



29 February 2024

Mr Olivier Robinet
Inspecteur Général
Milieux, ressources et risques | Inspection Générale de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable
France

Dear Mr Robinet,

Endorsement of the Whale Sanctuary Project's proposal for relocating Orcas from Marineland Antibes to a suitable location

I am writing to you in support of the proposal being made by the Whale Sanctuary Project to transfer the three orcas Wikie, Inouk and Keijo from Marineland Antibes to the sanctuary the organisation is establishing in Nova Scotia.

Having spent my life studying and working with mammals of all kinds, I am persuaded that it would be harmful for the orcas to be sent to another entertainment facility – this one in Japan – and that the Nova Scotia sanctuary offers them the opportunity to spend the rest of their lives in a natural setting while still receiving human care.

Much of my own focus has been on chimpanzees, who are highly intelligent, social animals who need a complex environment. When I set up sanctuaries in Africa for chimpanzees, critical voices said this could not be done. However, nowadays the Jane Goodall Institute cares successfully for some 200 chimpanzees in sanctuaries in Africa. Orcas, too, are intelligent, emotionally sensitive, and highly social. They cannot thrive in a setting that deprives them of the ability to explore a natural environment and choose how to spend their days without being burdened by having to entertain human audiences. Demanding orcas to perform day after day the same circus tricks for dead fish is no longer keeping up with our values and standards of animal welfare. Not only I, but many people agree that this must stop globally.

A sanctuary environment will provide them with their first-ever opportunity to live out their lives in a stimulating environment where they have the space they need to swim and dive, and, most importantly, to begin to have a level of autonomy and choice in how they spend their days. I recommend that the Ministry do all possible to ensure that these orcas can be moved to the cetacean sanctuary in Nova Scotia. My staff work closely with the Whale Sanctuary Project, and we fully support their high professional standards of animal care.

Sincerely,

Dr, Jane Goodall
DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace