



BIG ISSUES IN BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE



WABSI
WEBINAR SERIES

Horizon scanning for conservation

Emerging issues of concern for global biodiversity conservation

- Thursday 5th March 2026
3.30pm – 4.30 pm (Australian Western Standard Time)

ONLINE EVENT

[Register here](#)

Horizon scanning is a systematic approach for identifying emerging trends. The 17th annual, global horizon scan for 2026 identified 15 emerging issues of concern for global biodiversity conservation. They cover technological advances such as tiny machine learning (TinyML) and low power optical artificial intelligence (AI) chips that could revolutionise conservation monitoring.

This webinar presents findings of the horizon scan which was undertaken against a backdrop of accelerated global investment in the development and application of novel technologies; record global cuts in funding for science, including biodiversity research and conservation, and development assistance; and heightened geopolitical instability. The issues identified reflect both risks and opportunities that could impact global biodiversity conservation in the next 5–10 years.

This event is not to be missed if you have an interest in global biodiversity conservation and potential future trajectories.

Registrations are essential.



GUEST SPEAKER



Professor Bill Sutherland

Miriam Rothschild Professor in Conservation Biology and Associate Fellow, Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge UK

Bill is an ecologist and conservation scientist who has showed how behaviour and population ecology could be linked through game theory models of the decisions individuals make and that such models could then be used to predict the consequences of future states, such as agricultural change or climate change.

Much of his career has been devoted to developing novel processes for integrating science and policy including horizon scanning and evidence-based conservation. With over eleven hundred named collaborators, Bill has created www.conservationevidence.com, a website which reviews the evidence for the effectiveness of 3155 conservation actions, and a set of tools for making evidence-based decisions and embedding evidence into practice. He is a regular advisor to government and conservation organisations.

Bill was the President of the British Ecological Society and made a Commander of the British Empire in 2021 for services to evidence-based conservation.

FACILITATOR



Professor Owen Nevin

Chief Executive Officer, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI)

Owen is an experienced conservation biologist and research leader and is the Chief Executive Officer of The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI). Owen's research work has focused on advancing the conservation of threatened species and their habitats through developing better management and understanding of behaviour and ecosystem function, and human impacts including ecotourism and resource. Owen is a member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia. Previous positions include Head of the National School of Forestry (UK), Dean of Graduate Research and Associate Vice-Chancellor at CQUniversity Australia.

Owen has served on the Society for Conservation Biology's European Board and on the Global Board of Governors. He was elected as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and appointed as Anniversary Visiting Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Cumbria.