within CITES PDG.

³⁶ <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2012/PR059>

Introduction of Invasive Non Native Species

- Introduction of invasive non native species (INNS) accounts for 0.2% (10) of all intelligence at NWCU.
- The amount of intelligence submitted for the both years was 5 logs, 3 of which originated from Cumbria.
- There is an ongoing campaign to stop the spread of INNS. Some non-native aquatic plants and animals can be harmful to British wildlife and waterways which highlights that INNS can be spread on boats, equipment, footwear and clothes when people move from place to place. It recommends that waterway users help stop the spread by following three simple steps - check, clean and dry equipment when you leave the water.
- In Scotland, American signal crayfish are of particular concern. JNCC note that trade to the UK is an issue. Criminality is suspected to be high with deliberate release. There have also been alleged lobster releases in the Solent, Hampshire.
- Intelligence highlights that there is an increase in hunting. It is worthy of note that despite mink being a non native species they are still covered as a wild mammal under the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Hunting Act 2004.
- Intelligence shows that non native species of Monarch and Swallowtail butterflies are being bred and sold for release at weddings and funerals. Although some Monarch and Swallowtail butterflies are native or migrants to Britain, some species are not, which could pose a risk if released.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

Introduction of non native species accounts for 0.4% of intelligence submitted to the NWCU during the last 6 months and the majority of intelligence is in relation to Japanese Knotweed invading residential properties.

Recommendations to UKTCG

- INNS to no longer be retained as an intelligence requirement.
- However, it is recommended that the plan owner sets up a working group to:
 1. Determine what the non native priorities should be in terms of intelligence gathering.
 2. Identify where effort should be focused in the gathering of intelligence.
 3. Put PIER plan into action.
 4. Consider creating guidance on the issuance of Adult Restorative Disposal Orders for non native species releases.
- Working group to report to next UKTCG to recommend whether INNS becomes a priority or is removed.

Non Priority Emerging Patterns and Trends

Other Intelligence

- The category 'other' (which includes intelligence not related to the Priorities or Intelligence Requirements) accounts for 14.8% (753) of all intelligence at NWCU.
- Volume of intelligence received has decreased slightly (-15% year on year) but this equates to just 63 logs, so is insignificant.
- Suspicious occurrence and lifestyle were the most common categories reported. The majority of them relate to police stopping vehicles and observing camouflage gear, rifles or muddy boots in the back of vehicles.
- 56% of the intelligence comes from Police Scotland, which highlights the value of the Scottish Intelligence Database (NWCU can take all intelligence direct from SID).

Other Emerging Patterns and Trends

Otters

The deliberate persecution of otters is on the increase. The main methods used are drowning (via the use of large eel nets) and poisoning (use of fish baits filled with rat poison).

Vintage fur clothing

An issue of note over recent months is increased trade in furs seen by AHVLA. This seems associated with the resurgence of the vintage clothing trade. It is predicted that the illegal trade in these products will increase. This will be monitored.

Update (01/04/13 – 30/09/13)

- The category 'other' accounts for 25.9% (547) of intelligence submitted to the NWCU during the last 6 months.
- Animal cruelty and shooting were the most common categories reported, with the majority relating to youths throwing stones at birds, particularly geese and swans and birds being shot with air rifles.
- There is an increase in reports of people training their dogs to maim or kill pets and wild animals for 'fun'.

Recommendations to UKTCG

Persecution of otters is considered via the new process for emerging threats.

Appendix A –Plan Owner Updates

Plan Owner Update ~ Badger Persecution

Priority	Badger Persecution	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Barry Fryer (RSPCA)	Date: 6th August 2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: Improve and increase the recording of intelligence for Badger Persecution. Improve the investigation process and increase awareness of Badger Persecution across the UK

Update on Actions from UKTCG January 2013	
Action	Update
1.(i) NWCUC to consider raising with PWCO's the need to submit intelligence via 2 weekly bulletin	NWCUC is now providing PWCO's, SOCA and the Border Force with a RESTRICTED bulletin on a fortnightly basis. Plans to supply a sanitised version of this bulletin to NGO's have now been dismissed, as deemed too time consuming. Discussions took place at the last PDG meeting regarding input to the fortnightly briefing from NGO's. This to be facilitated by the NWCUC.
1.(ii) Badger PDG to verify that updated information sharing protocols exist with the NWCUC	Being progressed by NWCUC.
2. Operational Order to be developed for any repeated Operation Meles initiative that is agreed by all stakeholders. This should detail how success will be measured and reported and should include a debrief element that will be used to form a report to the UKTCG. Update to be provided to next UKTCG	Nevin Hunter (NWCUC) questioned progressing the Operational Order, due to time constraints on development and not seen as necessary.

Update from last PDG Meeting on 31 st July 2013	
Action	Update
PDG Newsletter to be compiled on a quarterly basis for release to all stakeholders.	Ian Hutchison (Scottish Badgers) to research and collate news items from group members
RSPCA and other group members have identified a shift in the criminal activity surrounding badger persecution. An increasing number of incidents are being recorded where individuals and OCGs have been detected coursing many and varied species of wildlife with dogs, including the taking of badgers.	Although Badger persecution in isolation remains a priority, with this potential shift in criminality the group would like to explore the possibility of linking up with other PDG's, particularly the Poaching PDG to see if there is any common ground and explore possible joint initiatives.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Under the WCCAG matrix badgers score low as a conservation priority and we aren't aware of any new information to suggest that this species should be given any greater priority at this stage.

Plan Owner Update ~ Bat Persecution

Priority	Bat priority delivery group	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Julia Hanmer (BCT)	Date: 19th August 2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

To reduce bat crime by working with key stakeholders to raise awareness of responsibilities and criminal offences against bats, promoting a preventative approach and improving the submission of intelligence and standards of investigation relating to bats across the UK.

Update on Actions from UKTCG January 2013	
Action	Update
Identify opportunities for media/press coverage e.g. conferences or seminars that developers may attend.	Contact has been made with a number of trade publications but at this time none have agreed to take an article. BCT have recently appointed a press officer and in the short time that she has been in post a number of press releases relating to bat crime have been made with media exposure in local, regional and national media.
Identification of any analytical work to be carried out by the NWCU. Increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners. Identify ways to increase intelligence submissions relating to alleged falsified environmental impact assessments and fraud associated with planning applications	BCT have provided NWCU with information relating to all bat crimes known to them over the past 18 months. The four SNCO's have systems in place that aim to ensure that intelligence relating to bat crime reaches NWCU. NWCU have committed to undertake analysis of bat crime statistics and will be producing a report in time for the next meeting of the PDG in February 2014.
Consider producing an Operational Order template for Operation Bat for use by all forces/partners. Update Operation Bat Standard Operating Procedure and redistribute to all forces/partners	The group did not feel that an Operational Order template was required, as we are not aware of any instance where such a document has been produced in support of a bat related investigation. We decided to review both the minimum standards of investigation and Operation Bat and that has been done. At present the information in those documents remains current and they do not require revision. BCT/DOENI/PSNI are working to produce a NI Operation Bat standard operating procedure.

Update from last PDG Meeting on 15th August 2013	
Action	Update
Prevention	We are working with Architectural liaison officers to include reference to bats in the secured by design website. A recent meeting of Architectural liaison officers in the ACPO eastern region looked on the issue favourably and we will be writing to PWCO's in the forces concerned encouraging closer contact. BCT are working with the British Standards Institute to produce a standard for ecologists. The group will ensure that issues relating to bat crime are recognised.
Enforcement	The group gave time to considering the justification of bats remaining as one of the UK's wildlife crime priorities. We are convinced of the need for it to remain so. That said we also feel that we should look to prioritise within the priority, considering in particular the need to focus future work on particularly vulnerable species and geographical areas where bat crime is identified as being an issue.
Intelligence	NWCU have been provided with 18 months of statistical information from BCT and also hold information submitted to them by others. They have undertaken to carry out statistical analysis of that information with a report being made to the PDG at our next meeting in February 2014. The outcome of that analysis will be influential in identifying the future direction of our work.

