

# **Tactical Assessment – UK Wildlife Crime**

**November 2018**

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(NWCUC)**

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## Overview

See Appendix A for Aim & Purpose of TA.

### **National Strategy and Delivery Plan**

Since the NPCC launched the National Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy in July 2018, a national delivery plan has been created. All Regional Enforcement Groups, Priority Delivery Groups and the NWCUC will be tasked to actively contribute to the objectives contained within the national delivery plan. Measurement of activity against these objectives will be assessed at each forthcoming UKTCG meeting.

### **Cyber Crime Workshop**

One of the key thematic threat areas identified in the Strategic Assessment was cyber enabled wildlife crime. A workshop was held on 13th September which brought together a wide range of law enforcement agencies, government representatives, non-government organisations and civil society organisations. All attendees agreed to work towards a common goal and share best practice. A key outcome is to set standardised protocols for all partner agencies in relation to investigative methods and research practices. It is hoped that additional funding can be secured for NWCUC to ensure cyber crime can be tackled with sufficient resourcing.

### **Recommendation**

In view of the fact that cyber enabled wildlife crime is a thematic threat area it is recommended that this group is ran as a Priority Delivery Group alongside the other six priority areas.

## Badger Persecution

### Incident Analysis

NWCU have analysed Badger Persecution incident data on behalf of the Badger Persecution PDG (England & Wales). It highlights which forces are most impacted by incidents of badger persecution<sup>1</sup> and shows the associated seasonality for each different type of incident. The analysis is based upon incident records from a range of partner agencies and will be updated and re-circulated each year. The analysis was circulated to all police forces in England & Wales to consider preventative work around seasonality and/or proactive enforcement.

Category	Total	%
Sett Interference	784	54.1%
Other	224	15.5%
Baiting/Fighting	186	12.8%
Traps/snares	106	7.3%
Poisoning	60	4.1%
Shooting	55	3.8%
Hunting with dogs/lamping	32	2.2%
Trading	2	0.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1449</b>	

### Summary of Intelligence

- The highest number of intelligence logs relate to badger baiting but logs relating to sett interference and hunting with dogs are also prevalent.
- Various weapons are being used against badgers in Scotland.
- Poisoning of badgers continues.

<sup>1</sup> incidents occurring between 01/01/16 and 31/05/18

**Plan Owner Update**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Andy Swinburne (Secretariat)</b>

**Your objectives:**

- 1) Improve and increase the recording of incidents, crime and intelligence of persecution.
- 2) Improve the Investigation Process.
- 3) Increase awareness of Badger persecution across the UK.

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

1. The number in incidents collated by the Secretariat have increased due to an increase in recognition of the reporting systems and also an increase in persons populating rural areas and reporting incidents which previously had gone undetected and reported.
2. Training to Police forces in England and Wales by PDG members (Naturewatch Foundation and Badger Trust) has continued from 2017 with approximately 36 forces having received input in total.
3. The development of revised Operation Badger Posters relating to Baiting and Sett Interference have been widely circulated and used in coordinated campaigns such as on National Badger Day and the November persecution campaign, as well as on an ad hoc basis by members and the wider community.

**Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Action	Update
<b>Ongoing Action:</b> To Increase membership and participation of the Police Regional Groups on BPDG	Circulation by NWCUC on two occasions – Awaiting responses
<b>Ongoing Action:</b> BPDG Sub Group formed to address volume crime of Sett Interference as highlighted in the analytical data.	New Operation Badger Sett Interference approved by NPCC. Social media campaign across all PDG members and their own respective media teams, supporters and Badger Groups commenced 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 to coincide with Badger Trust Symposium.
<b>Ongoing Action:</b> BPPDG Members gather information on Court cases where critical comment has been made on defence experts.	LACS gathering responses from members for compilation of report for next PDG meeting.
<b>Ongoing Action:</b> Badger Crime Training Document	Naturewatch Foundation and Badger Trust to produce Training manual on Badger Crime for Police, CPS & RSPCA. Completion March 2019.
<b>Ongoing Action:</b> PDG workshop at National Enforcers Conference 2018	Workshop entitled “Badger Persecution Today – Trends and Solutions”.
<b>Closed Action:</b> National Badger Day 6th of October 2018	PDG members undertook proactive social media campaign highlighting persecution, led by NYP.
<b>Closed Action:</b> Revise Operation Badger Poster for Badger Baiting.	NPCC approved new Operation Badger, Badger Baiting Poster with graphic and non-graphic illustrated versions.

