



Annual Report of the
**New Zealand
Conservation Authority**

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987

Cover photo: Kekenō / New Zealand fur seal, Castlepoint

Back cover photo: Small waterfall, New Plymouth

Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Conservation

Tēnā koe Minister

I submit, in accordance with section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987 (Act), the annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa (Authority) for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Act requires that the Authority report each year to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

The Authority held four of its six meetings online during the year due to the Level 4 lockdown and restrictions following the arrival of the Omicron variant, with only the December and June meetings being held in person. To respond to this situation, agendas were downsized, and the two planned field trips were postponed twice while we met with the respective conservation boards virtually. Despite these constrained circumstances, the Authority maintained a high level of productivity.

Meetings

Authority members responded well in the absence of the positive benefits of kanohi kitea (in-person) meetings. The Authority met virtually with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board twice in lieu of meeting them in person, both occasions brought about by the cancellation of a planned field trip to their region. Items of interest and priority for the Board were discussed.

The Authority hosted, in November 2021, the annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference, which continues to grow in strength, and vitally supports Boards to understand their roles and canvas conservation issues of the moment. The Conference allows for collaboration between the Authority and conservation boards, and for the Department to have the opportunity to present to the board chairs on matters of national-level priority and importance. It was also a timely opportunity for board chairs to meet the Director-General of Conservation, Penny Nelson, and for the Director-General to gain a greater appreciation of the network of conservation boards and their independent advisory roles on issues and matters at a conservancy level.

The Authority also hosted and heard from a broad range of speakers from outside the Department on a variety of topics relevant to its strategic priorities. This sharing of information has been helpful.

The approval of plans

The Otago Conservation Board provided the Authority with the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy partial review at its October 2021 meeting. In consideration of the review and, in accordance with section 17F(m) of the Act, the Authority undertook consultation with tramping clubs. I am pleased to say the Authority approved the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy at its meeting in June 2022, thanks in many respects to our hardworking Otago Conservation Management Strategy Committee.

Change of land status – stewardship land

On the 27 May 2022, Minister Kiri Allan released the recommendations for reclassification of stewardship land in Western South Island for public consultation. The Authority discussed these recommendations in June 2022 and met virtually with the chairs of the National and Mana Whenua Panels. The Authority is gathering additional information while considering how it will ensure timely processes for those areas recommended for addition to national parks.

Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

This year has seen positive progress in the partial review of the general policies with the publication of the Options Development Group (ODG) report in April 2022. The Authority held a special meeting in April 2022 to receive and discuss the ODG report, with conversations continuing at its June 2022 meeting. It is anticipated that the drafting of the general policies partial review will carry forward into 2023.

Investigate and/or advise on conservation matters of national importance

The Authority continued to schedule strategic sessions at each meeting with the Director-General and members of the Departmental Senior Leadership Team on issues relevant to their business group. With the incoming Director-General, Penny Nelson, such sessions have also pivoted to a focus on integration and reset strategies to take the Department forward. Discussions have also included advice on the Department's internal system review and design, the national conservation management strategy review of mountain biking, and ensuring healthy ocean ecosystems.

During the year, the Authority took the opportunity to provide advice to the Minister on the following strategic issues: Milford Opportunities Project Masterplan; toxoplasmosis in Māui dolphins / popoto and Hector's dolphins; marine conservation; control of deer, goats, and pigs; budget priorities for 2022/23; stewardship land reclassification project; conservation boards' annual reports for 2020/21 and performance; and appointments to conservation boards in 2022.

The Authority also provides advice via discussion at meetings, via letters, by way of its committees and submissions, and through regular contact between the Chair, the Minister, and the Director-General.

Committees

The Act enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Authority. In the reporting period, the active committees included Biocontrol, Management Planning, Conservation Law Reform, Marine, Milford Opportunities Project, Otago Conservation Management Strategy, and Treaty Partnerships.

Advocacy

The Authority advocated its interests during the reporting period through public submissions on the draft Natural and Built Environments Bill, proposed changes to wetland regulations, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper.

Members also represented the Authority at multiple events and meetings throughout the year, including the Environmental Defence Society Conference 2021, the Minister's conservation law reform announcement, the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group meeting, and the launch of Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan.

Ministers of Conservation

We acknowledge the energy, commitment, and directness of Minister Kiri Allan on conservation matters and for attending our December and April meetings. The Authority were also present at Minister Allan's announcement of the conservation law reform roadmap in December, a modernisation of conservation law that the Authority welcomes. Minister Poto Williams, we congratulate you on your appointment to Minister of Conservation on 14 June of this year. We supplied you with a briefing on 23 June and look forward to developing a positive working relationship with you on conservation matters.

Director-General of Conservation

This was also a year when Lou Sanson concluded his time as Director-General. His successor, Penny Nelson, was welcomed by the Authority at our December meeting. We acknowledge the significant effort Penny has put into developing a new integrated strategy for achieving greater focus and clarity in the Department's work. Coupled with the current reorganisation of senior leadership, this bodes well for the challenges and aspirations ahead. We value the role of 'critical friend' ascribed by Penny to the Authority, which acts as a forum to test ideas and proposals before these are made public.

In closing

While there remain many challenges to achieving sound conservation and heritage outcomes, conservation law reform, cross-agency alignment on reversing biodiversity loss, the refresh and reset of the Department for increased impact, and continued investment in biodiversity, Predator Free 2050 and climate change, are highly encouraging. In addition, the erudite ODG report adds clarity to understanding te ao Māori aspirations and is generating informed conversations.

Finally, I thank Authority members and support staff for their continued efforts and attention to their function, and particularly those members who retired or whose terms expired on 30 June.

Nāku iti, noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Ellison', is written over a light blue grid background.

Edward Ellison, ONZM

Chair, New Zealand Conservation Authority

A close-up photograph of Rimu foliage, showing two vertical branches of small, pointed, green leaves. A dark horizontal band is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure for the people of New Zealand, that the richness of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage is valued, restored, maintained, and cared for by all, in order to enhance our environment and quality of life.



View from Mana Island. Photo: NZCA Servicing Officer

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHORITY

The New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa (**Authority**) is a national statutory body, established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**), that provides strategic advice on conservation issues of national importance, to the Minister of Conservation (**Minister**) and to the Director-General of Conservation.

The functions of the Authority are set out in the Act, the National Parks Act 1980, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.

The Authority also has specified responsibilities, set out in Treaty claims settlement legislation, in relation to engagement with tangata whenua. These include establishing respectful working relationships, exercising mana recognition, and acknowledging kaitiakitanga as an important foundation for Māori conservation outcomes.

A major responsibility of the Authority is the approval of the 10-year conservation management strategies and national park management plans that guide the Department of Conservation's (**Department's**) management of public conservation lands, waters, and species.