BCT have owned the bat priority since 2010. We agreed to do so because, at that time, nobody else was able to do so. The SNCO's in particular pointed to the fact that they had no authority to work outside their geographical areas. BCT think that the matter now needs to be looked at once again feeling that a government priority should be led by a government agency. The issue is more relevant given that prior to the next meeting of the group NWCU will be presenting statistical analysis of bat crime that the plan owner will not be given sight of if the document is protectively marked. It is of course also the case that BCT as the owner of the bat priority will not be given sight of the completed strategic and tactical threat assessments as they are protectively marked. Clearly this is a difficult situation for any plan owner. For these reasons BCT asks that agencies that have a UK remit (JNCC or the police) consider taking on ownership of the bat wildlife crime priority. BCT, whatever the outcome, intend to remain fully committed to the work of the bat PDG.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ CITES

Priority	CITES	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Grant Miller (UKBF)	Date: 18/08/2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

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 complete in agreed timescales and increase the number of investigations and enforcement outcomes

Update on Actions from UKTCG January 2013	
Action	Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivory – Plan owner to facilitate formal law enforcement contact with eBay to discuss preventative measures. Consider producing a poster/newsletter to be distributed to forces highlighting CITES issues to increase awareness, intelligence submissions and enforcement action. Consider communication strategy for auctioneers to raise awareness of CITES issues, particularly around ivory and rhino horn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact made with eBay. Strategy formulated to move issue forward. Awaiting progression from NWCU Internet Intelligence Officer. CITES alerts copied to the NWCU Bulletin which is proving a successful vehicle for highlighting this work. New IT supplied to UKBF with up to date graphic card and publishing software allowing enhanced detail and content. Auctioneer “educational event” being planned by BF CITES team in conjunction with AHVLA and other CITES PDG partners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of any analytical work will be carried out by the NWCU. NWCU to produce a problem profile in respect of the perception that CITES related derivative items are becoming an issue across the UK. CPDG to provide terms of reference and commit resources to enforcement action if a problem is identified. Increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWCU will assess required analysis for each PDG. This may relate to AHVLA interest in furs and skins – will be discussed at next CPDG (03/09/2013) NWCU head has highlighted the national picture to force leads, celebrating success but also naming and shaming.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TM's – CPDG to set new TM targets and review as a priority in 6-9 months. WCCAG request law enforcement keep detailed seizure records detailing species and quantities to assist with their review. CPDG to communicate this to forces. Tortoises – CPDG to expand data sets and undertake further work and in 6 months review whether tortoises should remain as a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priority of TM's has now widened from its initial focus on TCM'S to include ayurvedic medicines and now growing threat from the Health/Beauty industry, but also in medicinals outwith the recognised legitimate supply chain (shadow economy). The group recommends that Traditional Medicines be renamed and refocused to take into account existing work and this emerging trade. The proposed new title is 'Medicinal and Health Products (including rhino horn).' Detailed records of seized items are kept. Tortoises – Five key species identified by Management Authority. CPDG will consider how to take this issue forward on the 3rd of September.

Update from last CPDG Meeting on 25th April 2013	
Action	Update
Prevention 57/11. AHVLA to provide an update on the potential threat posed if large numbers of semi-complete article 10 certificates are not returned and propose actions to address this.	Operations complete. Further action to be discussed.
Intelligence 49/12. CPDG to consider Ivory trade issues, with the input from the NWCU internet Intelligence officer.	Ongoing
Intelligence 53/12. Intelligence on tortoise species to be consolidated by NWCU on specific species listed in 52/12.	Ongoing
Enforcement 40/12. Increasing problem of placing re-homed specimens.	UKBF reviewed list of re-homing sites and species they are able to accommodate, Defra agreed to consider issue no updates received.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Enforcement 43/12. Comments and reports of CPS failings to be collated.	No update.
1/13 Visit to AHVLA to review outstanding pinks and consider.	Ongoing
2/13 Review of legal advice on Article 10's for Peregrines and Merlin species to be considered.	Ongoing
4/13 AHVLA inspection.	Ongoing
6/13 Discuss and improve Liaison between AHVLA and other LEA's concerning third country intelligence.	Ongoing
7/13 Ongoing.	Ongoing
8/13 Ongoing.	Ongoing
9/13 Review of semi-complete CITES permits by AHVLA.	Ongoing
10/13 Ongoing.	Ongoing
11/13 Ongoing.	Ongoing
12/13 Review of new Home Office RIPA guidance on social networking sites.	Ongoing

Other Issues	
Media Coverage	3/13 Media release to be prepared when Maple II figures collated and assessed.
Review	Review of Traditional Medicine CITES priority at 2013 WCCAG. Review of Ivory CITES priority at next CITES CPDG in light of Illegal Wildlife Trade activity.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Fresh Water Pearl Mussels

Priority	Freshwater pearl mussel	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Iain Sime (SNH)	Date: 16/8/13
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: Raise awareness of criminality affecting freshwater pearl mussels in order to facilitate intelligence reporting, leading to increased prevention and enforcement action.

Update on Actions from UKTCG	
Action	Update
PREVENTION	
Ensure Life Project officer, when appointed, has a thorough understanding of legislation and role of PDG	Project officer has started and induction included legislation, and the officer has attended a PDG meeting to help integrate with the work of the group.
INTELLIGENCE	
Identification of any analytical work to be carried out by the NWCU.	NWCU analyst has collated all the intelligence and incident reports on pearl mussel for use in hot-spot mapping.
Increase intelligence submissions for all forces/partners including submissions from SNH	Awareness raising by the Scottish Investigative Support Officer in the NWCU and the LIFE project officer have increased the submission of intelligence. The Scottish national survey of pearl mussel being undertaken in 2013-14 will also increase submissions.
Close intelligence gap identified following Operation Caesar regarding possible international trade in illegally sourced pearls.	Intelligence from former pearl fisher identified past markets in Paris and South America. Briefing information prepared and supplied to UK Border Force staff to detect transport of pearls.
ENFORCEMENT	
Consider overt signage at well-known FWPM fishing locations to act as a crime prevention measure to be undertaken in 2013. Consider underpinning this with an Operational Order to ensure awareness within the new Scottish Police Force.	Hot-spots of pearl mussel criminality identified and mapped. This was completed and will be used as the basis for targeted action. This will include consideration of overt signage, possible surveillance etc. Grant funds identified to help support the purchase of equipment for this priority.

Update from last PDG Meeting on 17th July 2013.	
Action	Update
Improve intelligence and reporting of potential crimes	NWCU analysts provided lists of incidents and intelligence. SNH to produce maps by mid-August. Action will be finalised following production of maps. Following recommendation of TCG, PDG will use them as the starting point for targeted action inc overt signage, surveillance etc. Grant support available to support priority plans and could be used to help implement any surveillance, deterrents etc. Intend to use the production of maps and further actions as the subject of a future news release and possible production of a map for public release showing main areas of persecution.
Establish riverwatch schemes in protected areas as part of LIFE+ project	Riverwatcher in post, first 'riverwatch' scheme launched in Harris. Plan for further riverwatch schemes to be shared with Police Scotland.
Establish formal agreement on FWPM crime with land owners, fishing proprietors	Memorandum of Agreement signed between NWCU and Scottish Land & Estates, Association of Salmon and Fisheries Boards and Scottish Gamekeepers Association. Agreement is for ghillies, gamekeepers, estate workers etc to report suspicious activity direct to NWCU. BASC interested in signing up too.
UK pearl mussel leaflet to be produced	Priority plan lead to contact chair of PAW publicity group. Input

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

following discussions with PAW publicity group.	to leaflet agreed with representatives from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Following forensic feasibility work, investigation of non-destructive identification methods of freshwater pearls to be undertaken	SNH determining how to obtain freshwater pearls and work with Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) to develop methodology that allows identification of pearls to species. PAW science group will also be asked to examine possible use of tool marks on pearl mussel shells as a forensic method.
Raise awareness of threat from criminality in press & media.	Ongoing but since last UKTCG meeting good coverage of 1 st successful prosecution in Scotland, of riverwatch scheme launch, and intelligence cooperation agreements between NWCU and a variety of organisations.
Increase awareness of pearl mussel crimes and improve detection	A request will be made at the next Scottish TCG meeting if training would be welcome by PWCO's. Training taken place of fishery biologists and consultants during summer 2013.
Improve awareness in government agencies and other organisations	Complete. Scottish Investigative Support Officer has visited and discussed FWPM with staff in key SNH offices to improve flow of intelligence.

