



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Guidelines and Application Form for Approval of a Cooperative Conservation Program¹

How to use this document

The document consists of the following four parts:

- Guidelines (an introduction to the approval process)
- Application form
- Program summary (a list of questions about the program)
- Program summary guidance notes (information for applicants on how to complete the program summary)

Applicants are advised to read through the whole document carefully before completing the application form and program summary.

Introduction

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides the legislative framework for the national protection of the Australian environment and the conservation of its biodiversity. A major purpose of the EPBC Act is to regulate the export and import of live wildlife, wildlife specimens and products made or derived from wildlife, including the export of most Australian native animals and plants. The EPBC Act also fulfils Australia's legislative requirements as a party to the international *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES). Controls apply to transactions undertaken by commercial and non-commercial organisations and individuals.

The import and export of CITES Appendix I listed live animals may only be carried out for the purpose of conservation breeding, education or research. For zoos, wildlife parks or aquaria, import or export of such animals is generally only permitted for the purpose of conservation breeding. Section 303FF of the EPBC Act provides that a conservation breeding permit cannot be issued unless the animal is going into an approved cooperative conservation program for that species, the object of which is the establishment and/or maintenance of a breeding population. Approval of a

¹ T:\Branch Folders\WB\Wildlife Trade Assessments\Zoos imports and exports\CCPs\CCP Guidelines\CCP Guidelines 2008

cooperative conservation program is dependent on satisfying the requirements of EBPC Regulation 9A.12.

What is an approved cooperative conservation program?

A cooperative conservation program (CCP) is a breeding and/or management program that is operated with the intention of conserving a species (in the wild or in captivity, or both) and applies best practice to the management of husbandry, genetics, biology and behavioural needs of the species. The program's objectives must be based on the conservation status and needs of the species and the program must be operated in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Approval of a CCP is required for all CITES Appendix I species where there is an intention to transfer live animals into or out of Australia for conservation breeding purposes.

Are there any exceptions to this requirement?

On occasion, zoos may enquire about the potential to import or export CITES I specimens in circumstances where no CCP is in place. In such cases the institution may be eligible to apply for an exceptional circumstances permit under the EBPC Act. This kind of permit is only likely to be issued if there is a strong conservation or animal welfare justification for the import or export and where **all** of the following requirements are met:

- no other type of permit is applicable;
- the grant of the permit would not be contrary to CITES;
- the import or export would not be contrary to the objects of Part 13A of the EBPC Act;
- the import or export would not adversely affect biodiversity.

For further information on exceptional circumstances, please contact DEWHA.

Special requirements for some Australian native species

Approval of a CCP is only required for CITES I species. Where a program involves an Australian native animal that is listed on both CITES Appendix I and the EPBC threatened species list (excluding the conservation dependant category), approval of the program will require an Ambassador Agreement to be made for any exports of program animals. An Ambassador Agreement is a legally binding agreement between the exporter, importer and DEWHA that provides for the treatment and disposal of the animal(s) and any progeny. The agreement covers all specimens of the species held at the recipient institution. Where this requirement applies, the applicant should contact DEWHA for further information. Details of the EBPC threatened species list can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species.html>

Who should submit the application?

Applications for approval of a CCP should normally be submitted by the administrator of the program.

For inter-regional programs, the application should normally be submitted by the person or organisation responsible for activities in the Australasian region.

Where it is not possible for the program administrator to submit the application, for example with some overseas programs, the application must include written evidence of support from the program administrator. The application can then be submitted by the Australian coordinator for that species.

What are the different categories of CCP?

CCPs are divided into two categories according to whether or not they involve the participation of Australian institutions.

- **Category 1 (Programs involving the participation of Australian institutions)**

If the list of program participants includes one or more Australian institutions then this category applies.

- **Category 2 (Overseas programs)**

If the list of program participants does not include any Australian institutions then this category applies.

Further information on these categories is provided under Question 1 in the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* at the end of this document.

When should the application be submitted?

DEWHA encourages the early submission of applications for programs involving the participation of Australian institutions (Category 1 programs). Prior approval helps to ensure that any subsequent permit applications can be dealt with in a timely manner.

