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British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums

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BIAZA Conservation Translocations Policy

Preamble

BIAZA members are increasingly directly involved in, or providing funding support for, conservation translocations (including reintroduction, reinforcement, conservation introductions and ecological replacements). When successful, these conservation translocations offer substantial reward and are to be celebrated as conservation success stories. However, conservation translocations are difficult, can require substantial resources and their chances of success are uncertain. Furthermore, they are highly visible conservation actions that attract the attention of a wide public audience. BIAZA encourages its members to embrace the power of conservation translocations but to do so from a well-informed and well-justified standpoint. This will be achieved if all members adopt best practice in implementation of conservation translocations, or ensure it is being followed in projects that are being provided financial support. Doing so will allow a greater chance of success whilst also not bringing the association into disrepute or damaging the association in any way. BIAZA condemns any illegal releases and/or those translocations carried out without due planning, including necessary government approval. Any releases must adhere to IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations and for species with established breeding programmes (EAZA /BIAZA), should align with long term goals / have coordinator approval.

BIAZA Member Requirements

BIAZA members must follow recognised best practice as detailed in the IUCN Conservation Translocation Specialist Group Guidelines for Reintroduction and Other Conservation Translocations

(IUCN, 2013) and/or those nationally accepted guidelines that supersede, or work in conjunction with, these. Within the UK this includes the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations (National Species Reintroduction Forum, 2014) and Reintroductions and other conservation translocations: code and guidance for England (references below). For assistance with interpreting these guidelines please contact the BIAZA Reintroduction Advisory Group (admin@biaza.org.uk).

BIAZA Members actively contributing to any native species translocation programme must be able to provide upon request, documented evidence that proper due diligence has been carried out in project planning. This must include completion of a [project scoping form](#) (or relevant national equivalent document), regardless of whether the species in question requires a licence for release. BIAZA's Reintroduction Advisory Group are on-hand to provide assistance with project scoping, so contact the BIAZA Office for support (admin@biaza.org.uk).

Useful References

Defra (2021). Conservation Translocation Code and Guidance, Scoping Form and Licence Application Form: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reintroductions-and-conservation-translocations-in-england-code-guidance-and-forms>

IUCN. (2013). Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. <https://www.iucn.org/content/guidelines-reintroductions-and-other-conservation-translocations>

IUCN (2021) Guidelines for Amphibian Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations. https://www.iucn-amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Ampb-Guidelines_170521_Final.pdf

IUCN Global Reintroduction Perspectives. (2018). <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47668>

NatureScot Reintroduction Forum. (2014). Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/reintroducing-native-species/scottish-code-conservation-translocations>