



# IUCN Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals

Susan Koenig, DFES  
[windsor@cwjamaica.com](mailto:windsor@cwjamaica.com)





## International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

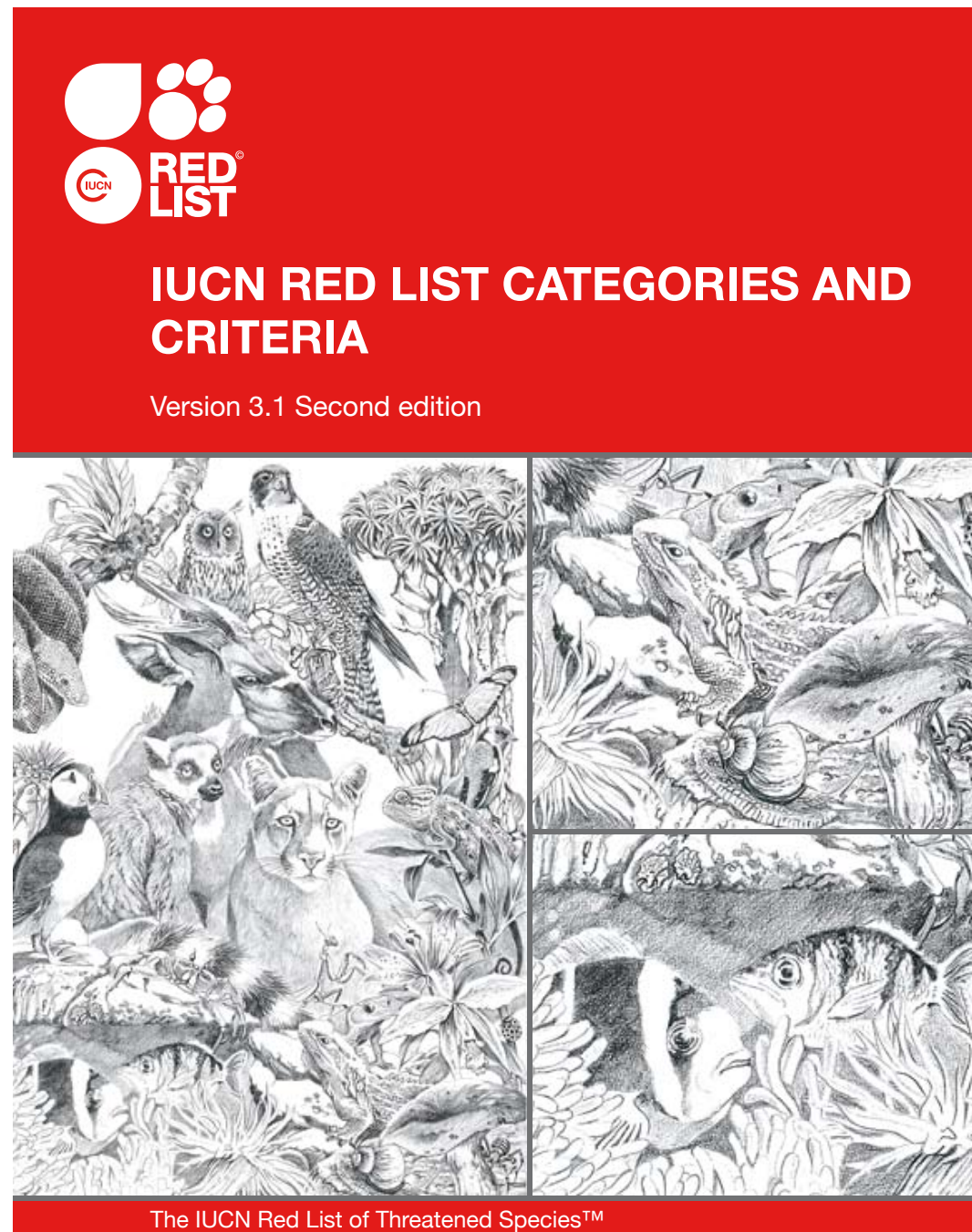
1. Commission on Education and Communication
2. Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy
3. Commission on Ecosystem Management
4. IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
5. **Species Survival Commission**
6. World Commission on Environmental Law