The main triggers for submitting an application are:

- identifying a need to acquire additional specimens from outside the region; or
- identifying a need to transfer specimens between Australia and other countries participating in a program (e.g. all transfers between Australian and New Zealand institutions within an ARAZPA program require approval of the program).

Applications should be made as soon as the need for approval is identified and the relevant documentation has been developed, rather than waiting for a specific import or export to be arranged. It may be prudent to submit CCP applications prior to any significant investment in new infrastructure related to the CCP application or associated permits.

Approval of an overseas program (Category 2) is generally sought to allow the planned export of a specimen from Australia to participate in the program. In these cases the application for approval can be made prior to or at the same time as the export permit application.

The approval process

Assessment of an application for approval of a CCP will include a consideration of:

- Whether the purpose of the program is the establishment and/or maintenance of a breeding population.
- Whether the program's objectives are based on the conservation status and conservation needs of the species.
- Whether the program is operated in a way that:
 - applies best practice to the management of husbandry, genetics, biology and behavioural needs of the species to which the specimen belongs; and
 - is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.
- Whether the program is operated with the intent of conserving the species (in the wild or in captivity, or both).
- Whether the program ensures that specimens used in the program are not used for commercial purposes.
- Whether the program takes into account the conservation breeding or propagation needs of each country from which specimens are imported.
- Whether the program ensures that specimens are removed from the program only in accordance with the program's objectives; and that specimens are not moved between institutions within the program, or out of the program, in a way that is detrimental to other conservation programs or activities.
- Relevant views of range states and international organisations that are concerned with the conservation status and needs of that species.

A description of the information required to address each of these points is provided in the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* at the end of this document.

Applicants are contacted once a decision has been made or earlier if additional information is required to complete the assessment.

Approval period and reporting requirements

Species management programs are generally designed as continuing breeding programs without any projected end. Approval periods and reporting requirements for a CCP are designed to support the aims and objectives of the program and encourage its long-term development.

Programs involving the participation of Australian institutions (Category 1) are generally granted ongoing approval, subject to the program continuing to meet the requirements of the EBPC Act and Regulations. In order to maintain ongoing approval, program administrators will need to provide information in the form of an annual report on the status of the program. Annual reporting allows assessment of the program's outcomes against its stated aims and objectives. Where this information is not provided, or where there is evidence that a program no longer complies with the requirements of the EBPC Regulations, approval of a program may be revoked in accordance with Regulation 9A.12(4).

Details to be included in annual reports are set on a case-by-case basis but may include:

1. An annual population status report for the program to include details of previous and upcoming breeding/transfer recommendations (for ARAZPA programs, this would take the form of a copy of the Australasian Species Management Plan Annual Report and Recommendations for the species).
2. Details of institutions entering or leaving the program.
3. Details of changes to the supporting documentation submitted as part of the original application.
4. Where applicable:
 - a summary of activities relating to the program's conservation strategy including a summary of financial and in-kind support
 - an annual progress report on the development and implementation of a genetic and demographic management plan.

Reporting requirements for inter-regional programs will generally be limited to the ongoing management and progress of the program in the Australasian region.

Approval of an overseas program (Category 2) is usually linked to a specific export permit or permits. Annual reports are not required for overseas programs unless ongoing approval of the program is required.

Where ongoing exchanges are planned between an overseas program and Australian institutions, applicants should consider establishing a formal collaboration with the overseas program to manage the animals cooperatively. This would enable the program to be approved as a Category 1 (inter-regional) CCP. Approval of a Category 1 program is generally ongoing (subject to continuing compliance with the requirements for approval as demonstrated in annual reports) and allows permit applications to be made for both imports and exports (see the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* for further details).

How to apply

- Your application consists of the completed **application form, program summary and supporting documents**.
- Before completing the application, please read the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* carefully to determine what information you need to provide.
- Please complete **all** parts of the application. Applications that are incomplete or contain insufficient information cannot be assessed. Delays will occur while further information is sought from the applicant. Please contact DEWHA to clarify any concerns.
- **Attach all supporting documentation to your application.** Failure to do this will result in delays. Details of supporting documents required are provided in the application form and program summary.
- Applications **must be signed** by the applicant or, for an organisation, a person authorised to sign on behalf of the applicant.
- The application will be assessed by DEWHA against the requirements of the EPBC Act. **The assessment and approval process usually takes around 4-6 weeks, provided that the application is satisfactory and contains all supporting documentation.** Please note that DEWHA will not generally send an acknowledgment on receipt of application.

