

Bird Conservation International

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Cover photograph: Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* both face similar conservation threats across their ranges but work to date has largely been undertaken at a national scale with few attempts to collate and assess factors relevant to their conservation at an international scale. In this issue, Fernández-Bellón *et al.* use an expert knowledge approach to evaluate the impact of conservation threats and the effectiveness of conservation strategies for each species across Europe. The perceived impact of threats was broadly similar for both species: ecological factors (predation, extreme weather and prey availability), changes in land use (habitat loss and agricultural intensification) and indirect persecution (accidental nest destruction) were considered to be the greatest threats to breeding Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl. Image credit: © Darío Fernández-Bellón.

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