Other Issues	
Operation of the Year	A team led by SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) and including legacy Tayside Police and SNH were the recipients of the first UK Wildlife Crime Operation of the Year award in 2013 for the prosecution of a developer and two contractors who caused considerable damage to a pearl mussel population in Glen Lyon.
Prevention	Priority Delivery Group contacted PAW publicity group to produce a leaflet to support local awareness raising across the UK.
Enforcement	The first successful prosecution in Scotland for damaging pearl mussels took place in early 2013. This is a significant achievement for the priority delivery group and only the second successful prosecution for damaging pearl mussels in the UK. We are aware that the associated media coverage (in press, on radio, and online) has resulted in a much heightened state of awareness amongst developers about the risks to them of doing work that risks damaging pearl mussels during construction.
Media coverage	Continued good media coverage. Most significantly of the successful prosecution by SEPA and Tayside Police of a developer for damaging freshwater pearl mussel in Glen Lyon. More recently too, about 'riverwatch' schemes and signing of MoA to improve intelligence gathering. There is also a Scottish Parliamentary 'champion' of freshwater pearl mussels – Mary Scanlon MSP. Mary Scanlon secured a Scottish Parliament debate on freshwater pearl mussels, much of which centred on the risk crime poses to the species, making reference to the work of the priority group. A Scottish Parliament briefing note for the species will be produced in September 2013.
LIFE project	£3.5million "Pearls in Peril" conservation project now well underway and 'Riverwatcher' post that is part of the project has started. The project is raising awareness throughout Great Britain, led by SNH. Having the pearl mussel as a wildlife crime priority was a considerable help in securing the funding for the project from 25 partner organisations. The Pearls in Peril project will continue until late 2016.
Survey	A survey of rivers in Scotland that contain freshwater pearl mussels is underway, due to finish in late 2014. This is being done to understand the species' status, but is expected to yield considerable amounts of useful intelligence. A protocol is in place with the survey contractors for them to quickly and efficiently report any useful intelligence that they can gather.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Poaching (England & Wales)

Priority	Poaching	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Glynn Evans (BASC)	Date: Updated 19/12/13
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase the level of awareness of poaching and hare coursing as serious wildlife crimes and build better trust and relationships between the law enforcement agencies and local communities, both leading to increased prevention activity, intelligence flows and enforcement success in England and Wales.

Update on Actions from UKTCG	
Action	Update
<p>Prevention PDG to consider producing a national newsletter or poster highlighting poaching/coursing issues to farmers and landowners which all forces/partners can use in wildlife, rural crime or community initiatives.</p>	<p>The PDG have committed to raising the issues of and actions to take (such as the need to accurately report incidents) in relation to poaching/coursing. Articles and news items have featured in PDG members own in house media/publications and also wider publications. At present there is no plan to produce a poster but to continue to use these forms of communication along with social media and other electronic communication to promote the work of the group and Project Trespass.</p>
<p>Intelligence Identification of any analytical work to be carried out by the NWCUC. Increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners. PDG to identify problem or subject profiles to be produced by the NWCUC for specific forces/areas, once commitment to enforcement action has been agreed.</p>	<p>Discussion within the priority group has taken place and work is on-going,</p>
<p>Enforcement Complete draft of national operational order to tackle deer, fish, game poaching and hare coursing. Consider producing best practice guide to be distributed to all forces/partners. Identify relevant dates to implement national operation across 2013, similar to Operation Lepus or Salmo in Scotland.</p>	<p>After discussion of the PDG it was decided that, as many forces have existing operations rather than a new operation, the PDG would launch an umbrella project to be known as Project Trespass which would be used to help promote existing and future operations. This was launched on 1st October 2013 by the NWCUC and supported by all members of the PDG. Project Trespass has received much coverage in written, electronic and broadcast media. Project Trespass is becoming a phrase widely associated with tackling poaching. Members of the PDG have provided training to police and other law enforcers. BASC (on a UK basis) has published a 4th edition of a guide to poaching offences which is available to law enforcers free of charge. Over 5,000 have been distributed (UK wide) since November 2013.</p> <p>The next meeting of the PDG is planned for April 2014. All future meetings of the PDG will be scheduled to be compatible with the UKTCG meeting date.</p>

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Poaching (Scotland)

Priority	<u>Poaching and Coursing</u>	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	<u>Paul Wakefield (Scottish Land & Estates)</u>	Date: 17/09/2013
Planned UK TCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To build a greater level of public awareness of poaching and coursing as serious wildlife crimes, 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 across Scotland.

Update on Actions from UK TCG	
Action	Update
<p><u>Prevention</u> Police Scotland are intending to co-ordinate patrols for hare coursers and salmon poachers.</p>	<p>Members of the Priority Delivery Group have committed to promoting awareness of increased prevention activity through offline and online updates to their organisations members/users and contacts. And to work with the police in reporting anything suspicious.</p> <p>A new sub group to meet before next group meeting (25 Nov 2013) to discuss all PR and awareness activity, to ensure a more continuous flow of public information.</p>
<p><u>Intelligence</u> Much deer poaching continues to take place in the north (north of Inverness) while coursing for deer with dogs, is happening country-wide but predominantly in the South. Hare coursing has been quieter over the summer, as normal, but it is expected to become busier in the autumn months. Consideration could be given to raising more intelligence on end-product users of poached meat – e.g. game dealers, hotels etc.</p>	<p>Group to see detail of 'Buyer Beware' campaign to hotels, restaurants etc. Extend RAFTS' campaign to all species and circulate to group.</p>
<p><u>Enforcement</u> There is good partnership working with bailiffs. All Divisions of Police Scotland now have full or part-time coordinators to manage poaching activity within their respective areas and their engagement with the NWCUC is good.</p>	<p>Quarterly Police Scotland wildlife liaison officer meetings are about to re-start where national poaching operations can be considered and actioned by police.</p>

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Raptor Persecution (England & Wales)

Priority	Raptor Persecution	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Supt Dave Lynch (Lincolnshire Police)	
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: As per 2013 UK Tactical Assessment – Raise community trust and awareness to facilitate intelligence reporting, leading to increased prevention and enforcement activity relating to raptor persecution.

Update on Actions from UKTCG January 2013	
Action	Update
Prevention – publish poisoning maps	Poisoning maps for 2007-2011 launched at the PAW seminar.
Intelligence – Identification of any analytical work to be carried out by NWCUC	On going work being undertaken by NWCUC.
Intelligence – Increase intelligence submissions from all forces/partners	On going work being undertaken by NWCUC
Enforcement - Meetings to be held to focus on policing responses to ensure effective investigation of instances of raptor persecution. (see also UKTCG minutes action 5/13	Regional meetings have been undertaken to which every police force received an invitation.

Update from last PDG Meeting on 24th June 2013	
Action	Update
To produce enhanced raptor persecution maps (for 2012) to the agreed format and to include Welsh data.	Work on these maps is being progressed by Natural England.
Continue work to publish an evidence gathering protocol for the information of members of the public.	Draft has been produced and awaits acceptance by all members of the group.
To produce a leaflet to draw public attention to the evidence gathering protocol.	Work being progressed by the PAW publicity group.
To produce a police standard operating procedure for the investigation of incidents of raptor persecution.	Work being progressed as resources permit.
To produce an intervention strategy.	A first draft has been produced further progress will be linked to similar work being undertaken in Scotland.
Summary of convictions and on-going cases to be circulated to members prior to each meeting inviting questions and suggestions.	Action lies with NWCUC and will be delivered to the next meeting.