Permits

Once a CCP has been approved, any institutions intending to import or export specimens under that program must apply to DEWHA for an import or export permit for the purpose of conservation breeding. Contact Wildlife Trade Assessments at the address below for more information on obtaining permits.

For further information on the operation of these guidelines contact:

Wildlife Trade Assessments
Department of the Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6274 2880
Facsimile: (02) 6274 1921
Email: wta@environment.gov.au



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

ABN: 34 190 894 983

Application Form for Approval of a Cooperative Conservation Program

Applicant Details

1. Name of applicant

Mr, Mrs, Ms, etc First (given) name

Family name (Surname)

1. Organisation/trading name (if appropriate)
Registered name and ABN

2. Street address

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

3. Postal address

If same as street address, tick here

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

5. Contact details (include area code)

Telephone number – work/home/mobile

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Fax number

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Email

6. Is the applicant the program coordinator?

Yes **Go to question 13**

No Complete questions 7 to 12

Where the program coordinator is not the applicant, written evidence of support from the program coordinator must be provided.

7. Applicant's relationship with the program (e.g. Convenor of Taxon Advisory Group)

Program coordinator details

8. Name of program coordinator

Mr, Mrs Ms, etc First (given) name

Family name (Surname)

9. Organisation/trading name (if appropriate)
Registered name and ABN

10. Street address

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

11. Postal address

If same as street address, tick here

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

12. Contact details (include area code)

Telephone number – work/home/mobile

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Fax number

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Email

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Program Details

13. Program name/title

14. Has this program been previously approved as a cooperative conservation program?

No ► **Go to next question**

Yes ► Give the approval date of the program (if known) and **go to next question**

/ /

15. Does the program cover any of the following animals: koala, platypus, wombat, Tasmanian devil or an animal on the EPBC threatened species list (excluding the conservation dependent category)?

No ► **Go to next question**

Yes ► Any export of program specimens will require an Ambassador Agreement between the exporting and importing institutions and DEWHA. **Please contact DEWHA for further information**

16. The approval of a cooperative conservation program is dependent on satisfying the requirements of regulation 9A.12 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000. Applicants must complete the attached Program Summary to demonstrate how the program satisfies these requirements. Guidance Notes on completing the Program Summary are provided on pages 11-25 of this document.

17. Tick the items that you have attached:

- Evidence of support from program coordinator (see Q6)
- Program Summary and supporting documents

18. Declaration by Applicant

I declare that:

- the particulars provided by me in this application (including attachments) are true and correct in every detail.

Name of applicant or authorised person (if applicant is an organisation)

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Signature of applicant or authorised person

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Date signed by applicant

/ /

Detach the application form from the guidelines and fax or mail it with all supporting documents to the following address:

Postal address:

The Director
 Wildlife Trade Assessments
 Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
 GPO Box 787
 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6274 2880
Fax: (02) 6274 1921
Email: wta@environment.gov.au

Program Summary

Please refer to the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* before completing this document. When submitting the Program Summary, all supporting documents must be attached. A checklist is provided at the end of the Program Summary for this purpose. Answers to questions 4-13 should be typed under each question or, if more convenient, applicants may attach information in a different format but must include all required information.

Program details

1 Indicate the category of the program and the regions covered

- *Category 1 (Programs involving the participation of Australian institutions)*

What regions does the program cover? (Choose one only)

- Australia/Australasia only (Category 1a)
 ► Inter-regional/global program (Category 1b)

For inter-regional programs only: in what countries or regions does the program apply (e.g. Australasia and Europe)?

- *Category 2 (Overseas program)*

In what countries or regions does the program apply (e.g. Europe, USA, Global)?