The Authority is committed to collaborative models in the management of public conservation resources. This is embodied in the long history of formal engagement of New Zealanders in the conservation management of Aotearoa New Zealand, through bodies such as the Authority and conservation boards. The partnership between conservation boards and the Authority is a long-standing legislative mechanism that enables conservation through partnerships.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Authority has 13 members, appointed by the Minister. Authority members are appointed for 3-year terms, unless otherwise stated, and may be reappointed. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and geographical knowledge contributes to the advice and decisions made by the Authority. The Authority is made up of:

- two appointments in consultation with the Minister of Tourism, two appointments in consultation with the Minister for Māori Development, and one appointment in consultation with the Minister of Local Government
- one appointment on the recommendation of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, one on the recommendation of Forest & Bird Te Reo o Te Taiao, and one on the recommendation of Federated Mountain Clubs
- one appointment on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- four appointments following nominations from the public.

NICOLE ANDERSON of Kerikeri, appointed after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development. Term: June 2018 to June 2023.

TĀNE DAVIS MNZM of Invercargill, appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Term: October 2018 to June 2023.

EDWARD ELLISON ONZM of Dunedin, appointed from public nominations, is Chair of the Authority. Term: January 2019 to June 2023.

SALLY GEPP of Nelson, appointed on the recommendation of Forest and Bird Te Reo o Te Taiāo. Term: August 2020 to June 2023.

ROBYN JEBSON of South Westland, appointed from public nominations. Term: July 2017 to June 2022.

TONYLEPPER ONZM of Alexandra, appointed from public nominations. Term: July 2017 to June 2022.

ROBIN MCNEILL MNZM of Invercargill, appointed on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs. Term: August 2020 to June 2023.

TAK MUTU of Rotorua, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Tourism. Term: April 2021 to June 2023.

WENDY NELSON MNZM of Wellington, appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, is Deputy Chair. Term: August 2020 to June 2023.

VIV SHAW of Te Anau, appointed from public nominations. Term: August 2020 to June 2023.

MAXINE SHORTLAND MNZM of Russell, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Tourism. Term: August 2020 to June 2023 (resigned February 2022).

SHANE TE RUKI of Te Awamutu, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Local Government. Term: November 2021 to June 2023.

PUKE TIMOTI of Hamilton, appointed after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development. Term: August 2020 to June 2023.

The diversity among the members brings together a wide range of knowledge, focus, and skill.

3. MEETINGS

The Authority met on six occasions during the year: in August, October, and December 2021, and in February, April, and June 2022. In usual circumstances, each meeting takes place over two days, and those held outside of Wellington involve a one-day field trip on the first day hosted by the local conservation board.

On 17 August 2021, however, the day before the Authority's meeting, Aotearoa New Zealand moved into COVID-19 Alert Level 4. As a result of the nationwide lockdown, the Authority changed its August meeting to a one-day online meeting, requiring the agenda to be trimmed. The uncertainty of the times also affected the October 2021 meeting; originally scheduled as a meeting to be held in Tauranga with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, it took place instead as a one-day online meeting.

The Authority were pleased to finally meet in person in Wellington for the December 2021 meeting, and remained optimistic about the prospect of in-person meetings for the 2022 year. Unfortunately, the arrival of the Omicron variant meant that the Authority were not able to meet in person again until the June 2022 meeting, with both the February and April meetings taking place as two-day online meetings.



Hector's dolphin, Akaroa. Photo: Danica Stent

3.1 Strategic advice to the Minister

Hon Kiri Allan, Minister of Conservation, attended the Authority's meetings in December 2021 and April 2022. Between meetings, the Authority's Chair, Edward Ellison, maintained a regular two-monthly meeting with the Minister and discussed issues via phone as and when they arose. Throughout the reporting year, in addition to discussions within its meetings, the Authority has advised the Minister on the following matters.

- The Milford Opportunities Project Masterplan, in October 2021
- Toxoplasmosis in Māui dolphins / popoto and Hector's dolphins, in November 2021
- Marine conservation, in December 2021
- Control of deer, goats, and pigs, in December 2021
- Budget priorities for the financial year 2022/23, in December 2021
- Stewardship land reclassification project, in January 2022
- Conservation boards' annual reports for 2020/21 and performance, in February 2022
- Appointments to conservation boards in 2022, in March 2022

3.2 Strategic advice to the Department

This reporting year saw a period of significant change within the Department. In August 2021, the Authority had its final meeting with Lou Sanson, former Director-General of Conservation; in October 2021, it held a meeting with Bruce Parkes, former Acting Director-General of Conservation; and at its December 2021 meeting, it had the pleasure of welcoming Penny Nelson, Director-General of Conservation.

Throughout this period of change, the Department's Senior Leadership Team continued to attend meetings and engage with the Authority on issues of strategic importance for their business group. The purpose of these discussions is for the Authority to provide strategic advice and guidance on issues important to the Department's future success. This year, these included the following.

- Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director-General People, discussed the Department's Health, Safety and Wellbeing system, and its role in protecting Department staff, contractors, and volunteers, in August 2021.
- Lian Butcher, Acting Deputy Director-General Partnerships, discussed the work the Department was undertaking to ensure its 'Working with Others' approach aligns and supports the implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, in August 2021.
- Michelle Hippolite, Deputy Director-General Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai, spoke to programme updates in October 2021.
- Marie Long, Acting Deputy Director-General Biodiversity, spoke of the Department's work with the Game Animal Council to draft a framework for adaptive management of wild animals, known as Te Ara ki Mua Wild Animal Framework, in December 2021.
- Rachel Bruce, Deputy Director-General Corporate Services, discussed the Department's climate change and sustainability workstreams with the Authority, including emissions reduction, adaptation, and mitigation, in December 2021.
- Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director-General People, briefed the Authority on the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in December 2021.
- Ken Hughey, Chief Science Advisor, discussed the Department's developing submission on the MBIE Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper, in February 2022.

Penny Nelson, Director-General of Conservation, made clear her desire to use and engage the Authority as a 'critical friend' to test ideas before going external. Penny and Edward Ellison, Chair of the Authority, consequently agreed a programme of strategic sessions for the coming year, whereby Penny would attend an Authority meeting for 1–3 hours to provide a high-level overview of the current landscape and discuss issues of the day. Deputy Directors-General would then join Penny in presenting on items, allowing for the Authority to provide high-quality advice.

Topics included Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan, the Department's application of Treaty principles under section 4 of the Act, Penny's vision and integrated strategy for the Department, and the role of the Department as a regulator.



Above Sunrise Hut, Photo: NZCA Servicing Officer

3.3 Stakeholder engagement

The Authority hosted and heard from the following speakers from outside the Department.

- Representatives of Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and Te Arawhiti discussed the Taranaki Maunga settlement, in February 2022.
- Professor Jacinta Ruru, of the University of Otago, led a workshop on conservation law and tangata whenua, in June 2022.
- Representatives of the Backcountry Trust, presented on its recent work and aspirations, in June 2022.

