Preparing a Translocation Proposal – tips for success

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Photo: D Coates

Translocation Proposals

- The key planning document
- Why do you need one?
- What information do you need?
- Who should review the proposal and how?

Photo: D Coates

Translocation Proposal – why have one?

Essential information necessary to understand who, what, why, where, how, and when a translocation is proposed.

Management plan

Provide information for a decision whether or not to proceed

Reference document to monitor progress and determine success.

Translocation proposals aid approval process

- Native Plant Material Collection Permit may be approved with condition that a translocation plan is drafted
- Proposal can indicate the level of detail
- Avoids continually contacting proponent for more information
- Avoid delays

Photo: M Jusaitis

Translocation proposals improve record keeping

- Key planning document to gather and record all information
- Reference document for each stage of the project
- Reference for future translocations by you and others
- Consistent approach from one translocation to the next

Photo: L Monks

Proposal template – where can you get one

- Appendix 2 of the ANPC Translocation Guidelines
- Follows the layout and content of the Translocation Guidelines
- Several Australian states are using this to update their current proposal
- You can use the proposal as a planning document, whether or not you are legally obliged to do so.

Photo: D Coates

Translocation proposal – what's in it?

- The species
- Translocation type
- Why it's necessary
- Objectives
- Risk Management
- Key people, their roles and responsibilities
- Where
- Methods
- Timeline

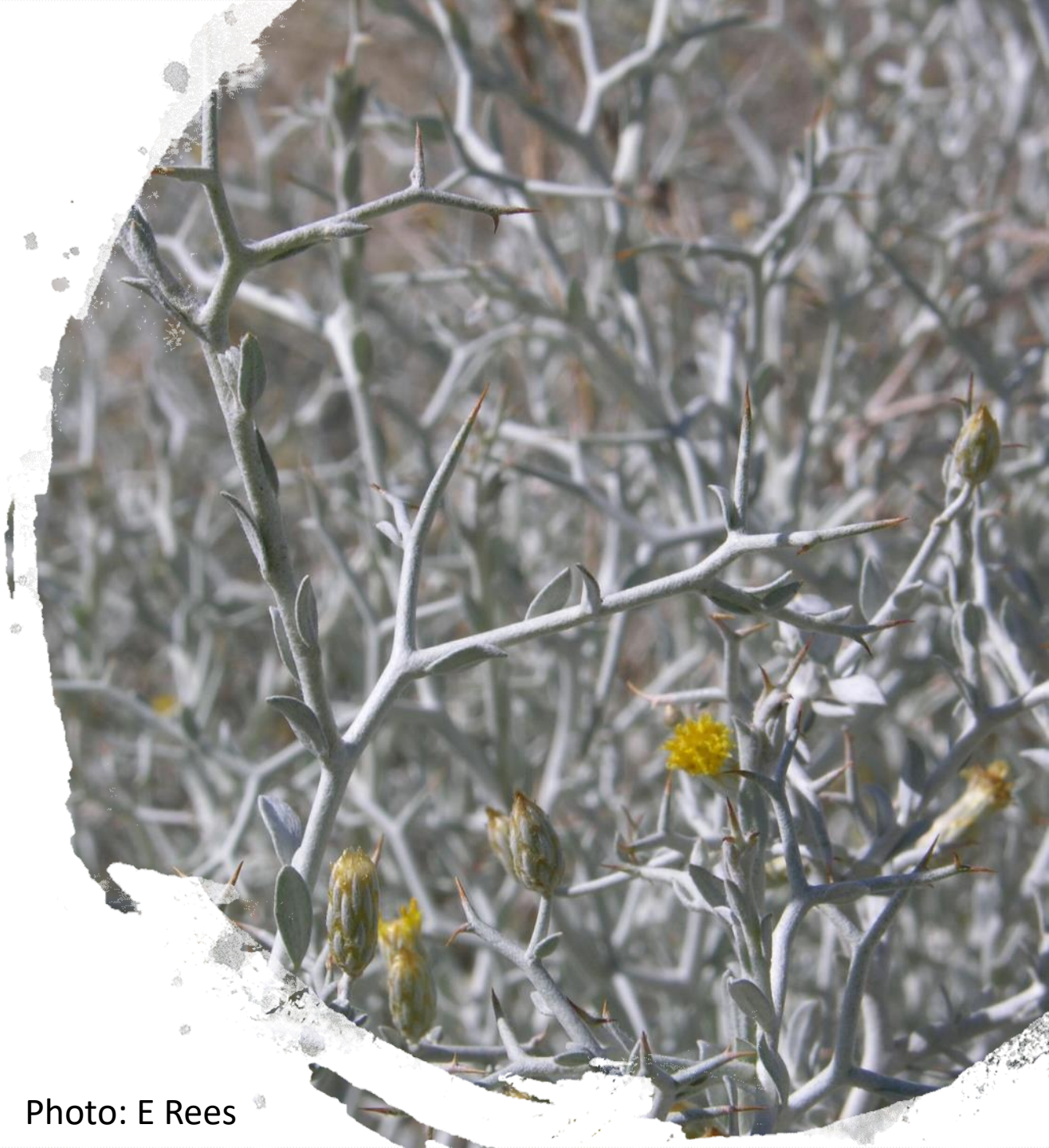

Photo: E Rees

Translocation proposal review

- Risk management and quality control step
- Ensure project is scientifically sound, and technically feasible
- Some State or Territory governments have a formal review process

Photo: S Krauss

Who should review?