Briefly describe the planned export to which this application is linked:

2 List the species or subspecies included in the program

Scientific name	Common name(s)

3 Indicate the organisation(s) responsible for administering the program

- ▶ Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA)
- ▶ American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)
- ▶ European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)
- ▶ Other (provide details)

4 Provide information on the aims of the program

Program management

5 Describe how the program is managed to ensure that all participants meet the requirements of the program

6 Demonstrate that the program will ensure that animals are not used for commercial purposes

Genetic and demographic management

7 Describe how the program applies best practice to the genetic management of the species

Husbandry, biology and behavioural needs

8 Describe how the program applies best practice to the management of the husbandry, biology and behavioural needs of the species

Conservation of the species

- 9 Provide a brief description of the conservation status of the species
- 10 Demonstrate that the program is operated in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild
- 11 Describe how the program will take into account the conservation breeding needs of each country or region from which specimens are imported

External views

- 12 Provide information on the views of authorities in range states and relevant international organisations relating to the conservation status and needs of the species

List of supporting documents

Please provide a list of all additional documents and other materials supplied in support of the Program Summary. If you are unsure whether you need to include a document, please refer to the *Program Summary Guidance Notes* for further clarification.

Program Summary Guidance Notes

Program details

1. Indicate the category of the program and the regions covered

CCPs are divided into two categories according to whether or not they involve the participation of Australian institutions. Applicants must indicate which category applies to the program and which countries or regions it covers

(a) Programs involving the participation of Australian institutions (Category 1)

There are two different types of Category 1 programs depending on the geographical range of the program and the scope of permit applications covered.

Australian/Australasian programs (Category 1a)

Programs involving only Australian or Australasian zoos that are administered within the region. These programs are usually, but not exclusively, administered through ARAZPA.

Approval of a Category 1a program allows permit applications to be made for the import of specimens into Australia from overseas. Where the program includes New Zealand institutions, approval also allows permit applications to be made for the transfer of specimens between program participants in Australia and New Zealand.

Inter-regional programs (Category 1b)

Programs involving cooperation between Australasian institutions and institutions based in other regions where the animals are managed cooperatively. This category includes:

- Programs that involve a formal collaboration between an Australasian regional program and another regional program.
- Programs where one or more Australian institutions apply to be included as a participant in an overseas program. This situation can arise when specific institutions wish to participate in a CCP, but there is no program in existence within the region.
- International / global programs that involve all specimens of a particular species held in captivity. These are usually exclusive programs where participation in the program is the only source of specimens. Approval of the program as a CCP is required for an institution in Australia to be able to participate in the program.

Approval of a Category 1b program allows permit applications to be made for the import of specimens into Australia from overseas and the transfer of specimens between Australia and program participants in other designated regions.

(b) Overseas programs (Category 2)

Overseas programs are defined as programs that do not involve the participation of any Australian institutions. These are usually submitted for approval as a CCP to facilitate the planned export of a specimen from Australia to participate in the overseas program.

Note: Import and export permit applications are subject to a separate assessment process. Approval of a CCP does not necessarily mean that an individual permit application will be successful.

2. List the species or subspecies included in the program

Applicants should provide the scientific and common names of each species or subspecies included in the program.

3. Indicate the organisation(s) responsible for administering the program

Applicants must indicate the organisation(s) responsible for the program. Programs that have joint administration should indicate all organisations involved.

4. Provide information on the aims of the program

The legislation requires a program to operate with

- a) the intent of conserving the species in the wild or in captivity, or both, and
- b) the capability of carrying this out.

Applicants are required to provide a statement of the aims of the program.

Applicants should also briefly describe the conservation objectives of the program and indicate how achieving these objectives will contribute to the conservation status and needs of the species.

The legislation requires that the object of a CCP must be the establishment and/or maintenance of a breeding population. Programs must be managed to achieve objectives that are based on the conservation status and needs of the species. These must be the primary objectives of the program and take precedence over any objectives that are based on general conservation principles.

Applicants should include a description of **one or both** of the following in their response:

(a) Conserving the species in captivity

Programs that concentrate primarily on conserving the species in captivity (*ex situ* conservation) need to demonstrate that the program is likely to be successful in achieving a self-sustaining captive breeding population of the species.

