

# Part One: Introduction

## *1. What is a Conservation Management Strategy?*

Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) are a statutory requirement of the Conservation Act. They are being prepared for each of the 14 Conservancies administered by the Department of Conservation in New Zealand. Their purpose is to:

- Establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources managed by the Department; and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes under the Wildlife Act 1953, Marine Reserves Act 1971, Reserves Act 1977, Wild Animal Control Act 1977, Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, National Parks Act 1980, Conservation Act 1987, New Zealand Walkways Act 1990; and
- Implement general policies (prepared under section 17B of the Conservation Act 1987). [*refer Glossary: General Policy*]

In the past, the approach to planning for areas administered by the Department was to prepare separate management plans. The CMS is a new approach which provides direction for all areas administered by the Department within a conservancy, and for all its activities.

The CMS will take precedence over existing conservation management plans [*refer Section 25, p 209*].

In addition to providing for day-to-day management for a conservancy, a CMS provides directions for the future by answering the following questions:

- What are the Conservancy's objectives for the next ten years and beyond?
- What management actions will be needed to achieve those objectives and how do they differ from current management?
- What are the priorities?
- How will the objectives be achieved?

The CMS is intended as a guide to both managers and the public about what the Department intends to do, how it will set priorities about what has to be done and how it can respond to requests to use the natural and historic resources it manages.

It will be linked to the preparation of annual Business Plans. The Conservancy Business Plan determines the relative allocation of resources between different activities of the Department for each business year. An important function of the Business Plan is to ensure the objectives and policies in the CMS are implemented.

The process for preparing a CMS is set out in section 17F of the Conservation Act. The Wellington CMS must be prepared by the Department

in consultation with the Wellington Conservation Board, and other persons or organisations the Department considers practicable and appropriate. The draft CMS is then notified, and approved in accordance with a detailed process of public submissions, hearings and consultations. Final approval is by the New Zealand Conservation Authority after receiving comments and recommendations from the Minister of Conservation and Wellington Conservation Board.

### 1.1 HOW THE DRAFT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAS PREPARED

The Draft CMS has been prepared by the Department in consultation with the Wellington Conservation Board. There has been liaison with other conservancies which border the Wellington Conservancy.

A brochure calling for public submissions and issues to be covered in the CMS was sent to 300 organisations in the Conservancy in November 1991. The brochure was also made available in public libraries and offices and field centres of the Department. Twenty-seven public submissions were received by the Department by February 1992.

After the public submissions were received, the Department undertook an assessment of all the land it administered and prepared the draft CMS.

The Wellington Conservation Board has been involved in all stages of the preparation of the CMS, establishing a vision for conservation in the Conservancy and reviewing the place and functional sections.

The Department views the draft as a consultation document. Having done extensive work to identify management issues and approaches and directions for the future, it welcomes the opportunity to discuss the content of the strategy with communities in the Conservancy.

### 1.2 SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The draft CMS was advertised for public comment on 23 March 1994, and a round of public consultation followed. Public and special interest group meetings were held in Wellington, Lower Hutt, Wainuiomata, Waikanae, Levin, Palmerston North, Pahiatua, Masterton and Martinborough during March, April and May. Submissions closed on 23 May 1994. The Department received 135 written submissions. Hearings by a combined panel from the Wellington Conservation Board and the Regional Conservator of Wellington Conservancy for the 70 submitters who wished to speak in support of their submissions were heard in June 1994. A summary of the submissions and the Department's response has been prepared, and the CMS revised as a result of submissions.

### 1.3 APPROVAL OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The revised CMS and summary of submissions were presented to the Wellington Conservation Board on 23 November 1994.

The Wellington Conservation Board has 6 months, until 23 May 1995, to consider the revised CMS. The Board may request the Department to revise the draft. The draft is then sent along with the Board's comments to the NZ Conservation Authority for final approval. The Authority consults with the Minister of Conservation before approving the final CMS.

#### 1.4 HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The Wellington CMS is composed of two volumes:

- Volume 1 contains the objectives and policies for integrated management of land administered by the Department, and for all its activities.

The Parts in Volume 1 are:

- *Part One: Introduction*

Introducing the CMS and how it was prepared.

The Conservancy's vision, a summary of CMS objectives, implementation and priorities, and an indication of the current management focus of the Department.

An overview of the Conservancy, outlining its physical characteristics, history and natural resources.

- *Part Two: Places*

The Conservancy is divided into six major geographical areas. For each area an overview is given, followed by detailed management objectives and implementation for key places.

Key places are areas administered by the Department and surrounding land which will be a focus for management.

- *Part Three: Functions*

Objectives and implementation provisions for all functions of the Department's day to day management, and objectives and procedures for dealing with administrative matters, e.g., issuing grazing licences and assessing applications for the taking of plant material.

- *Part Four: Implementation*

Explanation of how the CMS will be implemented and reviewed, and how achievement of the objectives will be monitored.

- *Appendices*

Priorities for Indigenous Species in Wellington Conservancy

Legal Protection Mechanisms

Recreation Facilities

Helicopter Landing Zones

Land Acquisition Fund: Criteria and National Priorities

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

- Volume 2 contains maps which, at a scale of 1 to 125,000, identify all areas managed by the Department within the boundaries of this strategy, plus walkways, wildlife refuges, protected private land agreements, and conservation covenants on private lands. The maps are accompanied by inventory sheets which describe each separate land unit managed by the Department and the natural and historic resources, recreational facilities and uses that exist.

