New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

FORM TO BE USED WHEN PROPOSING A THREATENED PLANT TRANSLOCATION

SPECIES TO BE TRANSLOCATED:

Latin name: _____

Maori/common name: _____

Source of plants: _____

Name of the person or group carrying out the translocation:

_____

_____

Contact details:

_____

_____

1. Primary reason for translocation is (a) to save a species from imminent destruction? (b) to reinforce or enhance a species population already present? (c) to establish a species at a site where was recorded historically? (d) to establish a species at a new site where there is suitable habitat but the species has never been recorded previously

2. What is the objective of your project? (e.g. to establish a new self sustaining population of X at Y within 5 years)

_____

3. (i) Was the species to be translocated previously known to occur at the site?

YES/NO

If yes - the record or reference to this occurrence may be found in the following publication, report, species list or herbarium voucher:

_____

(ii) The species is believed to have disappeared because:

_____

Is this cause of decline still operating?

YES/NO

If no – is the translocation site within the known historic range of the species?

YES/NO

HABITAT REQUIREMENTS OF SPECIES TO BE TRANSLOCATED

Habitat type and extent

(i) Is the site large enough to accommodate a translocation of the species?

YES/NO

(ii) Species commonly associated with the threatened plant are present at this site (e.g., pollinators, seed dispersers, plant associates)?

YES/NO

(iii) Are the nutrient and water resources at the site adequate for the species?

YES/NO

(iv) Do you have permission from the land owner/manager to do this translocation?

YES/NO

(v) Is the site at which you intend to establish the new population protected physically (i.e. fences and with low pest numbers) and/or legally (covenant or reserve).

YES/NO

(v) What threats operate at the new site that could cause this introduction to fail?

_____

_____

(vi) How will you manage these threats?

_____

_____

(vii) Has the species ever been translocated successfully before?

YES/NO/UNKNOWN

If yes, what techniques were used?

_____

_____

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER SPECIES AND EFFECTS OF DISPERSAL

(i) Is the translocated species likely to affect the native species of plant and animal in any of the following ways?

Through competition? YES/NO

Through hybridisation? YES/NO

Through introduction of disease or parasites? YES/NO

Through negative effects on structure of plant community? YES/NO

If YES

The species with which it is likely to interact detrimentally are:

_____

_____

(ii) Will the process of establishment of the new population facilitate the spread of weeds or increase the likelihood that an animal pest will be introduced to the site?

YES/NO

(iii) Is it possible to monitor the impact of the translocated species on the plants and animals at the new site?

YES/NO

2. (i) Will the introduction prevent, or make difficult, the control or eradication of problem weed or animal pest at the site?

YES/NO

If yes - what pest plant or animal?_____

(ii) Will the translocation foreclose options for introducing other species to the site in the future?

YESNO

If yes - what species in particular? _____

(iii) In particular will options for the establishment of other threatened species be lost or compromised?

YES/NO

(iv) Could the introduced species be removed from the site or controlled in the future if its effects became unacceptable?

YES/NO

SOURCE, NUMBERS, AGE, SITE AND TIMING OF TRANSLOCATION

(i) What is the most appropriate source(s) of plant propagules for the translocation?

_____

Why is this source the most appropriate? (e.g., to minimise distance between source and release; only source available in region or country; most similar environment to translocation site)

_____

(ii) Do you need a permit to collect from this site?

YES/NO

If yes – from whom? _____

(iii) How many individuals of the species should be translocated?_____

(iv) What should be the sex ratio of the founder population?_____

(v) What should be the age structure of the founder population?

_____

What type of plant material should be used (circle one or more):

Mature plants Juveniles Seedlings Seeds

If a mixture is needed should the mixture be varied in subsequent introductions?

YES/NO/UNKNOWN

(vi) What should be the timing of the release/planting?

Time of day, time of month, month of year_____

(vii) Will the removal of the plants from the source population have any unacceptable demographic or genetic effects on the source population?

YES/NO/UNKNOWN

What is the most suitable location at the site for establishment of the founder population?

_____

(indicate where this site is on an attached map).

Is a temporary lifeline approach required involving supplementary watering, fertiliser or releasing following their planting?

YES/NO

If yes - what form will the lifeline take? _____

_____

How will the risk of introducing pests, diseases or pathogens to the site be minimised?

_____

CONSULTATION

(i) Which groups and individuals should be consulted and informed about the proposed translocation?

_____

_____

RECORDING AND MONITORING

(i) Where will details of the translocation be recorded?

_____

Where will copies of reports relating to the translocation be filed or located?

_____

(ii) How will the success or failure of the translocation be determined?

(i.e. at what point will the translocation be deemed a success?)

_____

_____

_____

CONCLUSION:

Having worked through these questions do you now believe that a translocation to a new site is the best course of action?

YES/NO

Further advice should be sought from certain people and organisations including:

- The Department of Conservation – local botanist or biodiversity officer
- Regional Council – Parks staff
- Botanical Societies
- Local iwi

We recommend consultation with the groups you identified earlier in this proposal. We also recommend that you complete this form and have it reviewed by an expert from the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (see Members section of www.nzpcn.org.nz), your local regional council or an ecological consultant to ensure you will maximise the chances of success.

For more information please contact the Network at info@nzpcn.org.nz, P.O. Box 16-102, Wellington, New Zealand.