- Some Australian states have a peer review system
- SA: Recovery Team or DEW Threatened Species & Ecological Communities Team
- Internal and external reviewers (sometimes inter-state)
- Experts on:
  - Translocation implementation
  - Translocation policy
  - The species
  - The ecosystem
  - Threatened species in general
  - Land management
  - Social, cultural, or economic risks
- Contact one of the authors of the Guidelines or case studies

Photo: A Benwell

Questions for reviewers

- Are alternative management options more likely to conserve species?
- Do benefits outweigh potential negative consequences?
- Is there a higher probability of success than failure?
- Are risks addressed?
- Provide comments to improve the translocation
- Recommend whether or not it should go ahead

Photo: M Jusaitis

Translocation Proposal Template in the ANPC Guidelines

Appendix 2. Template for a translocation proposal

Translocation Plan

1. Proponents, partners and approvals

1.1	Project title	Include species, location, type of translocation, year
1.2	Project manager	Name and contact details of person responsible for the translocation project.
1.3	Planning and implementation teams	Names and contact details for recovery team/ translocation working group / project planner if different to project manager. Names and contact details of implementation team, if different to project manager.
1.4	Experience and expertise	Relevant expertise and skills of those planning and implementing the translocation. Identify and describe how other relevant experts will be involved.
1.5	Partners	List partners and roles in project.
1.6	Other endorsements	List endorsements and reason for endorsement
1.7	Approvals required	List approval authorities and types of approvals required/granted

2. Proponents, partners and approvals

2.1	Primary conservation plan	Identify the primary conservation plan relevant to the species and its recovery objectives for the species. Attach or provide reference.
2.2	Conservation objectives	Detail the conservation objective of the translocation and explain how it contributes to or achieves the conservation objectives for the species. (See Chapter 1 for guidance).
2.3	Performance criteria	Detail the performance criteria for success or failure of the translocation over the short and long term. These should be a subset of performance criteria identified in the primary conservation plan. (See Chapter 1 for guidance).
2.4	Other options	Summarise why the translocation has the most conservation impact, a higher chance of success, and least potential negative consequences of all possible options. Attach supporting documentation.
2.5	Strategic alignment	Describe how the translocation is integrated with and aligns with other conservation actions being implemented for the species under the primary conservation plan.
2.6	Funding	Detail the sources of funding for the initial translocation and ongoing land management activities, and the period for which these funds have been committed.
2.7	Translocation timeline	Outline or attach project timeline and milestones.
2.8	Post-translocation management	Identify persons responsible for long-term management of the site and translocation.
2.9	Accountability for monitoring	Identify persons responsible for monitoring in the short term (up to ten years) and longer term
2.10	Exit decision	Who is responsible for deciding to cease the translocation and implementing the exit strategy?
2.11	Reporting	To whom and when will reports be provided. What will be reported?
2.12	Data management	Where will the data be held and who will be responsible for uploading and maintaining the data?

3. Consultation and engagement

3.1	Consultation	List affected parties (including neighbours, traditional owners, land users, etc.) and describe how their interests will be protected.
3.2	Communication	Outline how you will inform the community and partners about the progress of the translocation project including • Process and outcomes of the translocation, including debriefing and steps to inform future translocations, stakeholder communication and public engagement. • Describe how partners and stakeholders will be engaged in effective dialogue.
3.3	Community participation	List activities to promote engagement, participation, and community ownership, including: • Involvement in early planning decisions • Opportunities for key long-term roles • Participation in on-ground activities • Increasing knowledge of threatened flora conservation
3.4	Publications	What publications are expected to arise from the translocation project?

4. Species biology and ecology

4.1	Taxon to be translocated	Scientific and common name
4.2	Conservation status	List State, National and IUCN conservation status and reasons for status.
4.3	Historical and current distribution	Historic and current known distribution of this species including the most up to date information on number of populations and individuals remaining. Insert map if appropriate.
4.4	Biology and ecology	Provide an overview of the species ecology relevant to the translocation proposal, with particular emphasis on population and ecosystem processes. Identify key biological and ecological impediments to success, and how these will be managed. Examples include: **Phylogeny** How is the species related to other species at the donor and recipients sites, and is there a risk of hybridisation? If so, what are the potential effects and how will they be managed? **Biology** How long lived is your species? How long does it take to go from seedlings to adults and become reproductive? Are cultivation techniques established for your species? How long does your species take to cultivate? What time of year does your species flower? Does your species have a dormant stage in its lifecycle? Does your species reproduce by seed or vegetatively? Is a seed bank important for your species? **Pollination** Does your species require a pollinator to achieve seed set? If so what is the pollinator? **Mycorrhizal associations** Does your species require a mycorrhizal or rhizobial association in order to germinate or prosper? If so what is this? **Soil, hydrology and landform** What type of soil and geology is your species naturally found to grow in? Under what hydrological condition and what landform circumstances? **Vegetation community** What vegetation community is habitat for your species? Describe fire regimes and relevant ecological trajectory stages. **Climate** What type of climate/ rainfall/ temperature does your species inhabit?

