Global Horizon Scan: Exploring Future IUU Fishing Trends in a Warming World

Guidelines for Participants

This document presents guidelines for participation in the RUSI-led horizon scan 'Exploring Future IUU Fishing Trends in Warming World'. It should be read in conjunction with the Call for Participation, which contains full information on aims and objectives. This document complements the main call by providing detailed guidance on the process to be followed. It covers the methodology as a whole, before offering guidelines on each stage.

Methodology

Little emphasis to date has been placed on predictive conservation science. Yet there is an urgent need to shift to a more proactive approach, as highlighted by a range of authors (Milner-Gulland, 2012). The use of horizon scanning as a forecasting tool can reduce the unpredictability of impacts and allow time and resources to be invested in technological progress, policy change or on-the-ground action.
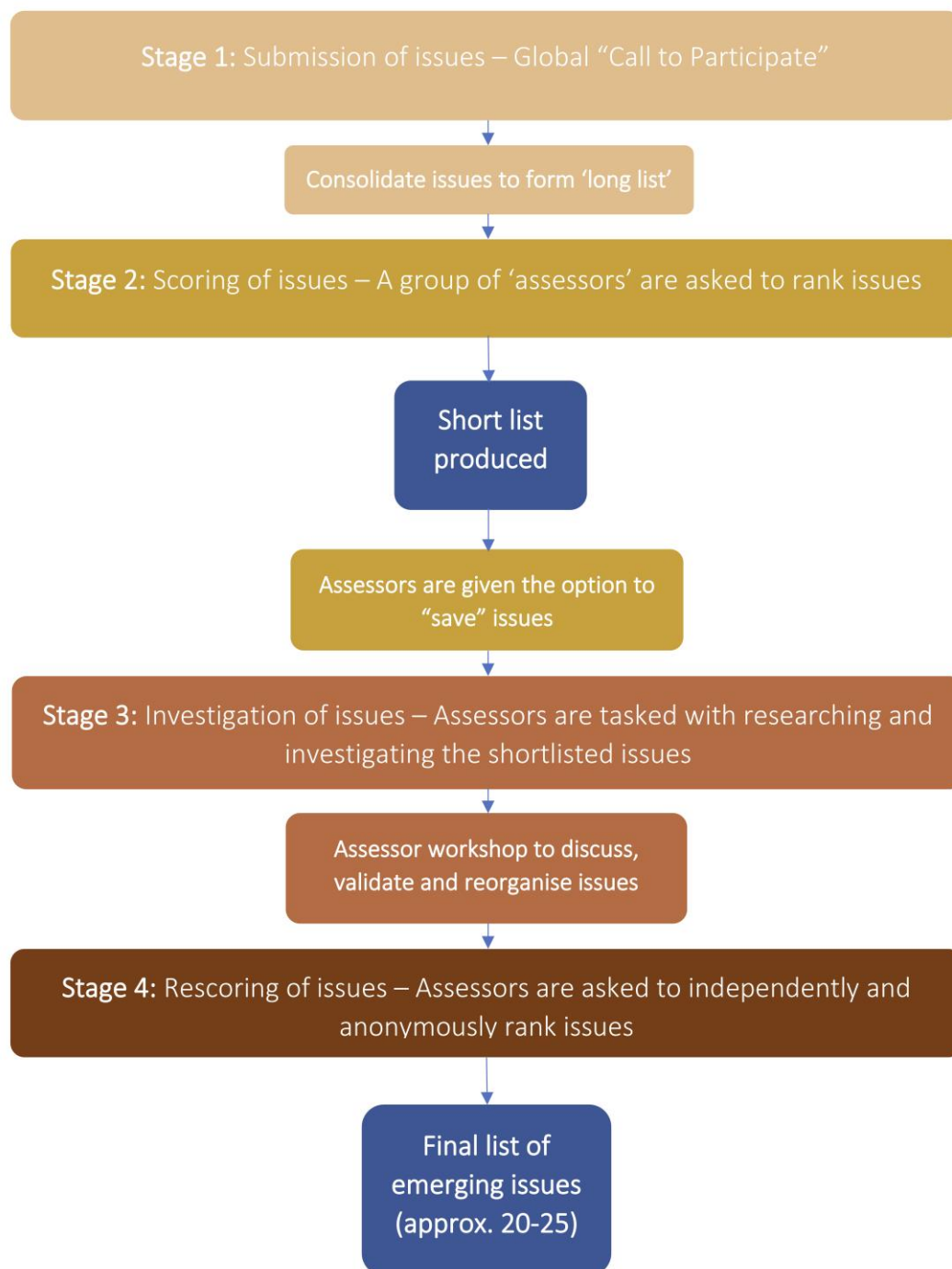
This study will be novel as the first to apply the technique to IUU fishing on a global scale, building on robust methodological approaches used in other horizon scans (Esmail et al., 2020, Sutherland et al., 2010-2020). An online platform will be used to gather diverse input globally.