3.4 Attendance at meetings 2021/22

Member	Number of meetings attended (total of 6)
Nicole Anderson	6
Tāne Davis	6
Edward Ellison (Chair)	6
Sally Gepp	4
Robyn Jebson	6
Tony Lepper	6
Robin McNeill	6
Tak Mutu	6
Wendy Nelson	6
Viv Shaw	6
Maxine Shortland (resigned February 2022)	(2 of 4)
Shane Te Ruki (since November 2021)	(3 of 4)
Puke Timoti	3.5

3.5 Field trips

Field trips are a vital part of the Authority’s way of operating, giving members the chance to view in situ concerns and opportunities that have been raised in public submissions, and to appreciate the local context faced by Departmental staff and communities in managing public conservation lands. They also provide an opportunity for the Authority to spend time with local conservation board members, discussing matters important to their regions. Unfortunately, due to the risks involved with travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Authority did not have any field trips this reporting year.

The Authority were scheduled to hold the October 2021 meeting in Tauranga with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. It was a disappointment they were unable to meet with the Board, who were instead invited to attend a session at the end of the online meeting. The encounter was rescheduled for April 2022, which again was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board members attended the Authority’s online hui for a session to share items of interest and priority for the Board.

4. BUDGET, FEES, AND ALLOWANCES

4.1 Budget and member fees

The Authority’s budget for the reporting year was \$148,000. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The Chair receives a daily meeting fee of \$700, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$450.

4.2 Carbon emissions

At the October 2021 meeting, the Authority adopted its Climate Change Policy that committed it to calculate, as far as practicable, its carbon footprint and publish this in its annual reports. The Department’s Outcomes Management Office has provided the tools to enable the Authority to fulfil its commitment.*

During the reporting year, four of the six meetings were held online with no external meeting or field trips taking place. This will have drastically affected the Authority’s emissions. As such, the 2018/19 year is included as a baseline, as it was the last year unaffected by COVID-19. All six of the Authority’s meetings took place in person in both the 2018/19 and 2020/21 reporting years

	2018/19 (baseline pre-COVID)	2020/21 (previous year)	2021/22 (reporting year)
CO ₂ e t	18.90	20.48	11.73

**Emissions reporting includes hosting the Conservation Board Chairs’ Conference (section 8.4)*

5. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

5.1 Section 4 of the Act

Section 4 of the Act states: ‘This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.’ As a body established under this Act, the Authority is governed by section 4 in the discharge of its functions.

During the reporting year, the Treaty Partnerships Committee has reviewed and updated the Authority's policy on giving effect to section 4, and developed an annual work plan to focus on workstreams, including concessions, Treaty settlement obligations and opportunities for the Department, and the redrafting of the General Policy for National Parks.

5.2 Functions of the Authority

Section 6B of the Act sets out the functions of the Authority.

(a) Advise the Minister on statements of general policy

General policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes. There are two general policies, the General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation General Policy. This year, positive progress has been made in the partial review of the general policies, with the publication of the Options Development Group (ODG) report in April 2022. The ODG was an independent body established in September 2020 to assist in the partial reviews of the general policies by providing recommendations for change.

The Authority held a special meeting in April 2022 to receive and discuss the ODG report; conversations continued at its June 2022 meeting, with the drafting of the general policies carrying forward into next year.

(b) Approve conservation management strategies

A conservation management strategy is a 10-year statutory document that implements general policy and establishes objectives for the discharge of the Department's functions in the area covered by the strategy, and for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes. Conservation management strategies are developed by Departmental planning staff in partnership with local conservation boards and tangata whenua.

This year, the Otago Conservation Board provided the Authority with the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy partial review at the Authority's October 2021 meeting. In its considerations of the review, and in accordance with section 17F(m) of the Act, the Authority undertook consultation with tramping clubs. The Authority approved the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy at its meeting in June 2022.

(c) Approve conservation management plans

Although the Authority may be asked to approve conservation management plans, these are usually approved by conservation boards, in some cases jointly with an iwi authority, as provided in Treaty settlement legislation. No plans were received by the Authority for consideration during the reporting year.

(d) Review the effectiveness of the Department's administration of general policies

When approving statutory planning documents, the Authority seeks to satisfy itself that appropriate effect is given to the two statements of general policy: the Conservation General Policy and the General Policy for National Parks.

(e) Investigate and/or advise on conservation matters of national importance

The Authority investigates conservation matters it deems to be of national importance, and provides advice to the Minister and Director-General of Conservation. The Authority provides this advice in a number of ways, including in discussions at meetings, via letters, through the work of its

committees alongside Departmental staff, by sharing its submissions (outlined in section 5.3), and by the Chair maintaining regular contact (via phone and/or online meetings) with the Minister and the Director-General.

(f) Change of land status – stewardship land

In April 2015 the then Minister, Hon Maggie Barry, requested the Authority's views on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's recommendation to the Minister that the Authority provide "guidance on the principles and processes that should be used when making decisions on net conservation benefit" in the context of land exchanges under section 16A of the Act. In response, the Authority provided the report 'Stewardship Land: Net Conservation Benefit Assessments in Land Exchanges' in January 2016, which was revised in March 2018.

In this reporting year, there has been progress in this area. The Department discussed the stewardship land reclassification programme with the Authority at its December 2021 and April 2022 meetings, and in March 2022 the Authority provided advice, directly to the Minister, on the 'Stewardship Land in Aotearoa New Zealand' discussion document.

On 27 May 2022, the Minister released the recommendations for reclassification of stewardship land in Western South Island for public consultation. The Authority discussed these recommendations at its June 2022 meeting, including how best to proceed with the work ahead.

(g) Education and publicity

Minutes, agendas, and other information regarding the Authority's functions and activities, including its meetings (which are open to the public), are available on the Authority's website. The Authority made a media statement on 3 May 2022 regarding the Options Development Group report. No additional education or publicity activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

(h) Priorities for expenditure by the Department

The Authority provided the Minister and the Director-General of Conservation with its advice on priorities for the expenditure of money for the financial year 2022/23 on 17 December 2021.

(i) New Zealand Fish & Game Council liaison

Section 6B(1)(i) of the Act provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. The Authority and New Zealand Fish and Game Council provided each other with copies of agendas and meeting papers during the reporting period.

Edward Ellison, Chair of the Authority, attended a meeting of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council on 1 May 2022.

(j) Ministerial delegations

The Minister did not delegate any Ministerial powers or functions to the Authority during the reporting period.

5.3 Powers of the Authority

Section 6C of the Act sets out the powers of the Authority.

(a) Committees

The Act enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Authority. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees, included the following.

- **Biocontrol Committee:** Tony Lepper and Wendy Nelson

The National Parks Act 1980, section 5A(2) (a), stipulates that before authorising the introduction of any biological control organism in any national park, the Minister shall consult with the Authority. This reporting year, the committee, under delegation from the full Authority, reviewed an application from the Greater Wellington Regional Council to introduce the Honshu white admiral butterfly (*Limenitis glorifica*) into Oporua Scenic Reserve, to manage the weed Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and recommended to the Minister that authorisation be granted.



