



Translocation approval principles

Principle 1: Projects must ultimately contribute to a measurable conservation benefit for a species in the wild

The conservation of threatened species aims to maintain, supplement or establish self-sustaining populations in the wild. To promote the species' chances of long-term survival in nature.

A project must prove that it will contribute to improving the conservation status of the species including:

- improving the measure of an IUCN listing criteria relevant to the species assessed listing status. For example, a measurable conservation benefit at the levels of a population, species or ecosystem
- aiming for an appropriate population size for the new population
- maintaining the security of the new population through appropriate land tenure and sufficient on-going management capacity and resource commitments
- managing the threats and conservation of the species at new population sites for the period required to maintain ongoing viability of the population
- providing the use of any new population as a source population for other projects
- increasing knowledge about the species recovery and management
- mitigating the risks and improving management of source populations.

Principle 2: Retention of genetic diversity is maximised

A project must show that it maximises the chances of retaining genetic diversity in the long term. Alternative strategies, including taking no action, should be evaluated based on their potential to optimize the preservation of genetic diversity.

Principle 3: Decisions are guided by planning documents

Management and regulatory decisions relating to threatened species are guided by planning documents such as conservation and recovery plans established to promote Article 8 of the *Convention for Biological Diversity* and *Aichi Target 12*.

These decisions also need to be made within the legislative framework existing in each jurisdiction which may include other statutory planning documents and threatened species management principles.

Planning documents include those prepared, published, or otherwise endorsed by a government agency including:

- Recovery Plans

- Conservation Plans and Advices
- Action Plans and Statements
- Other statutory planning documents aimed at maximising the long-term survival of populations in the wild
- plans subsidiary or supplementary to such plans, including metapopulation and insurance population plans.

Principle 4: Decisions are guided by advisory and governance bodies

Management and regulatory decisions relating to threatened species should also be guided by the advice of advisory and governance bodies. Such bodies include recovery teams, species working groups, scientific committees or other advisory bodies acknowledged by Commonwealth, State, and Territory governments. This is particularly the case in circumstances where changes in the species status, environment, or information have rendered published plans out-of-date.

Principle 5: Decisions are guided by policy and International guidelines

Proposed activities should be made and assessed in accordance with relevant policy and international standards and guidelines.

Policies clarify the processes so that decisions are consistent and transparent. Government conservation agencies may have policies relating to the taking, keeping, or movement of threatened species that are usually available on websites or on request.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) develops guiding documents to foster effective conservation actions. They guide both the development of policies and proposals and inform decisions on the issuing of authorities. The IUCN publishes guidelines on its website, including those relating to:

- privately protected areas
- reintroductions and other conservation translocations
- species conservation planning
- ex-situ management for species conservation
- wildlife disease risk analysis.

Principle 6: Projects are collaboratively developed

Projects developed in collaboration with regulators, advisory bodies, and other partners are more likely to be successful than those developed in isolation.

Where the translocation affects the interests of First Nations peoples, the translocation should be led or co-designed with relevant First Nations people.

In addition to fostering greater investment, collaborative development allows early detection of significant impediments to project success, and identifies the type, order, and requirements of any approvals required.

Principle 7: The Crown retains control over or interests in animals, plants and genetic diversity where necessary for conservation purposes

Where threatened organisms or genetic material are important for the conservation of a species, their use and management must be primarily directed to maximising their contribution to the long-term conservation of the species.

Government agencies, as representatives of the Crown and the public interest, are ultimately responsible for the long-term conservation of species. To perform this function, governments need to exercise control or management over important populations, organisms or genetic material. This can be achieved by regulatory authorisation, or agreement, and should occur for all circumstances involving animals or genetic material important to the conservation of the species.

Principle 8: Projects must be likely to succeed

Projects must demonstrate a high likelihood of success. Each element of the project must be realistic and feasible, sufficient resources are available in the short and long term, and that monitoring, reporting and governance are sound.

For example, translocation projects should demonstrate that:

- the conservation management of the species is well understood
- conservation can be achieved at the proposed new site through effective threat mitigation
- that the area is sufficient to maintain a viable population
- that sufficient numbers and genetically diverse founder animals can be sourced without detriment to the source population or species
- on-going commitment and ability to measure and report progress, manage threats, and determine reasons for success and/or failure.

The history of successful translocations for the species (or a sympatric species) may support such a proposal.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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