**What are your 3-year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

The three-year targets are:

**Prevention** – BPPDG Newsletter to be re-introduced with six monthly issues.

Ownership agreed to be BPPDG Secretariat. First issue delayed due to commitments and Chair vacancy. To be reviewed once new Chair is in post.

**Enforcement** - Proactive enforcement initiatives by Police Service, based on the analytical data compiled by Senior Analyst NWCU (Derived from incident list collated by Secretariat from PDG members). Analytical data identifies hot spots linked to geographical location, methodology of crime and seasonal timelines.

**Other Issues:**

1. The BPPDG currently has a vacancy for a new Chair. A key issue in identifying a new chair is that the successful candidate must have sufficient work time to effectively carry out the role in conjunction with other demanding areas of policing.
2. The withdrawal from PDG membership of Scottish Badgers and Scottish Natural Heritage who have set up a Scottish PAW Badger Group. Police Scotland remain members of the UK BPPDG.

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

No comments made.

**Recommendation**

NWCU to introduce a new application process in consultation with HR to identify and select a new PDG chair at Police Inspector level.

## Bat Persecution

### Incident Analysis

NWCU conducted an updated analysis on the Bat PDG incident data, which is provided by BCT. There is now a six year data set for incidents of Bat Persecution across the UK, allowing us to drill down into geographic hotspots and seasonality. Bespoke analysis was also carried out for Devon & Cornwall and can be done for other forces on request.

Primary Incident Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Damage or destruction of a roost	80	77	100	95	114	130
Developers				7		
Disturbance of bats at the roost	20	13	28	10	12	23
Disturbance of bats away from the roost	5	2	4	6	5	3
Exclusion or obstruction of a roost	21	18	14	14	14	11
Other	9	11	11	10	5	6
Unknown	2		2			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>173</b>

### Summary of Intelligence

- Development/Construction work and Tree Felling are the main causes of concern in relation to intelligence received.
- Individual logs refer to a variety of methods which are being used to deter/destroy bats.

### Plan Owner Update

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Bat Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Pete Charleston BCT</b>

### **Your objectives:**

To reduce bat crime by,

- Working with key stakeholders to raise awareness of responsibilities and criminal offences against bats.
- Promoting a preventative enforcement approach.
- Improving the submission of intelligence and standards of investigation relating to bats across the UK.

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

The bat priority delivery group last met on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. Actions arising are identified within the action plan as are discharged items and updates.

### **Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Not included within update.

### **What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

No targets have been identified.

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

No comments made.

**Recommendations**

Bat PDG to provide more detail in future plan owner updates and set SMART 3 year targets.

PDG to consideration whether the creation and circulation of a poster or series of posters might be useful for local bat groups to raise awareness and prevent criminality.

## CITES

### Summary of Intelligence

Across all the intelligence regarding CITES species being traded in the UK, there is mention of an increasing variety of on-line platforms, which clearly facilitate the trade, both legal and illegal. Proactive investigations by police forces clearly highlights that high levels of illegal CITES trade is prevalent across online market places.

### CITES – illegal trade in raptors

#### **Rare bird eggs importation prevented by Border Force at Heathrow**

On 26th June, Border Force officers at Heathrow Airport seized 19 eggs containing rare and endangered bird species, two of which had already hatched. Officers stopped and searched a man who had arrived on a flight from South Africa. 19 bird eggs were found concealed within a body belt, as well as two newly-hatched vultures.

Border Force specialist officers identified that the eggs were protected under CITES, believed to be from South African birds of prey including vultures, eagles, hawks and kites. Officers ensured that both the eggs and chicks were kept warm and quickly transported to the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre. The 56-year-old male was arrested and the investigation passed to the NCA. He has since been bailed pending further enquiries.



#### **Suspended Prison Sentence for Falcon Keeper**

On Friday 12th October 2018, Mary Holliday Lamar, of Derbyshire pleaded guilty at Chesterfield Magistrates Court to possessing a wild Peregrine Falcon and keeping an unregistered Schedule 4 bird. Lamar, who is a US national now living in Derbyshire, is an experienced falconer.

In December 2017 wildlife crime officers from Derbyshire Police and the NWCUC executed a search warrant issued under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 at Lamar's home address. In an aviary they discovered a young Peregrine that was still in juvenile plumage, indicating that the bird had been hatched earlier in 2017. However, the bird was wearing a leg ring that had been issued to a Peregrine that had been hatched in 2014. A Peregrine hatched in 2014 should have been in full adult plumage. Officers found a permit (A10 Certificate) that had been issued to the original 2014 falcon. In a freezer, officers found the carcass of a dead falcon that had had one leg cut off. Officers believe that this was the original 2014 falcon and that the leg ring had been recycled in an attempt to legitimise a young wild-taken falcon. In view of the fact the permit did not actually relate to the 2017 bird meant that it was also unregistered.

Lamar changed her original 'not guilty' pleas to 'guilty' on both charges and was sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, she was ordered to complete 120 hours unpaid work and had to pay costs and surcharge totalling £1135. Lamar is also disqualified from keeping Schedule 4 birds, which includes Peregrines, for 5 years.

#### **Avon taxidermy dealer pleads guilty to trading in endangered species**

Jacek Oleksiak of Avon appeared before Bristol Magistrates Court (02/08/2018) and pleaded guilty to 9 offences of prohibited sale of Annex A species, and fraudulently evading export restrictions for a specimen he exported to the USA without permits.

In 2017 the owner of a pub in West Yorkshire purchased three taxidermy Goshawks for display. The specimens had been advertised as being stuffed and mounted pre-1947. Goshawk is a species that is listed on Annex 'A' to the COTES Regulations 1997 and therefore their sale is prohibited, unless covered by an A10.

A staff member from the RSPB suspected the specimens may be illegal and reported them. A specialist examination (funded by the Forensic Analysis Fund) confirmed the specimens were modern. The NWCUC identified Oleksiak as the seller. He had been trading extensively in taxidermy on eBay since 2013, advertising over 90 specimens that were believed to have been Annex A. Officers positively identified sales of Eurasian Otter, Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Eagle Owl and a further Goshawk. They also identified the export of a Eurasian Eagle Owl to the USA, which was prohibited without a valid export permit. In December 2017 officers from the NWCUC and Avon & Somerset Police interviewed Oleksiak. He told officers that he didn't actually know any provenance for what he was buying and that he would advertise specimens as being pre-1947 so eBay wouldn't remove his listings. He was given a 12 month Community Order, ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and £170 costs. The three Goshawk specimens were forfeited.

### **CITES – ivory**

- Intelligence regarding the sale of ivory via auction houses, antique centres and fairs/markets continues.
- Modern ivory continues to be sold under the false description that it is 'pre-1947'. This method should become obsolete once the ivory bill is enacted – all items being offered for sale will need to be registered and will need a permit or an exemption certificate.

### **CITES – rhino**

Rhino horn continues to be auctioned in various forms including libation cups, bowls and walking sticks.

### **Metropolitan Police confiscation order for trade in endangered species**

Allawi Abbas, currently serving a jail sentence for offering to sell parts of endangered species, has been ordered to pay back £100,642 within six months or face another three-year jail sentence. Abbas of Hertfordshire, was sentenced to 14 months in jail in November for keeping/offering for sale rhinoceros horns, elephant tusks and hippopotamus teeth.

In June 2018, a financial investigation under POCA pursued by the Met's Criminal Finance team resulted in a criminal benefit agreed at £961,777 and his available assets were agreed to be £100,642. Any other major funds/valuables/property up to the benefit amount that he accumulates during his lifetime will be removed from him as and when they come to police notice.

### **CITES – other (non-priority issues)**

#### **Big cats**

The illegal trade in big cats continues to be reported.

#### **Primates**

The trade in primates appears to be becoming more popular.