Other Issues	
<i>Media Coverage</i>	Publication of the England and Wales raptor poisoning maps for the period 2007-2011 attracted substantial media interest at national and regional and local level.
<i>e.g. Other Support Required</i>	The priority delivery group has made considerable progress during the past twelve months, attributable to the determination of all involved to move forward. Much remains to be done but progress is now being inhibited by the lack of secretariat support. The ACPO wildlife crime staff officer had previously undertaken the role but funding is no longer available. Such funding (£5k pa) is needed if the work of the group is to continue at the pace anticipated by members.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Appear to be making some progress against targets, however difficult to know when some of these actions are likely to be completed and what are the limiting factors in making further progress on some of the individual activities (that aren't reliant on secretariat support). For example, when are the enhanced maps and the evidence gathering protocol to be completed? When is the public leaflet showing the evidence gathering protocol likely to be available? Are there any problems with it? What is a realistic timeframe for publication of the SOP? What are the limiting factors in progressing this task? When is the intervention strategy going to be produced?

Plan Owner Update ~ Raptor Persecution (Scotland)

Priority	PAW Scotland Raptor Group	Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Ewen West (Retired Tayside Police Supt)	Date: 19/08/2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective:

Update on Actions from UKTCG	
Action	Update
Identification of any analytical work to be carried out by the NWCUC	Not yet completed but NWCUC to ask for fresh suitable bids from each Delivery Group.
Increase Intelligence submissions from all Forces/Partners	The PAW Scotland Raptor Group (new name for the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group) has continuously encouraged all members to ensure that all relevant intelligence regarding Raptor Persecution in Scotland is submitted.

Update from last PDG Meeting	
Action	Update
Hen Harrier Action Plan to progress as prioritised by the Group	A number of Actions in the plan have been suitably progressed, particularly in relation to the collection of information which is required to enable the production of the Intelligence profile. Efforts remain ongoing to appoint a project Officer to undertake some of the actions within the Plan. In addition, a Communications strategy is to be devised to inform interested parties on the progress of the Plan and its achievements.
A forward plan for the Group is to be devised which will identify Priority areas for action in terms of raptor persecution in Scotland	Many useful ideas have been suggested by Group members which were initially discussed at the most recent meeting in July, 2013. These will be discussed and refined at the next meeting of the Group when it is anticipated a forward plan will be agreed and progressed.

Other Issues	
e.g. Media Coverage	Ongoing coverage of the Hen Harrier Action Plan when relevant media coverage is appropriate

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Intelligence Requirement ~ CITES Timber (focus on Agarwood)

Plan Owner Update:	CITES – Timber (with focus on Agarwood)	Intelligence Requirement Group
Submitted By:	Guy Clarke (UKBF)	Date: 20/08/2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase intelligence submission to the NWCU. Improve timber related training and identification material to UK LEA's

Update on Actions from UKTCG 23/01/2013	
Action	Update
No actions from UKTCG 23/01/2013	

Current Picture from PDG Meeting on 23/10/2012	
Action	Update
Border Force concern relating to imports containing Dalbergia nigra.	Intell received from other EU member states but not actionable as yet due to international protocols not being adhered to.
Implementation of FLEGT within the United Kingdom.	FLEGT shipments not expected into UK until late 2013 early 2014.
Review of UK CITES intelligence requirements.	Agreed that CITES listed timber is to continue.
CoP16 amendments published in Commission Regulation (EU) 750/2013 to be reviewed and UK impact assessed.	Ongoing. Initial findings indicate little evidence of timber imports from Madagascar.
CoP16 amendments published in Commission Regulation (EU) 750/2013 to be reviewed and UK impact assessed.	Ongoing in relation to Dalbergia cochinchinensis.
CoP16 amendments published in Commission Regulation (EU) 750/2013 to be reviewed and UK impact assessed.	Suspension of enforcement activities directed to Agarwood importations due to majority of products seen at import now being exempt from the controls.
Taxonomic discrepancies in relation to Dipteryx panamensis and its UK impact.	Ongoing.
Impact of new musical instrument certification on specimens containing CITES timber.	Ongoing discussions with UK CITES MA.

Other Issues	
Amendment to priority	Removal of Agarwood from Intelligence Requirement heading - revert to CITES listed Timber.
New enforcement trends	Review of intelligence and enforcement activity on timber shipments from India following increase in Red Sandalwood seizures at UK Border.
Training materials	Progress on PWCO/Traffic timber guide, RBG Kew Ramin Guide update, RBG Kew update of key timber species guides.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Plan Owner Update ~ Intelligence Requirement ~ Finch Trapping

Plan Owner Update:	Finch Trapping	Intelligence Requirement
Submitted By:	Barry Fryer (RSPCA)	Date: 9th August 2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase intelligence submissions to the NWCU

Update on actions from last UKTCG – No actions
Current Picture from your last meeting – No meetings have been held to date

Action	Update
To increase Intelligence submissions to NWCU	The two main partner organisations involved in this priority delivery group are the RSPCA and RSPB. RSPCA take the vast majority of prosecutions in relation to Finch Trapping offences, working extremely closely with police in securing convictions. The number of intelligence reports currently being received on this subject is deemed as low (14 per month over last quarter) and is mainly of a low level. This may well be a seasonal lull with the potential for an increase in reporting later in the year. Intelligence reports relating to higher level criminal activity in this area are being submitted to NWCU with a current drive within RSPCA to increase this reporting.

Other Issues
 This group has no members, other than the plan owner. Meetings with other organisations and agencies are taking place only on an operational basis as and when required. It is difficult to see where other group members could be recruited from. Intelligence is received on a steady basis and acted upon by RSPCA investigators in partnership with police. No new sources of intelligence have currently been identified for development.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:
 Under the WCCAG matrix finches score low as a conservation priority and we aren't aware of any new information to suggest that this issue should be given any greater priority at this stage. The most significant threat to our finch populations (& other seed-feeding farmland birds) has been agricultural intensification and whilst illegal trapping clearly continues, it appears to be at a level that is not affecting numbers of finches in Britain. Being cognisant of the limited resources within the NWCU, the UKTCG may want to consider what gains are to be derived from having finches as an intelligence priority and in particular whether it makes a significant contribution to overall conservation effort or is necessary to maintain the species at favourable conservation status.

Plan Owner Update ~ Intelligence Requirement ~ illegal taking of wild bird eggs

Plan Owner Update:	Operation Easter/ Egg collectors	Intelligence Requirement
Submitted By:	Nevin Hunter (NWCUC)	Date: 20/08/2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase intelligence submissions to the NWCUC

Update on actions from last UKTCG:	
Action	Update
Highlighted Operation Easter via POLKA, NWCUC Intelligence Bulletin.	Over past 2 years, 93 intelligence submissions made.
Small numbers of high profile repeat offender egg collectors still appear active across the UK.	Examples include Matthew Gonshaw who was convicted. The NWCUC is supporting forces across the UK where they have nest site schemes.
Significant cases involving egg collectors in Scandinavian countries have been identified as a result of cases in the North of England and Scotland. Significant intelligence has been disseminated to enforcement authorities in Scandinavia. This focuses upon their nationals, but appears that these have trade links to collectors in the UK.	NWCUC have provided direct support to enforcement authorities in Scandinavia.

Current Picture from your last meeting on	
Action	Update
There is no intelligence group that meets regarding this requirement.	

Other Issues	
<i>e.g. Media Coverage</i>	Gonshaw case has aroused significant national and international media interest in the actions of egg collectors. NWCUC have been visited by a reporter from the New Yorker magazine intending to write a significant piece on it ³⁷ . BBC One Show has filmed a retrospective piece covering the Gonshaw case for showing later in the year. Launch of NWCUC website will assist raising profile of the operation among PWCO's across UK.
	Suggest that this intelligence requirement no longer required. Dealing with egg collectors should be regarded as business as usual. Role for NWCUC should be to assess intelligence and provide support to Level 2 and 3 criminality associated with this.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

³⁷ Published 22/07/2013 [http:// www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/07/22/130722fa_fact_rubinstein](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/07/22/130722fa_fact_rubinstein)

Plan Owner Update ~ Intelligence Requirement ~ illegal seal shooting

Plan Owner Update:	Illegal Seal Shooting	Intelligence Requirement
Submitted By:	Claire Bowers (MMO)	Date: 21/08/2013
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase intelligence submission to the NWCU

Update on Actions from UKTCG	
Action	Update
Action 14: NWCU to raise as an intelligence requirement and to raise directly with PWCO to gather intelligence and make assessment in liaison with Marine Management Organisation (MMO) ahead of the next UKTCG.	Has been raised as an intelligence requirement and enforcement community notified at enforcers conference and through Marine Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (MWEWG). Intelligence sharing with NWCU/MMO being worked on to facilitate this. Joint assessment with MMO still to be made. Activity in this area tends to be seasonal and vagaries of legislation and available MMO resources means making assessment of level of activity is difficult.
Action 15: WCCAG to Consider illegal culling of Seals and whether this should be considered as a priority, intelligence requirement or not be actioned if evidence supports this. Group to make recommendation to next UKTCG.	MWEWG group have been advised of reassessment of intel requirement and requested to ensure that any incidents get reported to help inform the consideration by WCCAG. MMO have provided several reports to NWCU in this period.