Honshu white admiral butterfly eggs. Photo: DOC

- **Conservation Law Reform Committee:** Edward Ellison Tāne Davis, Viv Shaw, Sally Gepp, and Puke Timoti

This committee was established at the Authority's February 2022 meeting to advise the Minister on conservation law reform proposals. The committee met with Departmental officials on 28 April, who have identified critical strategic junctures within the upcoming schedule of reform work where advice and guidance from the committee will be sought. The committee held a second meeting on 20 June to progress work on the Wildlife Act review and its submission on the 'Conservation Management and Processes' discussion document.

- **Treaty Partnerships Committee:** Nicole Anderson, Tāne Davis, Edward Ellison, and Puke Timoti

This year, the committee has held regular meetings with Michelle Hippolite, Deputy Director-General Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai, on the implications of the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Supreme Court decision for the Department.

- **Management Planning Committee:** Edward Ellison, Sally Gepp, Robyn Jebson, Tony Lepper, and Viv Shaw

The Department has initiated an external review of its management planning processes and framework, with the accompanying report due to be finalised in August 2021. The committee have continued to provide advice on the Department's internal system review and design, and on matters such as the national conservation management strategy review for mountain biking.



Mountain biker, Dublin Bay. Photo: Simon Williams

- **Marine Committee:** Wendy Nelson, Nicole Anderson, Viv Shaw, Sally Gepp, and Edward Ellison

The committee reviewed and revised the Authority’s Marine Principles and Coastal Management Principles, combining the two into one principles document, cognisant of a holistic ‘mountains to sea’ approach. This was ratified by the Authority at its June 2022 meeting. The committee also provided feedback, insights, and advice to the marine Managers and the Oceans Secretariat on the Oceans and Fisheries portfolio, as agreed in the June 2021 Ensuring Healthy Ocean Ecosystems Cabinet paper.

- **Milford Opportunities Project Committee:** Viv Shaw, Robyn Jebson, and Robin McNeill

This committee was established to understand wider implications of the Milford Opportunities Project for the future management of public conservation land and waters, including national parks. The committee provided advice to the Minister on the Milford Opportunities Project Masterplan in October 2021, and met with project officials in February 2022.

- **Otago Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Committee:** Robyn Jebson, Tony Lepper, Viv Shaw, and Sally Gepp

The Otago Conservation Board and Department presented the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) partial review document to the Authority at its October 2021 meeting. This committee reviewed the material in detail, met with Department staff and conservation board members, and undertook targeted consultation with tramping clubs to ensure that the Authority were in a position to approve the strategy in a timely fashion. Tony Lepper was convener for the committee, and the document was approved by the full Authority at its June 2022 meeting.

(b) Advocacy

The Authority advocated its interests during the reporting period through several public submissions, which are accessible on its [webpage](#) on the Department's website. These included:

- Submission on the draft Natural and Built Environments Bill, submitted August 2021
- Submission on proposed changes to the wetland regulations, submitted October 2021
- MBIE Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper, submitted March 2022

Members also represented the Authority at various events and meetings throughout the reporting year, including the following.

- Nicole Anderson and Robyn Jebson attended the Environmental Defence Society Conference 2021: Transforming Aotearoa, in Christchurch from 4 to 6 August 2021.
- Several members attended the Minister's conservation law reform announcement in Wellington on 10 December 2021.
- Tony Lepper attended a Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group meeting in Christchurch on 11 March 2022.
- Wendy Nelson attended the launch of Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan on Mana Island on 20 April 2022.

6. THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

6.1 Functions of the Authority

Section 18 of the National Parks Act 1980 sets out the functions of the Authority.

(a) Review the General Policy for National Parks

General policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes. There are two general policies, the General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation General Policy. The Authority are the custodians of the General Policy for National Parks.

The partial review of the General Policy for National Parks is underway, and aims to give full effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi. To assist with this review, an independent body, the Options Development Group (ODG), was established in September 2020 to provide recommendations. The ODG released its report in April 2022, and the Authority released a media statement on receipt of this, available to view on the Authority's webpage.

The Authority discussed next steps for the review of the General Policy for National Parks at its June 2022 meeting. The review work will continue into the next reporting year.

(b) Approve national park management plans

No reviews of national park management plans were conducted during the reporting period.

(c) Additions to, and deletions from, national parks

No additions to, or deletions from, national parks were advised during the reporting period.

(d) National park investigations

No national park investigations were undertaken during the reporting period.

(e) National park determinations

No national park determinations were made during the reporting period.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

7.1 Stout Trust

The Stout Trust was established to provide grants for the preservation of natural or historical sites or amenities for public enjoyment, and the promotion, creation, or preservation of works of art, including visual, audio, or literary arts.

The Authority has a representative that sits on the Historical and Natural Sites Panel, a board that advises on grants made by the Trust. Wendy Nelson is the Authority's representative this panel, and attended the Trust's annual meeting on 2 November 2021 in Wellington.

7.2 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a democratic membership union that harnesses the expertise, resources, and reach of the world's most influential organisations and experts to conserve nature and work towards sustainable use of natural resources. The IUCN has more than 1,400 members from over 170 countries; the Authority, along with another government agency, is one of eight members of the New Zealand National Committee of the IUCN. The committee meets quarterly. Wendy Nelson is the Authority's representative on the committee.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress was held in Marseille, France, between 3 and 11 September 2021. This year, due to COVID-19, the congress was held as a hybrid in-person and virtual conference. Wendy Nelson noted that voting on important issues was done only by people on the campus, which caused frustration among those forced to vote via proxy. The Motions Committee and Congress Committee denied the proposal to delay the voting on key issues to enable proper discussion and online voting. The process issues resulted in a certain amount of exclusion, particularly for e-NGOs that could not afford to travel to the congress.

In addition, Wendy Nelson attended an online meeting of the New Zealand National Committee of the IUCN on 15 March 2022, where items discussed included a debrief of the congress, seabed mining, the IUCN Nature-based Solutions approach, and the prospect of the 6th International Marine Protected Area Conference (IMPAC6) being held in New Zealand.



8. CONSERVATION BOARDS

8.1 Conservation board boundaries

There were no changes to conservation board boundaries in the reporting period.

8.2 Conservation board nominations

The Minister is required to consult with the Authority prior to appointing public members to conservation boards. The Authority provided its advice to the Minister on the appointment process for 2022. The Authority was encouraged by the high standard of nominations received. It was heartening to see great diversity across these nominations, not only of ethnicity, gender, and age, but also of experience, knowledge, and skills.



8.3 Authority/conservation board liaison

One Authority member acts as liaison with each conservation board. This liaison function includes attendance at board meetings and informal liaison with the board chair. Interactions, highlights, and issues are reported back to the Authority at each meeting.

