

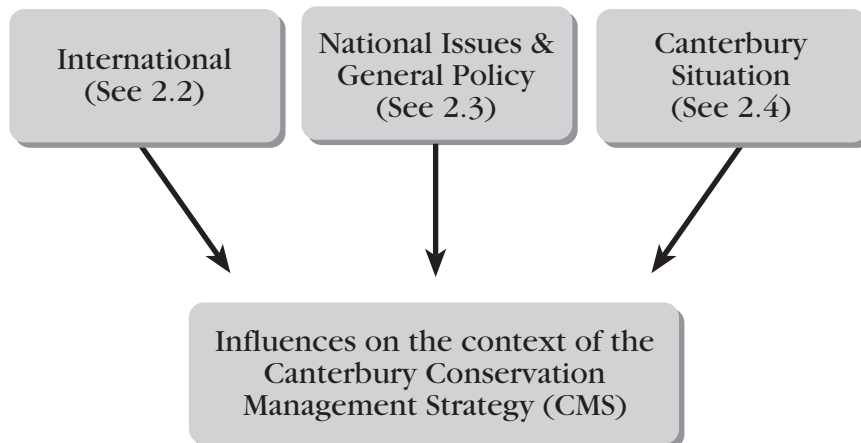
2. CMS Context

2.1 Introduction

CMS Context

The Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) cannot be developed or operated in isolation from wider issues surrounding it.

These wider issues operate at international, national and regional levels. A full understanding and appreciation of factors other than legislation which will influence the CMS (by forming a background to it) is a necessary first step. They can be illustrated as follows:



2.2 International Obligations

The Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) should assist with implementing three international treaties that the New Zealand Government has ratified, however the CMS cannot introduce requirements that would conflict with existing law.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Purpose: To sustainably manage biological diversity.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Environmental Law and Institutions...1992) was signed by world leaders at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, as part of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process.

The Treaty seeks to conserve and manage the world's biological diversity in a sustainable manner, while ensuring that the benefits from the use of these genetic resources are fairly shared. The focus for conservation is on *in situ* measures, complemented by *ex situ* measures.

The measures required are to:

- identify and monitor important components of biological diversity
- establish and manage protected areas
- sustainably manage biological resources both within and outside protected areas
- rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems
- control alien species
- involve indigenous and local communities
- protect threatened species

The Convention on Biological Diversity acknowledged that:

- conservation is a common concern for all governments and people, and is necessary for sustaining future human survival and well-being
- conservation means the maintenance of functioning ecosystems as well as saving threatened species

The obligation on the Department is to reflect the provisions of the convention in the Department's strategies, plans and programmes.

The International Charter of Maintenance and Restoration of Monuments and Monumental Places

Purpose: To maintain and enhance cultural heritage values and sites.

The International Charter of Maintenance and Restoration of Monuments and Monumental Places (Second International Congress...1964), signed in Venice in 1964, sets out principles to guide the conservation of places of cultural heritage value. The body behind the charter is the International Council on Monuments and sites (ICOMOS). A New Zealand national committee has adopted a charter (*ICOMOS New Zealand charter for the conservation of places of cultural heritage value* 1993) to provide guidelines for community leaders, organisations and individuals concerned with cultural heritage.

The charter:

- defines cultural heritage values
- discusses indigenous cultural heritage
- outlines conservation practice
- suggests conservation principles to be applied
- outlines intervention process

The obligation on the Department is to work within the practices, principles and processes of the New Zealand charter.

Convention for the Protection of World Culture and Natural Heritage - World Heritage Convention

Purpose: To protect worldwide heritage of such universal value that its conservation is of concern to all people.

Within the Conservancy, the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park and much of the Hopkins-Huxley catchment is included within the listed South-West New Zealand (Te Wāhipounamu) World Heritage Area.

The obligation on the Department is to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage of the listed site.

2.3 New Zealand

2.3.1 Introduction

New Zealand's wild and unspoiled places, its indigenous flora and fauna, its historic buildings and sites of cultural and spiritual significance, and its outstanding recreation opportunities are a priceless taonga or treasure. They belong to the people of New Zealand/Aotearoa and are managed on their behalf by the Department. They comprise a rich, distinct and irreplaceable indigenous heritage of great antiquity.

The public of New Zealand strongly support protection of this heritage, as indicated in various public survey polls. The remarkable collection of landscapes, plants and animals that exist here are central to our identity as a nation: we are known as Kiwis, and the silver fern is our national symbol. These symbols and principles are important elements in our way of life. The rich variety of places and sites are particularly significant in Māori and European cultural tradition.