5. The translocation

5.1	Previous translocations	Provide details of prior translocation attempts for this species and the extent to which they contributed to the objectives of the primary conservation plan.
5.2	Type of translocation	What type of translocation is proposed (see terminology for different translocations) (refer Chapter 1)
5.3	Translocation timeline, milestones and outcomes	Expand on the answer provided to 2.7. Describe the on-ground conservation outcomes of the translocation. What are the long term outcomes? What milestones will be used to assess progress? Include milestones for plant propagation, site preparation, the translocation itself and post-translocation management. Provide a timeline for the translocation. Include details of any trial or pilot experiments including how they will be used in decisions to proceed to a full translocation.
5.4	Selection and amount of translocation material	Identify how many plants/propagules will be translocated. Describe the criteria and reasons why the material was selected compared to other options. Explain how genetics, breeding system, or other factors have been considered during the selection process. Explain how and why the number of plants was selected. Describe their known or assumed genetic relatedness and representation of the species.
5.5	Origin of translocation material	Attach map of sites, cadastral details, or coordinates.
5.6	Transportation	Outline how the species will be transported to the recipient site.
5.7	Description of facilities	If the translocation includes a cultivation or propagation stage describe the location and nature of facilities.
5.8	Planting and establishment	Describe the planting method. Comment on the scientific rigour of the design. Include details of any experimental treatments, and how will the plants be tagged. Will the plants be watered, weeded or otherwise maintained?
5.9	Monitoring	Set out a framework for both short and long-term monitoring based on the objectives and milestones. Specify what plant traits/factors will be monitored at each event. Short-term monitoring must be adequate to prevent mortality from translocation shock.
5.10	Maintenance and adaptive management	What ongoing maintenance of the plants is planned? Identify how an adaptive management or experimental approach to the post-translocation monitoring and management will be implemented.
5.11	Exit strategy	What is your contingency plan to protect the species if the conservation objectives are unlikely to be met or the translocation is compromised or at risk of failure. Describe the exit strategy and the thresholds that trigger the exit strategy.

1. PROPONENTS, PARTNERS AND APPROVALS

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6. THE RECIPIENT SITE

Recipient site decision	Describe criteria and reasons why the site was selected compared to other potential sites.
Description of recipient site	Describe location of recipient site, including map. Is the recipient site easy to access for management and monitoring?
Current land use, tenure and management	Describe past and current land-use and management of the sites, and how this will change. Identify the tenure and parties responsible for long-term management of the sites.
Alignment with historic or current distribution	Is the recipient site within the known and current distribution of the taxon? Is the recipient site within the past distribution of the species? If not, explain why.
Ecological suitability	Set out how the recipient site meets the habitat requirements of the species (e.g. carrying capacity, pollinators, soil and geology, hydrology, landform, vegetation composition, climate, light availability). Describe the site's ecological attributes that make it suitable for long-term population establishment.
Ecological maintenance	Describe the management activities required to maintain the ecological characteristics of the site. Include management associated with changes in drainage, soil stabilisation, vegetation removal or modification, fire regimes, etc.
Site preparation	Describe the site preparation required. Include details of earthworks, threat treatments, soil and vegetation management, structures, fences, ecological burns, signage, etc.

7. IMPACT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Impact of sampling or collection on source population	Provide an assessment of potential impacts of sampling on the source population(s), and how this will be monitored and managed.
Effect of the translocation on other populations of the species	Describe the effect of introducing new plants into an existing population and effects on populations near to the donor or recipient sites. Define the acceptable level of any effects. Describe how effects will be monitored and how unacceptable effects will be managed.
Effect of the translocation on the receiving environment	Describe the effect of the translocation on ecological, environmental, cultural or social values at the recipient site. Define the acceptable level of any effects. Describe how effects will be monitored and how unacceptable effects will be managed.
Accidental and inadvertent damage	How will the site be physically identified to avoid accidental damage? Is permanent signage warranted? Has the translocation site been identified as an asset or value on conservation agency, local council, and fire brigade, or other relevant government databases? Have they been advised of how the site should be protected?
Ecological threats to population persistence	Describe the threats to the species or impediments to population persistence at the sites, including pathogens, fire, herbivory, weeds, vegetation community dynamics, etc. Describe how these risks will be treated and identify the level of amelioration expected. Explain why this level is sufficient for long-term population persistence. For example describe phytosanitary measures for hygiene and quarantine of equipment, vehicles and people. Detail any other site-related risks that may affect the achievement of objectives and how they will be ameliorated

Summary

- Translocation proposal
  - Key planning document
  - Assists with approvals
  - Can be reviewed
  - Essential for record keeping
  - Assists future translocations
  - Template provided in ANPC Translocation Guidelines

Photo: D Coates