



APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS TO HOLD ABSOLUTELY PROTECTED WILDLIFE IN CAPTIVITY FOR ADVOCACY PURPOSES - CATEGORY 2

1. Purpose

The criteria outlined below provide the basis upon which the Director General of Conservation (or his delegate) will consider applications to hold species absolutely protected under section 53 of the wildlife Act 1953 in captivity on public display, for advocacy purposes.

These guidelines are to be used to assess new applications and to review existing permits at their next review date. Current permit holders will be asked to ensure their existing collections meet the criteria according to the schedule below (Table 1). The timeframe is to enable permit holders to have sufficient time to address the additional requirements. If they do not, a time period should be specified for the permit holder to ensure their collections and displays meet the criteria.

Table 1. Implementation timeline for applications to hold protected species for advocacy purposes.

	New application requirements	Renewal of holding permit requirements
<i>Applications from March 2007</i>	All documents (Programme Outline, Husbandry Manual, Advocacy Plan)	Programme Outline only
<i>Applications from March 2008</i>	All documents (as above)	Programme Outline and Advocacy Plan
<i>Applications from March 2009</i>	All documents (as above)	All documents (Programme Outline, Husbandry Manual, Advocacy Plan)

Sections 2 – 12, below, will be used by the Department to assess new applications and existing permits. These sections and the appendices outlining information requirements should be used by applicants and current permit holders to guide their provision of information associated with applications for new permits or renewals of existing permits.

Applications to hold species on public display for advocacy purposes are assessed on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria below.

2. Scope

These guidelines are to be used to consider applications from facilities to hold absolutely protected wildlife on display to the public for advocacy purposes.

Separate guidelines are being developed for considering applications to hold species absolutely protected under the Wildlife Act 1953 in captivity for species recovery or site restoration purposes and for species held in private collections.

3. Information and documents to be included with advocacy-based applications:

The following details of applicants are required with applications:

- applicant name, address and other contacts such as email or fax
- location/s of facility/ies
- details of the organisation applying e.g. charitable trust, commercial facility
- details of applicant affiliations with other facilities, representative bodies such as NZ Conservation Management Group: Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (CMAG:ARAZPA NZ) , other groups

The following documents are required with applications:

- Programme Outline including links to populations of the same species in other facilities (See appendix 1 for a sample)
- A Husbandry Manual (see appendix 2)
- An Advocacy Plan (see appendix 3)

Supporting documents such as annual reports of facilities and zoo industry documents such as Captive Management Plans, NZ Species Management Programme Annual Reports and recommendations should be included with the application if available.

4. Programme Outline

All applications must be accompanied by a Programme Outline for the species concerned. The Programme Outline will describe the rationale for the species being selected for management and the aims that captive management of the species hopes to achieve. It will also include details of holdings and a workplan for achieving the aims of the programme, and show how the population will be managed so that it is self-sustaining. The Programme Outline must meet the standards in Appendix 1 and the stated aims must include those that are required criteria for holding species for Advocacy as stated in this document.

5. Husbandry Manual

All applications must be accompanied by a Husbandry Manual for the species concerned. The Husbandry Manual will outline the management requirements of the species, such as feeding and housing standards and record keeping standards. Applicants need to describe how and when husbandry manual components will be implemented and assessed. Husbandry Manuals may be generic and used by a number of institutes that cover a number of similar species (e.g all *Nestor* genus parrots) especially when a co-ordinated programme is run with other institutions. In these cases the generic plan may be submitted with any relevant modifications that apply to the submitting institution. The Husbandry Manual must meet the standards outlined in Appendix 2.

6. Advocacy Plan

All applications for publicly held and displayed collections must be accompanied by an Advocacy Plan for the species concerned. This Plan must include goals for the advocacy programme and measurable objectives. There must be a description of key messages and how they will be presented, and information on how the security of the species will be ensured. Applicants need also to outline how they will assess the effectiveness of advocacy messages delivered. Advocacy Plans must meet the standards in Appendix 3.

