

Reintroduction Working Group Reports

The Reintroduction working group had a joint brain storming session generating issues related to working group topics to decide if it was possible and advantageous to have one working group or we should split in more groups.

Issues generated

1. Are there any existing benchmarks for success – captive versus wild animals?
2. Should the Zoo community be more actively engaged?
3. How to prepare captive bred animals to maximise post release survival?
4. What are the other sources for captive bred animals? Can we utilise other institutions in reintroduction?
5. How do you choose the best site?
6. Sanctuary capacity – can primate releases from sanctuaries adequately satisfy RSG guidelines?
7. What to do with urban primates? Rescued animals?
8. What to do with surplus zoo animals?
9. At what point do you consider captured animals as captive/wild? What is a release/reintroduction? (Snail - Vietnam)?
10. At what time would you consider releasing animals within their historic range?
11. When do you evaluate? How often? Time/issues?
12. Conservation vs commercial utilisation/sale. Is sustainable commercial utilisation acceptable within the context of reintroduction?
13. What to do with circus animals?
14. Is commercial utilisation an appropriate way to achieve reintroduction?
15. Eco-tourism – should there be generic guidelines for reintroduced animals or project specific?
16. How long do you continue post release monitoring – how do you factor in the monitoring in the planning?
17. When does a reintroduction programme become a reintroduction programme? How do you get legal endorsement of a scientific/proper reintroduction project?
18. How do we get the message about appropriate reintroduction methodologies?
19. Are there ways to shorten the reintroduction process to satisfy government requirements?
20. Should conservation breeding for reintroduction be a zoo priority?
21. What would trigger a zoo to embark on a reintroduction project?
22. How do we measure success? When do we stop releasing animals?

Issue consolidating

Issue number

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| A. Commercial utilisation | 12, 14, 15 |
| B. Evaluating success | 1, 11, 16, 22 |
| C. Surplus animals | 6, 7, 8, 13 |
| D. Source issues | 4, 9 |
| E. Planning issues | 3, 5, 10, 11, 16, 22 |
| F. Following guidelines | 5, 6, 15, 19 |
| G. Role of zoos/non-traditional breeding centres | 2, 4, 20, 21 |
| H. Communication | 17, 18, 19 |

Group split and issues

Because of the diversity of issues and the large group of people it was decided to split into two working groups that each would cover the following of the issues above:

Group 1: B + E + F + H

Group 2: A + C + D + G

Reintroduction Working Group 1 Report

Participants: Mie-Hsiu Hwang, Joe J. C. Guo, Chang Lin, K. Y. Lue, Jason S. C. Chin, Hang Lee, Bart Hiddinga, Tilo Nadler, Willie Labuschagne, David Lucas (flip-chart recorder), Nan Schaffer (presenter), David Reed, Fred Launay (facilitator), Akira Murayama, M. Nael Abu Zeid, Frands Carlsen (recorder), Holly Hunt, Mark Craig, Greg Geise

The group started discussing the very diverse topics identified during the issue generation process, trying to prioritise them and reached the conclusion that it would not be possible to produce a valuable set of objectives and action steps on such a set of diverse and very specific problems in the relatively short time during the working group sessions. There was consensus in the group that focusing on the reintroduction guidelines and the way they are followed (or not) would cover a lot of the ground in the initial brain-storming topics.

Clarification:

Starting point of reintroduction guidelines is the reintroduction area not the source. Other guidelines exist for e.g. rehabilitation, but they are not the same. From RSG point of view you got a piece of land you want to introduce animals to and then you look for appropriate animals for reintroduction. This is opposed to surplus situation where there is a source and the possibility for reintroduction is looked into for different purposes. From RSG point of view reintroduction is solely for conservation purposes. The guidelines are adopted as the official IUCN statement on reintroduction. They are also adopted by some countries as their official policy on reintroduction. It is first here that they are legally binding. The confiscation and rehabilitation guidelines are adopted by CITES.

