

TE KOIROA O TE KOIORA

– our shared vision for living with nature



Blue Toadstool.
PAUL WILLIAMS / PHOTONZEALAND

Proposals for a new biodiversity strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has been charged with leading the development of a new biodiversity strategy on behalf of New Zealand.

Between December 2018 and March 2019, DOC had initial discussions with iwi, interest groups, specialists and some individuals. We asked what their aspirations are for biodiversity and what would help them to succeed. We used their input to help compile a discussion document – Te Koiora o te Koiora.

Now we want to hear what you think!

Join the national conversation on the future of nature in Aotearoa New Zealand – your views will inform the new biodiversity strategy!

Between August and September 2019 you can tell us what you think should be in the strategy.

Here is how you can be involved:

- **Attend a public workshop:** Events will be held around the country to showcase local stories and enable discussion about content of the strategy.
- **Join the online conversation:** You can join the conversation on Scoop's HiveMind platform and use social media to add your thoughts or find stories and event information. The conversation will be happening on the Youth Voice platform (The Hive) too.
- **Send us a submission:** We encourage you to submit your views via the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz/biodiversity-consultation) or by emailing nzbs@doc.govt.nz
- **Treaty partner engagement:** we'll also be engaging with iwi/hapu around the country.

For more information and the discussion document Te Koiora o te Koiora, go to www.doc.govt.nz/biodiversity-consultation

Submissions received during consultation will be analysed and used to inform the development of a new national biodiversity strategy. The new strategy will be approved by Cabinet and will be in place for 2020.

Why do we need to care about biodiversity and nature?

Nature underpins our wellbeing and prosperity

Nature benefits our lives and our society. It is crucial to our lives and livelihoods by providing benefits such as air and water purification, plant pollination, stabilising the climate and preventing floods, and providing us with food. New Zealand's brand is built on our natural environment, which gives our products a competitive advantage in the international market.

Just as our society is diverse, so are our views and values about nature. We are connected to the natural world around us through our many different cultures, the places where we live and spend our time, our tourism and primary industry-based economy, and how we identify as New Zealanders.

New Zealand's flora and fauna is found nowhere else on Earth. It is ancient and unique – we have giant invertebrates, flightless birds, penguins that live in the forest, trees that can live for over a thousand years, and the smallest dolphin in the world. Some of these creatures and plants have been isolated to the islands and waters of Aotearoa since the days of the dinosaurs.

For Māori, the relationship with Te Taiao, our environment, is personal and long standing. The essential connection between people and the environment is a core part of cultural health – restoring the environment in turn restores people and our connections with the environment.

Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity is in crisis

Our indigenous biodiversity is under significant pressure from the impacts of introduced species, pollution, physical changes to our landscapes and coastlines and other human activities.



Huhu beetle.
TUAN NGUYEN / PHOTONEWZEALAND

- Almost 4000 of our indigenous species are currently threatened with or at risk of extinction.
- This includes 90% of seabirds, 74% of terrestrial birds, 76% of freshwater fish, 84% of reptiles and 46% of vascular plants.

Much effort has gone into protecting species over recent years, but biodiversity continues to decline, highlighting the need to make changes to how we manage and value biodiversity.

What could be the future for nature in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Developing a new biodiversity strategy provides the opportunity to plan for the protection and restoration of nature over the next 50 years. Our initial discussions provided some ideas for how we would like New Zealand to be:

- A place where our ecosystems are healthy, functioning and resilient to climate change and other pressures. Where indigenous species are abundant and we can see and hear them in our everyday lives.
- A place where the mauri (the living essence) of nature and of people has been restored. Where the interconnectedness, resilience and wellbeing of nature and people is prioritised. Where we recognise the intrinsic value of nature, and also our obligation to be stewards of its health.
- A place where the restoration of healthy ecosystems goes hand-in-hand with the restoration of our connection with nature. Where we look at the living environment in a holistic way, recognising that people are a key part of nature.

The proposed vision for 2070, fifty years from now, is that...

