

## Um- und Wiederansiedlung von Amphibien und Reptilien – eine Übersicht mit Bewertungen und Empfehlungen

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### Translocation and reintroduction of amphibians and reptiles – a review with evaluations and recommendations

The two most important reasons for the translocation and reintroduction of amphibians and reptiles at present are on the one hand the motivation to foster rare species through relocation in areas where they occurred in the past, on the other hand the obligation to fulfil the demands of conservation laws within the framework of the European Habitats Directive. Translocations partially linked with time-limited maintenance in captivity and breeding are increasingly used. Despite legally strict requirements and numerous critical and negative reports in the published literature, such translocations receive a broad application in order to prevent killing and population damage, but their efficacy has not been tested in many cases. The projects presented in this review already show a wide spectrum concerning methodology, intensity, duration and reliability of translocations and reintroductions. For all measures (capture, displacing, time-limited maintenance in captivity, breeding, releasing) guidelines by authorities which specify methodology, minimum standards and expertise are missing. In combination with further literature it becomes obvious that guidelines are urgently needed and such guidelines have to be claimed in the context of certificate permits. Building up a central register for translocations and reintroductions could help to develop consistent standards and to learn from previous mistakes. For reintroductions as well as for translocations regulatory authorities have to claim stable and sustainable concepts, which ensure the long-term efficiency of the novel habitat and an adequate species-specific monitoring of the translocated or reintroduced population. Not least conflicts of aims have to be considered, for example concerning other species. For both measures the superior aim has to be to maintain or better improve the conservation status of a population in the landscape. Translocations must remain exceptional and should not become the norm.

**Key words:** Translocation, reintroduction, species conservation, amphibians, reptiles, guidelines, evaluation, monitoring.