As a society, we have valued and maintained the principle of free public access to our conservation heritage. This has been supported by the liberal public access policy originating from Queen Victoria's edict to early surveyors that future generations have access to our lakes, rivers and coastline. This access provision has been adopted as a matter of national importance in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Public concern for our natural, historic and recreation values led to the establishment of the national and forest parks and reserves systems. A number of former government agencies were involved, such as the Department of Lands and Survey and the New Zealand Forest Service, before the environmental reforms in the late 1980s led to the formation of the Department of Conservation.

This heritage is now the cornerstone of one of the country's largest and fastest growing major industries – tourism. Overseas tourist growth has been substantial over recent years, and visitors to national parks and other areas managed by the Department are a major feature of this growth. This demand has been propelled by a desire to see natural landscapes and participate in natural experiences, increasingly sought by free and independent visitors.

More than one million tourists visited New Zealand in 1993, earning our country \$3.1 billion, and generating 150,000 jobs. A goal has been set for the year 2000 to achieve \$9 billion worth of foreign exchange earnings and to create an additional 120,000 jobs in the New Zealand economy. Any increase in visitor numbers could have unavoidable impacts on the land and bring various management issues to the fore.

2.3.2 Conservation Issues

Five critical issues were raised by the Department in *Greenprint: conservation in New Zealand - a strategic overview* (1996), a briefing paper presented to the incoming Government. These were:

1. Turning around the decline in New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity.

This remains the biggest challenge facing the Department. The big issues are:

- Forest collapse: Damage to tree canopies, ground cover and regenerating species by possums and other browsing animals threatens to destroy forest ecosystems.
- Threatened species: New Zealand has more than 400 threatened species. Increasingly the focus is on integrated species and ecosystem management at key sites, extending experience gained on offshore islands to mainland islands.
- Marine: Less than 4 per cent of New Zealand's marine area is currently protected. There are no marine reserves established in Canterbury, although two applications have been made by community/recreation groups.
- Community understanding of the need for action on private land: Public understanding of the need to protect habitats and species on private and other public lands is vital for indigenous biodiversity conservation.
- Use of toxins for pests and weeds: The community's continued acceptance of the use of toxins in the short- and medium-term is vital if critical biodiversity is not to be lost.
- The development of a New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, as required under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre. 1992).

2. Ensuring that the most valuable ecosystems are protected in the conservation estate and that the estate is representative of the range of New Zealand biodiversity, so that conservation of our natural heritage is assured.

Major ecosystems, such as tussocklands, wetlands, dunelands and marine environments are currently under-represented.

3. Consolidating the new systems of quality assurance and accountability developed after the Cave Creek tragedy.

Introducing Quality Conservation Management will involve:

- the development and introduction of new systems
 - significant departmental restructuring to reflect the increased emphasis on accountability for quality throughout the Department
 - a progressive extension to all of the Department's activities
4. Reconciling the Department's responsibility under section 4 of the Conservation Act to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi with its overall conservation mission.

This includes, for example, the Department assisting the Office of Treaty Settlements in the resolution of Treaty settlements, and issues around access to cultural materials.

5. Recognising that the public interest in conservation, both within New Zealand and internationally, is high, and that many conservation issues engender heated public debate.

The issues here are:

- the need to raise public awareness of the Department's role
- the need to streamline and rationalise processes of consultation with the community
- meeting obligations under international conventions and agreements.

The quality of our management of the environment, including land managed by the Department, is a significant factor in our success in exports and tourism.

2.3.3 Atawhai Ruamano

While Government has developed its overall comprehensive statement on the environment (*Environment 2010 strategy. 1995*), the Department is preparing its own ten-year national strategic plan (see *Conservation 2000 - Atawhai ruamano discussion document 1993*). The atawhai ruamano process will provide the vision for Crown-owned natural, historic, and recreational resources for the year 2000 and will focus the Department's efforts. It will outline results areas, goals, and the strategy steps required to achieve the goals.

The conservation results outlined for the year 2000 are:

1. We have made significant gains in protecting New Zealand's indigenous biological diversity and landforms.
2. Important cultural sites have been identified and a significant percentage have formal protection. Places special to Māori are protected and managed according to Māori tikanga in partnership with iwi.
3. We provide a good service to visitors without compromising conservation.
4. New Zealand is an international leader in conservation management and environmental issues, particularly those affecting Asia, the Pacific and Antarctica.

To achieve this overall vision a need for six strategies was identified and the strategies were developed, each with its own vision. These were divided into conservation results (*New Zealand's biodiversity: an overview. 1994; Historic Heritage Strategy. 1995; Visitor Strategy. 1996*); and people changes (*Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy: Atawhai Ruamano Conservation. 1997; Conservation connections: Canterbury Conservancy Public Awareness Strategy. 1995; People Plan. 1994*) to achieve the conservation results.