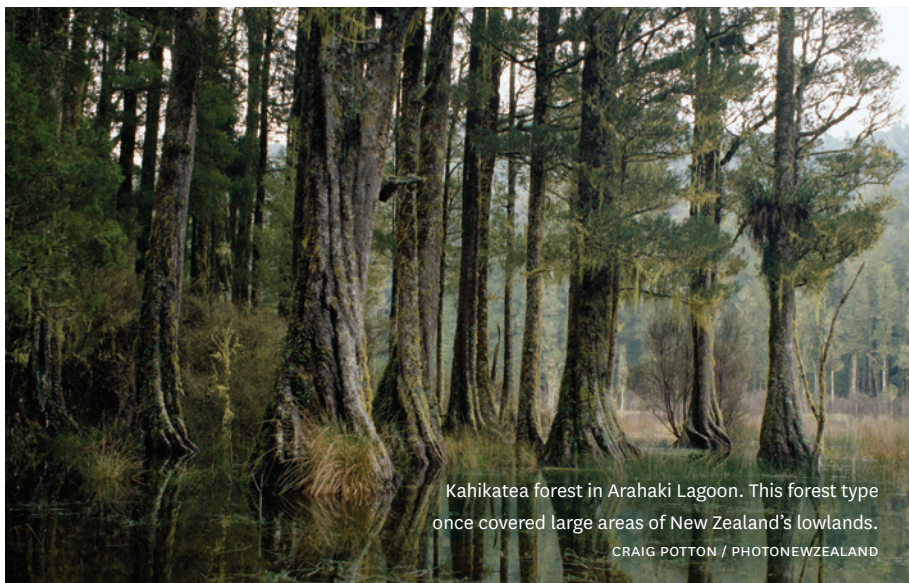


Nature in Aotearoa is healthy, abundant, and thriving.

Current and future generations connect with nature, restore it and are restored by it.

Q

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISION?



Kahikatea forest in Arahaki Lagoon. This forest type once covered large areas of New Zealand's lowlands.
CRAIG POTTON / PHOTONZEALAND

How could we get to this future?

Te Koiora o te Koiora sets out ideas that could be part of a new biodiversity strategy. It reflects the idea that humans are part of nature, and that it is vital to restore our connection with it. Placing nature at the heart of our success and wellbeing will necessarily mean taking greater steps to protect and restore our unique ecosystems and species.

The strategy needs to be ambitious, creating inspiration and motivation, and enabling everyone to make a difference towards improving our biodiversity.

Included in Te Koiora o te Koiora are proposals for what could be in the new strategy, such as:

Vision → what we want nature in Aotearoa New Zealand to be like by the year 2070.

A strategy framework → presented as a graphic image that interweaves Te Ao Māori and science.

Long-term outcomes → if we can achieve all of these, we will have reached our vision.

System shifts → areas to change the way we do things. These are proposed as the most important changes to focus on getting right in the next five years. They will enable us all to make the biggest impact possible.

Proposed biodiversity strategy framework (see overleaf)

The foundation of the strategy is **mātāpono (values)** from Te Ao Māori and science, which reflect the connection and collaboration between all involved.

The **matapopore (vision)** of the strategy aspires for boundless biodiversity, where nature and all people are connected.

Long-term outcomes are grouped in three themes – whakahou, tiaki, and wānanga (to empower, protect and restore, and promote behaviours and systems). These are key to achieving the vision.

The pathway to achieving the vision is inspired by the poutama on a tukutuku panel. The steps symbolise the actions that will take us closer to achieving the vision, and also that it will be important to stop and assess the actions, and adapt from what we have learnt.

The framework is supported by Mātauranga Māori and science, which combine to guide behaviours and monitoring systems, informing the strategy's goals.

The five system shifts

Five system shifts have been proposed as the most important changes we need to get right in the next five years. They will enable us all to have the biggest impact possible in improving Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity.

Getting the system right

A well-coordinated biodiversity system that's fit for the future is developed – optimised to plan, enable, support and deliver action, with clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for everyone involved, at national, regional and local levels.

Empowering kaitiakitanga and mātauranga māori

Te Ao Māori perspectives are embedded throughout the biodiversity system, and tangata whenua are enabled to be kaitiaki at all levels of the system.

Communities are empowered to take action

All New Zealanders are empowered to be stewards of nature, conserving, managing and using it wisely, and those who are actively contributing are connected, effective and well-supported.

Connecting ecosystems from the mountain tops to the ocean depths

Biodiversity is managed in a joined-up way across boundaries in the places where we live, work and play. Ecosystems are interconnected.