Problem statement

There are many reintroduction projects where practitioners do not follow guidelines resulting in a large rate of failure or risk of failure. The problem can be split into:

1. Stakeholders not knowing the guidelines
2. Stakeholders knowing the guidelines but not wanting to follow them
3. Stakeholders knowing the guidelines but unable to follow them

How do we make sure that the RSG guidelines are available to all interest groups, landowners, governments, NGOs, captive breeding institutions? How do we make sure they are implemented? How far do you follow the guidelines? What are the difficulties? How can they be addressed?

Who are the stakeholders?

- Policy makers
- GOs; UN; National, regional, Provincial, local
- NGOs: IUCN, Members, SGs, WWF etc., Animal Welfare organisations;
- Relevant scientific fields;
- Reintroduction practitioners;
- Animal providers -- Zoos, Private individuals, Nature reserves
- Landowners

1. Stakeholders do not know the guidelines: Why?

- Not referred to by academic field
- Not part of government policies
- RSG – limited distribution of guidelines?
- Not disseminated into more specialised groups, vets etc.
- Not aware of the complexities of reintroductions and thus not looking for information
- Lack of communication between IUCN specialist groups
- Native language problems (not enough translations)

Objectives

- More efficient dissemination of guidelines (more targeted, translations)
- Wider distribution of the guidelines (send to more people)
- Increasing the awareness and importance about the nature/complexity of reintroductions.
- More RSG members

Actions

- Action: Direct mail of guidelines + cover letter (regular circulations) that explains the issues related to reintroductions.
- Target: IUCN members, reintroduction practitioners
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: 18 months, ongoing
- Action:** Identify need for more translations via request through RSG listserve
- Target: RSG listserve members
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: as requested
- Action: Make available more translations for other language areas
- Target: Countries not covered by present translations
- Who:RSG
- Action: Produce feature article
- Target: Professional, specialist publications
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Action: Workshops
- Target: All stakeholders
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: ongoing
- Action: Link with other NGOs' websites
- Target: NGOs
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: ongoing

- Action: Improved marketability (incorporate examples, case studies etc. into guidelines)
- Target: All stakeholders
- Who: RSG
- Timeframe: as funding source has been identified, as soon as possible
- Action: Promote adoption of guidelines by zoo associations and other relevant professional associations
- Target: Associations
- Who: RSG
- Action: Make available PPT. presentation, covering issues in feature article, on website
- Target: All stakeholders
- Who: RSG

2. People know the guidelines but don't want to follow them. Why?

- Lack of understanding
- Time consuming – too cumbersome
- Too costly to follow
- Territoriality issues, not wanting rules to be imposed, personal/institutional agendas
- Conflicting priorities (e.g. surplus)
- Not deemed appropriate for some species

Objectives

- Policies of reintroduction established at national government level/ international convention
- Demonstrate effectiveness of guidelines

Actions

- Action: Convey the costs of not following guidelines (using review analysis results)
- Target: Practitioners and other stakeholders
- Who:RSG
- Action: Analyse the impact of reintroduction programmes
- Target: -
- Who:RSG
- Action: Review effectiveness of guidelines and implement possible changes
- Target: -
- Who:RSG
- Timeframe: 4 years, by RSG + committee to create on behalf of RSG
- Action: Review existing government policies and international conventions
- Target: IUCN members (state level)
- Who: RSG request, Mark Craig (for Australia)

- RSG to IUCN members + IUN Environment Law Centre + specific individuals, 12 months

3. People know the guidelines but have trouble following guidelines. Why ?

- Financial problems
- Political objections/obstruction or non motivation
- Legal aspects
- Time limits
- Logistics problems
- Lack of support by community
- Lack of knowledge and expertise level
- Guidelines are thought of as "all or nothing "
- Not enough details
- Guidelines non-applicable to a specific project

Objectives

- Make guidelines more practical

Actions

- Action: Identify different level of importance of elements in the guidelines
- Help to understand the complexity of reintroduction projects
- Make the guidelines easier to read, to understand ; use examples
- Who: RSG
- Action: Develop a manual for reintroduction, electronic with follow-up and interactive work
- Who : RSG + CBSG + practitioners - specific work : RSG to write a background
- Action: Develop a directory of regional advisors
- Who: RSG
- Action: Develop taxon/environment specific guidelines
- Who: RSG, relevant specialist groups when need/request arise
- Immediate recommendations:
Subgroup will formulate a set of recommendations for WAZA and regional zoo associations to adopt reintroduction guidelines and bring this forward to the WAZA meeting.
- Who: Nan Schaffer, Sanjay Molur, others