7. Availability and disposal of wildlife

- Populations to be held in captivity should be taken from existing captive stocks or be injured animals that cannot be rehabilitated and released
- Populations should be maintained also from existing captive stocks or be injured animals not able to be rehabilitated or released
- Animals, both individuals and species, to be held for public display must be suitable to demonstrate the natural characteristics of the species and/or the range of approved conservation messages intended from the display
- Populations should be managed to avoid production of surplus animals or situations where animals are bred without locations for these identified. All intentions to breed and the intended facilities captive bred animals will be housed in need to be specified in the programme outline.

8. Public Displays and Collections (also see Husbandry Manual)

- Facilities meet animal welfare requirements of MAF deemed code of welfare (Animal Welfare (Zoos) Code of Welfare 2005, Code of Welfare No. 5, ISBN 0-478-07817-X, Issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999)
- Facilities encourage and allow animals to display a wide range of natural behaviours. This will be described for each species in husbandry manuals
- Facilities provide security for animals from adverse effects of facility staff, visitors and other displays
- Facilities minimise the risk of disease transmission in populations of the same species, across populations of different species and between *in situ* and *ex situ* populations
- Facilities and activities provide security from escape of animals and, in enclosed exhibits, prevent entry of predators or disease transmitting species such as rats, mice, cats and free ranging birds
- Collections should be managed to minimise risks associated with inbreeding
- Hybridisation is not permitted unless permission is given by DOC
- Collections of exotic and native species should be held separately
- Displays meet health and safety requirements of personnel working with the captive population

9. Transfer of Animals Between Collections

All intended transfers of animals between collections, institutions or facilities must be specified in the programme outline workplan and recommended by the captive coordinator if there is one.

10. Points System for further assessment (publicly held and displayed collections)

Applications must also score at least 20 points on the following scoring system in table 2.

Table 2 : points system for further assessment of applications to hold species for advocacy

Category		Points
Conservation Awareness		
Exposure*	>250,000 visitors per annum	6
	50,000 – 250,000 visitors per annum	5
	5,000 – 50,000 visitors per annum	4
	1,000 – 5,000 visitors per annum	3
	0 – 1,000 visitors per annum	0
	At least 10% of visitors participate in formal education programme involving target species	4
Interpretative tools	Eye-catching meaningful signs including personal action suggestions	4
	Signage includes languages other than English	1
	Dedicated annual event day(s) centred on exhibit	2
	Exhibit specifically features in education programme	3
	Interactive audio-visual display	2
	Signage or conservation related activities specifically aimed at children.	2
	Static displays supporting exhibit	2
	daily keeper (or trained volunteer) talks/ encounters or weekly keeper (or trained volunteer) talks/ encounters	4 1
	Dedicated species advocacy staff [#] operating for at least half opening hours	2
	Up to date on-line (internet) interpretation	2
	Regular newsletter coverage (story in at least 2 editions annually)	1
Exhibit type	Ecosystem based display (e.g. multi-species exhibit of native species found together in the wild at some time, with interpretive material about the ecosystem represented)	5
Coordination		
Conservation partnerships	specific fund-raising partnership with relevant <i>in-situ</i> project of programme species	4
	specific (non fund-raising) partnership with relevant <i>in-situ</i> project of programme species	2
Co-ordinated programme* Note: number of institutions and places in these should also match optimum size for captive population	>10 institutions	5
	5 – 10 participating institutions	3
	2 – 5 participating institutions	2
	single institution	0
Managed population	species co-ordinator, SPARKS+[in full] studbook, annual reports and recommendations	3