In conjunction with the Ministry for the Environment, the Department is currently preparing a New Zealand biodiversity strategy. This will provide a national framework, identifying goals, principles and objectives, for the future of New Zealand's biodiversity.

The results of the prepared strategies are incorporated into this CMS to provide the atawhai ruamano vision, and to give the vision more detailed expression in Canterbury.

2.3.4 Legislation

The Conservation Act is central to the Department's mandate. It is "An Act to promote the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources..." and states conservation to mean "...the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations:". The concepts of preservation and protection, natural and historic resources, intrinsic values, providing for the public, and future generations, are together the essence of the Department's work. The same or similar concepts are to be found throughout the various enactments governing the Department as listed in the first and second schedules to the Conservation Act, and as set out within the statutory framework sections of parts 5 and 6 of this CMS.

2.3.5 General Policy

The Department is required to administer this CMS in accord with any general policy approved by the Minister under section 17B of the Conservation Act, and general policy approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority under section 44 of the National Parks Act 1980.

The following general policies have been approved as at May 1997:

- *General policy for national parks* (National Parks and Reserves Authority, 1983)
- *Wilderness Policy* (Department of Lands and Survey and New Zealand Forest Service, 1983)
- *New Zealand Walkways Policy* (Department of Conservation, 1995)

Departmental guidelines have also been prepared over a range of subjects and have been used in the preparation of this CMS (see the Department's publications in the Bibliography).

2.3.6 National Protocols

The Department shares several areas of interest with other agencies and has, with these agencies, established protocols to clarify responsibilities, roles and processes.

The following protocols have been approved as at January 1998:

- *Protocol between Local Government New Zealand and the Department of Conservation (1996)*
- *Protocol Agreement between the Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Conservation (1997)*
- *Memorandum of understanding between the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (1996)*

Also proposed is:

- Protocol on the Department of Conservation's interaction with Ngāi Tahu on specified issues, issued by the Minister of Conservation pursuant to the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

2.4 Canterbury

2.4.1 The Landscape

Mainland Canterbury comprises a range of highly distinctive and outstanding landscapes. Culturally the imprint of several waves of human colonisation is evident from Māori-Polynesian migrations from about 1000 AD, and European waves from about 1850.

Each culture has evolved its own set of values for cultural maintenance. These are experienced in terms of physical symbols and icons (for example, buildings) and places of significance where events have occurred or still occur.

The total land area of the Canterbury Conservancy is 4,220,000 hectares of which 16 per cent (769,310 hectares) is managed by the Department. Table 1 summarises Canterbury's situation in a national context.

Canterbury's landscapes include: alpine areas; high country (including inland mountain ranges and intermontane basins); foothills, downlands and hill country; the Canterbury plains (including the Pacific Ocean coast); and Banks Peninsula.

Alpine Landscapes

The Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana form the western boundary to the Canterbury region. These heavily glaciated mountain ranges form a barrier to the moist westerly air flows that result in heavy snow and rain along the main divide.

South of Arthur's Pass, these alpine landscapes are characterised by permanent snow and ice and active glaciers. At slightly lower altitudes and north of Arthur's Pass there is little permanent ice and the area is characterised by extensive screes interspersed with alpine vegetation and bare rock.

The Conservancy manages about 90 per cent of the alpine area. Major modification to these areas occurred from the introductions of domestic stock and wild animals such as deer and thar, and recreation and tourism developments such as tracks and huts.

Aoraki/Mount Cook and a number of other mountains are of great spiritual significance to Ngāi Tahu. In addition, these alpine landscapes tend to be very highly valued for their scenic, recreational, landscape and nature conservation values.

High Country

High country landscapes east of the main divide include inland mountain ranges and intermontane basins. These areas are subject to extremes of weather. Rainfall from the main divide eastward ranges from 13 metres a year to under 500 millimetres in semi-arid areas.

These landscapes demonstrate the influences of past glacial erosion and ongoing erosion by wind and rainfall. Generally, remnant glacial and peri-glacial features, lakes, moraines, and broad deeply incised river valleys characterise the high country.

High country vegetation also reflects past influences - both natural and cultural. In the north, beech forest remnants have survived to recolonise the slopes of the mountain ranges. Tussock grasslands exist above the timberline and in formerly cleared lands at lower altitudes, frequently in association with pastoral farming. Areas of intensive farming predominate on valley floors and parts of the larger basin floors. On predominantly poorer soils and drier areas, especially in the southern basins, plant pests, introduced plants and high rabbit infestations contribute to major problems with land degradation.