Current Picture from your last meeting on 20/02/13	
Action	Update
To advise group of the intelligence requirement and how to report activity to NWCU.	Advised group attendees of requirement and how to report incidents.
MMO to update their web pages with advice on seal protection and how to report suspicious activity.	Due to Smarter Environment Regulation Review (SERR) wildlife guidance review and all guidance being moved to .Gov website MMO are putting very basic advice re marine species that are protected on their site but will not be as detailed as originally proposed.
Law Commission Wildlife Reform. MWEWG members to ensure they comment on consultation in effort to assist in changes to legislation that will assist enforcement of illegal seal shooting.	Group members were all informed and have commented separately on the consultation.

Other Issues
Firearms licensing issues for use solely at sea is an issue for MMO. Under Maritime Coastguard Agency rules a section 1 firearms licence is not necessarily required for carriage and use of firearms at sea, making true assessment of use of firearms at sea for shooting seals and enforcement difficult. Due to SERR guidance review, this will not be put on MMO web pages. MMO are commenting on SERR review and will comment that seal protection should be included on their pages.
There has been no real media coverage lately regarding shooting of seals that we are aware of. A meeting in SW between fishing industry and conservation bodies highlighted industry concern over numbers of seals and their impacts on industry. They are calling for information on impacts by seals to be gathered, presumably with regard to population control in the future. MMO advised that this would need to be taken to Defra by industry and the wildlife trusts to take forward.
Marine Conservation Zone designations are imminent and may include management measures in zones where seals are a feature. These could include either voluntary or regulatory restrictions, such as bylaws, on seal shooting in addition to what is allowed under the Conservation of Seals Act. This will inform the need to monitor and enforce seal shooting in those zones.

Plan Owner update from last 6 months:
Increased predation on catch by grey seals reported in all areas on East coast where seal colonies present. MMO has provided advice to fishermen wishing to shoot seals under Conservation of Seals Act (CoSA) lawfully. Hearsay suggests that other fishermen are loath to shoot seals due to public reaction and personal threats received to sink their vessels from those who oppose this activity.
Zoological Society of London has started a group to create a Thames Seal Action Plan following research on the Thames estuary population (approximately 700) which is now a significant national population for Harbour seals. North Kent fishing industry representative was present and advised that they have no wish to kill seals, but highlighted the increased seal numbers and reduced fish stocks in the estuary and linked the two causally. The population in the Thames appears to be linked with that of the Goodwin Sands off Deal and the Wash, so control in one area may affect the population in another.

MMO has written to Home Office regarding concerns over carriage of firearms on vessels (that do not require schedule 1 firearms certificates) from a Health & Safety perspective for inspectors. This issue also creates a problem for assessing legality of using netsmans defence under CoSA, so amendment to these current firearm carriage rules may increase possibility of monitoring and enforcement of seal shooting.

The recent tidal surge and storms has resulted in several hundred grey seal pups being killed/swept away and parted from their mothers on the East coast which will reduce/halt increase to numbers of seals in some colonies for this coming year. Some have been rescued for rehabilitation and release. This in itself will not necessarily make any changes to likelihood of shooting, either legally or illegally, but may increase conservation concerns/efforts to those colonies that may have been impacted negatively.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Note that at the last meeting of the WCCAG (27 November 2012) the group agreed a low score on the matrix for seal killing / disturbance and considered that criminality is likely to only have a minor impact on the conservation status of seal species in the UK; although recognised that populations may be adversely impacted at the local level. Overall, the group did not consider this to be a national conservation priority for targeted enforcement action.

Plan Owner Update ~ Intelligence Requirement ~ introduction of invasive non native species

Plan Owner Update:	Introduction of Invasive Non Native Species	Intelligence Requirement
Submitted By:	Olaf Booy (Non Native Species Secretariat)	Date: 15-08-13
Planned UKTCG:	10/09/2013	

Objective: To increase intelligence submissions to the NWCU

Update on actions from last UKTCG:	
Action	Update
<p>ACTION 3: Non-Native Species Plan Owner to convene working group, including representatives from each of the Country Agencies, NWCU and Environment Agencies, to:</p> <p>(a) determine what the priorities should be in terms of intelligence gathering (using existing criteria / scoring matrix as starting point), and</p> <p>(b) Identify where effort should be focused in the gathering of intelligence and put that into action;</p> <p>(c) Provide an update to next meeting of UKTCG.</p>	<p>Not completed – carry over</p> <p>Scope of meeting has been discussed with policy officials and purpose better defined. Plans to convene the meeting will be taken forward. Note: Key areas of interest likely to remain escapes/releases from zoos and wildlife parks.</p>

Current Picture from your last meeting	
Action	Update

Other Issues	
Changes to legislation	5 horticultural plants will be banned from sale in England and Wales and Scotland in April 2014, under Section 14ZA (England & Wales) and Section 14A (Scotland) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (the first species to be listed).
Key issues	The illegal release / escape of non-native mammals / birds, e.g. Prairie Dogs, Sacred Ibis, has been highlighted by policy makers / agency staff as a key issue for the non-native species working group to consider.

Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

Disappointing that meeting between relevant statutory agencies hasn't taken place. We encourage this to happen before end of 2013 and prior to next meeting of WCCAG.

Appendix B – PESTELO

POLITICAL

UK's relationship with the EU

BCT are of course determined to ensure that the legal protection given to bats is not diluted. This extends not only to criminal protection but also protection through land use and planning measures. Should the UK re-negotiate membership of the EU we have concerns that legal protection for bats might be affected³⁸.

Seizure of vehicles

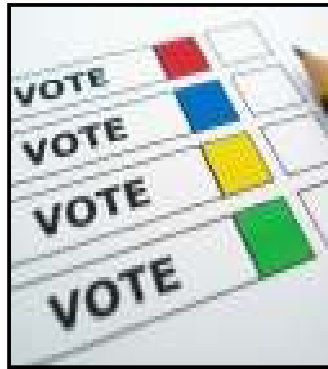
On 10 July 2013 Defra announced new statutory instruments which should improve regulators power to seize vehicles in waste offences. These come into force in October 2013 and could be of potential use for rural and wildlife crime.³⁹

EC legislation⁴⁰

Two new amendments regulations were published in early 2013 which outlined new Annexes to the CITES Wildlife Trade Regulations and new CITES trade suspension regulations.⁴¹

Northern Ireland

A new Environment Minister was appointed in Northern Ireland. Mark Durkan took over in July 2013 and he will chair the PAW Northern Ireland group⁴².



Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference 12/13th February 2014

The London Conference on 12-13 February aims to tackle 3 interlinked aspects of the Illegal Wildlife Trade. It will be divided between the 3 key themes:

1. Improving law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system;
2. Reducing demand for wildlife products;
3. Supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by Illegal Wildlife Trade.

The aim to 'improve law enforcement' should provide UK law enforcement with opportunities for future development in 2014.

Scotland – new measures introduced in July 2013⁴³

New measures introduced in Scotland as additional deterrents were announced by the Minister:

- 1) SNH will examine how to put in practice a restriction on the use of General Licences on ground where it is believed on the balance of probabilities, that wildlife crime has taken place. In practice this means that SNH (or Scottish Government) would need to be satisfied that it was more likely than not, that wildlife crime had occurred. It would not be necessary to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that a particular individual had committed the crime (the criminal standard of proof).
- 2) There will be a review of penalties for wildlife crime by a group of suitable people set up under the auspices of PAW Scotland.
- 3) Review of the types of evidence put before courts in cases involving raptor crime. Senior police, COPFS and Scottish Government officials will discuss how to make better use of modern technology, and in particular whether/how the police can make more use of video surveillance technology to catch people committing crimes against raptors in remote areas where it is difficult to find witnesses. The technology has become cheaper and is more accessible.

