

Section 5

Implementation, Review and Monitoring of the Strategy

Implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy

This section deals with the implementation, monitoring, review, and amendment of the Conservation Management Strategy over the first 10 year period. See also Treaty of Waitangi section, page 217.

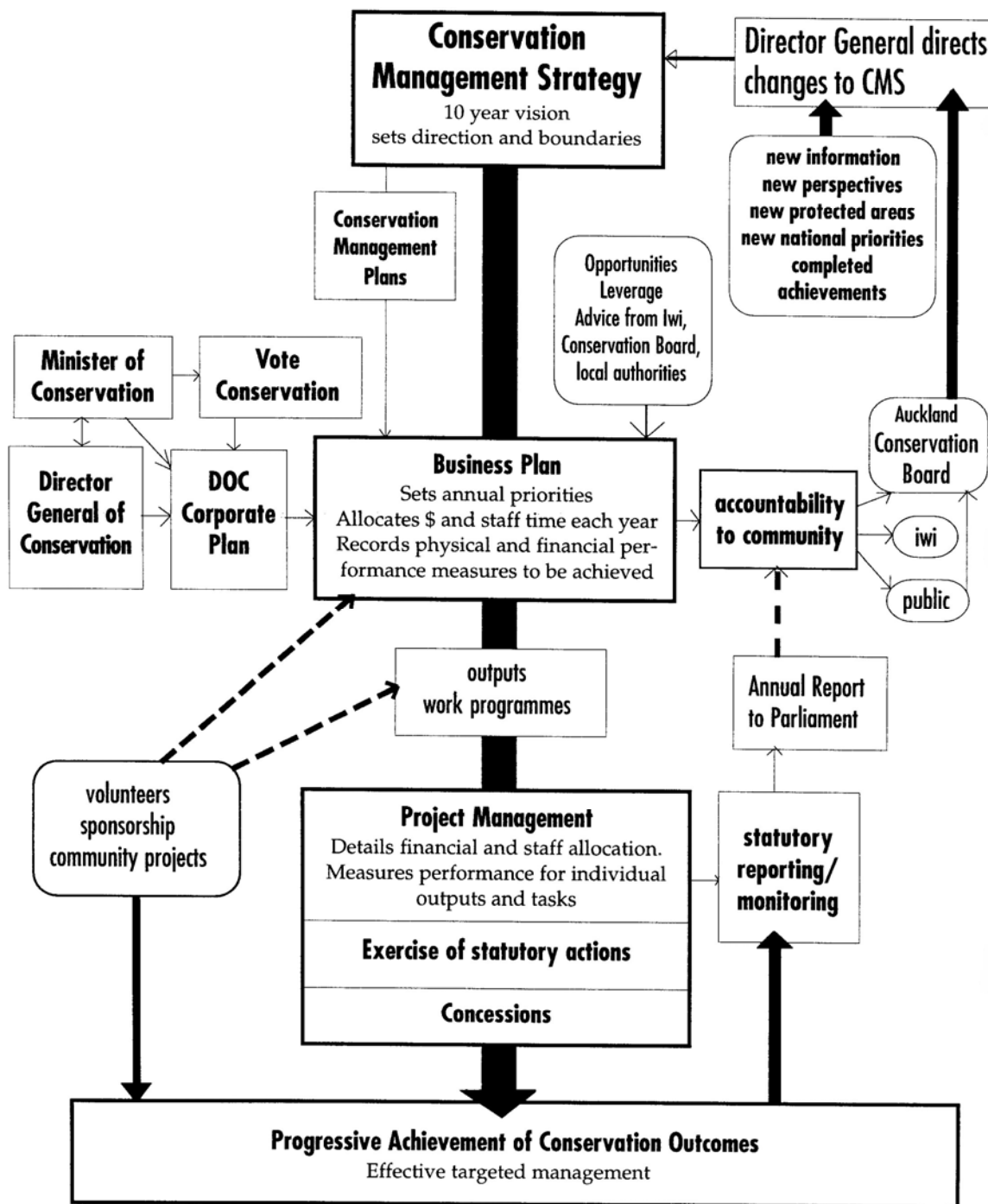
This section sets out provisions to ensure that:

- strategy objectives and implementation statements are effective,
- intentions set out in the Strategy are pursued,
- objectives and implementation statements remain relevant and reflect the most up to date information available on conservation values.