Conservation board	Liaison member
Te Hiku o Te Ika	Nicole Anderson
Northland	Nicole Anderson
Auckland	Tak Mutu
Waikato	Puke Timoti
Bay of Plenty	Tak Mutu
East Coast Hawke's Bay	Maxine Shortland (Aug to Feb), Puke Timoti (Feb to Jun)
Tongariro Taupō	Maxine Shortland (Aug to Feb), Tak Mutu (Feb to Jun)
Taranaki/Whanganui	Puke Timoti and Maxine Shortland (Aug to Feb), Shane Te Ruki (Feb to Jun)
Wellington	Wendy Nelson
Chatham Islands	Edward Ellison
Nelson Marlborough	Sally Gepp
West Coast Tai Poutini	Robyn Jebson
Canterbury Aoraki	Tony Lepper
Otago	Tony Lepper
Southland	Robin McNeill

8.4 Annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference 2021

The Authority hosted the annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference on 6 and 7 November 2021, at AREA Events in Wellington. These conferences are designed to build collaboration between the Authority and conservation boards, and for the boards to develop stronger working relationships with one another and the Department. They provide the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Government's expectations of the boards, and the role they play in conservation leadership within their communities. It is a vital opportunity to share ideas and practices. Main topics on the conference's agenda for 2021 included the following.

- An introduction with the new Director-General of Conservation, Penny Nelson
- Conservation board annual work programmes
- The Department's Governance Unit and the board systems improvement project
- Māori-Crown relations and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi
- Statutory management planning and the Department's review of its management planning system
- The Department's approach to climate change through mitigation and adaptation
- The implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- Stewardship land reclassification

8.5 Annual reports

Conservation boards are each required by section 60 of the Act to provide the Authority with an annual report. These reports are available on the boards' individual pages on the Department's website.

8.6 Implementation of conservation management strategies

Most conservation boards have adopted a systematic process for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the conservation management strategy for their region, and for advising the Department's operations directors in that respect. Boards report on this monitoring in their annual reports.

Under the Conservation General Policy, the Department is required to provide each conservation board with a report (at least annually) on the implementation of the conservation management strategy for its region.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Authority reviews its performance and strategy annually at its June meeting. Members reviewed their work programme for 2021/22 (Appendix I), noting the status of actions to date. In forming the programme, members agreed that the Authority would focus on its own priorities, which will be informed by the Minister's priorities.

The Authority reviewed its performance and noted that the new Director-General's approach to the Authority as a critical friend was proving to be effective and has great promise for the year ahead.

9.1 Regular review of policies, procedures, and principles

The Authority undertakes a regular review of its policies, procedures, and principles. This year, the Authority reviewed, amended, and/or adopted the following.

- **NZCA Climate Change Policy**, adopted October 2021, ensures that the Authority understands and addresses climate change impacts in both national and international contexts, evaluates the climate change implications of its decisions and policy positions, and adopts appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and risk.
- **NZCA Process for preparation of submissions**, reviewed and amended October 2021, outlines how the Authority can make submissions on conservation issues, importantly noting that particular consideration will be given to Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi principles, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Te Mana o Te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.
- **NZCA Giving effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987**, reviewed and amended in December 2021, guides the Authority on how best to give effect to the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi.
- **NZCA Procedure for consideration of conservation management strategies and plans and the NZCA conservation management strategy assessment standard**, reviewed and amended in December 2021, were updated in anticipation of receiving the draft Otago Conservation Management Strategy partial review for consideration and approval.
- **NZCA Marine and Coastal Protection and Management Principles** combines the previously separate Marine Principles and Coastal Management Principles, originally adopted in 2016 and 2017, respectively, into one document that better reflects the need for a holistic ‘mountains to sea’ approach. These new principles were adopted in June 2022.

These policies, procedures, and principles can be found on the Authority’s webpage on the Department’s website.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Authority members, past and present, for their contribution to the work of the Authority, and to note my appreciation to Executive Officer Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson, and Servicing Officers Lorna Travers and David Tibshraeny, who have been most efficient in the support and delivery of our work.

I would also like to acknowledge former Director-General of Conservation Lou Sanson, current Director-General Penny Nelson, and the Departmental staff, whose dedication to our public land and waters has been ever-present in their engagements with the Authority. These relationships are extremely important to the work of the Authority, and members have appreciated the enthusiasm Department staff have shown to assisting the Authority.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work, sincerity, and passion of the conservation boards and their members, who have provided the Authority with valued advice and played an active part in engaging the community with conservation.

- E Tū Tāngata -

11. SCHEDULES

11.1 First schedule

Conservation management strategies: approval dates and statuses of reviews as of 30 June 2022. The statutory expectation is that each conservation management strategy will be reviewed at 10-year intervals.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	DATE APPROVED	STATUS
Te Hiku o Te Ika	Conservation board est. 2015	Work underway
Northland	8 September 2014	Current
Auckland	9 October 2014	Current
Waikato	8 September 2014	Current
Bay of Plenty	4 December 1997	Under review
East Coast / Hawke's Bay	14 October 1998 (East Coast) 19 October 1994 (Hawke's Bay)	Under review
Tongariro-Taupō	30 May 2002	Overdue for review
Wanganui	9 April 1997	Overdue for review
Wellington	20 January 2019	Current
Chatham Islands	12 August 1999	Overdue for review
Nelson / Marlborough	12 September 1996	Overdue for review
West Coast Te Tai o Poutini	15 April 2010	Overdue for review
Canterbury (Waitaha)	1 June 2016	Current
Otago	1 June 2016	Under partial review
Southland Murihiku	1 June 2016	Current
Stewart Island / Rakiura	9 February 2011	Overdue for review

11.2 Second schedule

National park management plans: approval dates and statuses of reviews as of 30 June 2022.

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN	DATE APPROVED	STATUS
Tongariro	12 October 2006	Overdue for review
Egmont	14 February 2002	Overdue for review
Whanganui	9 August 2012	Overdue for review
Abel Tasman	9 October 2008	Overdue for review
Kahurangi	13 June 2001	Overdue for review
Nelson Lakes	10 October 2002	Overdue for review
Paparoa	1 February 2017	Current
Arthur's Pass	13 December 2007	Overdue for review
Aoraki / Mount Cook	12 August 2004	Overdue for review
Westland Tai Poutini	21 December 2001	Overdue for review
Mount Aspiring	23 June 2011	Overdue for review
Fiordland	21 June 2007	Overdue for review
Rakiura	9 February 2011	Overdue for review

11.3 Third schedule

Address list for conservation boards.

CONSERVATION BOARD	BOARD ADDRESS (c/o Department of Conservation)
Te Hiku o Te Ika	PO Box 842 Whangārei 0140
Northland	PO Box 842 Whangārei 0140
Auckland	Private Bag 68908 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141
Waikato	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Bay of Plenty	PO Box 528 Taupō 3351
East Coast Hawke's Bay	Private Bag 11010, Manawatū Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Tongariro Taupō	PO Box 528 Taupō 3351
Taranaki / Whanganui	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Wellington	Private Bag 11010, Manawatū Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Chatham Islands	PO Box 114, Waitangi Chatham Islands 8942
Nelson Marlborough	Private Bag 5 Nelson 7042
West Coast Tai Poutini	Private Bag 701 Hokitika 7842
Canterbury Aoraki	Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre Christchurch 8140
Otago	PO Box 811 Queenstown 9348
Southland	PO Box 743 Invercargill 9840

11.4 Fourth schedule

An outline of the statutory functions and powers of the Authority exercised in the reporting year.