Fish-eating birds review

The final report on the Defra review into the 'Impacts of predation by fish-eating birds on inland fisheries' was released on 19th July 2013⁴⁴. The review recommends that the role of the proposed Fisheries Management Advisors is expanded to cover the whole of England and that licences should be available for areas experiencing problems. The new approach is to be trialled for one year. Although the numbers of birds that can be legally killed is not expected to be expanded, there have been some concerns that the review is being interpreted to mean the number of cormorants that can be killed under licence has been increased. There is concern that this could lead to increased shooting of cormorants⁴⁵.

³⁸ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

³⁹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/211586/snr6-july-dec-2013.pdf

⁴⁰ JNCC

⁴¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32013R0750:EN:NOT> and <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32013R0578:EN:NOT>

⁴² PSNI wildlife liaison officer

⁴³ Provided by Scottish Government

⁴⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fish-eating-birds-management-policy-review>

⁴⁵ Natural England

ECONOMIC

Planning Framework

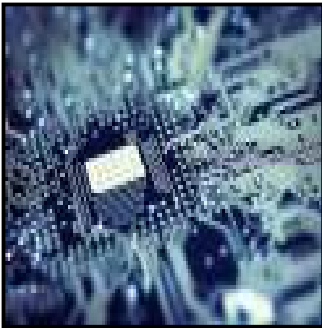
Conservation for bats is largely dependent upon planning processes. There is concern that in the present climate there may be moves to continue to relax the planning framework in a manner that effectively reduces the need to properly identify and mitigate impacts on bat populations⁴⁶.



Non- Native Aquatic Plant Species

The sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plant species is to be banned in order to protect wildlife. The banned plants are Water Fern, Parrot's Feather, Floating Pennywort, Australian Swamp Stone-crop (New Zealand Pygmyweed), and Water Primrose. Invasive non-native species can have a devastating cost to the economy, costing £1.7 billion to control. Floating pennywort, which can grow up to eight inches a day, costs the British economy £23.5 million per year⁴⁷.

TECHNOLOGICAL



Rhino horn DNA database established

Scientists at the Scottish Government are collating rhino DNA to set up a database to be used by police investigating rhino horn theft. All UK museums and zoos are providing DNA samples to go into a preventive database. This should result in direct support to any Rhino-related investigations focused upon OCG activity.

Modern equipment in court

The League against Cruel Sports (LACS) provide the police with professional evidence packages which usually include video/audio surveillance. However, magistrates' courts often do not have play-back facilities and important evidence is lost as a result. LACS has recently (Aug 2013) offered to bring their own equipment to any magistrate court across England & Wales, taking responsibility for set-up, removal and legal indemnity of the equipment. They are awaiting agreement from the Magistrates Association⁴⁸.

Educational Dialogue Research Unit (ERDU) project

A breakthrough scientific discovery has been made which utilises eraser waste to recover DNA from small sample areas. The ERDU project (University of York) is hoping to test the new method on wildlife products which could enable law enforcers to quickly identify species via field tests. The trade of worked wildlife products can make identification extremely challenging. DNA testing can resolve this, but can involve damaging/destroying the sample. The new test would not damage the specimen in any way. Wildlife products to be collected for ERDU testing include Ivory, Coral, Timber, Eggshells, Freshwater Pearls, Bone, Horn, Claws, Fur, Tortoise/Turtle Shell, Scales, Shahtoosh wool and Shark Fins. The project could also provide important baseline data for use in court cases⁴⁹.

Carbon dating of eggs

Glasgow University is conducting a scientific study to assess whether wild bird eggs can be carbon dated to pinpoint when they were laid. If the study can reliably identify this, enforcement authorities will be able to ascertain whether eggs were taken from the wild in contravention of S1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. This would allow enforcers to robustly challenge claims that eggs found in a person's possession were part of an old collection⁵⁰.

⁴⁶ Provided by Peter Charleston, BCT

⁴⁷ NWC Bulletin – Issue 18

⁴⁸ LACS

⁴⁹ DI Nevin Hunter, NWC

⁵⁰ Defra

ENVIRONMENTAL

Church Authorities take action to evict bats

There is at present debate around a perceived need for a church derogation allowing church authorities to take action to evict bats from churches. Whilst BCT are sympathetic to the issue of bats in churches such buildings are very important to bat conservation.⁵¹



Rare bat on brink of UK extinction

One of the UK's rarest mammals, the grey long-eared bat is in danger of disappearing from the country. A four-year study by scientists from the University of Bristol estimated there were 1,000 of these bats left - all confined to southern England.⁵²

Populations of some bats are increasing

The welcome news that populations of some species are increasing must not be seen as an indication that bats are no longer at risk. Populations of some species continue to decline. Even where an increase in population has been evidenced it must be borne in mind that the baseline was set in comparatively recent times. Much still needs to be done before bats regain historic numbers.⁵³

⁵¹ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

⁵² Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

⁵³ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

New Legislation

There are a number of papers being produced by Westminster and the devolved administrations all of which might impact on bat conservation, examples include the Law Commissions review of wildlife crime legislation, the Natural Environment White Paper and the green paper on biodiversity off-setting⁵⁴.

LEGISLATION

COTES review

Defra have commenced with a review of COTES. Adequate consultation with enforcement authorities is required. NWCUC Head of Unit is involved⁵⁵.

Scotland - Snare Legislation

Officers in Scotland are reminded that from 1 April 2013 any person setting a snare must have applied in person to a police station in the police area where they intend to set snares, producing a fee of £20 and a passport sized photo, photographic evidence of ID and a training certificate. They must then have been issued with an identification number which must be shown on a tag attached to every snare set. The tag must be attached directly to the snare or snare hardware (the anchor or any other part permanently attached between the snare and anchor excluding the tealer). In addition to the ID number, the tag must display whether the snare is set for rabbits, displaying the letter (R), brown hares (BH) or foxes (F)⁵⁶.

Northern Ireland - Snares Order

There is a current consultation on the draft Snares Order (Northern Ireland) 2013⁵⁷.



Changes to rules for 'Grandfathers Rights' for Pesticide Users

A current exemption in UK law known as "grandfather rights", allows anyone born before 31 December 1964, to use plant protection products (PPPs) authorised for professional use on their own or their employer's land, without having to hold a certificate (of competence) although they should still be suitably trained and competent for their job. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 allows this exemption to continue until 26 November 2015, after which everyone who uses PPPs authorised for professional use must have a certificate. In addition, after 26 November 2015, it will be an offence for anyone to purchase PPPs authorised for professional use unless they have ensured that the intended end user has a certificate⁵⁸.

'Polluter pays'

Greater use of 'traditional' enforcement powers should be applied to wildlife crime – application for more ASBO's, Serious Crime Prevention Orders, Proceeds of Crime Act confiscations and driving disqualifications for using vehicle in commission of crime would hit criminals where it hurts most.

Law commission review

Consultation on the Law Commission review of wildlife law in England & Wales closed on 30 November 2012. A final report and draft bill is expected for mid 2014.

New rules about non-native species

Defra are intending to amend laws brought in as part of Import of Live Fish Act 1980. The amendment is called the Prohibition of Keeping or Release of Live Fish (Specified Species) Order. The new rules should help to keep potentially damaging non-native species out of the UK. Defra plan to bring in the new rules by the end of 2013⁶⁰.

Victim's right to review consultation

The Wildlife and Countryside Link have responded to the Crown Prosecution Service consultation on the Interim Guidance on Victims' Right to Review. The response calls for the scope of the policy to be extended to include wildlife crime and enable those who are not victims, but have a legitimate interest and involvement in a case, to represent the interests of biodiversity⁵⁹.