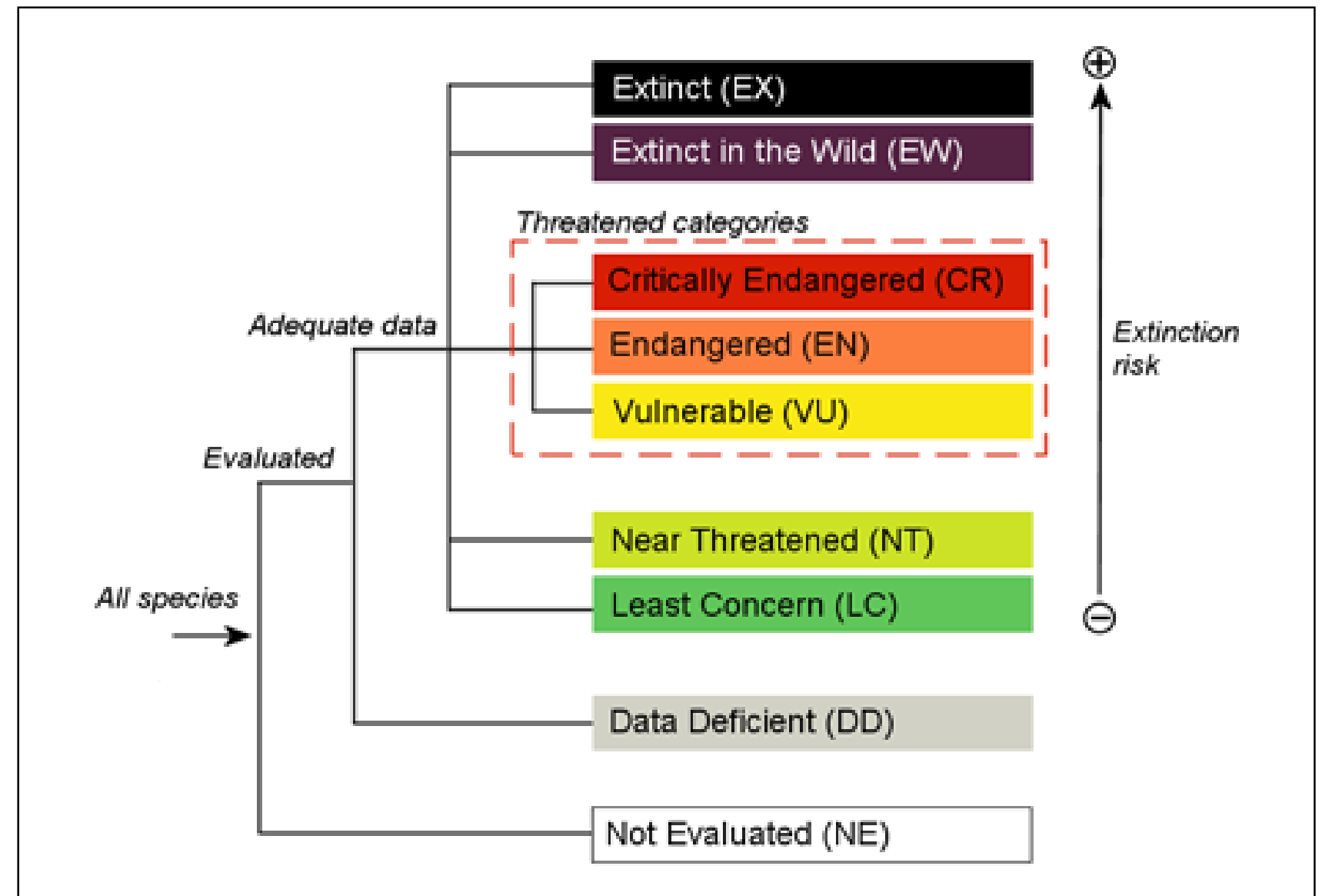
## Species Survival Commission

- ◆ **> 8,500 Volunteers**
- ◆ **130 Specialists Groups & Task Forces**
- ◆ **Members:**
  - **Researchers**
  - **GOV officials**
  - **Wildlife veterinarians**
  - **Zoo and botanical institute employees**
  - **Protected area managers**
  - **Experts on fungi, plants, inverts., fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds & mammals**

