

Ansiedlungen von Amphibien und Reptilien zwischen Wunsch, Gesetzeslage und Realität Ergebnisse einer Online-Umfrage

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Translocations of amphibians and reptiles between desire, legal situation and reality Results of an online survey

This paper presents the results of an online survey on translocations (reintroductions and resettlements), which has been conducted before a meeting of the National Expert Committee for the Protection of Amphibians and Reptiles (LFA) of the NABU NRW in November 2015. Despite of the inhomogeneous data situation, we believe that this survey gives an impression of the extent and the practical implementation of reintroductions and resettlements in Germany for the first time. The survey was completed by 120 participants and indicates that in animal reintroductions more attention is paid to the subject-specific quality than in resettlements. Altogether animal reintroductions follow the Guidelines for Reintroductions and other Conservation Translocations more carefully – consciously or unconsciously – than resettlements. This was the case, although most of the reintroductions are usually voluntary measures, whereas in most cases resettlements arise from the obligation to protect species during processes of land use. Examples can be found in data for the sand lizard, the largest data set we got. Tricky points of resettlements are missing preliminary studies of diseases or if the target area already harbours a population of the same species. Moreover, genetic analyses of the translocated animals are usually missing and the provided compensatory habitats are often not sufficiently dimensioned or have only recently been created. The density of released animals is sometimes too high and the monitoring of the population is too short and inadequate or even completely missing. The interviewees also complain about the lack of methodological standards, exchange among experts, support from authorities and the short timeframe for capturing animals and preparation of the target area. From our point of view, the goal should be to consult IUCN-criteria for reintroductions in every planning of a translocation. Deviating from these criteria should be well justified. On the part of nature conservation ministries, obligatory directives must be defined, especially for resettlements. A further objective should be a central register for translocations in order to provide a large data basis for important questions and experiences.

Key words: Amphibians, Reptiles, *Lacerta agilis*, sand lizard, translocation, survey, evaluation, IUCN-criteria.

Zusammenfassung

Der Beitrag präsentiert die Ergebnisse einer Online-Umfrage zu Translokationen (Ansiedlungen und Umsiedlungen), die anlässlich einer vom Landesfachausschuss