⁵⁴ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

⁵⁵ JNCC

⁵⁶ NWCUC Bulletin – Version 19

⁵⁷ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/snares_order_consultation.pdf

⁵⁸ <http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/News/Collected-Updates/Information-Updates-2013/June/Grandfather-rights-changes>

⁵⁹ <http://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife.asp>

⁶⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/managing-freshwater-fisheries/supporting-pages/non-native-species-of-fish>

LEGISLATION CONTINUED.....

Shark Finning

An amendment to the EU regulation that prohibits the removal of shark fins on board vessels has come into force. The previous regulation provided for the issuing of permits by member states vessels to allow the fins to be removed providing the bodies were kept on board. The amendment removes this provision and now all sharks must be landed 'fins on' (with a proviso that they can be partially cut through and folded to aid storage) which will allow accurate species identification and enforcement of the regulation. As the UK vessels that catch sharks in any number mostly operate in the Indian Ocean, enforcement of this regulation is difficult and relies on cooperation with the countries they land to, to get inspections carried out (mostly South Africa and Indonesia)⁶¹.

Implementation of 'pingers' regulation 812/2004

Defra/MMO is currently implementing the above regulation which requires the use of acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) in certain fisheries to reduce cetacean by catch. Any by-catch that occurs as a result of non compliance would be a wildlife offence under the Habitats Regulations or Offshore marine regulations.

There is considerable cost incurred by industry to purchase these pingers, although some of them have had devices supplied to them free through a Defra project. The cost involved, problems with enforcement of this, and issues with the use of some of these devices may discourage full compliance. There are currently less than 30 vessels that need to comply with this regulation in the UK. MMO is implementing and enforcing authority⁶².



Seahorses and development

MMO is dealing with an increase in seahorse related compliance issues in relation to development including proposals for offshore wind farms close to the coast, which on the whole will always be permitted to be developed by the Secretary of State for imperative reasons of overriding public interest so the UK can meet its targets for renewable energy production. If reasonable mitigation is considered then any offences as a result of the activity are defensible under the legislation but does not prevent them from occurring. Concerns over disturbance/harm and damage to their habitat are considerations that will require surveys to establish presence or absence of them for proposed sites. Misreporting of findings to avoid delays/financial cost or refusal of applications is a possibility, although the MMO has no evidence that this is occurring. This will affect the entire south coast of England as seahorses are found all along this part of the UK. MMO and Natural England are working really closely with developers regarding mitigation and reducing impacts⁶⁵.

Porbeagle CITES listing

Porbeagle shark is now CITES listed. The management authorities have 18 months from listing to implement administration for this, which may include Introduction from the Sea Certificates and certainly import notification requirements. This new listing will not affect EU vessels as they are already prohibited from landing this species through fisheries legislation, however 3rd country vessels can catch and retain this species if caught outside of EU waters. Some countries have a historic and current fishery for Porbeagle shark (mostly as by catch), and depending on the administration of this there may be reluctance to apply for the relevant permits to land what they have caught and may report it as other shark species. Assume that UKBA and AHVLA will be administration/enforcement body, but MMO and navy officers are likely to see these vessels/species at sea and on landing⁶³.

Timber Listings

A number of high profile timber listings have been implemented since CoP16 which saw the new listing of all rosewoods and ebonies from Madagascar; Thai rosewood and East African Sandalwood and the up listing of three Central and South American rosewoods⁶⁴.

⁶¹ Provided by Claire Bowers, Marine Management Organisation

⁶² Provided by Claire Bowers, Marine Management Organisation

⁶³ Provided by Claire Bowers, Marine Management Organisation

⁶⁴ Provided by Madeleine Groves, RBG Kew

⁶⁵ Provided by Claire Bowers, Marine Management Organisation

ORGANISATIONAL

Police Operation

A North East regional operation in 2013 used police officers and volunteers (gamekeepers, landowners, and Environment Agency and Forestry Commission staff) from local communities to keep watch for suspicious vehicles, resulting in a number of stop checks being made and valuable intelligence collected⁶⁶.

PSNI

The policing of Wildlife Crime in PSNI has moved to district policing command and has a newly appointed Superintendent who will be the service lead for rural and wildlife crime for the PSNI⁶⁷.

Local authorities losing planning expertise

It seems that the number of local authorities that have the in house planning expertise to identify conservation impact on bats is decreasing. The lack of such expertise not only runs the risk of inappropriate mitigation being implemented but also reduces the potential for criminal behaviour to be identified and acted upon⁶⁸.



Smarter Environment Regulation Review

Reviewing guidance regarding environment regulations for it all to sit on the .Gov website and for it to be easy to understand and use. Aim is that there should be no duplication of advice on any departments websites, so all wildlife legislation and licensing guidance will be sitting on the .Gov webpages⁶⁹.

Increased charges for CITES licences

Since June 2013 new (increased) charges have been introduced for CITES licence applications. This could have an impact on trade/trends – the increase in prices may potentially see a rise in people trading CITES listed species without permits⁷⁰.

Natural Resource Wales (NRW)

Natural Resource Wales is an amalgamation of Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency and Forestry Commission. Across these organisations there were 6 wildlife crime officers who now all come under NRW. There are suggestions that these officers will focus more on environmental crimes rather than wildlife and therefore there are concerns that NRW will not provide the same level of resource to protected species investigations as CCW did⁷¹.

POLKA - net closes in on poachers and fish thieves

The Angling Trust has secured an important breakthrough in the war against poachers and fish thieves. Now all 132,000 police officers in England and Wales will have web access to fisheries enforcement guidance and the law on POLKA - the national Police On-Line Knowledge Area. Officers in the 43 forces in England and Wales routinely refer to POLKA when they encounter incidents and offences beyond routine beat policing. POLKA will now include the Angling Trust produced Elementary Guide to Angling Law and Fishery Enforcement which has been endorsed by the police National Wildlife Crime Unit. It explains to police how fishery enforcement works and details how both poaching, which carries a maximum fine of £5,000, and fish thefts from enclosed waters are matters for the police⁷².

⁶⁶ http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/crime/10457197.Chance_for_more_Farm_Watch_volunteers_following_major_rural_crime_operation/

⁶⁷ PSNI wildlife liaison officer

⁶⁸ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

⁶⁹ Provided by MMO

⁷⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/cites/charges-for-cites-permits/>

⁷¹ Provided by Pete Charleston, BCT

⁷² NWCU Bulletin – Version 29

ORGANISATIONAL CONTINUED.....



March 2013 CITES CoP16⁷³:

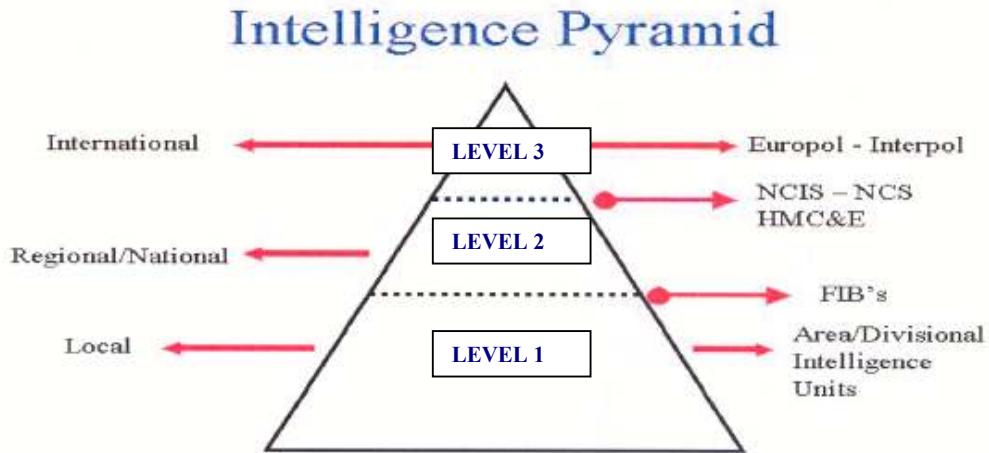
- i) A number of shark species were newly listed on CITES which will increase the burden of the licensing authorities in the UK with regards to the issuance of permits. The UK is ranked 21st in the list of shark catching nations, so these listings will directly impact the UK, as in addition to there being a greater demand on the UK MA for permits for these species, there is also a requirement for the UK to be able to identify which shark species are being caught by UK vessels, traceability issues and of course enforcement of these new listings.
- ii) The annotation for Agarwood has been amended to increase the personal allowance which will further complicate this issue and could make enforcement harder.
- iii) A decision was taken at the CoP to put in place stricter measures for elephant and rhino trophies, which previously were exempt under the personal and household effects derogation – this is no longer the case and they will now require export permits.
- iv) The EC is currently debating whether a change is also required in the EC wildlife trade regulations. Stricter measures are already in place for hunting trophies as an export permit is required, but an additional requirement may be for the issuance of an import permit as well, which could increase the burden of the UK licensing authority.
- v) Rhino populations are coming under increasing pressure from poachers to fuel an increasing demand from Asia, especially Vietnam and China. Stricter measures for rhino horn were put in place by the UK so that no export or re-export of rhino horn would be allowed, and guidance has been produced by the EC encouraging EU Member States to do the same. This could mean there may be an increased risk of smuggling attempts to move rhino horn out of the UK to markets overseas and Border Force need to be alert to this.
- vi) There is a continued demand for ivory in Asia predominantly, which is fuelling increased poaching levels of elephants in Africa. There is however also demand in the UK for ivory, as evidenced by the availability of elephant ivory on the internet. Such illegal trade needs to be combated but internet trade especially is very time intensive to combat and requires specific expertise in those investigating these offences.