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

**London trader sentenced after endangered leopard and wolf fur coats seized**

Timothy Norris pleaded guilty to selling clothing fashioned from endangered wild cats at Croydon Magistrates' Court on 20th Sept 2018. Norris illegally listed fur coats, hats and scarves for sale on eBay which had been created from leopards, ocelots, lynx and wolves. Metropolitan Police wildlife unit officers raided his home last February and found 24 fur clothing items, mainly coats, fashioned from the fur of wild cats. He was handed 200 hours of community service and the garments were seized by police.

**Surrey Antiques Fair inspected for illegal endangered species**

Officers from Surrey Police, the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit and the NWCU took part in a joint operation on 31/07/2018 when they visited Sunbury Antiques Market at Kempton Park Racecourse. The aim of the operation was to ensure that any traders dealing in endangered species and their derivatives were complying with the relevant legal requirements. Previous intelligence suggested that some dealers had been selling items made from or containing endangered species without the required permits. The officers found that the majority of dealers that were selling such items were trading lawfully. However, officers seized a Sawfish rostrum and three whale teeth for further investigation.

**Borders man fined for trading in endangered species**

A Border's man was fined £1,000 at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on 19th April 2018 for trading in parts of internationally protected species. The court also issued a forfeiture order for a mounted tiger head. Richard Wales ran an on-line business under the name "theexplorersstudy" - buying and selling antiquity products containing animal derivatives from an address in Newton, St Boswells. On 23 September 2015, the premises were searched under warrant by Police Scotland officers with assistance from Animal & Plant Health Agency. The search recovered a quantity of items including mounted heads and claws from tigers and leopards. Subsequent analysis of evidence was undertaken with the assistance of the NWCU and DNA Wildlife Forensics at SASA.

**Plan Owner Update**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>CITES Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Grant Miller</b>

<b>Evidence on how objectives have been progressed:</b>	
	Objective: Increase the number of disruption activities and detections of illegal trade in CITES priority species by increasing the amount of targeted compliance activity, increasing the number of intelligence submissions and intelligence products produced, improve the quality of analytical assessments and compliance in agreed timescales and increase the number of investigations and enforcement outcomes.
Anguilla Anguilla	Prevention: CPDG sub group formed of key partners to tackle ongoing threat. Enforcement: Excellent cooperation in Multi - agency proactive casework on going.
Ivory	Prevention: Collaboration with NAVA ongoing. Enforcement: Export detections referred to Police, who with continued significant support from the NWCU have achieved excellent results.
Rhino Horn	Prevention- Continue to monitor Auction Houses sales. Recommendation to no longer be a UK CITES priority.
Medicinal and health	Prevention: On going work in CITES plant community looking at ways of amending and simplifying CITES plant annotations with delisting of some extracts including Orchidaceae spp a distinct possibility.

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supplements	Enforcement- High level of trade over the Internet continues with seizures continuing to be made.
Raptors	Enforcement: limited enforcement activity during this reporting period although ongoing enquiries still being actioned.
Reptiles	Prevention: Good levels of compliance being maintained by UK reptile dealers. Recommendation to monitor this UK CITES priority & review post Brexit.
Timber	Prevention – Timber guide for enforcement officers still only in draft form.

Update on Recommendations from last UK TCG	
AP1 CITES PDG to consider increasing their work with the antiques trade and auction houses	Collaboration with NAVA ongoing.

Update on Actions from last Priority Delivery Group meeting (14th March 2018)	
AP4- NWCU HoU review the Police CITES/wildlife training with providers, UKBF to add input.	ongoing

