



## Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations

Version 1.0



# Guidelines

## Section 4

### Planning a translocation

#### 4.1 Goals, objectives and actions

1. Every conservation translocation should have clearly defined goals.
2. Any conservation translocation should follow a logical process from initial concept to design, feasibility and risk assessment, decision-making, implementation, monitoring, adjustment and evaluation.
3. Planning for a conservation translocation can usefully follow the Species Survival Commission's approach to conservation planning for species\* requiring specification of a goal, objectives and actions. Reference to the commonly observed phases of translocated population development may aid planning - Annex 4.
4. Progress reviews are encouraged at all stages, so that the goal(s) is reached through a cyclical process - Figure 2, which allows adjustment in objectives or in time frames based on observed progress (Guidelines Section 8).
5. A Goal is a statement of the intended result of the conservation translocation. It should articulate the intended conservation benefit, and will often be expressed in terms of the desired size and number of populations that will achieve the required conservation benefit either locally or globally, all within an overall time frame.
6. There may be more than one goal, although clarity of purpose may suffer as goals increase in number.
7. Objectives detail how the goal(s) will be realised; they should be clear and specific and ensure they address all identified or presumed current threats to the species.
8. Actions are precise statements of what should be done to meet the objectives; they should be capable of measurement, have time schedules attached, indicate the resources needed and who is responsible and accountable for their implementation. Actions are the elements against which translocation progress will be monitored and assessed (Guidelines Section 8).

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/koahandbook\\_2\\_12\\_00\\_compressed.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/koahandbook_2_12_00_compressed.pdf)

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# Guidelines

## Section 4

### Planning a translocation

#### 4.2 Monitoring programme design

Monitoring the course of a translocation is an essential activity (Guidelines Section 8). It should be considered as an integral part of translocation design, not to be merely added on at a later stage.

The effort invested in developing realistic goals and objectives is the starting point for a monitoring programme; its design should reflect the phases of translocated population development - Annex 4 - and answer at least the following:

- What evidence will measure progress towards meeting translocation objectives and, ultimately, success or failure?
- What data should be collected, where and when, to provide this evidence, and what methods and protocols should be used?
- Who will collect the data, analyse it and ensure safe keeping?
- Who will be responsible for disseminating monitoring information to relevant parties?

# Guidelines

## Section 8

### Monitoring and continuing management

#### 8.1 Monitoring

1. Translocation management is a cyclical process of implementation, monitoring, feedback and adjustment of both biological and non-biological aspects until goals are met or the translocation is deemed unsuccessful - **Figure 2**.
2. Despite thorough translocation design and modelling, inherent uncertainty and risk will lead to both expected and unexpected situations.
3. The monitoring programme (**Guidelines Section 4.3**) is the means to measure the performance of released organisms against objectives, to assess impacts, and provide the basis for adjusting objectives or adapting management regimes or activating an exit strategy. Adequate resources for monitoring should be part of financial feasibility and commitment.
4. Pre-release baseline ecological data add great value to subsequent monitoring information - **Annex 8.1**.
5. Monitoring should identify new threats to the translocated population which were not part of translocation design.
6. The intensity and duration of monitoring of source and translocated populations should be appropriate to each situation.
7. In addition to refining any ongoing translocation, the conclusions from monitoring may guide other translocations.
8. **Annex 8.2** covers the essential elements of post-release monitoring in greater detail:
  - **Demographic performance**  
Key aspects for any translocation should include monitoring of population growth and/or spread; more intensive monitoring to estimate individual survival, reproduction and dispersal may be needed depending on circumstances.
  - **Behavioural monitoring**  
Monitoring the behaviour of translocated individuals can be a valuable, early indicator of translocation progress; but its value depends on comparative data from either comparable natural populations or the same individuals before removal from their source population.
  - **Ecological monitoring**  
Where a translocation is designed to create or restore an ecological function, progress towards such objectives should be assessed; any ecological impacts arising from a translocation should be assessed and determination made as to whether these are beneficial, benign or harmful, potentially enabling rational changes in management.

# Guidelines

## Section 8

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#### 8.1 Monitoring

- **Genetic monitoring**  
Where genetic issues are identified as being critical to the success of a translocation, monitoring can be used to assess genetic diversity in establishing populations or the effects of reinforcement or other management.
- **Health and mortality monitoring**  
This assesses the extent that an establishing population is experiencing disease, or adverse welfare conditions or mortality, as a basis for identifying underlying causes.
- **Social, cultural and economic monitoring**  
Participation in monitoring may be a practical means of engaging the interest and support of local communities, and can be used to assess attitudes towards the translocation, and any benefits and costs, direct and indirect, arising.

# Guidelines

## Section 9

### Dissemination of information - Annex 9

Regular reporting and dissemination of information should start from the intention to translocate and throughout subsequent progress. It serves many purposes both for each conservation translocation and collectively:

1. To create awareness and support for the translocation in key affected parties.
2. To meet any statutory requirements.
3. To contribute to the body of information on, and understanding of, translocations; collaborative efforts to develop translocation science are helped when reports are published in peer-reviewed journals (as an objective indicator of high quality), and include well-documented but unsuccessful translocations or methods as well as successful ones.

4. The means of dissemination are many (for example through conventional print, radio and film media, through mechanisms such as participatory appraisal and planning, and increasingly through internet-based communications such as virtual presence meetings, and social networks). The media, formats and languages used should all be appropriate for the target audience.