Issues such as survey and monitoring of resources, areas or activities, are covered in appropriate parts of Section Four. Similarly relations with other agencies, businesses and community groups are referred to in Section Four where relevant.

The Strategy must be interpreted and implemented. It will also be adapted as new evidence and information becomes available and new perspectives on management are formed. The acquisition of further protected areas (eg. new marine reserves) may alter Conservancy priorities. Circumstances will also change as management programmes proceed.

The objectives expressed in the Strategy will not be implemented uniformly, or in any one year. Indeed some objectives will take longer than the statutory ten year horizon of the Strategy to implement.



The Strategy does not establish a promised level of funding. Its objectives are based on realistic financial forecasts, but inevitably there will not be enough money to fully achieve all desired outcomes. Nonetheless the stated objectives are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding from whatever sources may be available.

Implementing the Strategy

The Strategy is implemented through the Department's annual business planning process. The business plan, prepared under Section 41(2)(d) of the Public Finance Act 1989, covers a 12 month period from July to June and serves as a financial contract between the Department and the Minister. The business plan determines conservation work priorities and allocates staff time and money for the forthcoming year.

Within the overall direction set by the Conservation Management Strategy, the annual business plans will detail the relative allocation of effort and funds to various objectives and outputs.

There is an auditable trail from the Strategy, through the business plan and project management sheets, to on-the-ground effort, expenditure and conservation achievement.

Investment should not take place outside the priorities set by the Strategy or some equivalent and auditable source.

If significant investment is to be made outside of or in conflict with the Conservation Management Strategy objectives, the Strategy will be reviewed in terms of Section 17H of the Conservation Act.

Business plans must also accord with national priorities and the direction of Government.

Monitoring

Monitoring will be carried out to ensure that the Strategy is being implemented effectively, that the provisions of the Strategy are still current, and that they are best serving the interests of conservation.

The Conservation Board has a pivotal role to play in this as Section 6M(1)(c) of the Conservation Act establishes one of the functions of the Conservation Board as: "to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on the implementation of conservation management strategies".

In exercising this and other functions conferred by the Act, the Board plays an important role in furthering the outcomes and objectives of this Conservation Management Strategy, and is a vital link between the large and varied communities of interest and the Department. A process will be set up that gives the Board the opportunity to review progress in achieving the strategic objectives and implementation provisions, (prior to advising on future activities).

Other agencies and groups also have a shared interest in the implementation and monitoring of the Conservation Management Strategy. Regional Councils and other government departments for instance, have jurisdictions that mean there must be mechanisms for ongoing consultation and negotiation over progress. Of particular note are the interests of Iwi, for the implementation of the Strategy will also progressively give substance and meaning to the evolving partnership which must underlie the commitment of the Conservation Act and the Strategy to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. This will require the development of appropriate negotiation mechanisms.

Reviews and Amendments

Processes for review and amendment of the Strategy are provided for in Sections 17H and 17I of the Conservation Act. The procedures for review and amendment are the same as those for preparation and approval of the Strategy as set out in Section 17F (Appendix 1).

- A review of the Strategy as a whole or in part may be initiated at any time by the Director General after consultation with the Conservation Board. The Strategy as a whole must be reviewed not later than 10 years after its approval, although the Minister may extend this period.
- Amendment to the Strategy may be initiated at any time by the Director General after consultation with the Conservation Board. Every amendment must be carried out in accordance with section 17F of the Conservation Act.
- Where the proposed amendment is of such a nature that the Director General and the Conservation Board consider that it will not materially affect strategy objectives or policies, a more simple process may be used. In this case, paragraphs (k) to (p) of section 17F will apply and no formal public consultation will be required.

Conservation Management Plans

The purpose of conservation management plans is to implement the Conservation Management Strategy, and to establish detailed objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources within an area, and for recreation, tourism and other purposes.

A Conservation Management Plan may relate to any area or areas managed by the Department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, or the Conservation Act 1987.

Under the Conservation Act 1987, Conservation Management Plans shall be prepared if:

- 1) their preparation is required by a Conservation Management Strategy (Section 17E(2)).
- 2) there is no operative Conservation Management Strategy and the Minister of Conservation requires their preparation (Section 17E(3)).