SECTION OF THE ACT	YES/NO	STATUTORY FUNCTION
Statutory functions (Conservation Act 1987)		
6B(a)	N	Advise on statements of general policy
6B(b)	Y	Approve conservation management strategies and any amendments
6B(c)	N	Review and report on effectiveness of general policies
6B(d)	Y	Investigate matters of national importance
6B(e)	N	Consider and make proposals for change of land status of national and international importance
6B(g)	N	Encourage and participate in educational and publicity activities
6B(h)	Y	Advise annually on priorities for expenditure
6B(i)	Y	Liaise with New Zealand Fish and Game Council
6B(j)	N	Exercise any other powers and functions delegated by the Minister
Statutory functions (National Parks Act 1980)		
18(a)	N	Prepare and approve statements of general policy for national parks (NP)
18(b)	N	Approve NP management plans and any amendments
18(c)	N	Advise on priorities for expenditure for NPs
18(d)	N	Review effectiveness of general policies for NPs
18(e)	N	Consider and make proposals for addition of lands to NPs and establishment of new NPs
18(g)	Y	Give advice on any other matter relating to any NP
4(2)(b)	Y	Determinations re: native plants and animals preserved - introduced plants and animals exterminated
5A(2)(a)	Y	The Minister shall consult the Authority on introduction of any biological control organism
12(1)	N	The Minister shall consult the Authority on Specially Protected Areas
14(1)	N	Recommend establishment or revocation of Wilderness Areas
15(1)	N	Recommend establishment or revocation of Amenities Areas
18A	N	The Minister shall consult the Authority on access arrangements to an NP re: section 59 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991
44(1)	N	Adopt or amend statements of general policy
Statutory powers (Conservation Act 1987)		
6C(2)(a)	Y	Establish committees
6C(2)(b)	Y	Release for public information any recommendation, report, or advice
6C(2)(c)	Y	Advocate at any public forum or in any statutory planning process

12. APPENDIX I – NZCA WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

This work programme has been developed in response to the letter of expectation from the Acting Minister of Conservation, dated 14 June 2021.

The Authority’s work programme is structured in three parts.

1. The Minister’s expectations. These are the Government and Ministerial priorities for the coming year that the Minister of Conservation would like the Authority to consider. The work programme will address actions to monitor the Authority’s performance against these priorities for reporting purposes.
2. The Authority’s focus areas. These are areas that the Authority have identified as a priority focus for the coming year. The work programme will address actions to best deliver on these goals.
3. The Authority’s strategic priorities. These are the strategic priorities of the Authority that set long-term goals and direction. These strategic priorities are the foundation of the ongoing work of the Authority to deliver on its mission statement:

‘To ensure, for the people of New Zealand, that the richness of New Zealand’s natural and cultural heritage is valued, restored, maintained, and cared for by all, in order to enhance our environment and quality of life.’

The Authority maintains a rolling one-year calendar to establish a working plan to achieve the goals and actions set out in this work programme, and to identify further risks, issues, and opportunities for conservation that are not covered by this work programme.



PART 1: MINISTER'S EXPECTATIONS 2021/22

Embed the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Act in all aspects of the Authority's work

Actions 2021/22

- | Actions 2021/22 | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|--------|--|
| 1. Strive for continuous growth of cultural competency of all members. | | Te Pukenga Atawhai course schedule 2021/22 circulated for members to enrol. A method for reporting and tracking NZCA members' personal development and growth was adopted at its December 2021 meeting. |
| 2. Ensure section 4 considerations are appropriately addressed in policies and statutory plans that come before the Authority for approval. | | Personal development agenda item topics were discussed at April 2022 meeting. Jacinta Ruru confirmed to attend June 2022 meeting.
Consideration of section 4 has been written into updates of NZCA policies, procedures, and principles, including the procedure for reviewing conservation management strategies (CMSs) and national park management plans (NPMPs) and making submissions on national policies and strategies. |

The Otago CMS partial review came before the NZCA for approval, presented at its October 2021 meeting. Section 4 has been considered throughout the review.


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|--|--|--|
| 3. Review the NZCA's Section 4 Policy. | | The policy was reviewed by the Department's Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai, Treaty Negotiations, and Legal teams. The Treaty Partnerships Committee led the review for the NZCA, and the amended policy was adopted at the December 2021 meeting. |
|--|--|--|

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 4. Learn the waiata 'I hū ahau e hine' and 'Ko Ranginui'. | | Ongoing learning for members. No away trips or pōwhiri in the reporting year. |
|---|--|---|

Support the Department's work to review and reclassify stewardship land

Actions 2021/22



- | Actions 2021/22 | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|--------|---|
| 5. Support the relevant conservation board on specific land recategorisation matters. | | Stewardship land appeared as an agenda item at the Conservation Board Chairs' Conference on 7 November 2021. The Chair spoke with Neil Clifton (Chair of the national panel) on 3 May ahead of the public announcement. |

6. Advise on a strategy/programme for prioritising stewardship land reclassifications. 
- Update received from the Department at the December 2021 meeting. NZCA agreed to provide advice directly to the Minister (letter sent 19 January 2022) and established a working group to draft advice on DOC's 'Stewardship Land in Aotearoa New Zealand' discussion document (sent 30 March 2022 and discussed with the Minister at the April 2022 meeting).




Support proposals for the management of whitebait / inanga








Actions 2021/22	Status	Progress commentary
7. Engage with the Department post-2021 season and provide strategic advice on the future management of whitebait.		Wendy Nelson is in contact with Neil Deans (DOC Principal Advisor on freshwater and whitebait / inanga). Discussion on this issue took place at the Authority's June 2022 meeting.
8. Advocate for data-gathering / promote gazetting of whitebait wedges / spawning sites		Unable to advocate before the engagement with the Department.

Support the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS)

Actions 2021/22	Status	Progress commentary
See below, Part 2: NZCA's priority focus areas 2021/22		
9. Require Department reports to the Authority to identify ANZBS implementation actions/linkages.		A strategic issues discussion with Marie Long and Penny Nelson was held at the February 2022 meeting. Updates to be given at every second meeting. Implementation Plan launched on 20 April 2022.
10. Receive regular updates on ANZBS 2020 implementation programme.		Updates to be given at every second meeting of the Authority. Implementation Plan launched on 20 April 2022.

