

## APPENDIX TWO

### IUCN Guidelines for Re-introductions

Restrictions within the framework of these Guidelines with regards to Morgans Rehabilitation & Release

The IUCN GUIDELINES for Re-introductions were drafted in response to an increase in the occurrence of re-introduction projects worldwide. It is noted in their document that 'These guidelines are intended to act as a guide for procedures useful to re-introduction programmes and do not represent an inflexible code of conduct.'

Under the Guidelines Re-introduction document is a section labeled

#### 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Morgan's case does not fall precisely under any category within this framework but we outline how we have assessed that Morgan could be covered by these Terms (see text sections starting with FMG).

Numbering follows the original scheme as laid out in the IUCN document.

**"Re-introduction"**: an attempt to establish a species **(2)** in an area which was once part of its historical range, but from which it has been extirpated or become extinct **(3)** ("Re-establishment" is a synonym, but implies that the re-introduction has been successful).

FMG. Morgan is a free born animal that would return to the wild after a limited amount of time spent in captivity.

**"Translocation"**: deliberate and mediated movement of wild individuals or populations from one part of their range to another.

FMG. Morgan is a wild animal to be translocated from a captive facility back to her natal home range.

**"Re-inforcement/Supplementation"**: addition of individuals to an existing population of conspecifics.

FMG. Morgan originated from the population she will be returned to.

#### 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RE-INTRODUCTION

##### a. Aims:

The principle aim of any re-introduction should be to establish a viable, free-ranging population in the wild, of a species, subspecies or race, which has become globally or locally extinct, or extirpated, in the wild. It should be re-introduced within the species' former natural habitat and range and should require minimal long-term management.

FMG. We are aware that in Morgan's specific case there won't be any establishment of a new free-ranging population, species or race; nevertheless we are firmly convinced that following the IUCN Guidelines this specific rehabilitation and release project will enhance the local population of orca through the re-introduction of a breeding female.

Re-introducing a female who could potentially breed is vitally important in the context of the fact that the Norwegian population orca was severely culled in the past (e.g., 143 male orca and 173 female orca (of which 107 contained fetuses) were killed during the period

1938-67 and 1978-81 (Christensen 1984)).

#### 4. PRE-PROJECT ACTIVITIES

##### (iii) Choice of release site and type

- For a re-introduction, there should be no remnant population to prevent disease spread, social disruption and introduction of alien genes.
- The re-introduction area should have assured, long-term protection (whether formal or otherwise).

FMG. We believe that in this specific case the presence of population of origin will be the key point and condition for her release. Morgan has been given a 'clean bill of health' as outlined by van Elk (2010). Furthermore, Morgans health will be strictly monitored whilst she is held at DeltaPark Neeltje Jans and before moving her to a sea-pen in Norway.

The Norwegian Government is a signatory to a wide range of conservation treaties and conventions, such as CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a country they recognize the value of the marine area off the Lofoten Islands (The Royal Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (2006) page 58-59), where Morgan could potentially be released. However they also recognize that there is limited data on many species of marine mammals (see page 109, Section 8.3.2 Marine mammals for details).

#### 4b. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Re-introductions are generally long-term projects that require the commitment of long-term financial and political support.
- Socio-economic studies should be made to assess impacts, costs and benefits of the re-introduction programme to local human populations.

FMG. We are aware that the financial issue is important and certainly not to be underestimated. Many of our members have long term experience of fund raising and many of our members can count on the precious help of different benefactors and on the precious contribution to the public. Clearly, political support must be granted and along with it at least partial financial coverage of costs and expenses.

Interaction and interference with human activities (fisheries) is known and documented but in any way it ever resulted detrimental or dangerous for the human population.

#### REFERENCES

Christensen, I. (1984). "Growth and reproduction of killer whales, *Orcinus orca*, in Norwegian coastal waters." Reports of the International Whaling Commission **Special Issue 6**: 253-258.

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (2006). Report No. 8 to the Storting (2005–2006). Integrated Management of the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea and the Sea Areas off the Lofoten Islands. Pp 144.