<p><b>Other Issues:</b></p> <p>BF in partnership with the World Customs Organisation has successfully conducted an assessment of the Tanzanian &amp; Ugandan Revenue Service (Customs) ability to address the illegal wildlife trade passing through its national borders. Initial training provided by World Customs Organisation with BF assistance NWCU in cooperation with Wildlife Training continue to deliver Police CITES course as a follow on to the police Wildlife Foundation course. See AP 4</p> <p>BF HOU working with IATA on Illegal Wildlife Trade participating in and speaking at numerous international events.</p> <p>BF &amp; NWCU attended EU EWG 36 to promote CITES enforcement initiatives &amp; development of EU Action plan including identifying representatives for the new EU enforcement priority species.</p> <p>No information available as to whether UK will be asked to attend EWG 38 in 2019 post Brexit.</p> <p>BF CITES team assisted with organizing &amp; delivering the Interpol Wildlife Working Group conference in London. NWCU HOU attended &amp; assisted BF in delivery.</p> <p>BF CITES team, NWCU &amp; Metropolitan Police Wildlife Unit attended IWT conference in London. Very limited UK enforcement representation.</p> <p>BF CITES team &amp; Metropolitan Police worked with F&amp;CO representatives to deliver a CITES forensics workshop in Hong Kong.</p> <p>BF working with ZSL in delivering CITES training to Customs Administration of Mongolia.</p>
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## Fresh Water Pearl Mussels

### Summary of Intelligence

- Intelligence recorded is lower than all other UK Wildlife Crime priorities, however, the impact of this crime type can erase entire populations of species.

#### **Pearl mussels killed on the River Spey**

80 endangered freshwater pearl mussels were removed from the River Spey and killed. They are believed to have been removed sometime over the weekend of 9th – 10th June 2018. The mussel shells were found by a member of the public and reported to police.

#### **Freshwater pearl mussels poached in Assynt**

Several dozen freshwater pearl mussels were killed in May 2018 in Assynt in the North West Highlands. Assynt Field Club said the poaching had happened at some point during the last two months.

### Plan Owner Update

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Iain Sime (Chair)</b>

#### **Your objectives:**

To raise awareness of the threat posed by criminality and help communities in hotspots to prevent criminality and identify offenders.

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

The PDG has successfully profiled our work on national television and radio (BBC TV, Radio) and in the press. Particularly the evidence that can be left by criminals, the damage this causes and how it should be reported.

SNH has recruited a graduate placement for 12 months working exclusively on a project on freshwater pearl mussels. The graduate is focusing on the restoration of pearl mussels in the River Spey as well as some other rivers, and will include wildlife crime within the project. The project ends in September 2019. Discussions have taken place about a future project with local fishery trusts and NGOs to extend 'Riverwatch' schemes on rivers at high risk from pearl fishing. If successful, will seek funding in 2019.

#### **Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Action	Update
River patrol dates to be confirmed for 2018.	Patrols took place on selected rivers.
PDG to advise Transport Scotland on appropriate signage at vulnerable pearl mussel population.	Advice provided and discussions ongoing to install signage.
Scotland hot-spot maps – to discuss reporting frequency.	PDG agreed to produce every 5 years (due to relatively low number of individual incidents per annum).
Consider joint training with other agencies to address risks other than wildlife crime and improve reporting – particularly SEPA.	PDG chair discussed with SEPA and finalising date for contributing to national SEPA meeting.
Update training for Police Scotland probationer police officers.	NWCU discussing drafting 'Moodle' package for probationers.

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

Our 3 year targets (in bold) are:

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

During 2018 3 news releases were issued and picked up by a variety of media. This has resulted in stories in the national and local print press, online and on radio & TV. BBC Winterwatch is also interested in a feature on pearl mussels, including the work of the PDG (would air early 2019).

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

During 2018 all suspected criminal activity was reported directly to the police.

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

Since 2015 at least 12 pro-active operations have been led by the police, all done in collaboration with key partners.

At present all targets have been met for 2018 and, overall, were met at the end of the 3 years (end of 2017). The targets are overdue for review and will be reviewed at the next PDG meeting in late 2018. Feedback on the targets, from the PDG and WCCAG, would be appreciated.

**Other Issues:**

A meeting took place with Alexander Burnett (MSP at the Scottish Parliament), who is the Scottish Parliament's species lead for freshwater pearl mussel. He is particularly keen to contribute to the work of the PDG and publicity and awareness raising material is being provided to him for use at the parliament. Future events and publicity will be promoted by Mr Burnett and he has also been highlighting the issue of criminality affecting pearl mussels within the Scottish Parliament.

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

No comments made.

**Recommendation**

WCCAG to provide feedback on the new targets, once they have been set by PDG.