Contribute to proposals relating to regulatory and marine reform

Actions 2021/22	Status	Progress commentary
11. Advocate for effective conservation outcomes, strong DOC/MOC role, and full implementation of the ANZBS in marine aspects of the:		
a. Resource Management Act reform (Natural and Built Environments Bill and Spatial Planning Bill)		Submitted on the Natural and Built Environments Bill and appeared before the Environment Select Committee on 26 August 2021.
b. Fisheries reform		
c. Conservation law reform		Members attended the Minister's launch on 10 December 2021. Conservation Law Reform Committee established at the Authority's April 2022 meeting, with the first committee meeting taking place with Department staff on 28 April.

d.	Sea Change legislation		
e.	Marine reserves legislation, including new opportunities for protection that is based on te ao Māori and tikanga (which may include co-governance or co-management arrangements).		
12.	Confirm that conservation law reform is desirable and necessary.		Conservation Law Reform Committee established at the Authority's April 2022 meeting, with the first committee meeting taking place with Department staff on 28 April.
13.	Engage with and provide advice to the Minister and Director-General.		Members attended the Minister's launch on 10 December 2021. Conservation Law Reform Committee established at the Authority's April 2022 meeting, with the first committee meeting taking place with Department staff on 28 April.
Contribute to cross-government work on the future of tourism			
<i>Actions 2021/22</i>		Status	Progress commentary
14.	Provide advice to the Minister on the Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Masterplan.		Letter sent on 18 October 2021.
15.	Identify how the principles of the MOP apply to the wider conservation landscape.		Milford Opportunities Project Committee established with the purpose of exploring this issue stated in its terms of reference. Committee meeting took place on 14 February 2022. Agreed that no further action was required at the time.
16.	Advise the Minister on matters relating to tourism on public conservation land.		Advice provided on the Department's Visitor Centre Strategy 2020-25 on 23 August 2021.






17. Monitor the implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (CCAAP).









Deputy Director-General's strategic session on climate change took place at the Authority's December 2021 meeting. The Authority noted climate change (including adaptation, mitigation, and response) as a priority for the Department's budget 2022/23 in a letter to the Minister and Director-General, dated 17 December 2021.

The Authority adopted its Climate Change Policy at its October 2021 meeting and agreed to report on its annual carbon footprint as part of its annual report. The Authority's Executive Officer met with the Outcomes Monitoring Office staff to set up the process for doing so and provided the 2020/21 report at the February 2022 meeting.

PART 2: THE AUTHORITY'S PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS 2021/22

Raise the profile of marine conservation	
Actions 2021/22	Status Progress commentary
1. Review effectiveness of, and advocate for, marine protected area co-management opportunities under existing legislation (e.g. proposed Te Pēwhairangi marine sanctuary).	 Te Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands) Marine Mammal Sanctuary came into effect on 17 November 2021.
2. Review and advocate for stronger DOC involvement in coastal planning under existing resource management legislation.	 N/S
3. Understand the significant gaps in marine species monitoring (particularly marine mammals & seabirds), and in the monitoring of marine reserves to evaluate the effectiveness of protection of habitats. Advocate for the Department to re-evaluate its approach, potentially moving to development of species or ecosystem plans against which progress/decline can be assessed.	 N/S
4. Review and update the NZCA marine principles document.	 Authority's Marine Principles and Coastal Management Principles combined into Marine and Coastal Protection and Management Principles, ratified at the June 2022 meeting.
5. Assess effectiveness of the implementation of the Vote Biodiversity Fund, \$180m, impact and outcomes.	 Letter sent on 17 September 2021 requesting information on biodiversity budget 2018 spend, response received 23 December.



Encourage a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao / Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS)

Actions 2021/22	Status	Progress commentary
6. Monitor the Department's progress with the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy implementation plan.		Updates scheduled for the Authority's October 2021, February 2022, and June 2022 meetings. Implementation Oversight Group is established, with Edward Ellison as chair. Implementation plan released on 20 April 2022.
7. Advocate for improved coordination of and access to environmental databases and collections, and supporting science/mātauranga to enable more effective implementation of the strategy.		Submitted on the Department and LINZ combined Long-term Insights Briefing on 12 November 2021, advocating for improved coordination of, and access to, environmental databases and natural history collections. Working group established at the December 2021 meeting to submit on the MBIE Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper. Submission filed 14 March 2022.
8. Advocate for the inclusion of marine ecosystems, habitats and species in the implementation of ANZBS.		Advocacy within meeting discussions. Strategic issues discussion with Marie Long and Penny Nelson at February 2022 meeting. Updates to be given at every second meeting.
9. Advocate for an effective permitting system that will enable scientific work to support ANZBS.		Delays in the Department's scientific permits system raised as an issue and monitored throughout 2021, appearing at the Authority's August 2021 and October 2021 meetings. Letter sent to the Department on 25 March regarding another permitting issue, response received 20 April 2022.
Make improvements to the management planning processes		
Actions 2021/22	Status	Progress commentary
10. Instigate an external review of the Department's management planning systems.		Deputy Director-General Operations declined to fund an external audit-style review (letter of 24 August 2021); instead, the Department commissioned the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) to undertake a systems overhaul. Review is underway and due to be completed in August 2022.
11. Advise the Department on the future-state of Management Planning, with a blue skies approach to reform.		Management Planning Committee is engaged with the Department's Planning, Permissions, and Land Team. EDS review report due in August 2022.
12. Continue to monitor the progress of the Department and the Options Development Group (ODG) in the General Policy for National Parks review, ensuring section 4 considerations and learnings from Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki are appropriately addressed.		Session with Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai took place at the December 2021 meeting. ODG report has faced significant delay. Authority received the ODG report in April 2022 and discussed it at a meeting on 28 April. Authority released a statement on 3 May 2022.

Explore potential programmes of legislative change

Actions 2021/22

Progress commentary

- | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|--|
| <p>13. Engage in the Resource Management Act reform, beyond the submissions process.</p>  | <p>Letter sent to Ministry for the Environment on 11 May 2021. Response received 24 June 2021, inviting the Authority to participate in targeted engagement on how the new system will interact with the conservation estate and other matters such as the role of the Minister. Responses to questions sent on 21 October 2021.</p> |
| <p>14. Engage in the Marine Reserves Act Review, advocating vision and ambition in legislative change (probably requires a wider focus to include MPA legislative improvements / updating).</p>  | <p>Marine Committee meeting with the Department's Marine Policy Team and Oceans Secretariat Lead held on 11 February 2022.</p> |

PART 3: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES)

(Revised and approved at NZCA August 2021 meeting)

Statutory role for management planning and land status	
Strategic priority (A&B)	Conservation Management Strategies (A) and National Park Management Plans (B)
NZCA role (A&B)	Statutory (review and approval).
Goals (A&B)	Review, approve, and champion improvements to the planning framework to ensure timeliness and quality of the planning process.
Actions (A&B)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow NZCA approval processes and seek opportunities to expedite timelines and efficacy of the approval processes whilst holding or improving the quality of decisions. 2. Approve CMS/NPMP at the third meeting after receipt. 3. Continue to push for better, more dynamic, and responsive plans, and smarter planning processes. 4. Ensure CMSs and NPMPs align with legislation. 5. Ensure Department staff undertake their work in conformity with the Statutory Plans.
Strategic priority (C)	Land status recategorisation e.g. stewardship land
NZCA role (C)	Statutory (for national parks) and advisory (for all conservation lands).
Goals (C)	Ensure the process and decision for land recategorisation is credible and robust; and that this is apparent to all stakeholders, including hapu and iwi at the inception of the process.
Actions (C)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a credible and transparent investigation and provide a report with clear recommendations for action. Support the relevant conservation board on specific land recategorisation matters. 2. Provide advice on future tenure reviews under the Land Act 1948, Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998, and Overseas Investment Act 2005 / Office processes. 3. Advise on a strategy/programme for prioritising stewardship land reclassifications.

