

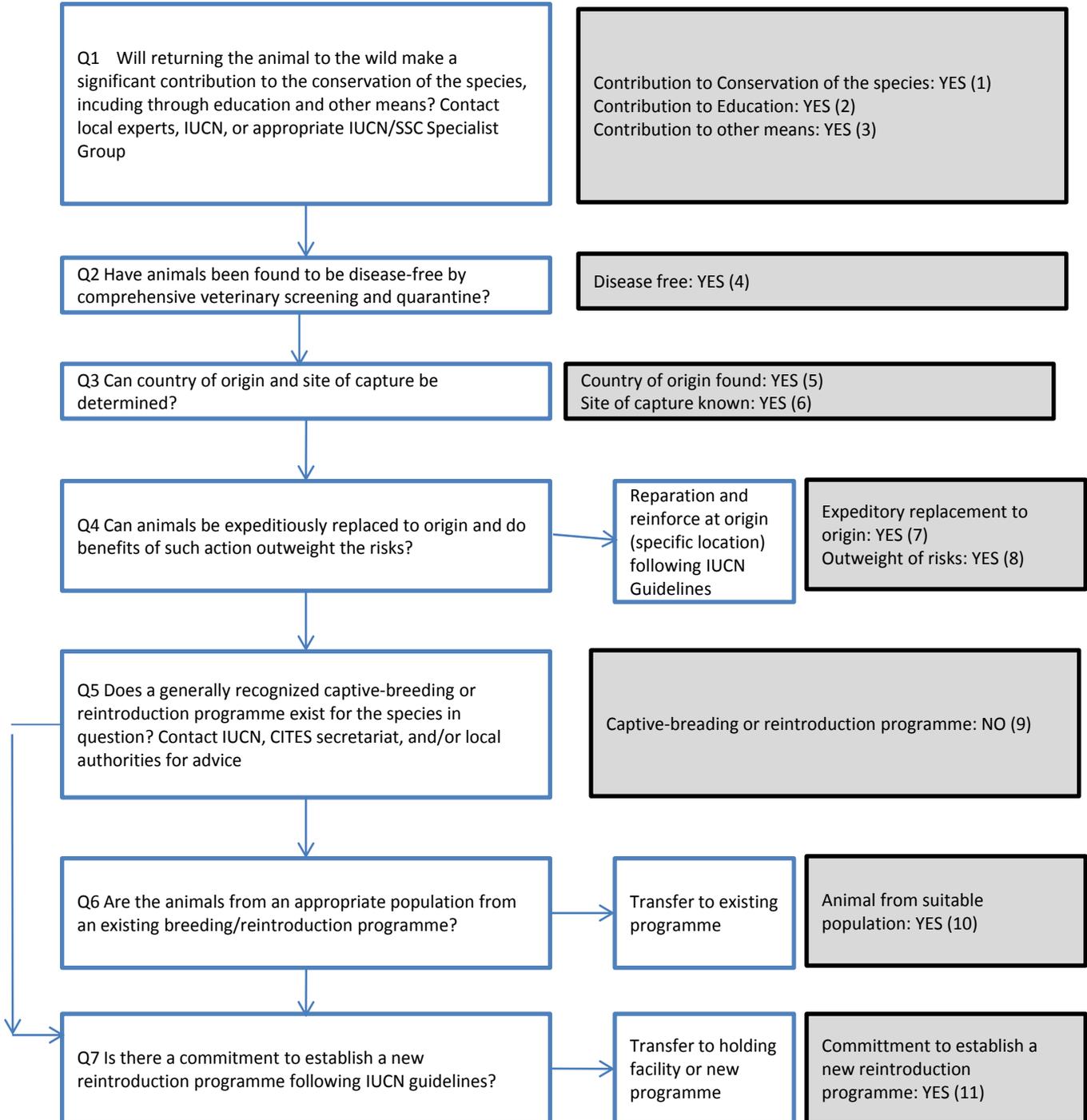
Appendix One.

CITES guidelines

Annex 1

Decision tree for “Return to the wild options”

Free Morgan Group (FMG) process steps indicating Morgan should be released



- (1) Orcas are long living, “K strategy” animals and the loss of a young female could be criting for a population which in the past has been severely harvested and depleted by humans (Nichols et al. 1976)
- (2) See “Suggestions for returning Morgan the orca (killer whale) to a natural life in the ocean” FMG 2011
The full process of rehabilitation and release will be photo and video documented, several interviews and at least one documentary will be made and while in the semi-natural sea pen Morgan will be visible to the general public (which won’t be interacting with her) and educational experts will be available to the public for questions/talks.
- (3) Other means are described as:
 - a. Scientific contributions: Morgan’s rehabilitation and release will offer a prime precedent for all the future rescues of cetaceans, in partucular orca. The whole rehabilitation and release procedure will be documented and scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals.
 - b. Technological contributions: we aim to follow Morgan during and after her rehabilitation and release, via satellite signal; this satellite tag will be specifically designed and /or adapted to Morgan, hence it will be inoffensive, secure for her health, highly precise and fully and easily portable by the animal. A refinement of benign suction cups will be necessary for deploying monitoring equipment such as “D-tag”, “Cittercam” etc.
- (4) According to the information provided by the caretakers at the Dolfinarium Hardewijk, Morgan has no desease, conditions or pathology that would effect a release back into the wild.
- (5) Different researchers (Dr. A. Foote via DNA analysis, Dr. F. Samarra via vocalization analysis) indipendently confirmed that Morgan originates from the herring orca population found off Norway, or possibly Iceland (less likely).
- (6) The site of capture, dated 23rd June 2010, is the Wadden Sea, semi enclosed section of the North Sea, in Dutch waters.
- (7) See “Suggestions for returning Morgan the orca (killer whale) to a natural life in the ocean” FMG 2011

(8) The extreme risk that Morgan may encounter is premature death; however, given the significantly shortened life span of female captive orcas compared to wild orca (28 vs 70-90 years on average), and given the enormous difference in life quality that any wild animal has compared to a captive conspecific, we believe that the possible but unlikely event of premature death in the wild outweighs the risk of a rehabilitation and release attempt.

(9) Morgan is a young *O. Orca* female born in the wild, found emaciated and dehydrated, nursed back to health and kept in captivity for over one year.

(10) Morgan's reintroduction in her own population would present limited or no risk for the population.

(11) We present numerous letters of endorsement of Visser and Hardie's report on Morgan and written statements of commitment to Morgan's rehabilitation and release by researchers and experts.

REFERENCE

Nichols J.D. et. al, (1976) "Temporally dynamic reproductive strategies and the concept of r- and K-selection", *The American Naturalist*, vol. 110, No. 976, p. 995