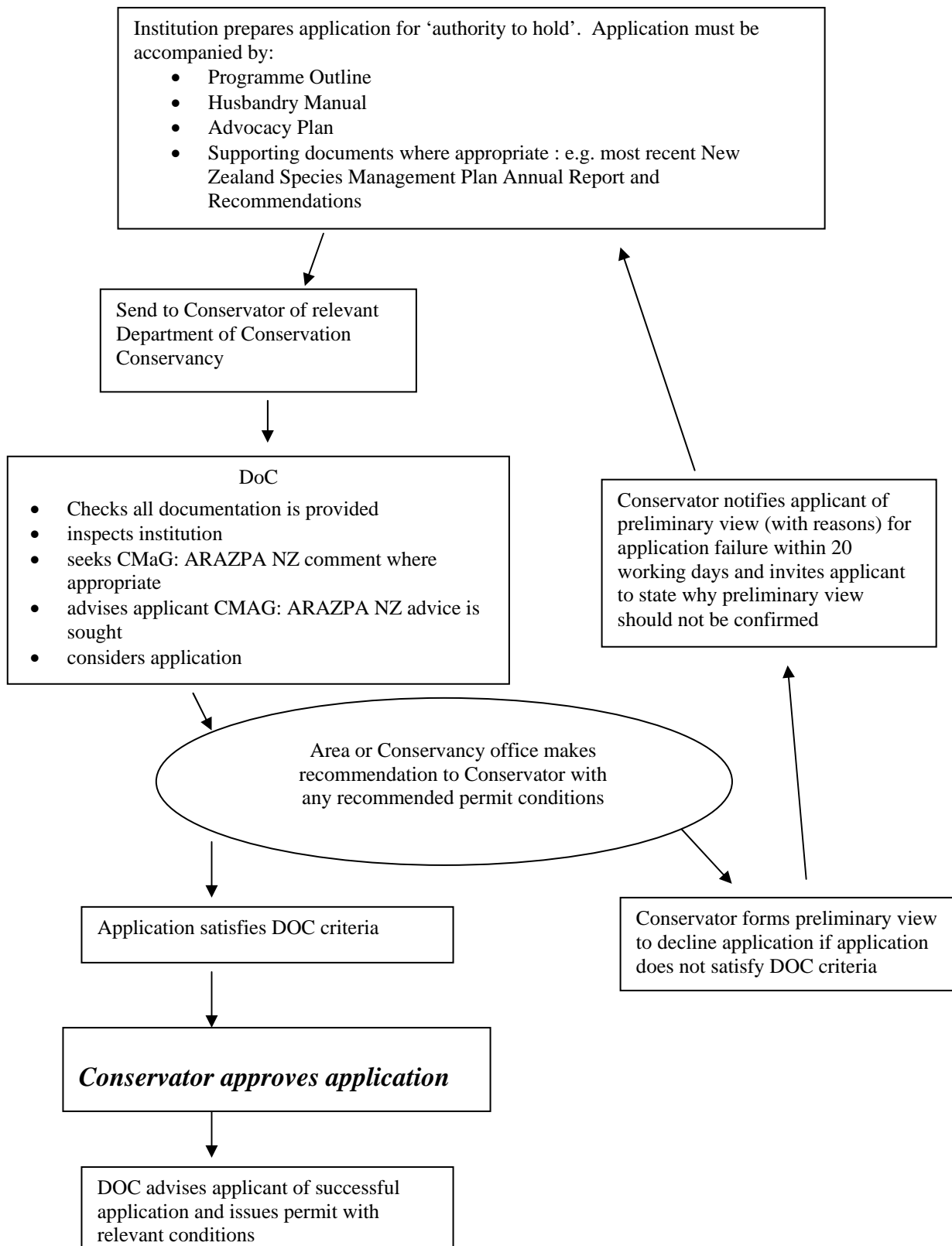
Staff or volunteers whose primary job is to roam around the institution providing information (including the key advocacy messages) to visitors on the animals displayed. Does not include general animal husbandry staff (e.g. zoo keepers).