# IUCN Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™



**Figure 1.** Structure of the categories

# Orangutan SSP Veterinary Advisors Report

Nancy P. Lung, VMD, MS  
Fort Worth Zoo

Veterinary Advisor, Orangutan SSP

Joe Smith, DVM

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Veterinary Advisor, Orangutan SSP



## IUCN Policies, Guidelines & Standards

### Species Conservation and Management



Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk  
Analysis

(Co-published by OIE and IUCN)



Guidelines for Reintroductions and  
Other Conservation Translocations,  
June 2013



Guidelines for the Placement of  
Confiscated Animals approved by the  
51st Meeting of the IUCN Council,  
February 2000.

French, Spanish, Arabic.

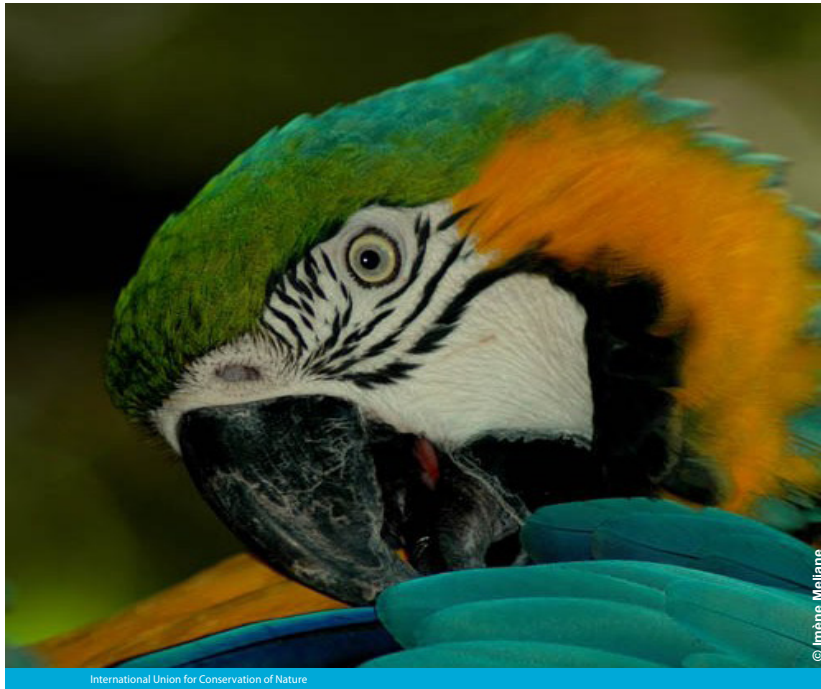
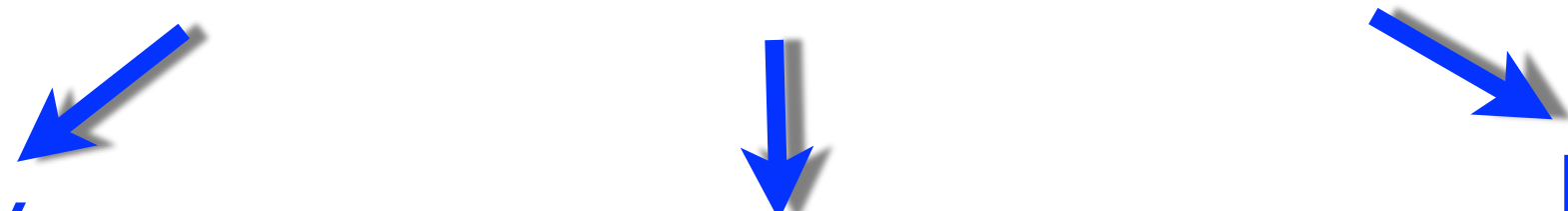
# Statement of Principle

1. Maximise the conservation value of the animal without in any way endangering the health, behavioural repertoire, genetic characteristics, or conservation status of wild or captive populations of the species or any other wild living organism;
2. Discourage further illegal trade;
3. Provide a humane solution.