⁷³ TRAFFIC

Appendix C – glossary

ACRONYM	MEANING	ACRONYM	MEANING
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers	PDG	Priority Delivery Group
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency	PESTELO	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, Organisational
ASBO	Anti Social Behaviour Order	PIE	Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement
BASC	British Association for Shooting Conservation	PIER	Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement, Reassurance
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust	POCA	Proceeds of Crime Act
CITES	Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species	POLKA	Police On-Line Knowledge Area
COP	Conference of Parties	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
COPFS	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	PWCO	Police Wildlife Crime Officer
CPDG	CITES Priority Delivery Group	RBG	Royal Botanic Gardens
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
DOENI	Dept of Environment Northern Ireland	RSPCA	Royal Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals
FIB	Force Intelligence Bureau	SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade	SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
FWPM	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	SID	Scottish Intelligence Database
INNS	Invasive Non Native Species	SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	SNCO	Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations
LACS	League Against Cruel Sports	SNH	Scottish National Heritage
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency	SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
MA	Management Authority	SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
MMO	Marine Management Organisation	TCM	Traditional Chinese Medicine
MWEWG	Marine Wildlife Enforcement Working Group	UKBF	UK Border Force
NCA	National Crime Agency	UKTCG	UK Tasking and Coordination Group
NIM	National Intelligence Model	WCCAG	Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (used to be WLEWG)
NWCU	National Wildlife Crime Unit	WID	Wildlife Intelligence Database (NWCU)
OCG	Organised Crime Group	WIIS	Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme
PAW	Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime	WLEWG	Wildlife Law Enforcement Working Group (now called WCCAG)
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner		

Appendix D – levels of criminality



LEVEL 1

Local Issues - problems affecting a **Basic Command Unit** (area/division or small force area). Wide ranging crimes – from low value thefts to murder.

LEVEL 2

Cross Border Issues - affecting more than one division or neighbouring forces. Identifying common problems and working with other forces/agencies.

LEVEL 3

Serious and organised crime - National/International coordination.

Appendix E – total intelligence (2 year period 01/04/2011 – 31/03/2013)

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Total	Plus - Minus	% of total
Badger Persecution - Baiting	144	143	287	-1	5.6%
Badger Persecution - Other	1	56	57	55	1.1%
Badger Persecution - Sett Disturbance/ Destruction	30	74	104	44	2.0%
Badger Persecution	175	273	448	98	8.8%
Bat Persecution - Breach of Licence	1	0	1	-1	0.0%
Bat Persecution - Developers	7	12	19	5	0.4%
Bat Persecution - Habitat Disturbance/Destruction	4	22	26	18	0.5%
Bat Persecution - Other	13	57	70	44	1.4%
Bat Persecution	25	91	116	66	2.3%
CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	69	99	168	30	3.3%
CITES Ivory	31	61	92	30	1.8%
CITES Tortoises	38	34	72	-4	1.4%
CITES Traditional Medicines	140	75	215	-65	4.2%
CITES Other	158	152	310	-6	6.1%
CITES species	436	421	857	-9	16.8%
Freshwater Pearl Mussels	10	6	16	-4	0.3%
Poaching - Deer	365	343	708	-22	13.9%
Poaching - Fish	299	246	545	-53	10.7%
Poaching - Hare Coursing	242	213	455	-29	8.9%
Poaching - Other	263	284	547	21	10.7%
Poaching	1169	1086	2255	-83	44.3%
Raptor Persecution - Chick Theft	1	1	2	0	0.0%
Raptor Persecution - Egg Theft	0	5	5	5	0.1%
Raptor Persecution - Nest Disturbance / Destruction	1	4	5	3	0.1%
Raptor Persecution - Other	145	133	278	-12	5.5%
Raptor Persecution - Poisoning	85	65	150	-20	2.9%
Raptor Persecution - Taking from the wild	1	0	1	-1	0.0%
Raptor Persecution	233	208	441	-25	8.7%
Intelligence Requirements:					
Finch Trapping	32	36	68	4	1.3%
Illegal Seal Shooting	1	2	3	1	0.1%
Illegal Taking of Wild Bird Eggs - Illegal Photography	0	1	1	1	0.0%
Illegal Taking of Wild Bird Eggs - Nest Disturbance/Destruction	1	2	3	1	0.1%
Illegal Taking of Wild Bird Eggs - Other	38	43	81	5	1.6%
Illegal taking of wild bird eggs (Op Easter)	0	8	8	8	0.2%
Intell Requirement - Op Easter	39	54	93	15	1.8%
Illegal Trade in Parrots	18	16	34	-2	0.7%
Introduction of Invasive Non Native Species	5	5	10	0	0.2%
All Intelligence Requirements	95	113	208	18	4.1%
Other	408	345	753	-63	14.8%
Totals	2551	2543	5094	-8	

Appendix F – updated intelligence (6 month period 01/04/2013 – 30/09/2013)

Category	Total	% of total
Badger Persecution - Baiting	52	2.5%
Badger Persecution - Other	67	3.2%
Badger Persecution - Set Disturbance/Destruction	38	1.8%
Badger Persecution	157	7.4%
Bat Persecution - Breach of Licence	3	0.1%
Bat Persecution - Developers	28	1.3%
Bat Persecution - Habitat Disturbance/Destruction	44	2.1%
Bat Persecution - Other	18	0.9%
Bat Persecution	93	4.4%
CITES Illegal Trade in Raptors	87	4.1%
CITES Ivory	36	1.7%
CITES Other	106	5.0%
CITES Tortoises	13	0.6%
CITES Traditional Medicines	33	1.6%
CITES Species	275	13.0%
Freshwater Pearl Mussels	18	0.9%
Poaching - Deer	165	7.8%
Poaching - Fish	311	14.7%
Poaching - Hare Coursing	120	5.7%
Poaching - Other	161	7.6%
Poaching	757	35.9%
Raptor Persecution - Chick Theft	9	0.4%
Raptor Persecution - Egg Theft	1	0.0%
Raptor Persecution - Nest Disturbance/Destruction	12	0.6%
Raptor Persecution - Other	93	4.4%
Raptor Persecution - Poisoning	60	2.8%
Raptor Persecution - Taking from the Wild	6	0.3%
Raptor Persecution	181	8.6%
Intelligence Requirements:		
Finch Trapping	15	0.7%
Illegal Seal Shooting	3	0.1%
Illegal Taking of Wild Bird Eggs - Nest Disturbance/Destruction	9	0.4%
Illegal Taking of Wild Bird Eggs - Other	34	1.6%
Illegal Taking of wild bird eggs (Op Easter)	11	0.5%
Op Easter	54	2.6%
Illegal Trade in Parrots	2	0.1%
Introduction of Invasive Non Native Species	9	0.4%
All intelligence requirements	83	3.9%
Other	547	25.9%
Grand Total	2111	

Appendix G – ACPO Regions – England & Wales