* individuals and groups may gain approval to hold animals in captivity without providing public access to these if this is an essential component of a larger, coordinated and publicly accessible advocacy programme. This would include situations where breeding to maintain a captive population can only be achieved without pressures associated with public display. An example of this is Antipodes Island Parakeets. Such applications must be supported by the governing body of the coordinated programme and applicant must be essential component of the coordinated programme

+ SPARKS = Single Population Analysis and Records Keeping System. Distributed by the International Species Information System (ISIS). See www.isis.org for details.

11. Steps For Considering Applications To Hold Absolutely Protected Species For Advocacy Purposes

Flow chart



Programme Outline: {species common name}

1. General information

Taxon (*scientific name*):

Common name:

NZ Threatened Species status:

IUCN status:

CITES listing:

Other relevant listings:

Taxon Advisory Group: NZ Fauna Taxon Advisory Group

Captive management unit

(including taxonomic concerns if any): *{Species/subspecies/provenance (if at provenance level, define geographic limits)/to be determined}*

Scope of managed population: *{e.g. captive population held by CMAG:ARAZPA NZ members; other institutions}*

Species contact:

Institution Contact details:

Email:

Fax:

Phone:

Document prepared by:

Last updated: *{Date}*

2. Rationale

{Explain why the taxon been selected for management }

3. Aims of captive management

The aim of captive management is to ensure the persistence of a captive population that: *{Select one or more from below.}*

- provides animals for release to the wild as part of a conservation reintroduction programme
- acts as an insurance population in case of catastrophic declines in the wild
- conserves high levels of the genetic variability found in wild populations
- conserves the behavioural repertoire of the species
- provides animals for zoo-based research
- supports developing and documenting of husbandry techniques for the species or surrogates
- supports regional or national education efforts
- supports regional fundraising efforts
- supports the illustration of biodiversity

4. Additional programme aims

In addition, the programme aims to: *{include here any aims not dependent on a captive population}*:

- provide technical, financial or logistic support to an *in situ* conservation programme for the taxon
- provide technical, financial or logistic support to a captive management programme for the taxon in other countries/facilities
- ...etc.

5. Programme objectives

Programme objectives are specific, measurable results expected to be achieved in specified timeframes in order to achieve the programme's overall aims. Examples of objectives are given below.

Population management: *e.g. retain 90% Genetic Diversity over X years, or ensure persistence of population at planned size for x years*
 Husbandry: *e.g. achieve reliable breeding, reduce juvenile mortality rates by...*
 Support for *in situ* projects: *e.g. develop an ongoing programme by.... to direct resources to support an in situ conservation programme*
 Etc., as required...

6. Target population size

Target numbers: *Y/N/to be determined*
 Immigration required: *Y/N/to be determined*
 Source of additional Founders: *None/to be determined/ none required/ import/ rehab/ wild capture*

7. Current regional captive population

Institution	Current population	Planned population	Implementation Plan

8. Work plan

<i>To be developed</i>	Responsibility		Due date	Date completed
	Name	Institution		
Relevant documentation required for programme, for example... (see husbandry manual and advocacy plan)				
Studbook				
Advocacy Plan				
Annual Report and Recommendations				
Husbandry Manual				

Husbandry Manual – Template and Standards

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Taxonomy

Common Name
Scientific Name

1.2 Conservation Status

1.3 Captive Management Co-ordinator (for Category 1 protected species)

1.4 Timeframe of the plan

2. IDENTIFICATION METHOD

2.1 Individual Identification (e.g. banding, photographs etc)

It is recommended that CITES listed protected species covered by the captive management guidelines (i.e. kea, kaka, kakariki, NZ falcon) should have transponders implanted for identification.

Marking of individuals must be done by authorised individuals in accordance with the conditions of the relevant authority to hold.