Reintroduction Working Group 2 Report

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DAY 1

- A. Commercial Utilization (12, 14, 15)
- C. Surplus Animals (6, 7, 8, 13)
- D. Source Issues (4, 9)
- G. Role of Zoos/Non-traditional Breeding Ctrs (2, 4, 20, 21)

A. Commercial Utilization (12, 14, 15)

12. Conservation vs Commercial Utilization/Sale.

Is sustainable commercial utilization acceptable to zoos within the context of reintroduction?

14. Is commercial utilization an appropriate way to achieve reintroduction?

15. Should there be generic guidelines about ecotourism and reintroduction?

C. Surplus Animals (6, 7, 8, 13)

6. Can primate releases from sanctuaries adequately satisfy RSG Guidelines?

7. What to do with urban/rescued animals?

8. What to do with surplus zoo animals?

13. What to do with circus animals?

D. Source Issues (4, 9)

4. What are the other sources for captive bred animals? Can we utilize other institutions (non traditional) in reintroduction?

9. At what point do you considered captured animals as captive/wild?

G. Role of Zoos/Non-traditional Breeding Centres (2, 4, 20, 21)

2. Should the zoo community be more actively engaged in reintroduction?

4. What are the other sources for captive bred animals? Can we utilize other institutions (non traditional) in reintroduction?

20. Should conservation breeding for reintroduction be a zoo priority?

21. What would trigger the zoo to embark on a reintroduction project?

DAY 2 Session 1. (Discussion of D & G first two half hours)

i. Should zoos be more involved? YES

Captive breeding can be increased and the genetic stock provided can be good. Zoos can provide the stock but can they be totally responsible for the follow-up studies and monitoring (staff time, cost, etc)?

* ii. How should zoos be involved with reintroduction (conservation breeding, fund-raising, partners, governments, networks)? YES but how?

* iii. How to help zoos develop conservation breeding progs for reintro? Zoos have to follow IUCN guidelines. Zoos should be more involved as long as they should follow IUCN guidelines and they should be involved from the first stage of planning onwards.

iv. Need to have baseline and metrics to measure improvement in success? [Talk to other group and see if they are addressing evaluation of these data.]

INCREASE IN THE ROLE OF ZOOS IN REINTRODUCTION CAN ONLY BE MEASURED WHEN MORE ACCURATE METRICS CAN BE ESTABLISHED FOR CURRENT BASELINE OF INVOLVEMENT.

* v. How can non-traditional zool. facilities be better utilized both to increase the magnitude of captive-source animals for reintroduction, and provide individuals that are better adapted to the rigors of release.

vi. At what point do you consider a wild-born animal a captive animal ?

[NOTES: Only small percentage of source animals for reintroduction programs from zoos. Many from Government programs, University programs. Semantics may be the problem with understanding of Fred's data.

What should be considered zoo source and what should not? Increasing levels of off-display animals being put forward to reintro. progs. Are these zoo or not? Do we care? Is it necessary to define this? In South Africa there are animal traders and they could be a source for animals for reintro. In Thailand there are also zoo owned land with animals that are not on display. Zoos could utilize their own animals for reintroduction. Worry about zoos doing non-appropriate reintroduction

If in fact there is a goal to encourage zoos to be more involved in (re)introduction then should the data be reanalyzed? To measure improvement/success we need to have a baseline and metrics.

Zoos should be more involved as long as they should follow IUCN guidelines and they should be involved from the first stage of planning onwards.

Bodies that begin reintro. progs (governments) may not contact zoos when they begin this process. They may not know that zoos are willing to get involved. Does every zoo understand and utilize IUCN guidelines? There is a communication issue here.]

(Discussion C third half hour)

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF SURPLUS ANIMALS?