Where the species is currently held or has previously been held within the region, applicants should provide evidence of recent experience in captive breeding. This should include:

- A summary of acquisitions (births, imports, captures) and dispositions (mortalities, exports, releases) for the previous 5 years. Where this

information is provided in the supporting documentation, such as the genetic and demographic management plan, this should be indicated here.

- A summary of the progress and development of the captive breeding program towards achieving a sustainable and genetically healthy captive population of the species. Where appropriate, a population viability analysis may be submitted as evidence of sustainability.

Where the application is for a species that has not previously been held in the region, information should be provided on the experience of captive breeding programs in other regions towards achieving a self-sustaining captive population of the species. In such cases, applicants will need to provide clear evidence of the conservation benefits of establishing a new regional population.

(b) Conserving the species in the wild

It is widely acknowledged that *ex situ* programs should have links with other regional programs and *in situ* conservation activities if they are to maximise their conservation benefit. This is a key recommendation of CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy.

Where such links have been developed, applicants should provide an outline of the conservation strategy for the program to include details of the type of activities involved and any support provided (i.e. financial or in-kind). Only those activities that have direct relevance to conserving the program species need to be included. The strategy should identify which activities are supported by the program and which are supported by individual program participants.

Examples of the types of activities that might be included in a conservation strategy are:

- support for identified *in situ* conservation projects (including reintroduction programs);
- contribution to applied research programs to address knowledge gaps in the conservation and management of the species;
- development and delivery of education and awareness programs;
- development of husbandry expertise and provision of training in wildlife management;
- provision of veterinary resources and training.

Where activities are planned outside range countries, the link between those activities and *in situ* actions should be explained. For example, where consumption of products outside the range state contributes directly to threats to the species *in situ*, education programs may aim to alter patterns of consumption outside the range state.

Assessment of the objectives of the program will take account of the views and policies of relevant range state authorities and international organisations as well as other relevant information provided in response to questions 9-14.

Objectives that are considered likely to meet these requirements are: reintroduction, captive breeding for conservation purposes, conservation-directed research, conservation education, and generating resources for *in situ* conservation activities.

Program management

5. Describe how the program is managed to ensure that all participants meet the requirements of the program

Approval of a CCP requires that the program meets certain operational standards. Applicants must demonstrate how the program is managed to ensure that all participants meet these standards. This may be achieved through restricting participation to members or accredited members of a regional zoo association, or by identifying specific requirements for the program that all participants must comply with.

(a) Program participants

List all program participants in the Australasian Region, and the names of any overseas associations involved e.g. EAZA. DEWHA does not expect exhaustive lists of all institutions that may be part of an international managed program.

(b) Responsibilities of the program administrator

The program administrator should be responsible for the overall management of the program. This includes setting criteria for participation in the program, ensuring that participants are able to meet the requirements of the program, making recommendations for the breeding or transfer of specimens and monitoring ongoing compliance with the program's operational standards (including the genetic and demographic management plan and animal management principles or husbandry guidelines).

(c) Criteria for participation in the program

Before an institution can participate in a program, it must be able to demonstrate that it has the appropriate expertise and resources to hold the species. Applicants should indicate what specific criteria have been set for the participation of new institutions in a program.

(d) How the program controls the movement of animals within, into and out of the program

Specimens and their progeny may only be moved within a program or removed from a program in accordance with the program's objectives and in a way that is not detrimental to other conservation programs or activities.

If an institution leaves the program, it must allow the transfer of its program animals to other participants. Arrangements for ensuring that animals remain within the program must be addressed in the management arrangements for the program.

Note: Any institutions intending to move program animals into or out of Australia must apply to DEWHA for an import/export. Exports to institutions outside the CCP will require approval of the overseas program that the animal is being moved to.

6. Demonstrate that the program will ensure that animals are not used for commercial purposes

The legislation requires that program animals must not be used for commercial purposes.

Applicants need to describe how the program and the participants will meet this requirement.

An activity can generally be described as 'commercial' if its primary purpose is to obtain economic benefit, including profit (whether cash or in-kind), and is directed toward resale, exchange, or provision of a service or other form of economic benefit or use².

As a general rule, if revenue generated from an activity is used for further non-commercial activities and not for direct commercial gain (i.e. does not generate a profit for an individual or, in the case of an institution, its owners or shareholders) then the activity is not regarded as commercial³.

Examples of the appropriate use of revenue include: maintaining or upgrading facilities for the program animals, offsetting costs associated with the original construction of animal facilities and sourcing/transport of the program animals, activities associated with maintaining the health and welfare of the program animals or otherwise meeting their needs, and support for related *in situ* conservation activities.

For Category 1 programs, any changes to the type of activities described in the application should be notified to DEWHA as part of the program's annual report.

Genetic and demographic management

7. Describe how the program applies best practice to the genetic management of the species

The legislation requires that the program is operated in a way that applies best practice to the genetic management of the species.

Applicants must demonstrate that the program is managed to a level that satisfies the following key requirements:

- The program coordinator is responsible for the genetic management of the program and makes regular (at least annual) recommendations for the breeding or transfer of specimens within the program. Program participants must make a formal commitment to follow these recommendations.
- The program must maintain accurate and complete studbook data where practical. DEWHA encourages studbooks to be maintained in a way that is compatible with international standards.

² Definition of 'commercial' under CITES Resolution Conf. 5.10.

³ Where an institution is a commercial enterprise, any revenue generated from the use of program animals should be used for further non-commercial activities.

- The program must be managed to breed the species in a way that maintains a healthy and self-sustaining population that is both genetically diverse and demographically stable.

Applicants should provide an explanation of how the population is managed to meet these requirements, supported by the following documents:

- Recent studbook data for the population. This should include the pedigree and history of each living animal in the population.
- Documentation that sets out a demographic and genetic management plan for the population. For ARAZPA programs, this may take the form of a Captive Management Plan.

Where a program covers a very small population, or where a new population is being established, a full demographic and genetic management plan may not yet have been developed. In this case approval of the program may be considered in the absence of a full plan, provided that the application includes sufficient information to demonstrate that the program applies best practice to the genetic management of the species. Where such programs involve the participation of Australian institutions (Category 1), the application must also include a timetable for the development and implementation of a documented demographic and genetic management plan.

It is a requirement for approval of a CCP that all program participants comply with the genetic and demographic management plan for the species.

Husbandry, biology and behavioural needs

8. Describe how the program applies best practice to the management of the husbandry, biology and behavioural needs of the species

The legislation requires that a program must be operated in a way that applies best practice to the management of husbandry, biology and behavioural needs of the species.

To meet this requirement, applicants should:

(a) Provide evidence of best practice management standards

In this context, applying *best practice* is defined as employing the most effective practices currently in use (internationally) to manage the husbandry, biology and behavioural needs of the species.

Evidence of best practice management standards should be provided along with evidence of how the program meets those criteria.

A single document produced for the program (such as species-specific husbandry guidelines) may be provided as evidence of the husbandry, biology and behavioural standards applied in the program. Data on the successful outcomes of existing captive management practices can also be included as evidence of the program's capacity to apply best practice.

The applicant will need to agree to the outlined standards as principles for management of animals located within their program. A condition of approval for the CCP would also include a statement that 'the animals will only go to institutions that are of a comparable standard'.

An assessment of the level of detail required for outlining husbandry, biology and behavioural standards will be made on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, applications for species with particularly complex requirements will need more detailed information than those with more straightforward requirements. In particular:

- Species that are difficult to maintain or breed in captivity (e.g. where captive populations experience high mortality rates, low reproductive rates, or poor health or nutrition) must include information on how the program will address these difficulties.
- Species with complex behavioural needs require detailed information on how these needs will be met in the captive situation.
- Species where reintroduction is primary objective of the program must include information on how animals will be prepared for reintroduction.

(b) Indicate how the program is managed across all participants to ensure that best practice management standards are applied

Where there are differences in management practices between program participants, the applicant will need to demonstrate that all practices applied equate to best practice (i.e. have the same management outcome).

Compliance with existing regulatory standards (whether state, federal or other) for animal welfare will only be considered sufficient where this has been assessed by DEWHA as being equivalent to the outcomes of best practice management of husbandry, biology and behavioural needs of the species.