Present land tenure, other than conservation lands, is a combination of Crown land pastoral lease, endowment lands and freehold. A process of land tenure review is under way between the Crown and lessees. This process is intended to identify land of high natural, landscape, recreation and historic value that should become land managed by the Department. Other areas with lesser conservation values and more agriculturally productive uses could be freeholded. Significant changes in land use and landscape are likely to result from this process. A similar process is underway between the University of Canterbury and lessees regarding some endowment lands.

High country landscapes are widely represented in art, literature and popular culture. They are also highly valued for the physical features, flora and fauna, their cultural/historic landscape values, scenery and recreational values. They are an important focus for tourism.

Canterbury Foothills, Downlands and Hill Country

Much of middle North, Mid- and South Canterbury is hill country. These landscapes, with their steep to rolling hills, deep river gorges and valley streams, demonstrate the influence of a wetter climate in the past.

The area is subject to severe frosts, some snow and drought. Most areas have been developed by over-sowing and/or top-dressing with fertiliser. Forest and shrubland remnants are found only in the most inaccessible areas or where formally protected.

Today, some of these landscapes are still subject to significant changes through tracking, burning, further developments of marginal land and exotic forestry.

Canterbury Plains

The Canterbury plains form New Zealand's largest outwash plain. It was relatively easy for people to colonise and today retains little indigenous vegetation. Remnants are generally found near estuaries. The Canterbury plains are influenced by the rain shadow effect of their mountain backdrop. With their shallow soil, variable overlay of loess, and predominantly grass cover, the plains are highly vulnerable to drought.

The complex river systems and the coastal areas generally have high natural values. They are also increasingly subject to development pressures.

Banks Peninsula

Banks Peninsula is a volcanically formed island connected to the Canterbury plains by alluvial material. The landscape is dramatic with its steep rock coastal cliffs, towering outcrops and patterns of valleys and ridges.

Banks Peninsula has a distinctive range of microclimates and is the southernmost limit for a number of plant species. Remnants of original vegetation are found throughout the peninsula, especially in valley bottoms, on steep valley sides and in reserves. They range from beech forest to lowland podocarp forest, subalpine tussock and revegetating shrublands. Marine life associated with the peninsula is also rich and diverse.

While land use has retained some natural remnants, the peninsula today is subject to land use change. Exotic forestry is increasing, lifestyle small holdings and diversification are evident, and the increasing pressure of recreational and tourist developments and farming diversification are encroaching further into areas of high natural value. Land use and management practices have also contributed to the degradation of coastal and marine habitats.

2.4.2 Biodiversity

Before human occupation, a large portion of Canterbury was forested. The braided rivers and lakes were pristine. Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity was at its peak with indigenous terrestrial and aquatic life fully adapted to the diverse range of Canterbury habitats, free from exotic pests and predators.

After the arrival of Māori in Te Wai Pounamu, large areas of the plains' vegetation were burnt. This increased the area of savannah woodlands and tussock grasslands. Some terrestrial bird species, such as moa, became extinct during this period.

The arrival of European settlers and western agricultural technology also had a significant impact that resulted in extensive deforestation, drainage and further species extinctions. Only remnants of the indigenous vegetation of the Canterbury plains and Banks Peninsula exist. Plant pests such as gorse, broom, Russell lupin and willow have greatly degraded many natural ecosystems. Rats, mustelids and wasps have had a devastating effect on indigenous invertebrates and birds.

Areas of remnant foothill forests remain, and some are substantial, but their naturalness has been degraded by goats, deer and possums. In the intermontane basins, large areas of remaining tussock grasslands are under stress from the twin impacts of agricultural development, including burning, and the spread of plant and animal pests (such as wilding pines, rabbits and broom). Only in the alpine zone can we find largely natural vegetation communities, although the grazing of exotic herbivores such as sheep, deer, thar, hare and chamois is having an influence.

Wetlands, particularly on the plains, have been greatly reduced in size by drainage. They are often artificially enriched by agricultural fertilisers, leading to eutrophication. The headwaters of most rivers are largely intact. Habitats have been reduced in the lower reaches of braided rivers by damming, irrigation abstraction, and heavy infestations of animal and plant pests. The introduction of trout and salmon has greatly reduced indigenous fisheries. Commercial harvest has greatly reduced eel numbers.

Canterbury has a wide range of ecosystems, which includes mountains, tussock grasslands, beech and podocarp forests, braided rivers, lakes, vast coastal wetlands, inland salt pans, geothermal areas and embayed shorelines supporting both common and threatened species of animals and plants.