* Urban wildlife, human/animal conflict
Circus animals

- * Confiscated/illegal animals
- * Reckless (Excess) breeding (both zoo and non-zoo/commercial)
- Rescued/orphan animals
- Experimental/lab animals

INDIGENOUS (pure/hybrid: genetics)

- Urban wildlife, human/animal conflict
- Circus animals
- Confiscated/illegal animals
- Reckless breeding (both zoo and non-zoo/commercial)
- Rescued/orphan animals
- Experimental/lab animals

EXOTIC (pure/hybrid: genetics)

- Circus animals
- Confiscated/illegal animals
- Reckless breeding (both zoo and non-zoo/commercial)
- Experimental/lab animals

What does this group want to do to address the surplus animals issue? Three sources will be addressed

6. Genetics a problem as they don't know the source of these animals.

7, 8, 13. What to do with urban animals (could be 1000 monkeys) ? Surplus zoo animals can be phased out with breeding controls. It is the unplanned (urban/circus) animals that are brought into the zoos that are the problem?

(Discussion A last half hour)

15. Ecotourism is a policy issue should we address this issue? Ecotourism is utilization.

What are the ways in which commercial utilization issues will affect reintroduction?

- * Are commercial venues appropriate for recipient sites? What is acceptable/non-acceptable commercial utilization
- A. (Private) Commercial venues: (1) consumptive / (2) non-consumptive
- B. Commercial sales: (1) native / (2) non-native

DAY 2 Session 2

iv. Need to have baseline and metrics to measure improvement in success?

- (1) Reanalysis of data (presented by Fred L.)
- (2) Generate new analysis using a new database identifying the specifics of current zoo involvement
- (3) RSG & CBSG work together

*** ACTION STEPS RECOMMENDED**

* ii. How should zoos be involved with reintroduction (conservation breeding, fund-raising, partners, governments, networks)? YES but how?

- (1) Encourage zoos to partner more broadly with conservation NGOs, governments, stakeholders
- (2) educate zoo managers about different ways in which zoos can be involved and encourage zoo staff to travel to

reintroduction areas/projects

(3) make animals available, budget for transportation costs (where possible) and provide husbandry, veterinary & technical expertise

(4) educate public and decision makers that are external to the zoo about reintroduction .

* iii. How to help zoos develop conservation breeding programs for reintro? Zoos have to follow IUCN guidelines. Zoos should be more involved as long as they should follow IUCN guidelines and they should be involved from the first stage of planning onwards. Regional CBSG networks and regional/national associations could be utilized to

(1) discuss and explain the information in the IUCN Guidelines to zoos so they can focus on guidelines as a tool for planning

(2) run training programmes / workshops for zoos

(3) print the information on the RSG CD of all guidelines and newsletters and distribute it to all their members

(4) communicate with national government conservation authorities

* v. How can non-traditional zoological facilities be better utilized both to increase the magnitude of captive-source animals for reintroduction, and provide individuals that are better adapted to the rigors of release.

What can non-traditional zoological facilities do to be more effective in reintroduction?

If enough technology, resources, finance, etc., available then non-traditional non-range zoological facilities could be used as the training ground for animals (some training, acclimation, adaptation: things that are in conflict with display).

*** ACTION STEPS RECOMMENDED**

What are we to do with surplus animals from:

* Urban wildlife, human/animal conflict

This issue should only be addressed in situations where human/animal conflict cases have direct involvement of local or regional zoos.

- euthanasia (in some places)
- 'management until death' of the surplus
- establish support/retirement facilities, where appropriate
- reintroduction/re-enforcement according to RSG Guidelines, where appropriate
- place the animals in research projects (e.g. preparing for release)
- incorporate into managed breeding programmes

* Confiscated/illegal animals

Depending on taxonomic groups it may be recommended to release confiscated animals in as short a time as possible if the RSG Guidelines are followed.

- euthanasia (in some places)
- 'management until death' of the surplus
- establish support/retirement facilities, where appropriate
- reintroduction/re-enforcement according to RSG Guidelines, where appropriate
- place the animals in research projects (e.g. preparing for release)

- incorporate into managed breeding programmes
- * Excess breeding (both zoo and non-zoo/commercial)
To whatever degree we can we should encourage zoos to work with partners, to breed animals responsibly, and within RSG Guidelines.