Captivity

Return-to-wild

Euthanasia



# Option I: Captivity

## A. Facilities

- a. Zoos & aquaria
- b. Rescue centers (esp. for injured)
- c. Life-time care facilities
- d. Specialist societies
- e. Humane societies
- f. Commercial captive breeders
- g. Research institutions

## B. Sale, Loan, or Donation

- a. Ownership, incl. progeny?
- b. Violation by new owners?

## C. Benefits

- a. Educational exhibit
- b. Satisfaction animal not dead
- c. Captive-breeding to replace trade
- d. Captive-breeding for reintroduction
- e. Research / surrogate

## D. Concerns

- a. Disease
- b. Escape - pest or invasive
- c. Cost (housing, veterinary, etc.)
- d. Encourage trade



## Option 2: Return to Wild

“Because of the serious risks posed to wild animal populations from released confiscated animals, return to the wild is considered to be desirable in only a very small number of instances and under very specific conditions...poorly planned programmes are no better than dumping animals in the wild and should be vigorously opposed on both conservation and humane grounds.”



### A. Concerns

- a. Welfare
- b. Conservation value & cost
- c. Disease
- d. Source of individuals (provenance unknown)

### B. Benefits

- a. Restore to historic range
- b. Reinforce existing small population
- c. Save from extinction



## Option 3: Euthanasia - a humane option

*You can take an animal out of the wild...  
but you can't take the wild out of an animal.*

### A. Benefits

- a. Eliminate risks (disease, genetic pollution, invasion, etc.)
- b. Eliminate poor welfare / housing
- c. Discourage activities which gave rise to confiscation
- d. Educate public about the issues
- e. Re-allocate scarce resources