Conservation management plans are not required unless the intention to prepare them is identified within the Strategy.

Where there is an operative Conservation Management Strategy but there is no provision in it for a particular Conservation Management Plan, the operative Conservation Management Strategy may then be amended to provide for the Conservation Management Plan.

The procedure for preparing and approving a conservation management plan is identical to that of a Conservation Management Strategy up to the completion of the revised draft (see Appendix 1). On receipt of the revised draft the Conservation Board, within six months must a) approve the plan, or b) request the department to revise the plan or c) send it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

If it is sent to the NZCA, it must receive the summary of submissions made on the draft conservation management plan and any statements of matters of content not agreed to by the

Board and the Department. The Department may make submissions to the NZCA. (It should be noted that at any time before the Board has approved the draft, the NZCA or the Minister of Conservation may require the Board to send it to the NZCA for approval). Once the NZCA receives the revised draft for consideration, the procedure again follows that for a Conservation Management Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1.

A conservation management plan is publicly notified at its draft stage, with opportunities for public comment.

Existing Conservation Management Plans

Auckland Conservancy has two existing Conservation Management Plans which together cover more than 70 separate land areas administered by the Department. Both plans were prepared under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 and have status as current and operative Conservation Management Plans under the Conservation Act 1987. Regard has been given to these existing plans in the preparation of this strategy and the Strategy is consistent with them wherever possible or appropriate. Where the Strategy and a plan are inconsistent, the more specific provision will apply.

The conservation management plans are as follows:

Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Management Plan 1982

This management plan covers all or part of more than 40 islands in the Hauraki Gulf and along the eastern seaboard as well as the North Head Historic Reserve at Devonport. All of the areas are classified under the Reserves Act 1977.

Rodney County Scenic and Scientific Reserves Management Plans 1983

This management plan covers 30 scenic reserves and two scientific reserves within the Rodney District.

Proposed Conservation Management Plans

This Strategy provides sufficient planning to direct the management of most areas in the Conservancy.

Areas for which Conservation Management Plans will be prepared are:

- (a) Motutapu Island Recreation Reserve;
- (b) Cape Rodney/Okakari Point Reserve;
- (c) North Head Historic Reserve.

Objectives

51.0.1 Ensure the strategic objectives and implementation provisions of this document are incorporated into annual business planning processes, and implemented accordingly.

51.0.2 Facilitate the receipt of advice from the Conservation Board and Iwi on

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planning for, and monitoring of, the implementation of the document's objectives.

51.0.3 Ensure the Strategy is a current and effective policy document through ongoing monitoring, and subsequent reviews or amendments.

Implementation

51.1.1 To ensure the achievement of the objectives for integrated management of this strategy the Conservancy will:

- (a) prepare an annual business plan and attendant work programmes consistent with the provisions of strategy.
- (b) report to the Conservation Board progressively on each specific output class, giving an overview of achievement to date of the implementation of this strategy.
- (c) report to the Conservation Board, in the second quarter of each financial year, on the progressive achievement to date of the implementation of this strategy so that the Board may advise the Regional Conservator on appropriate shifts of emphasis for the following financial year's business plan.

51.1.2 To ensure this strategy remains a current document, report to and consult with the Conservation Board every three years on changes of circumstance or other factors which may make the provisions in this strategy impractical, so that the Conservation Board may advise the Director General of any need for a review or amendment.

51.1.3 Negotiate with Iwi to establish an appropriate collective forum to advise the Department on the implementation of this Conservation Management Strategy where issues are of a pan-tribal or Conservancy-wide nature.

51.1.4 Work closely with each of the Iwi regarding the implementation of this Conservation Management Strategy.

51.1.5 Review or amendment of strategy will be undertaken:

- (a) at the direction of the Director-General of Conservation;
- (b) when general policy or government directions represent a significant departure from the provisions of strategy;
- (c) when strategy monitoring indicates that provisions in the strategy are impractical or have been superseded by new information or evidence or the acquisition of new areas to be administered by the Department;
- (d) if the Department intends to prepare a Conservation Management Plan but there is no provision for it in the Strategy;
- (e) not later than ten years from date of approval.

51.1.6 In the development of working plans, other non-statutory plans and policy statements, the Conservancy will liaise with the Conservation Board, Iwi and interested parties as appropriate.