Conservation management strategies (CMS) timeline

PHASE 1
Project planning
Up to 6 months

What happens during this phase?
• Begin project planning.
• DOC, relevant Treaty partner & Conservation Board establish an agreed joint engagement approach to the CMS review.
• Finalise project and communications plans.

Who is involved?
DOC Director-General delegate and project staff | Conservation Board | Treaty partner | New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)

PHASE 2
Drafting the strategy
8–12 months

What happens during this phase?
• DOC project staff, Conservation Board and Treaty partner prepare draft strategy.
• Hold internal and external project hui and workshops to understand issues, opportunities and outcomes for the draft strategy.
• Consult with key stakeholders.
• Confirm key policy approaches and milestones.
• Carry out internal peer review of the draft strategy checking for national issues, legal issues, consistency with legislation and Conservation General Policy.

Refer to the Conservation Act 1987
• Section 17F(a) – draft shall be prepared by the Director-General in consultation with the Conservation Boards affected by it and such other persons or organisations, as the Director-General considers practicable and appropriate.

Who is involved?
DOC Director-General delegate and project staff | Conservation Board | Treaty partner | Key stakeholders

PHASE 3
Public notification and hearing
4–8 months

What happens during this phase?
• Publicly notify the draft strategy in newspapers and online (for no less than 40 working days).
• Notify Treaty partner and appropriate stakeholders, including regional councils and territorial authorities.
• Establish a hearing panel comprising DOC, Conservation Board and relevant Treaty partner.
• Collate submissions on the draft strategy.
• Organise hearing venues and arrange hearing times with submitters who wish to be heard.
• Hold the submission hearings.
• Prepare the summary of submissions.

Refer to the Conservation Act 1987
• Section 49(1)… the Minister shall publish a notice … in some newspaper circulating in the area …
• Section 17F(a) to (h)

Who is involved?
DOC Director-General delegate and project staff | Conservation Board | Treaty partner | Key stakeholders | General public | Hearing panel

PHASE 4
Revision and approval
4–6 months

What happens during this phase?
• DOC considers submissions and public opinion, revises the draft and sends it to the Conservation Board.1
• DOC supports the Conservation Board in its consultation obligations.
• The Conservation Board considers the revised draft strategy and sends it to the NZCA for approval.2
• The NZCA considers the revised draft strategy and undertakes any consultation that may be required as a result of Treaty settlement(s), or may seek further consultation.
• The NZCA makes amendments and sends the draft strategy to the Minister for comment.
• The Minister considers the draft strategy and sends it back to the NZCA with any written recommendations.
• The NZCA considers the Minister’s recommendations and either approves the draft or sends it back to the Minister for further consideration, before it approves the draft.

Refer to the Conservation Act 1987
• Section 17F(i) to (p)

Who is involved?
DOC Director-General delegate and project staff | Conservation Board | NZCA | Minister of Conservation | Treaty partner | Key stakeholders

PHASE 5
Implementing the strategy
1–3 months

What happens during this phase?
• Notify Treaty partner and key stakeholders of the decision and the operative date of the strategy.
• Publish and notify the approved CMS.
• Begin implementing the CMS – brief and upskill internal staff, the Conservation Board and key stakeholders.
• Debrief the CMS process.

Refer to the Conservation Act 1987
• Section 17N(4) to (6) – availability and notification of approved CMS

Who is involved?
DOC Director-General delegate and project staff | Conservation Board | Treaty partner

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1 The Director-General must revise the draft Strategy and provide it to the Conservation Board within 8 months of the date of publication of the notice.
2 The Conservation Board must consider the draft Strategy and provide it to the NZCA within 6 months of the date of receipt of the draft Strategy from DOC. 4–8 months

Note: Time frames for each phase are indicative only as many factors influence the time frames, such as resourcing, complexity of issues at place, Treaty partner’s capacity to be involved in the process, the number of submissions received, the timing of the Minister’s response etc. Treaty partner may be involved differently during these phases based on specific requirements from Treaty settlements.