The Horizon Scanning Process

- **Stage 1: Submission of Issues** A global online call for participation is widely disseminated via appropriate networks and social media.

  o The responses received are reviewed and condensed, with duplicates merged and submissions that are not compatible with the research requirements removed, to form a 'long list' of emerging issues, thematically organised and anonymised.

- **Stage 2: Scoring of Issues** A number of 'assessors' are recruited from the original contributor pool and asked to score submitted issues from 0-1000.

  o Scores are used to rank issues in terms of novelty, plausibility and impact to form an initial short list.
  o The shortlist is circulated to participating contributors, who are given the opportunity to put forward reasoned argument and/or evidence to "save" any issues that did not make the shortlist.

- **Stage 3: Investigation of Issues** Assessors are tasked with further researching each of the issues shortlisted in Stage 2.

  o Each assessor is assigned a number of issues (not their own) from the short-list to investigate, ensuring that each issue is closely examined by multiple individuals.
  o A horizon scanning workshop is undertaken to collate findings and facilitate structured discussion. Issues are validated and reorganised based on the discussion.

- **Stage 4: Rescoring of Issues** Assessors are asked to anonymously score issues revised during Stage 3 to produce a final ranked list of emerging issues.

  o Assessors are asked to contribute written input and help finalise issue descriptions and recommendations.

Following stages 2–4, a 10,000-word research paper is drafted to present findings and make practical recommendations for key stakeholders, with individuals contributing fully from stages 2–4 invited to contribute to

the drafting process and acknowledged as co-authors (expected acknowledgement format: lead authors *with* supporting authors).

Stage 1: Submission of issues – Global "Call to Participate"

Consolidate issues to form 'long list'

Stage 2: Scoring of issues – A group of 'assessors' are asked to rank issues

Short list produced

Assessors are given the option to "save" issues

Stage 3: Investigation of issues – Assessors are tasked with researching and investigating the shortlisted issues

Assessor workshop to discuss, validate and reorganise issues

Stage 4: Rescoring of issues – Assessors are asked to independently and anonymously rank issues

Final list of emerging issues (approx. 20-25)

Proposed Timeline

Stage 1:

      10th January 2022: Deadline for submission of issues

Stage 2:

      31st January 2022: Long list of issues circulated to selected group of assessors

      14th February 2022: Deadline for 1st round of scoring

      28th February 2022: Ranked list circulated for review, and for any discarded issues to be saved

      7th March 2022: Deadline for issues to be saved

Stage 3:

      Mid March 2022: Assessors assigned issues to investigate

      End March 2022: Workshop discussion to validate and analyse issues

Stage 4:

      End April 2022: Deadline for 2nd round of scoring

Publication process:

      July 2022: Publication draft submitted for research editorial and peer review

      September 2022: Envisioned publication

Participant Guidelines

Selection and submission of Issues (Stage 1)

You may identify issues in a variety of ways, for example by scanning reports, articles, presentations, websites or other media covering new discoveries or events. Additionally, you may use your expertise and that of others by discussing ideas in your social and professional networks.
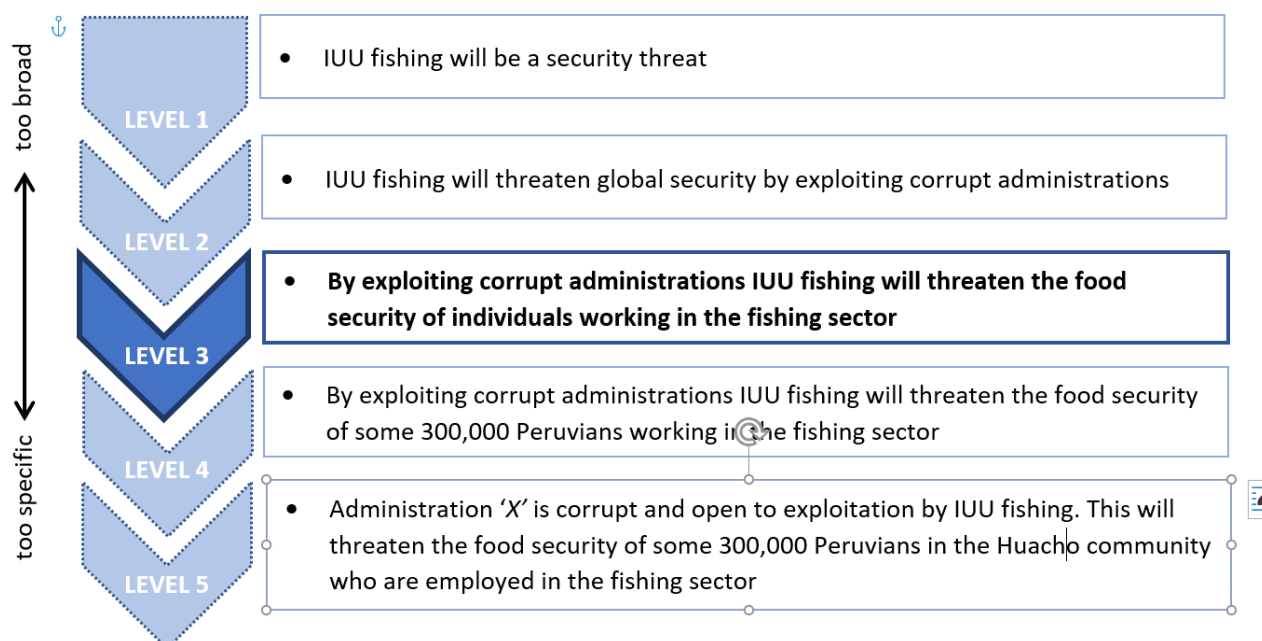
An emerging issue can be:

- A potential emerging trend in relation to patterns of IUU fishing in a warming world.
- A potential future threat to current responses, and/or future opportunity for addressing IUU fishing in a warming world.
- Globally relevant, or specific to a region/locality (if deemed locally important).
- Applicable to one or more marine species or ecosystem impacted by IUU fishing (IUU fishing practices can be defined in either a national and/or global context).
- Related to one or more aspects of IUU fishing trade chains (sourcing, transport mechanisms, marketplaces, consumer demand, legal and regulatory frameworks, convergence with other crimes).

This study will provide an evidence base for pre-emptive policymaking and/or recommendations for on-the ground responses. Therefore, emerging issues should be ones that global society is relatively unprepared for, and which will require a change in practice, policy and/or further research.

We expect contributed issues to reflect a range of scales, from broad themes to specific, localised issues. Please note, we are not looking for submissions which identify a need, gap or an open question. For example, the following is not a suitable issue for this study: "there is a serious need for more research into the changing distribution patterns of anchovy". Issues should include tangible developments and/or examples that can be put in context of a trend or projection. We strongly encourage participants to evidence their responses (either with hyperlinks or text references).

Here is an example of issues at different scales (please note that this example does not relate specifically to climate change as a driver of shifts in IUU fishing):

For the final list of prioritised issues, we are aiming for those at Level 3 (or Level 4–5 if deemed locally important). If an issue is very broad and/or already well established in current knowledge, it may not be the best candidate for the final horizon scanning list. Issues should ideally focus more on a specific element, development, obstacle or trajectory.

Please see here for the results of a recent annual Horizon Scan for Conservation and Environmental Issues and here for one on illegal wildlife trade. These papers, especially the latter, illustrate the framing, specificity and level of detail we seek for submissions.

Format for Submissions

Issues should be submitted through the multi-lingual online survey platform. You may submit up to 3 issues and will be asked to provide the following:

- Basic information about yourself and your work, but with the option of withholding identifiable information. This information will help us to contextualise the issues and understand which issues are seen to be important by people working in different sectors or regions, and at different experience levels. All submissions will be made anonymous prior to further investigation and in published outputs.
- A short phrase or statement (title) of up to 20 words that states and summarises each proposed issue.
- Description (up to 300 words) explaining each proposed issue and indicating what implications are expected for future IUU fishing. Please reference any relevant evidence. You may also detail any policy applications or pre-emptive on-the ground responses, if applicable.

Descriptions should demonstrate how and why each proposed issue meets the criteria of novelty, plausibility and impact (please refer to the section below on scoring for further details).

You may spend as much or as little time as you wish on preparing your submission. However please note:

- Well composed issues will increase chances of being invited to participate in further discussions (online). Participants fully involved in these later stages will be acknowledged as co-authors on the final publication.
- All those who submit issues will also be acknowledged as a contributor unless they wish to remain anonymous.

Scoring and Prioritisation of Issues (Stages 2-4)

All contributed issues will be collated, clustered and anonymised, with duplicates merged and submissions that are not compatible with the research requirements removed. This list will be circulated to all selected assessors for an initial round of scoring. Assessors will be selected based on the quality of their submissions and to ensure the group represents of wide range of expertise, sectors and geographies. All assessors must have submitted at least one issue in stage 1.

The consolidated list and descriptions of issues will then be circulated to stage 2 assessors. Participants will be asked to score issues according to the criteria below (novelty, plausibility, impact). Further instructions will be provided at this stage.

Scoring and discussions will lead to a reduced short-list of issues. Participants will be assigned to investigate one or more issues (not their own) in greater depth (at stages 3-4). This is to encourage in-depth discussion and reflection on each issue, preparing for publication write-up and dissemination.

Criteria for Scoring

Participants will be asked to score issues from 0-1000, with 1000 being the highest priority issue. Scoring should demonstrate how and why each proposed issue fulfils the below criteria:

1. **Novelty:** not already well known among those working to address IUU fishing, though it may be an area of current development;

2. **Plausibility:** having some likelihood of occurring (or continuing to emerge); and

3. **Impact:** the implications and magnitude of potential effects on future patterns of IUU fishing.

Contact Details

For any questions about this research before deciding to participate, please contact: Lauren Young, Research Analyst, Royal United Services Institute, London, SW1A 2ET, UK, Email: laureny@rusi.org

Thank you in advance for participating in this research.