Threatened or endangered species are present, most notably:

- black stilt/kāki, the world's most endangered species of wading bird, which is largely reliant on braided riverbeds for suitable habitat
- Canterbury mudfish/kōwaro Canterbury's most endangered indigenous fish, which inhabits slow-flowing streams
- the robust grasshopper, which dwells on Mackenzie basin riverbeds
- Hector's dolphin/upokohue, a rare marine mammal, living and breeding along the Canterbury coast

For most species the best management is habitat protection, which also contributes to ecosystem protection. This is increasingly being considered from a biodiversity perspective. Marine ecosystems are still largely natural in terms of species and community composition, but at greatly reduced biomass levels. No marine reserves or taiāpure exist. Obvious signs of pressure from coastal development, reclamations, pollution and waterfront construction occur in many areas, particularly around Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

Protected Natural Areas Programme

The goal of the Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNA) is:

'To identify and protect representative examples of the full range of indigenous biological and landscape features in New Zealand, and thus maintain the distinctive New Zealand character of the country' (Kelly and Park, 1986).

The protected natural area programme provides the basic goals, objectives and techniques to protect a representative range of New Zealand natural biodiversity.

Under the PNA programme, New Zealand is broken down into 268 ecological districts, and a field ecological survey assesses the areas that are the best representative examples of each ecosystem. These areas are known as Recommended Areas for Protection (RAPs). Where possible, RAPs should be identified as functioning ecosystems. The implementation phase of the PNA programme involves negotiation with landholders on options for protecting RAPs.

Of the 55 ecological districts in Canterbury, 23 have been surveyed under the PNA programme. A further 13 ecological districts are predominantly comprised of land managed by the Department, particularly adjacent to the main divide. The remaining 19 ecological districts are largely in the North Canterbury and South Canterbury foothills and are priorities for PNA survey (see 5.5.4 Survey and Monitoring and Map 21).

2.4.3 Historic Resources

Māori historic places and Māori archaeological sites (pre-1900) are protected under the Historic Places Act, but some sites are not recorded. Developers and district councils often lack information on the location and cultural sensitivity of these sites. Māori cultural history is generally not well interpreted throughout Canterbury.

Historic resource conservation has been focused by the Historic Places Trust on urban sites, especially notable European buildings and those associated with famous people from the past. Less effort has gone into protecting the buildings and industries associated with ordinary people and everyday lifestyles. Much of the advocacy to protect historic buildings through district plans has been reactive, that is, at the consent stage. The rural industries and features of Canterbury have generally been less of a focus, but local museums and historical societies continue some valuable work in this area.

2.4.4 Recreation

Resource-based recreation is distinguished by abundant resources for mountain, coastal, river and lake activities. Access to these recreation opportunities is readily available. The ease of 'getting away from it all', of having a rural, pastoral backcountry, or remote experience contributes to the high quality of the Canterbury lifestyle.

The Department inherited a network of tracks and huts in the backcountry but has few facilities close to road-ends and urban areas. It is faced with the challenge of maintaining facilities in the interior of the backcountry while providing for the need for facilities and interpretation close to the areas people use most. It will have to direct management into priority facilities.

A variety of ski areas operate under concessions from the Department. A wilderness area opportunity exists in the mid-Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana.

Recreation facilities located on land managed by the Department include more than 200 kilometres of walks and 800 kilometres of tracks and routes, 15 shelters, 125 huts, 44 bivouacs and 36 camping and picnic areas.

The greatest concentrations of visitors are found close to road-ends and fringe areas of parks. Visitor numbers decrease as the distance from road-end facilities increases. Research indicates that trampers are younger than the average New Zealand age, while fishers and hunters tend to be older than trampers. A trend towards increasing use by older trampers has been recently identified, with more research needed to examine these trends. (Devlin, Corbett and Peebles, 1995)

To meet visitor concentration needs more facilities will be required near urban centres and at road-ends. The effects of the country's ageing population will also need consideration.

Although little active formal co-ordination currently exists between land managers in Canterbury, opportunities exist to rationalise reserve management, particularly on the Port Hills. District councils as well as the Department have to make strategic decisions on their recreation budgets because of resource constraints. Lack of formal public access to the coast, lakes and rivers is an issue. In other areas, such as riverbeds, intermontane lakes, coastal estuaries, and parts of the Banks Peninsula coast, in the breeding season wildlife needs to be protected from human disturbance.

2.4.5 Conservation Support

There is a strong community desire to support conservation projects, but opportunities for involvement with conservation projects are generally limited. The Conservancy supports campaigns, runs summer volunteer holiday programmes, and offers some individual volunteer opportunities at larger area offices. However, an improvement is needed in the relationships with Ngāi Tahu and high country runholders.