2.2 Sexing Methods

3. NATURAL HISTORY

Particularly where natural history relates to captive management:

- Adult wild weights and measurements
- Distribution and habitat
- Habits, social structure
- Feeding behaviour
- Reproduction (including natural incubation regimes, age of sexual maturity, courtship, egg dimensions, growth rates)
- Protected species' role in ecosystem
- Threats in the wild

4. CAPTIVE HUSBANDRY

4.1 Housing/Environment Standards

- Size
- Materials for housing
- Shelter/screening
- Water
- Furnishings, including suitable vegetation
- Humidity/temperature/thermoregulation
- Cleaning

4.2 Health Care Standards

- Environmental hygiene
- Known health problems
- Preventative procedures
- Treatments
- Veterinary procedures
- Procedure if animals die
- Quarantine procedures

4.3 Behavioural Notes

- Common captive behavioural needs
- Behavioural enrichment activities
- Mixed/intra protected species compatibilities
- Handling/physical restraint

4.4 Feeding Standards

- Diets and supplements
- Presentation of food
- Seasonal/breeding changes in feeding requirements

4.5 Breeding Requirements

- General behavioural notes
- Nesting/breeding requirements
- Requirements of young
- Methods of hatching/rearing/manipulation
- Methods of controlling breeding

4.6 Incubation/rearing young

- Incubation facilities and hygiene
- Incubation parameters (e.g. temperature, humidity, substrates)
- Diets - method fed, frequency fed, feeding temperature
- Records and monitoring
- Behavioural consideration (e.g. weaning, imprinting, socialisation)

4.7 Transport Requirements

5. RECORD KEEPING

5.1 Individual records

- band number and sex
- hatch/birth date, parentage and origin
- weights, health problems and treatments
- movements between closures, holdings with other birds
- breeding attempts and chicks/young reared
- important behavioural notes

5.2 End of breeding season reports

- summary of aviary holdings, movements of birds
- pairings
- breeding (number and size of clutches/litters, dates, numbers hatched/born, fledged/survived)
- behavioural notes
- summary of health problems, treatments, pathology or disease testing results
- recommendations

4. Objectives

The objective/s must be achievable and measurable steps that help you work towards your goal. They can have timeframes associated with them.

5. Key Messages and Personal Action Suggestions

These statements outline in detail what messages you want people to “take-home”, act upon and pass on to others.

The messages must illustrate a significant conservation problem or issue and promote means of changing attitudes to bring about a conservation benefit. Conservation benefits will be gained from a display of native species in captivity where such a display focuses on developing the primary tenets of environmental education; awareness, knowledge, skills, appropriate attitudes and values, and promotes appropriate action to assist in:

- the recovery of protected species;
- the protection of natural ecosystems;
- the maintenance of biodiversity.

6. Interpretative Material, Actions and Tools

An outline of the information to be presented and methodology should be included in the plan, and where possible the specific wording used in visual displays. Evidence supporting the points applied for in the ‘Interpretative tools’ section of the points table should be detailed in this section.

Identify and list the actions necessary to achieve your objectives. Refer to the Public Awareness Toolbox for a summary of tools. These actions can be cross-referenced in the calendar of events.

7. Calendar of Events

This can be a handy summary of actions against a timeframe to show the order in which advocacy events are planned to occur.

8. Audiences

Identify and list the different audiences and stakeholders who are expected to be involved. State the total number of visitors expected to be involved in the advocacy programme (i.e. your institution’s expected visitor numbers). Also list numbers and type of school/tertiary institutions/community groups involved in relevant education programme (i.e. education programme involving the species this application is for) at your institution.

This section should contain supporting evidence for the points applied for in the exposure and conservation partnership categories.

9. Assessment

Refer to your objectives for assessing the impact of your project. The objectives should be measurable statements that support your goal and key messages. Record in this section the planned methods of assessment for the programme at each participating institution as far as they are known.

It is difficult to measure the impact of a project in terms of changing or promoting appropriate public attitudes or actions in relation to conservation messages portrayed. This is why measurable objectives are important. Tools such as questionnaires or assessments of public responses may be useful but initiating and maintaining the interpretative methods listed in section 6 (above) is most important.

The advocacy programme implemented by each participating institution will be assessed when permits (authorities to hold protected wildlife) come up for renewal (but not more frequently than every 3 years).