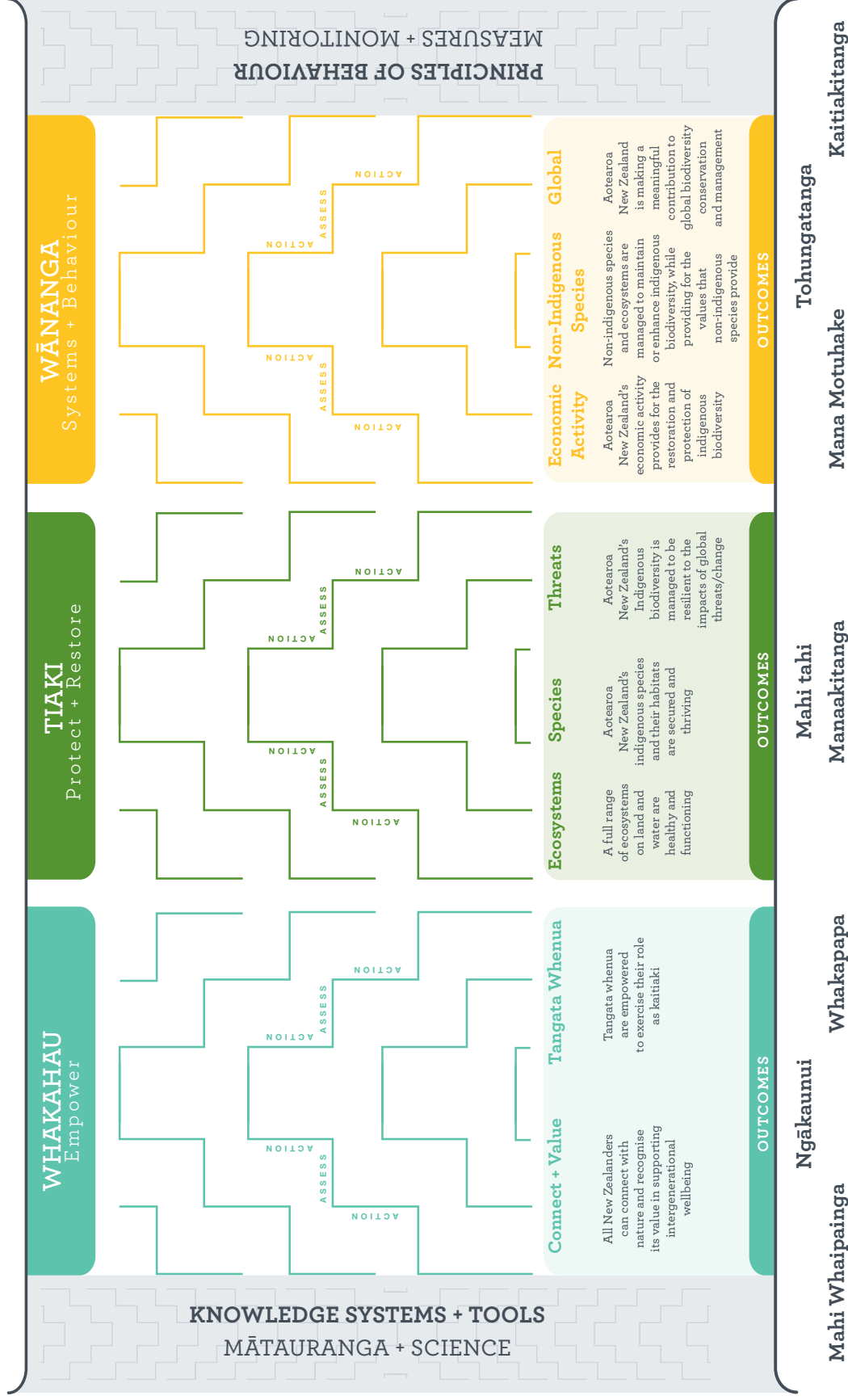
Innovating for the future

The power of technology, data and science is used to transform the way we manage biodiversity. We are working to fill the many gaps in our knowledge to inform effective approaches.

The proposed strategy framework

Matapopore | Vision

Nature in Aotearoa is healthy, abundant and thriving.
Current and future generations connect with nature, restore it and are restored by it.



Mātāpono | Values

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK?

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE LONG-TERM OUTCOMES?

Q ARE THESE THE RIGHT VALUES TO GUIDE THE WAY WE WORK?