Where appropriate, assessment of the application will take into account existing standards or guidelines for the species, relevant scientific and veterinary literature and the views of independent experts.

Conservation of the species

9. Provide a brief description of the conservation status of the species

The legislation requires that the program be based on the conservation status of the species.

Applicants should briefly describe the current conservation status of the species. Where such information exists, this must include details of past and current distribution of the species, wild population estimates, known major threats to wild populations, and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities (including other regional captive breeding programs).

Information on the conservation status of individual species can be found via the following links:

- IUCN Red List <http://www.redlist.org/>
- IUCN Species Survival Commission <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/sgs.htm>
- World Conservation Monitoring Centre <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>
- EPBC threatened species listing <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species.html>

10. Demonstrate that the program is operated in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild

The legislation requires that a program is operated in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Programs that are managed to maintain genetic variability in the population generally require the periodic importation of new founders. In some cases a program will identify a need to acquire specimens from a range state or states. Applicants need to identify the likely sources of new founders and indicate whether or not the program intends to acquire wild-caught or captive-born specimens from range states.

(a) Programs not involving range state acquisitions

Programs that only acquire animals from established captive populations in non-range state countries are generally accepted as being operated in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Most zoo transactions fall into this category as they involve the transfer of captive-bred animals between similar institutions.

If the program does not involve range state acquisitions, this should be stated here. An indication of the likely source(s) of animals should be provided if known. No further information is required in response to this question. This applies to all Category 2 programs linked to the export of a non-native species from Australia.

(b) Programs involving range state acquisitions

In some cases a program may identify a need to acquire specimens from a range state. This may be anticipated at the time of applying for approval of the CCP or at a later date after approval has been obtained.

Where it is anticipated that a program will require the acquisition of animals from a range state, this must be indicated here, together with the reasons that justify the acquisition of this species from range states (particularly if this involves wild-caught specimens).

11. Describe how the program will take into account the conservation breeding needs of each country or region from which specimens are imported

The legislation requires that a program takes into account the conservation breeding needs of the country from which the specimen is imported.

In order to fully assess this, information is required on the source of animals entering the program. Because it is not always possible for a program to predict the countries from which specimens will be imported, detailed assessment of specific imports is undertaken as part of the import permit application process.

However, there is a general requirement for CCP applicants to undertake to ensure that the conservation breeding needs of source countries are taken into account when arranging the transfer of program specimens.

Where the source of specimens has already been identified (e.g. with exports from Australia to a Category 2 program), the application should indicate where the specimens will be sourced and what steps have been taken to ensure the conservation breeding needs of the country of export are taken into account.

Where range state acquisitions are not anticipated at the time of seeking approval, but are subsequently required, program coordinators must notify DEWHA in writing of the proposed change to the program. In such cases reassessment of the program may be required.

External views

12. Provide information on the views of authorities in range states and/or relevant international organisations relating to the conservation status and needs of the species

The legislation requires that the program take into account the views of authorities in range states, and relevant international organisations.

Where particular views are held, the applicant must summarise these views and describe how the views were taken into account by the program. Where no relevant views are held, no further information is required.

There are a number of international networks and organisations through which this information could be sought. These include:

- CITES <http://www.cites.org/>
- IUCN Species Survival Commission <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/sgs.htm>
- World Conservation Monitoring Centre <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>
- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums <http://www.waza.org>
- TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network <http://www.traffic.org/>

The program coordinator will need to determine which range state authorities and international organisations are relevant to the program. Some inter-regional programs include range states in their program coverage and these partnerships may be helpful in determining which authorities and organisations should be consulted.

In the case of acquisitions of specimens from established captive bred populations from non-range state countries, and where the movement of these captive specimens is not detrimental to any *in situ* conservation efforts, DEWHA will not expect applicants to obtain the direct views of the relevant range states. However, in the absence of these views, the applicant should provide species-specific information related to conservation breeding from one or more of the sources listed above.

Where DEWHA considers that there may be relevant views that have not been taken into account by the program, further information will need to be sought by the applicant.