<b>Poaching</b>
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**Summary of Intelligence****Deer Poaching**

- Shooting (including with catapults) and hunting with dogs have been the most prevalent method of deer poaching in this period.
- The main motivating factor continues to be money.

**Hare Coursing**

- Vandalism, crop damage and livestock disruption continue to be associated with hare coursing across the UK.

**Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales**

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

**Your objectives:**

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 (England & Wales).

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

PPDG members inputted into the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) UK Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy and Rural Affairs Strategy with the Chair of the PPDG giving a presentation at the official launch of these strategies.

Members continue to raise awareness of poaching and hare coursing through various different mediums such as social media, publications, websites and meetings including the PPDG's own biannual newsletter.

We have also facilitated ongoing discussions between a film production company, which is considering a documentary series on poaching and police forces.

The PPDG Project Poacher App continues to be used by both the police and the public as an information resource and also as a method to report crimes.

Members of the PPDG have provided training to a number of police forces and there are ongoing discussions with the PAW training group to deliver a national event focussing on poaching in 2019.

**Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Action	Update
All to inform ■ of specific areas of training/awareness which they think the PPDG should assist with by 31 May. All to inform ■ of any areas of training/awareness raising which organisations already deliver by 31 May.	In conjunction with the PAW training group BASC has delivered training to a number of forces. There is ongoing discussions with the PAW training group to deliver a national event in 2019 focusing on poaching.
■ to circulate the call handler's guide and all to return comments on it by 31 May.	The call handler's guide was reviewed and recirculated with ongoing work to promote its use.
All to share thoughts on the specific content that should be included in an advice sheet on	This has been delayed but will be finalised at the next meeting of the PPDG on the 7 November.

<p>preventative measures to combat poaching by 31 May.                  ■ to lead on producing an advice sheet on preventative measures which individuals can take to combat poaching and to circulate the draft by 1 July.</p>	<p>Draft content has been produced and plans are in place to produce a series of short 'films' based on the advice produced.</p>
<p>■ to discuss with other Regional Enforcement Group Representatives to identify five forces and determine a suitable method of setting a base line and monitoring progress in relation to this and to report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Ongoing with an update required at the next PPDG meeting scheduled for 7 November.</p>
<p>All to inform ■ of any suggested changes to the Terms of Reference by 31 May.</p>	<p>Following the creation of the rural crime priorities (which includes poaching), draft terms of reference for the PPDG were produced and agreed.</p>

<p><b>What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:</b></p>
<p><b>The NWCU will identify five forces with a wide geographical coverage to establish a base line of activity, reporting and success.</b>                  Whilst five forces were identified, it has proven difficult for the NWCU to undertake this work due to other commitments. Therefore a member of the PPDG has been tasked with making contact (please see above actions) with Regional Enforcement Groups to see if this would be a viable area for the PPDG to complete in conjunction with them.</p> <p><b>Ensure all 43 forces in England and Wales are aware of the PPDG, Project Poacher, NWCU and the issues associated with poaching.</b>                  Representatives from regional enforcement groups attend the PPDG meetings and assist with the dissemination of information both to and from the group.                  The creation of the Rural Affairs Working Group and rural crime priority delivery groups (with poaching also 'sitting' in the rural crime portfolio as well as wildlife crime), has provided additional opportunity for the Chair of the PPDG to work with wider law enforcers and partners to increase awareness and joint working.                  The Project Poacher newsletter highlighting the PPDG and issues around poaching is now produced biannually.</p> <p><b>The continued wide range of representation within the PPDG of both NGO's and Law enforcers.</b>                  Please see above. All members of the PPDG are required to actively work to meet the group's objectives and targets and submit an update regarding this at meetings.</p> <p><b>Increased reporting of intelligence from individual forces to the NWCU both in the terms of number and geographical coverage. Specific analysis will be provided by NWCU.</b>                  This action will be discussed at the next PPDG meeting with a view to amending and updating as a result of changes to NWCU processes regarding intelligence</p> <p><b>Promote enforcement success to communities via a wide range media outlets to increase confidence in the process of reporting incidents and intelligence.</b>                  This is an ongoing area with various members of the PPDG disseminating news and highlighting issues in different ways. Collectively we continue to produce the biannual Project Poacher Newsletter with the next edition due for release in November.</p> <p><b>To assist in the production and dissemination of best practice advice in relation to dealing with poaching offences and the criminal justice system.</b>                  Having wide ranging representation within the PPDG aids the general sharing of best practice. Recent work includes the review of 'interview' templates, used successfully by one force by the prevention lead, with a view to these being made available to all other forces.</p>

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

It is acknowledged and appreciated that the PDG (England & Wales) has outlined their 3 year targets, however, the group could perhaps aim to follow the 'SMART' model – ensuring targets are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.