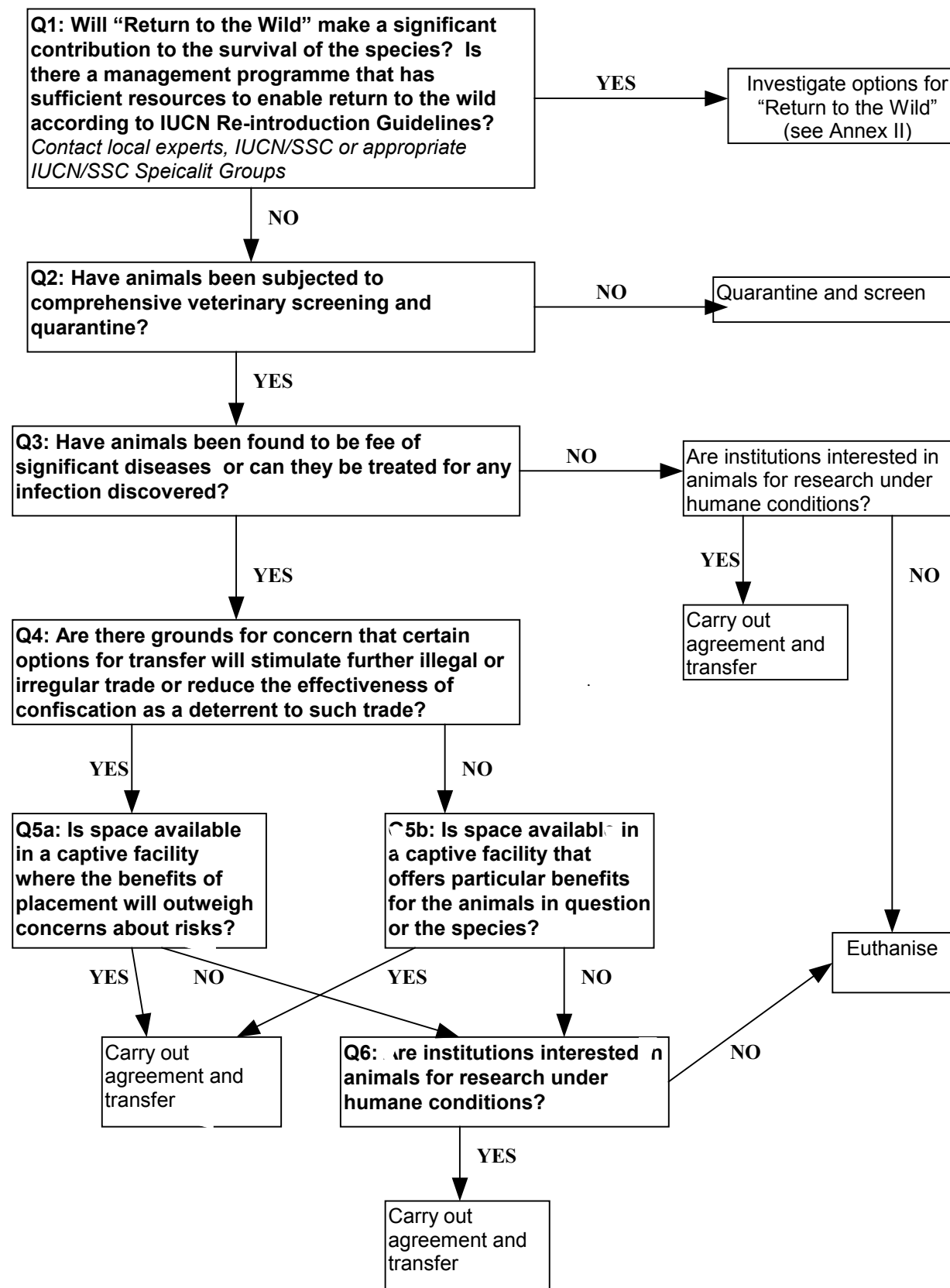
### B. Concerns

- a. Encourage poaching for “replacement”
- b. Negative public perception

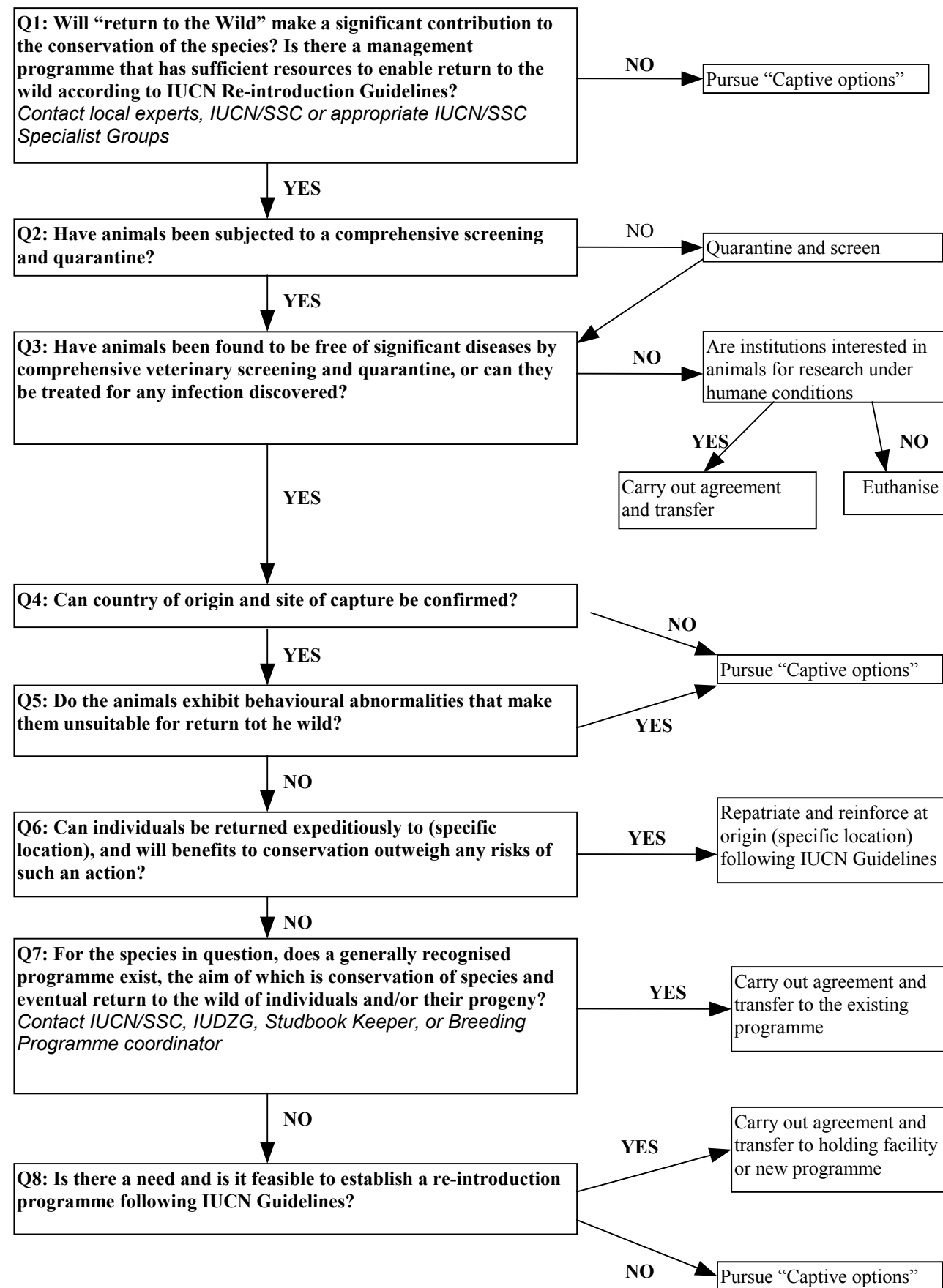


1. Assess population status
2. Assess human resources & capacity
3. Assess the individual animal

**Annexes**  
**Annex 1- Decision Tree for Captive Options**



## Annex 2 - Decision Tree for Return to the Wild



# Improving Risk Assessments to Protect Endemic Wildlife

The Unintended Consequences of Transporting Animals: Diseases, Behaviour, and Genetics



## OBJECTIVES:

1. Up-to-date screening list for infectious diseases in psittacines and reptiles.
2. Guidelines for the translocation of wildlife and for the placement of confiscated wildlife
3. Sensitizing the public to issues associated with translocating wildlife.

# Improving Risk Assessments to Protect Endemic Wildlife

The Unintended Consequences of Transporting Animals: Diseases, Behaviour, and Genetics



## WORKING SESSION:

Q1: What are the major diseases of concern in psittacines and reptiles, with regards to: (a) transporting species into Jamaica; and (b) moving species within the island (including wildlife brought into captivity or released into the wild)?

Q2: Are there species or taxonomic groups for which we should restrict entry into the island because of risks to our endemic animals? (Yellow-billed Parrot, Black-billed Parrot, Olive-throated Parakeet, Jamaican Iguana, and Jamaican Boa are case studies but other examples should be considered.)

Q3: Can we adopt / adapt IUCN Confiscated Animals Guidelines<sup>1</sup> to meet Jamaica's needs with regards to: (a) bringing wildlife into captive holding facilities; (b) establishing captive-breeding programmes for endangered species; and (c) translocating wildlife?

Q4: What categories of behaviours must we screen in evaluating an animal's fitness for return-to-the wild?