Strategic priority (D)

Treaty of Waitangi and post-Treaty settlement conservation management

NZCA role (D)

Statutory and Advisory.

Goals (D)

Meet requirements for NZCA as specified in settlement legislation; give ongoing effect to the principles of the Treaty (per Section 4 and General Policies); provide advice in response to requests from settlement negotiation parties; evaluate and provide feedback on novel post-Treaty settlement approaches to achieving conservation outcomes.

Actions (D)

1. Ensure Conservation Act 1987 section 4 considerations are appropriately addressed in the updated General Policy for National Parks and that the procedures for this are updated with learnings from Treaty settlements, and other advice received.
2. Demonstrate openness and good faith when giving advice (if consulted) on alternative models for conservation oversight and management.
3. Maintain open and ongoing communication with iwi leaders.
4. Implement NZCA's section 4 template (including revisions), and review the Authority's performance in relation to this annually.
5. Ensure the Department develops an effective strategy for building relationships with iwi.
6. Receive updates from the Department on their implementation of the Ngāi Tai decision.
7. Develop our cultural competency as an Authority.

Influence and 'step change' opportunities

Strategic priority (E)

Strategic advice to the Minister and DG in the current context of conservation, the governance requirements, and strategic advice on public policy documents and legislation

NZCA role (E)

Advisory.

Goals (E)

Be respected as an independent, and influential source of strategic advice for conservation.

Actions (E)

1. Give clear, considered and timely advice:
 - On all matters, relevant to the NZCA effectively fulfilling its functions; and
 - Where this can be influential in achieving better conservation outcomes.
2. Maintain an active environmental scan to ensure the current and future operating context for conservation is well understood.
3. Maintain active links with conservation boards and the community, actively seek improved quality of conservation board nominees.
4. Follow up on submissions and advice to gauge their influence and identify where improvements in this role can be made.
5. Provide regular monitoring of and advice to achieve the Department's Stretch Goals and the Intermediate Outcomes objectives.

Strategic priority (F)

Opportunities for step change in conservation

NZCA role (F)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (F)

Better understand, protect, enhance and appreciate New Zealand's native terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Actions (F)

1. Provide strategic advice to the Director-General and the Minister for the effective management of introduced and pervasive pest species and weeds affecting native biodiversity.
2. Support the discussion and evaluation and, where appropriate, field assessment (probably meant to be in-containment), of gene drive / gene editing and other novel technologies that could help New Zealand become predator free by 2050.
3. Provide advice on securing and/or sustaining a social licence to responsibly use efficient pest and weed control technologies.
4. Encourage the Department to undertake and sustain landscape-scale plant pest and weed control, such as wilding pines eradication.
5. Continue to encourage the Department to undertake and sustain large-scale animal pest control and progress toward complete eradication of mammalian predators from large areas, such as Rakiura.
6. Encourage the Department to actively manage other threats to native biodiversity such as kauri dieback (PTA) disease and myrtle rust, and to take a strong stance on biosecurity in general.
7. Advocate for conservation on private land.

Strategic priority (G)

Visitor management on public conservation lands and waters

NZCA role (G)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (G)

Manage and mitigate the activities of domestic and international visitors on public conservation land.

- Actions(G)**
1. Advise the Minister and the Department on tourism and visitor management initiatives in the establishment of a post-COVID tourism industry.
 2. Advise the Department on the implementation of its Visitor Strategy and the DOC/MBIE Tourism Strategy.
 3. Ensure the concessions framework for tourism activities on public conservation land is fit for purpose.
 4. Review the resilience and capabilities of conservation land for providing for visitors at specific sites, especially pressure points.
 5. Work with other key stakeholders that have an interest in the tourism industry, e.g. TIA, MBIE, local government, and iwi and hapu.

Advocacy on nationally significant issues for conservation

Strategic priority (H)

NZCA role (H)

Goals (H)

Actions (H)

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Advisory and advocacy.

Assess the implications of, and opportunities arising from, climate change and conservation planning and expenditure priorities.

1. Highlight the role of conservation in mitigating and adapting to climate change; and the means to reduce the risks of climate change to biodiversity and the Department's infrastructure and management of capital assets.
2. Show leadership with respect to landscape-scale pest and weed control and its contribution as a mitigating factor - improving ecosystem health/ resilience.
3. Monitor the implementation of DOC's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (CCAAP).

Strategic priority (I)

NZCA role (I)

Goals (I)

Rivers and freshwater ecosystems

Advisory and advocacy.

Be an advocate for ecosystem services that public conservation land provides to New Zealanders, with respect to values of our waterways and waterbodies.

Actions (I)

1. Maintain active advocacy for the comprehensive protection of a representative range of rivers.
2. Use the NZCA River Report (2011) and other national freshwater management initiatives as a basis for advocacy for freshwater ecosystem management. Might need to add Mana o te Wai as a means to address cumulative impact issues in water use and management.
3. Provide strategic advice on the management of whitebait and other endangered freshwater species such as the longfin eel.
4. Ensure DOC's environmental strategies align with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater and its successors.

Strategic priority (J)

Marine ecosystems and protected areas

NZCA role (J)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (J)

Contribute to the better protection of the marine environment and biodiversity.

Actions(J)

1. Actively engage with iwi, hapu and all stakeholders on Marine Protected Areas and how to protect a representative range of habitats and species.
2. Maintain a watching brief on the growing/expanding marine aquaculture industry and monitor development and its impacts on marine ecosystems.
3. Maintain oversight of threatened species marine by-catch and the effectiveness of monitoring of by-catch on fishing vessels, especially through the use of cameras on board fishing boats.

Monitoring and evaluation

Strategic priority (K)

Effectiveness and efficiency of the Department's conservation management

NZCA role (K)

Review and advisory.

- Goals (K)
1. Fulfil statutory function (CA 6B(c)) to review and report on the Department's administration of General Policies.
 2. Provide insightful evaluation and advice that contributes to improved conservation outcomes.
 3. Provide a 'check and balance' on the Department's strategic planning.

Actions (K)

1. Monitor the progress of the General Policy for National Parks Review work.
2. Ensure General Policies are implemented in CMSs and NPMPs (via approval role - see A&B), and Milestone reporting is undertaken.
3. Provide advice on the Department's Statement of Intent.
4. Provide advice to the Minister of Conservation and Director-General on budget and priority spending.
5. Provide advice to the Department on how business, volunteer groups, and communities can engage with them more easily in order to increase conservation outcomes.
6. Maintain an overview and assess effectiveness of the \$180m biodiversity budget money.

Strategic priority (L)

NZCA's performance

NZCA role (L)

Self-review.

Goals (L)

Effect continuous improvement to achieve greater value and impact.

Actions (L)

1. Undertake annual self-review of performance and modus operandi.
2. Regularly review and update the NZCA policies and principles.
3. Work on a process to ensure better communications between conservation boards and the NZCA.
4. Produce an Annual Report for year ending 30 June 2022.



NEW ZEALAND

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