The results from a project commissioned by JNCC to develop and pilot a method for measuring the full economic, social and environmental costs of wildlife crime, using case studies of two species (Brown Hare and European eel) will be presented to the Wildlife Enforcers conference at the end of November, by Dr. Jen Mailley, a criminologist currently working for the Home Office. [‘What are the real costs of wildlife crime – a pilot study’ (2018) Mailley, J et al in prep]

**Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Scottish Poaching &amp; Coursing Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>John Bruce</b>

**Your objectives:**

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

**How have you progressed your objectives since the last UKTCG?****To build greater level of public awareness:**

- Media releases regarding hare coursing convictions.
- Use of Twitter to cover all aspects of wildlife crime, including poaching.
- Attendance at Royal Highland Show, Scottish Game Fair and numerous local events.

**To continue building working relations, communications and information sharing:**

- Recruited NFU Scotland onto group.
- Annual water bailiff’s conference held in Birnam in 2018.
- Contact made with Food Standards Scotland.

**To increase prevention activity and enforcement:**

- Hare coursing, deer poaching and salmon poaching part of wildlife crime course delivered to 40 Police officers at Scottish Police College.
- Same training delivered to Cairngorms National Park Special Constables.

**Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Not included within update.

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

None set.

**Recommendation**

England & Wales Poaching PDG to consider the comments made by WCCAG and ensure targets are SMART.

## Raptor Persecution

### Summary of Intelligence

- Shooting still remains the highest method of persecution reported.

### Plan Owner Update ~ England & Wales

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Superintendent Nick Lyall (Chair)</b>

#### **Your objectives:**

The newly agreed Raptor PDDG objectives are listed here:

1. To increase raptor persecution awareness via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan
2. Prevent people from becoming involved in raptor persecution through raising the profile of the crime type, improving the public's awareness of birds of prey and improving our understanding of the drivers behind this criminality
3. Protect raptors from persecution by developing and sharing best practice methodologies to safeguard birds, their eggs and their nests ensuring involvement of land owners
4. Communicate best practice and guidance to other NGOs and the public to empower them to take legal, safe and effective actions to further the strategic aim of the group
5. To utilise partnership problem solving techniques where suitable to tackle raptor persecution
6. Increase intelligence sharing between stakeholders with a focus on quality
7. Coordinate a national response to raptor persecution, and cross border with Scotland and Northern Ireland
8. Identify and gather evidence to support policy development along with changing attitudes and behaviour

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

I took over as Chair of the Raptor PPDG in September 2018. I have held a face to face meeting with key members at Defra to discuss strategic oversight of the Raptor PPDG, its previous poor delivery and lack of focused direction. This led to a re-write of the groups TOR which have been shared/ consulted with RPPDG members and agreed. The revised TOR is directly linked to the NPCC Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy 2018-2021.

I have held a face to face meeting with RSPB Enforcement team and Media team to discuss ongoing issues and written a blog for their national magazine to be published shortly. I have held a face to face meeting at the Bolton Abbey Estate with the senior member of the Moorland Association to discuss better partnership working, the requirement for joined up media releases and a wider discussion about managed grouse moors.

I have had phone conversations with a number of key RPPDG members including Northern England Raptor Forum (NERF) and National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO) who were both ready to walk away from the RPPDG due to its continued lack of delivery. They are willing to re-engage with a newly focused group.

