

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020

The vision

Te Mauri Hikahika o te Taiao

The mauri of nature is vibrant and vigorous

Why this is important

People are part of nature and nature supports life and human activity. All aspects of our wellbeing, physical, cultural, social and economic, are dependent on nature and the services that it provides. Natural wellbeing underpins our lives, lifestyles and livelihoods. Nature is valuable for its own sake (intrinsic value) and is linked to our identity as New Zealanders. Our vision for a future with nature that has thriving, vibrant, vigorous mauri will result in thriving wellbeing for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The problem

We are in a biodiversity crisis - Papatūānuku, Ranginui and their offspring are in serious trouble, and we urgently need to do a better job at looking after them. Nature in Aotearoa New Zealand, and across the rest of the world, is declining, and directly under threat from pressures, including changes in land, freshwater and sea use, introduced species, exploitation for food and resources, pollution, and the increasing threat of climate change. Indirect pressures, such as not having the right 'systems' in place, people not having enough knowledge or resources to act, and a disconnect between people and nature, are causing and contributing to these direct pressures. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand, we are already successfully taking action to protect and restore nature, and this strategy sets out how we can expand and build on the strong foundation we have already built to allow our natural world, and the people in it, to thrive.

What we are aiming to achieve by 2050

Outcome 1

Ecosystems, from mountain tops to ocean depths, are thriving

- › The mauri of ecosystems is thriving
- › A full range of indigenous ecosystems are protected and secured for future generations
- › The health, integrity and connectivity of ecosystems have been maintained and/or restored, including in human-dominated areas

Outcome 2

Indigenous species and their habitats across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are thriving

- › The mana of taonga species is restored
- › All indigenous species are protected and secure, and none are at risk of extinction due to human activities
- › Species' populations are healthy, genetically diverse and have increased resilience to future threats including climate change
- › Migratory species and their habitats are secured across international boundaries

Outcome 3

People's lives are enriched through their connection with nature

- › Everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand is connected with nature, and supports and actively contributes to its protection and restoration
- › Connection with nature is improving people's physical, spiritual and mental health and quality of life
- › Future generations inherit restored, thriving nature

Outcome 4

Treaty partners, whānau, hapū and iwi are exercising their full role as rangatira and kaitiaki

- › Resilient biodiversity enables cultural practices and mahinga kai, contributing to the regeneration of mātauranga Māori
- › Restored nature uplifts mana
- › Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are central to the biodiversity system and recognised as leaders

Outcome 5

Prosperity is intrinsically linked with a thriving biodiversity

- › Thriving biodiversity provides the services that underpin our prosperity
- › Biodiversity resources are managed sustainably to provide ongoing economic benefits
- › Economic activity has neutral or beneficial impacts on biodiversity
- › Thriving biodiversity plays a central role in our approach to mitigating climate change

Central to our work between now and 2050 are three pou (pillars) which provide direction and focus to guide us towards the transformational change needed to achieve the strategy outcomes. Objectives are identified within each pou.

TŪĀPAPA Getting the system right

We need the right systems in place to tackle the biodiversity crisis. These cross-cutting objectives set out how we will ensure this.

What our 2050 objectives are:

1. Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes
2. Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki
3. Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity
4. Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work
5. Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management
6. Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally

WHAKAHĀU Empowering action

We need all New Zealanders to help to protect and restore our biodiversity. These cross-cutting objectives set out how we will ensure that everyone is empowered to act.

What our 2050 objectives are:

7. All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective
8. Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature
9. Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes

TIAKI ME TE WHAKAHAUMANU Protecting and restoring

We need to address the direct pressures causing a decline in biodiversity, ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity, and restore biodiversity in areas where it has been lost. These objectives set out what we will do to ensure biodiversity is resilient and secure.

What our 2050 objectives are:

10. Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths
11. Management ensures that Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management
12. Natural resources are managed sustainably
13. Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects

Implementation

Each of the objectives has measurable and time-bound goals. The goals are set at 2025 for Tūāpapa and Whakahau and at 2025, 2030 and 2050 for Tiaki me te whakahaumanu. The cross-cutting goals in these first two priority areas will enable us to achieve the longer-term goals detailed in Tiaki me te whakahaumanu. Implementation planning will set actions for achieving the goals for the shorter term. Progress on actions and goals will be evaluated, and the actions and goals will be reviewed and revised to ensure we are on track to achieving the outcomes.

Measuring success:

Progress towards the strategy outcomes will be regularly assessed. Progress reporting will focus on both the delivery of implementation actions (output monitoring) and progress towards the outcomes (outcome monitoring). A progress review will take place every 5 years, and this will be followed by a review and update of the strategy and the development of the next 5-yearly implementation plan. A full set of indicators to measure progress will be developed as part of the initial phase of implementation. A table of potential indicators for the five outcomes is provided in Appendix 4.

How we work together:

We all have roles to play in protecting and restoring the mauri of nature. The strategy has a set of underlying values and principles to guide how we work together to make decisions and deliver action. These will form the basis of implementation planning.