An ongoing joint Tū Kakariki wetland restoration project with Te Ngāi Tuahuriri rūnanga and a major sponsor has been established. The Conservancy needs to work more with community groups, volunteers, individuals and public agencies (such as local authorities and other Government departments) to clarify respective roles and develop partnerships and productive working relationships. Scope exists for further sponsorship of projects.

Table 1: Canterbury Conservancy in a National Context¹

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Canterbury Number</i>	<i>Approximate % of National Total</i>
Human Population	442000	15
Ecological Districts	54	20
Water Conservation Orders	3	25
Threatened Bird Species ²	18	25
Threatened Marine Mammal Species	2	100
Threatened Freshwater Fish Species	6	60
Threatened Invertebrate Species	70	10
Threatened Plant Species	70	20
Animal Pest Species	16	60
Fire Risk	Fire danger in summer	Potential for extreme conditions
World Heritage Areas	Part of 1	Part of 50
National Parks	2	15
Conservation Parks	3	15
National Reserves	1	35
Marine Mammal Sanctuary	1	50
Huts ³	170	15
Tracks ⁴	200	5
Visitors ⁵	900000	20

1 See also Volume 2, Table 1

2 'Threatened' includes category A, B and C species as listed in *Setting priorities for the conservation of New Zealand's threatened plants and animals*. Molloy, Davis and Tisdall, 1994

3 Based on 1000 huts nationwide

4 Based on each conservancy having approximately 200 tracks each

5 Based on 5 million visitors to land administered by the Department per year as a best estimate

2.5 A Kaupapa/Philosophy for Canterbury

The aim of this section is to develop a common purpose for conservation matters in Canterbury that can be shared by all agencies and individuals operating in the region, including the Department of Conservation. The vision and goals have not yet been discussed with all these agencies and individuals other than through the draft CMS submission process, and are presented here for further discussion.

The future for Canterbury's natural, historic and recreational resources will be shaped by the actions of many players, including administrative agencies, landholders and individuals willing to put in their own time and effort. Because of the variety of potential players, and the lack of any overall co-ordinating structures, there is a need to develop an overall vision for conservation in Canterbury.

The vision and goals below have been developed by the former Aoraki and North Canterbury conservation boards and refined following public submissions.

2.5.1 A Canterbury Vision

Hei whakamanawa herenga tahi kia whakangungua o te rohe Katapere taonga Māori, taonga kōrero, tikanga hoki, me te atawhai i ngā hākinakina me te whakaaro mahi tūruhi.

To encourage a shared commitment to protecting Canterbury's indigenous natural, cultural and historic resources, while fostering compatible recreation and allowing appropriate tourist use.

The vision has a number of themes:

- to achieve conservation outcomes we all have to act to make it happen; talking about it or wishing it so will not be enough
- when we are all involved in conservation, we all gain a greater understanding and appreciation of our natural historical and cultural surroundings; hence a far better conservation and social result
- retaining and enhancing Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity will contribute to national and international obligations
- protecting indigenous plants and animals and their habitats has to be a cornerstone of conservation; many species have adapted to Canterbury environments, while some are found nowhere else: conserving indigenous species has to take priority over protecting introduced species
- the combination of Canterbury's natural habitats, ecosystems and landscapes, together with its plants and animals, is unique to the region: these elements are the region's natural heritage; once gone, they are gone forever
- the use of this environment has resulted in a cultural heritage of landscapes, historical features and usage patterns which also cannot be duplicated
- Canterbury's natural areas provide inspiration and an opportunity to meet nature on its own terms

2.5.2 Canterbury Goals

Conservation Partnership

To encourage community awareness of, involvement in, and shared responsibility for heritage conservation in Canterbury.

Conservation is everyone's concern - young and old, rural and urban dweller, local and visitor. The individual actions that each of us take build up into the collective forces that shape our environment. It is not enough to leave the future of conservation in Canterbury in the hands of community groups, and local and central government. Instead, each one of us has to take responsibility for what we would like to see handed on to future generations. We are the guardians of the past, present and future, working to achieve a conservation vision which is consistent with our international obligations, the Treaty of Waitangi and national legislation; and to which we all can contribute.

Heritage

To identify, protect and enhance Canterbury's:

- indigenous ecosystems, processes and species
- natural landscapes, natural landscape values, geological features and landforms
- historic and cultural heritage

In Canterbury many species and ecosystems are threatened or poorly protected. Many habitats have been reduced in size, while others are subject to attack by animal and plant pests and other threats. So while we can cherish what we have, we must also acknowledge that there is considerable room for improvement. The answer will lie in holding on to and improving what we still have, so that the distinctive character of Canterbury is maintained.