The first National Raptor Persecution Workshop is planned for the 14th November in London and will see key interested parties come together for a day of focused discussions on the three key themes of Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement. The ideas and actions from this workshop will form the basis of a new Raptor PPDG Tactical Delivery Plan that will be governed by the RPPDG. A new blog has been created where RPPDG activity will be shared. Raptor persecution has a large social media following and currently the partnership work goes unnoticed. This site will be used to highlight RPPDG work, share news stories and to appeal for support. The first intro blog

has received international viewing already. (Nicklyallraptorppdg.home.blog). Engagement has been completed with significant parties in the social media space. This work has been about being open and transparent with those individuals that have the potential to support the PIE activity moving forwards and they have already begun positive messaging about the group's potential moving forwards.

A date has been agreed for my first Raptor PPDG as the new chair, of 16th January 2019. The priority of this meeting will be agreeing meeting ground rules, as this has been a real issue for a number of years, and allocating ownership of actions from within the new Tactical Delivery Plan. I have consulted key group members about the creation of an Enforcement Sub-group which has overwhelming support. This would be attended by suitably cleared enforcement agencies and focus on specific activities to progress this element, moving it away from the main RPPDG agenda. Work is underway to identify a Chair and Deputy for this meeting, so that TOR can be drafted and meetings arranged.

**Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Unable to locate any actions from previous PDG

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

To be reviewed.

**Plan Owner Update ~ Scotland**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Scottish Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>DCS David McLaren</b>

**Your objectives:**

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

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

Raising community trust and awareness:

- Drafting of raptor crime hotspot maps (published October 2018)
- Heads Up for Harriers project run during spring and summer 2018 with successful fledging of birds
- Publicity around Operation Easter by NWCUC
- Event and media around wildlife disturbance (including raptors) by photographers and drones

Prevention activity:

- Areas of risk to the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project birds identified and prevention activity undertaken
- Operation Easter successfully run

**Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:**

Not included within update.

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

No targets set.

**Other Issues:**

Further reviews of Satellite Tag and Evidence Gathering protocols for partner agencies to be considered.

Police Scotland officers with wildlife interests attended a wildlife crime introduction day in October which included a presentation on raptor persecution. Several group members have met with the Grouse Moor Management Group to provide information to assist with a report on the grouse shooting industry requested by Scottish Government.

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

England & Wales

It would be helpful if there were some measurable conservation targets in relation to the priority species to assess effectiveness of the group. Some potential examples would be:

- English Hen Harrier population
- Goshawks in the Dark Peak
- Red kite reintroduction in Gateshead
- Peregrine productivity in Bowland Lancashire

The objectives should be more explicit in relation to i) improving standard and consistency of statutory enforcement work and ii) developing mechanisms to improve accountability of upland driven grouse shooting estates.

Scotland

Limited detail provided in the plan. Good metrics on enforcement action, though it would be useful to know the outcomes & impacts of these actions in terms of contributing to the overarching objective. SMART 3 year targets needed.

**Recommendation**

England & Wales Raptor Persecution PDG to consider the comments made by WCCAG and assess whether i) measurable conservation targets should be set and ii) the objectives can be made more explicit re enforcement and accountability.

Scottish Raptor Persecution PDG to provide more detail in future plan owner updates and set SMART 3 year targets.

## Appendix A – Aim and Purpose of Tactical Assessment

### Aim and purpose

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

The main objectives of the Tactical Assessment are to:

- Analyse all intelligence submitted to the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCUC) since the last assessment was written. The period analysed was from 1st May – 31st October 2018.
- Provide an assessment of the current control strategy (encompassing the UK wildlife crime priorities) and identify current, emerging and future threats.
- Plan owners to provide an overview of activity in their priority area.
- NWCUC, in collaboration with UKTCG members, to recommend objectives for each priority area. These will focus on prevention, intelligence and enforcement.
- Report on the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal and Organisational (PESTELO) factors that could have a bearing on wildlife crime. Where identified, PESTELO factors are included in each specific section – highlighted in blue boxes.

### Methodology

The following data sources were used:

- Data held by NWCUC in the Wildlife Intelligence Database (WID). WID contains intelligence from a range of sources, including regulatory and law enforcement bodies and Non-Government Organisations. This is augmented by intelligence generated by NWCUC staff.
- 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:

This Tactical Assessment is a sanitised public version for publication on the NWCUC website.