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# **The introduction and naturalisation of birds**

Proceedings of a conference organised jointly by the  
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# Review of information on species translocation in the UK

**Kathy Hodder, James Bullock & Sarah Manchester**

*K.H. Hodder, J.M. Bullock & S.J. Manchester, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (Natural Environment Research Council), Furzebrook Research Station, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS, United Kingdom*

A review of information, policy and legislation on species translocation in the UK was carried out for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Four subject areas were covered: species native to the UK, species not native to the UK, genetically modified organisms and species assemblages. A set of definitions of relevant terms were produced and a framework developed for discussing environmental effects of translocation in terms of biodiversity.

Existing policies and guidelines relating to each type of translocation and relevant UK and international legislation and conventions were summarised. UK legislation allows for certain types of translocation to be well regulated (e.g. release of non-resident alien animals), but others are poorly covered by legislation (e.g. release of most alien plant or animal species resident in the UK, translocation of native species and control of problem alien species).

Areas requiring further research include: the use of population modelling and experiments to assess the risks and benefits of a translocation; dispersal and spatial population dynamics studies to assess the potential for spread of introduced populations and their impacts; genetic research to determine the extent and effect of gene flow between translocated and resident populations (e.g. outbreeding depression or hybridisation) and implications for establishing species (e.g. inbreeding depression); and the development of techniques for the early detection and control of environmental problems caused by translocations.

These illustrate the need for more coordinated and structured monitoring and databasing of current and future translocations. It was recommended that project planning and risk/benefit analysis be carried out before any translocation takes place. The formation of policy and guidelines relating to translocations should involve a variety of UK and international organisations involved in carrying out, advising on and licensing translocations.

Bullock, J.M., Hodder, K.H., Manchester, S.J., & Stevenson. 1995. Review of information, policy and legislation on species translocations. Furzebrook, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. Unpublished report to the JNCC. (Contract No. F71-12-343).

