

Global Re-Introduction Perspectives

Reintroduction Case Studies from around the world. Edited by Pritpal S. Soorae. Published by the IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group. 2008. 284 pp

Reviewed by Tom Bailey

It was with great pleasure and interest that I write a short review of this new publication, edited by Pritpal Soorae, coordinator of the IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group. This special issue of *Global Re-Introduction Perspectives* provides 62 case-studies covering invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. The case-studies are presented in an organised format in the following order: Introductions, Goals, Success Indicators, Project Summary, Major Difficulties Faced, Major Lessons Learned and Success of Project with reasons for success or failure.

This is an important document because it succinctly condenses complicated projects that have taken many years of planning into a short easily digestible format. This concise format means that just because my expertise is birds and warm furry animals, I can easily read about subjects outside my sphere of expertise. Having spent a year at the Zoological Society of London it was fascinating to read about the reintroduction of Field Crickets into Southern UK. Invertebrates may not be my forte, but as a vet I was able to appreciate the importance of the health screening-component of the project. *Hameogregarine* parasite infestations had prevented the release of captive bred crickets on a number of years. It was interesting to read how many (but not all I hasten to add) projects had health screening protocols.

A good proportion of projects from the Middle East were featured, including reviews of the reintroduction of houbara bustards, Arabian oryx, red-necked ostrich, and sand gazelle, making this a very useful resource for anyone in the region working in projects that may be involved with animal re-introductions. What was important, even if projects were partially successful was the apparent importance placed on getting cross community support, especially for release projects involving predators (e.g. eagles) and how single species re-introduction projects often help to raise awareness of conservation in the wider community which can lead to the initiation of other release projects.

It is positive to see the list of sponsoring organisations and note that Abu Dhabi was involved with funding projects within and outside of the UAE. It is this broader view on supporting conservation initiatives locally and regionally that are really helping to raise the international profile of organisations, such as the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi. Congratulations to IUCN for putting this important document together.

The book can be downloaded as a PDF document on the RSG website downloads section at: (http://www.iucnsscrg.org/rsg_book.html).

A second edition is planned for 2010 if you are interested to submit a re-introduction project article please contact the Editor at psoorae@ead.ae



Fig1. Arabian Oryx being vaccinated against FMD in a Tamer at Site 2 (© O'Donovan)



What's new in the literature

Kilgallon, C., Bailey, T.A., O'Donovan, D. Wernery, U. and Alexandersen, S. (2008). A Temporal Assessment of Seroconversion in Response to Inactivated Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine in Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*). *Veterinary Record*. 163: 717-720.

Emergency foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination has been considered to be a viable way of protecting endangered captive exotic ungulates in the face of an outbreak of this disease. In this study ten male Arabian oryx were vaccinated with a commercially available standard aqueous FMD vaccine with aluminium hydroxide as adjuvant. We present results of the antibody titers recorded against serotype O and A using solid phase blocking ELISA (SPBE) and virus neutralization techniques (VNT). Although mean SPBE antibody titers greater than 1.45 log₁₀ were recorded for serotype A, low titers were recorded for VNT for both serotypes and for the SPBE titers for FMDV/O. On this evidence further doses such as a booster dose given at around 4-6 weeks after the initial vaccination are likely to be required to provide prophylactic protection against the disease in Arabian oryx. The standard commercial aluminium hydroxide adjuvanted vaccine used in this study appears unsuitable for use in emergency vaccination unless potentially incorporated into a combination strategy comprising an initial basal dose given without any particular risk for introduction of disease followed by a booster dose in the face of an outbreak.