### **Horizon Scan 2019**

- 1 Change in the Capacity of Antarctic Benthos to Store Carbon as Climate Changes
- 2 Extensive Release of Mercury by Thawing Permafrost
- 3 Ecological Effects of Options for Reducing Plastic Pollution
- 4 Effects of Shinorine Sunscreens on Corals and Other Marine Species
- 5 A New Irrigation Canal in Northwest China Supplied by Water from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
- 6 Modification of Weather in the Tibetan Plateau by Cloud Seeding
- 7 Salt-Tolerant Strains of Rice
- 8 US Government Decision not to Regulate Gene-Edited Plants
- 9 Effect on Insects of Transgenic Oilseed Crops that Produce Omega-3 Fatty Acids
- 10 Harnessing Plant Microbiomes for Agricultural Production and Ecosystem Restoration
- 11 Expansion of Plantations and Infrastructure into Indo-Malay Islands
- 12 Development of Fisheries in the Mesopelagic Zone
- 13 Industrial Microbial Feed Production
- 14 Innovative Insurance Products to Share Costs and Benefits of Protecting Natural Assets
- 15 Effects of Noncompliance with the Montreal Protocol on Global Environmental Governance

### **Horizon Scan 2018**

- 1 Thiamine Deficiency as a Possible Driver of Wildlife Population Declines
- 2 Geographic Expansion of Chronic Wasting Disease
- 3 Breaks in the Dormancy of Pathogenic Bacteria and Viruses in Thawing Permafrost
- 4 RNA-Based, Gene-Silencing Pesticides
- 5 Genetic Control of Mammal Populations
- 6 Use of Lasers in Commercial Deep Water Fishing
- 7 Use of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) for Harvesting Atmospheric Water
- 8 Aquaporins Engineered to Increase Plant Salt Tolerance
- 9 Effect of Culturomics on Conservation Science, Policy, and Action
- 10 Changes in the Global Iron Cycle
- 11 Underestimation of Soil Carbon Emissions
- 12 Rapid Climatic Changes on the Qinghai–Tibet Plateau
- 13 International Collaborations to Encourage Marine Protected Area Expansion in the High Seas
- 14 Belt and Road Initiative in China
- 15 Potential Effects on Wildlife of Increases in Electromagnetic Radiation

### **Horizon Scan 2017**

- 1 Manipulating coral symbionts to avoid mass coral bleaching
- 2 Robots to target invasive marine species
- 3 Electronic noses to combat illegal wildlife trade and improve biosecurity
- 4 Bumblebee invasions in new regions
- 5 Extensive use of bacteria and fungi to manage agricultural pests
- 6 Managed bees as vectors
- 7 Sand becomes a scarce resource
- 8 Effects of border fences on wild animals
- 9 Effects of changing waste management on animal movements and populations
- 10 Increasing wind speeds at the sea surface
- 11 Development of floating wind farms
- 12 Creating fuel from bionic leaves
- 13 Lithium-air batteries
- 14 Reverse photosynthesis for biofuel production
- 15 Mineralising anthropogenic carbon dioxide

#### Horizon Scan 2016

|    | Horizon Scan 2016  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Artificial superintelligence   |
| 2  | Changing costs of energy storage and consumption models                        |
| 3  | Ecological civilization policies in China                                      |
| 4  | Electric pulse trawling  |
| 5  | Osmotic power  |
| 6  | Managed bees as vectors  |
| 7  | Unregulated fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean threaten expanding fish stocks |
| 8  | Increasing extent of construction of artifical oceanic islands                 |
| 9  | Increasing aquatic concentrations of testosterone                              |
| 10 | Effects of engineeered nanoparticles on terrestrial ecosystems                 |
| 11 | Satellite access to shipborne automatic identification systems                 |
| 12 | Passive acoustic monitoring to prevent illegal activity                        |
| 13 | Synthetic body parts of endangered animals                                     |
| 14 | Artifical glaciers to regulate irrigation                                      |

# Horizon Scan 2015 Compounds that disrupt the capacity of insects to sense airborne compounds

Invasive species as resevoirs of genetic diversity

| Compounds that disrupt the capacity of insects to sense airborne compounds |
|--|
| Biolplastics from waste  |
| Algae as a replacement for palm oil  |
| Adoption of electric vehicles  |
| Legalisation of recreational drugs   |
| Underground gasification of coal   |
| Pharmaceutical-induced loss of aquatic biofilm                             |
| Sustainable intensification of high-yielding agriculture                   |
| Increases in coral disease in the Indo-Pacific                             |
| Effects on krill of marked decline in Antarctic sea ice                    |
| Novel coastal ecosystems associated with ice retreat                       |
| Increasing the legal status of non-human species                           |
| Impact investing   |
| Reproducibility in environmental science                                   |
| Investor-state dispute settlements in free trade negotiations              |
|  |