Outdoor Recreation

To foster patterns of outdoor recreation that are ecologically and socially sustainable while avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects on Canterbury's natural, cultural and historic heritage.

Being able to visit and enjoy the distinctive heritage features of Canterbury provides us all with recreational benefits, benefits that we take back into the rest of our lives. These visits must not, however, destroy or damage the enjoyment of the next visitor or impact adversely on the natural environment. Recreation enjoyment provides an opportunity to increase our understanding of, sensitivity towards and support for the natural world, as well as time to develop powers of observation, outdoor skills and self-reliance.

2.5.3 Canterbury in the Year 2005

Canterbury's natural and historic resources have been changed dramatically by human intervention and continue to change through the effects of our activities and the impacts of introduced species. Slowing and arresting the rate of change will be an important result in its own right. There has to be some progress and improvement on the existing situation.

We also need to lift our sights higher than that. Canterbury's natural and historic resources are much reduced. Some improvement on existing conditions has to be a part of the vision for the task we set ourselves.

The North Canterbury/Aoraki Conservation Board would like to see the following achieved and happening by the year 2005.

In the Year 2005...

People Partnership

- There is wide public and community support in Canterbury for conserving the region's natural, cultural and historic heritage: for its indigenous natural values, to provide recreation opportunities, and as a character backdrop for the region's economic activities.
- Landholders have a good understanding of the heritage values under their management control, and have ready and continuing access to information about those features and their management needs.
- Ngā tūpuna maunga and associated wāhi tapu are identified, recognised and protected.
- Cultural connections of Ngāi Tahu to places within Canterbury through whakapapa, wairua and mana whenua are fully recognised.
- Traditional relationships of Māori to waters are recognised and promoted.
- The relationship of Māori to the natural world is reflected in the overall vision.
- Partnership opportunities with iwi, rūnanga and whānau are fully integrated into management processes.
- There is a range of opportunities for the community, individuals and industry to become voluntarily involved in conservation maintenance and improvement projects.
- Individuals and organisations are actively engaged in advocating for the protection of Canterbury's natural and historic heritage, and regulatory agencies are responsive to those views.
- Organisations and individuals who have a concern for Canterbury's natural and historic resources or a significant role in managing the environment are consulted and co-operated with in a way that increasingly reflects common goals and a conservation ethic.

Heritage Conservation

- No further species of indigenous plants or animals have become extinct.
- Threatened plant, bird, fish and marine mammal populations are well on the way to recovery to self-sustaining levels, and comprehensive action is underway to protect threatened invertebrate and reptile populations.
- The prime examples of the full range of representative ecosystems in Canterbury have been accorded some form of formal protection and active management; with special emphasis on the protection of:
 - podocarp forest
 - coastal, hardwood and seral bush
 - savannah, mānuka and kānuka woodland
 - snow, red, silver and fescue tussock, and blue wheat grass
 - grassland
 - dunelands
 - freshwater and saline wetlands, including lakes
 - mudflats
 - estuaries
 - marine fish nursery areas
 - freshwater fish spawning area
 - natural riparian margins for all water bodiesso that a comprehensive regional system of protected natural areas is in place
- Other areas of Canterbury's natural heritage, while not necessarily subject to a formal protection mechanism, are sufficiently valued by their owners that they are receiving some form of conservation management.
- Public agencies are setting an example by controlling the animal and plant pests on lands for which they are responsible, to the extent that those pests are not endangering the sustainability of the indigenous ecosystems.
- Publicly, resources are targeted most effectively for the benefit of indigenous heritage conservation.
- Conservation protection has extended to include the Ashburton Lakes and the Upper Hurunui; and all waterways and wetlands contain sufficient flows or water levels to sustain their fish, bird and plant populations throughout the year.
- The marine environment is afforded similar ecosystem protection and sustainable use as applies to the land environment.

- Prime examples of landscapes are protected, such as representative passes, tussock grasslands and Banks Peninsula landscapes, braided riverbeds.
- Historic features, both Māori and European, are as valued and protected as Canterbury's natural heritage.
- There is demonstrable progress in the restoration of important but degraded environments such as Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, the Ōpihi river, dryland short tussock grasslands, and savannah grassland.
- A wide cross-section of representative places were identified early on in the ten-year period and used as benchmarks to measure the progress (or otherwise) of Canterbury conservation.