Reproductive management should be improved to prevent surplus

Surplus animals in zoos should not be released just because they are surplus.

- euthanasia (in some places)
- 'management until death' of the surplus
- establish support/retirement facilities, where appropriate
- reintroduction/re-enforcement according to RSG Guidelines, where appropriate
- place the animals in research projects (e.g. preparing for release)

*ACTION STEPS RECOMMENDED

- * Are commercial venues appropriate for recipient sites?
What is acceptable/non-acceptable commercial utilization?

A. (Private) Commercial venues:

- (1) consumptive should be avoided.
- (2) non-consumptive should be encouraged (assuming native species)

B. Commercial sales venues:

- (1) native
- (2) non-native

Only discussing native animals within their historic range.

Do not agree to supply animals to areas where they may be hunted in the short term (commercial venues / game farms).

Reintroduction programmes may end up with populations that need to be harvested eventually.

Commercial sales venues may be supplied with animals as long as there is a legal contract that excludes sale of animal and first-generation progeny and establishes a sustainable population without further reintroductions.

Reintroduction programmes may end up with sustainable populations from which some are eventually sold.

PRESENTATION (DAY 3)

Here are the SMART-specific recommendations of this working group's discussions.

ACTION STEPS FOR IMPROVING THE INTEGRATION OF CAPTIVE-BREEDING PROGRAMMES WITH REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMMES FOR CONSERVATION

- (1) Communicate working group recommendations/actions steps to WAZA, RSG and all regional associations and/or national zoological authorities (within 6 months)
- (2) Within 2 years formation of reintroduction advisory groups (including a main liaison to the RSG) within each regional association and/or national zoological authority. Including:

- Distribution of all RSG materials to all member zoos within each regional/national zoo association
- Distribution of CBSG materials to all member zoos within each regional/national zoo association
- (3) A regional member of CBSG should be a member of RSG

(4) Within 2 years every regional association and/or national zoological authority should have a training workshop on and with RSG (with academic community, conservation NGOs and governments, as well as zoo communities)

(5) Within 2 years each regional association and/or national zoological authority should have a symposium about reintroduction at their annual meeting (with academic community, conservation NGOs and governments, as well as zoo communities)

(6) Encourage the reintroduction advisory group within the regional associations and/or national zoo authority to work with RSG to clarify the involvement of zoos and captive breeding facilities in reintroduction programmes because: INCREASE IN THE ROLE OF ZOOS IN REINTRODUCTION CAN ONLY BE MEASURED WHEN MORE ACCURATE METRICS CAN BE ESTABLISHED FOR CURRENT BASELINE OF INVOLVEMENT.

- (1) Reanalysis of data (presented by Fred L.)
- (2) Generate new analysis using a new database identifying the specifics of current zoo involvement
- (3) RSG & CBSG work together

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CBSG RSG WORKING GROUPS TO WAZA, 29-31 October 2004, Taipei, Taiwan

Reintroduction was the theme of this year's CBSG meeting in Taipei with the participation of the IUCN/SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group. Two working groups were formed. One group discussed the RSG Reintroduction Guidelines and their implementation, and the second group discussed the role of zoos and their increased involvement in reintroduction projects.

The general consensus was that the RSG Reintroduction Guidelines were useful and would improve the quality of reintroduction projects if followed but it was also felt that their distribution and awareness about them was still insufficient within the zoo community and zoo-governing organizations.

The other conclusion was that the zoo community could and should be more involved in reintroduction projects not only by providing animals but also by providing veterinary/ husbandry skills, funding, technical expertise and training.

(1) We would recommend that RSG, CBSG and WAZA co-operate in circulating the RSG Guidelines to all WAZA members.

(2) CBSG and RSG encourage WAZA to adopt the RSG Reintroduction Guidelines formally as part of their "Code of Ethics and Welfare" (EAZA, ARAZPA and SAZARC have already done this).