## Horizon Scan 2014 Response of financial markets to unburnable Carbo

| 1  | Response of financial markets to unburnable Carbon                             |
|----|--|
| 2  | Extensive land loss in Southeast Asia from subsidence of peatlands             |
| 3  | Carbon solar cells as an alternative source of renewable energy                |
| 4  | Rapid geographic expansion of macro-algal cultivation for biofuels             |
| 5  | Redistribution of global temperature increases among ecosystems                |
| 6  | High-frequency monitoring of land-cover change                                 |
| 7  | Reaccelerated loss of wild rhinoceroses and elephants                          |
| 8  | Increasing scale of eradications of non-native mammals on islands              |
| 9  | Self-sustaining genetic systems for the control of non-native invasive species |
| 10 | Probiotic therapy for amphibians   |
| 11 | Emerging snake fungal disease  |
| 12 | Polyisobutylene as a marine hazard   |
| 13 | Exploitation of Antarctica   |
| 14 | Expansion of ecosystem red listing   |

## **Horizon Scan 2013**

| Horizon Scan 2013   |
|---|
| Rapid growth of concentrated solar power                    |
| Widespread development of thorium-fuelled nuclear power     |
| Seabed-located oil drilling and processing                  |
| Accelerating water cycle                                    |
| Proliferation of hydropower in the Andean Amazon            |
| Species loss as a driver of global environmental change     |
| Vegetarian aquaculture feed                                 |
| Rapid rise in global demand for coconut water               |
| Detecting aquatic species with environmental DNA            |
| Use of coral nurseries for reef restoration                 |
| Forest restoration by micro unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) |
| The 3D printing revolution                                  |
| A link between biodiversity, allergy and autoimmune disease |
|   |

## Horizon Scan 2012

Synthetic genetics

The commercial use of antimicrobial peptides

| 1  | Warming of the deep sea   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Mining in the deep ocean  |
| 3  | Methane venting from beneath the ocean floor                          |
| 4  | Climate-driven colonisations in Antarctic waters                      |
| 5  | Increases in pharmaceutical discharges as human populations age       |
| 6  | Sterile farming to increase food safety                               |
| 7  | Transferring nitrogen-fixing ability to cereals                       |
| 8  | Increased cultivation of perennial cereals                            |
| 9  | Rapid and low-cost genomic sequencing                                 |
| 10 | Electrochemical sea water desalination                                |
| 11 | Rapid development and extensive application of graphene               |
| 12 | Nuclear batteries   |
| 13 | Effect of increased cement demand on karst forest and cave ecosystems |
| 14 | In-stream hydrokinetic turbines                                       |
| 15 | Burning of Arctic tundra  |

### **Horizon Scan 2011**

| 1  | Environmental consequences of increasing milk consumption in Asia   |
|----|---|
| 2  | New greenhouse gases  |
| 3  | Increases in productivity of polar oceans driven by loss of sea ice |
| 4  | Biological impacts of perfluorinated compounds                      |
| 5  | Expansion in mining for lithium used in rechargeable batteries      |
| 6  | Genetic techniques to eradicate mosquitoes                          |
| 7  | Nitric acid rain  |
| 8  | Substantial changes in soil ecology                                 |
| 9  | Denial of biodiversity loss   |
| 10 | Protected area failure  |
| 11 | Re-emergence of rinderpest  |
| 12 | Climate governance  |
| 13 | Transformation of oceans and domestication of marine species        |

14 Vegetation change facilitated by earthworms in North America

15 Hydraulic fracturing

## Horizon Scan 2010

| Microplastic pollution                             |
|--|
| Nanosilver in wastewater                           |
| Synthetic meat                                     |
| Artificial life                                    |
| Stratospheric aerosols                             |
| Promotion of biochar                               |
| Mobile-sensing technology                          |
| Deoxygenation of the oceans                        |
| Changes in denitrifying bacteria                   |
| High-latitude volcanism                            |
| Invasive Indo-Pacific lionfish                     |
| Trans-Arctic dispersal and colonisation            |
| Assisted colonisation                              |
| Possible impact of REDD on non-forested ecosystems |
| Large-scale international land acquisitions        |
|  |

## **Future novel threats and opportunities facing UK**

| 1  | Nanotechnologies   |
|----|--|
| 2  | Invasive potential and possible ecosystem impacts of artificial life and biomimetic robots   |
| 3  | Unintended consequences of pathogens developed by modern biotechnology methods               |
| 4  | Direct impact of novel pathogens   |
| 5  | Impacts of control efforts for novel pathogens   |
| 6  | Facilitation of non-native invasive species through climate change and 'invasional meltdown' |
| 7  | Large-scale restoration for iconic wildlife and habitats                                     |
| 8  | Action to facilitate species range change in the face of climate change                      |
| 9  | Frequency of extreme weather events  |
| 10 | Geo-engineering the planet to mitigate the effects of climate change                         |
| 11 | Implications for biodiversity of the adoption of an ecosystem approach                       |
| 12 | Increased fire risk  |
| 13 | Increasing demand for biofuel and biomass  |
| 14 | Step change in demand for food and hence pressure on land for agriculture                    |
| 15 | Ocean acidification  |

Reduction of coldwater continental shelf marine habitats