Recreation/Use of Areas Protected for Conservation Purposes

- A wide (but not necessarily the full) range of recreation opportunities is catered for on public lands protected for conservation purposes; these opportunities are geared to providing visitor enjoyment without damaging or degrading the very features and qualities that the visitors come to experience; they are provided by the Department or concessionaires.
- The Department has maintained the remote wilderness character of the upper catchments of the Rangitata and Rakaia rivers.
- Ngāi Tahu historical and cultural links with certain localities are recognised and provided for, and as a result the experience of all visitors to these localities is enriched.
- Landholders derive a sense of satisfaction from sharing with others the natural and historic heritage they are responsible for, under conditions set by them.
- Voluntary and community support is encouraged for recreational development on public lands.

2.5.4 How Can This Be Achieved by 2005?

Achieving the conservation vision for Canterbury over the next ten years will require the imaginative use of the various mechanisms and documents that various organisations work with. These include:

- the Resource Management Act: regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans
- this Conservation Management Strategy, conservation management plans and subordinate functional strategies and other plans
- pest management strategies (prepared under the Biosecurity Act)
- annual business plans of central government departments and local government
- pastoral lease and other tenure reviews

For individual landholders, schools, recreation groups etc., achieving the vision will come after widespread appreciation of the connection of conservation with their daily lives has been developed. This is why this statement places so much emphasis on the people-partnership aspect of the vision.

The envisaged future will only be possible with the support of the agencies and groups listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Canterbury Conservation Partners and Associates and Their Roles

Group	Level	Role
Department of Conservation	National Regional Local	Crown conservation management and advocacy
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga	Regional Local	Mana whenua
Conservation Board: Canterbury/ Aoraki	Regional Local	Conservation policy advice to Department of Conservation Advocacy to public
Ministry for the Environment	National Regional	Promotion of the sustainable management of the environment
Ministry of Agriculture	National Regional	Sustainable land management
Ministry of Fisheries Eel Management Groups	National Regional	The management and conservation of fisheries and fishery resources
Ministry of Forestry	National Regional	To facilitate the optimal contribution from forestry and forestry products to New Zealand's sustainable development and economic growth.
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	Regional National	Independent conservation agency
Fish and Game Councils	Regional National	Fish and game management and habitat protection
Historic Places Trust New Zealand Archaeological Association	National Regional	Historic conservation and advocacy Cultural heritage advocacy
Forest Heritage Fund and Ngā Whenua Rāhui committees	National	Funding of land and natural resource protection
Landcare Research/National Institute of Water and Atmosphere/Universities	National	Science and research
Knight Frank New Zealand Ltd	National Regional	Pastoral lease administration for the Minister of Lands
Transport authorities (e.g. Transit New Zealand)	National Regional Local	Environmental impact mitigation, planning design/management, roadside facilities and signs, landscape enhancement
Canterbury Regional Council	Regional Local	Integrated and sustainable management of natural and physical resources of Canterbury
District councils	Local	Sustainable land use and subdivision management, reserve management, landscape protection, riparian access and protection

continued overleaf...

Table 2: Canterbury Conservation Partners and Associates and Their Roles continued

Conservation and local interest groups: (e.g. Forest and Bird, residents' associations, Christchurch/Ōtautahi Agenda 21 Society, Greenpeace, WWF, Summit Road Society, Friends of Banks Peninsula, covenantors, Arthur's Pass Association Inc, Canterbury Botanical Society)	National Regional Local	Conservation advocates/education/ volunteers/conservation managers
Federated Mountain Club, tramping clubs, climbing groups, New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association, dive clubs, boating clubs, 4WD clubs, ski clubs, New Zealand Motor Caravan Association	National Regional	Recreational opportunities, facilities/safety/ education/volunteers
Land management and land use organisations e.g. landcare groups, Federated Farmers, farmers, farm foresters, forestry companies	National Regional Local	Farming, land and water use sustainability, advocacy and education, cross-boundary issues Mitigation of impacts
Canterbury Environment Centre	Local	Conservation information/network
Volunteer organisations (e.g. High country fire teams, Animal Hospital Ferry Road, Marine Watch honorary rangers)	Regional Local	Assistance with Department functions
Department concessionaires	National Regional Local	Conservation and environment education, mitigation of impacts
Private enterprise	National Regional Local	Conservation sponsor Mitigation of impacts, advocacy capital investment, recreational opportunities, facilities, safety, education
Service clubs, e.g. Lions, Rotary, Zonta, Kiwanis	National Regional	Conservation sponsorship, volunteer assistance, education
Educational institutions e.g. universities, polytechs, schools	Regional	Conservation and environmental education and research
Fishing groups, e.g. Canterbury Marine Recreational Fishers	Regional Local	Promotion and maintenance of fishing opportunities
Professional associations e.g. landscape architects, agricultural scientists and engineers	Regional	Landscape and open space advocates, conservation of the built environment