

TE MANA O TE TAI AO – AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



**Te Mana o Te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
Implementation Plan**

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COVER: Whio / blue duck in the Tongariro River near Turangi.
Photo: Leon Berard (www.leonberardphotography.co.nz)

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Minister's foreword

Nature is an important part of our lives here in Aotearoa New Zealand. We have been entrusted with unique and special biodiversity – many of the species living here are found nowhere else in the world.

But science doesn't lie and despite the many good intentions, we now have a biodiversity crisis, with 4000 of our species threatened or at risk of extinction.

We all have an obligation to protect our natural environment for the benefit of future generations, and by acting now and working together to tackle the challenges that threaten biodiversity, change can happen.

That means building on past efforts and clearly laying out the actions we will take to ensure biodiversity is not only protected but flourishes. It means recognising that every part of our environment, whether it's in a national park or our backyards, sustains biodiversity. It means bringing biodiversity into decision making and mainstream policy.

We already have a way forward for protecting and restoring biodiversity. Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, which was released last year, set the direction for improving biodiversity over the next 30 years.

This implementation plan will drive ongoing collective action across Aotearoa New Zealand, adding new knowledge to existing activities and programmes. Every 5 years, we will review and assess what has been achieved and what we have learned to inform the next set of actions.

The initial actions in this plan align with the strategy's goals for 2025. The immediate focus is on establishing well-functioning systems and processes to support a partnership approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

In addition, this plan signals the priority initiatives that focus on directly addressing the most pressing drivers of biodiversity loss and will lead to step changes in the biodiversity system that will accelerate future efforts.

Because of central and local government's responsibility in this area, this first iteration of

the plan is focussed on government actions. The implementation plan is a living document so, as it evolves, additional actions will be added from others in the system. Recognising our international obligation under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity – to protect and conserve our unique natural and cultural heritage – the plan will be updated following the adoption of new global biodiversity goals in 2022.

We also need to continue to support and grow the good work being done on the ground. I want to acknowledge the many individuals, communities and tangata whenua-led groups that are already making a difference for biodiversity. Actions to protect and restore nature are being achieved through Predator Free 2050, Jobs for Nature and other initiatives supported by the Government.

This implementation plan signifies a step closer towards the vision of the strategy, Te Mauri Hikahika o te Taiao – nature is vibrant and vigorous. I look forward to what we can achieve together for nature.



Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister of Conservation



Introduction

Biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand and across the rest of the world is declining due to a range of threats. Direct pressures include changes in the use of land, freshwater and marine environments, introduced species, the unsustainable use of species and resources, pollution, and climate change.¹ And these direct pressures are caused or compounded by indirect pressures, such as not having the right systems in place, not having sufficient knowledge or resources to act, and a disconnect between people and nature.

Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS) seeks to address these pressures and provides direction for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity over the next 30 years.

The vision of the strategy is Te Mauri Hikahika o te Taiao – nature is vibrant and vigorous. This means a future where:

- ecosystems and species from mountain tops to ocean depths are thriving
- people’s lives are enriched through their connection with nature
- Treaty partners, whānau, hapū and iwi are exercising their full role as rangatira and kaitiaki
- prosperity is intrinsically linked with a thriving biodiversity.

Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS Implementation Plan will be used over the next 30 years to set out a pathway for achieving the strategy.

International biodiversity commitments

The development and implementation of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan is a requirement for Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its obligations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). We are also required to report back to the CBD on progress towards achieving our objectives. Currently, new global biodiversity goals are expected to be adopted in mid-2022. This implementation plan will be updated following confirmation of the new global goals.

An adaptive approach to implementation

This implementation plan is intended to be a living document so that others who are involved in the biodiversity system can include their actions alongside those from central and local government.

Being a living document also allows the plan to be adaptive to changes in knowledge and context. While many pressures on biodiversity are already known, emerging threats or events may require a change in approach. Therefore, the implementation plan will be updated regularly to include new actions.

Monitoring and reporting on progress

In addition to regularly updating the actions, there will be 5-yearly reviews of the implementation plan to evaluate progress towards goals and outcomes, re-assess priorities, and develop new actions.

¹ **Biodiversity in Aotearoa – an overview of state, trends and pressures** (2020).

Progress towards achieving the goals and outcomes will be tracked using a monitoring and reporting system, which is currently being scoped. This will be combined with assessment of how delivery on the goals is progressing to inform future actions and priorities.

Since the development and implementation of a national biodiversity action plan is a requirement for Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its obligations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), our country also needs to report back to the CBD every 4 years on progress towards achieving the plan.

Providing guidance on where to focus efforts

Three pou (pillars) provide a framework for action by setting out the areas where transformational change is needed to achieve Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS: Tūāpapa (getting the system right), Whakahau (empowering action) and Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu (protecting and restoring) (**Figure 1**).

The current actions being undertaken across central and local government provide a good baseline for working towards the 2025 goals under each pou, but much more still needs to be done.

As this implementation plan continues to be updated, priority areas that link back to the strategy framework will determine where new actions should be added. These will set the foundations needed for further work to achieve the 2025 goals and beyond.

Priorities to address the drivers of biodiversity loss

Actions that directly address the drivers of biodiversity loss are likely to make the biggest difference for biodiversity if current efforts are increased. These include focussing on joint efforts that tackle both biodiversity loss and

climate change together, the ongoing threat of introduced pest species and weeds, improving biodiversity on privately owned land, and pressures on the marine environment.

Priorities to drive step changes in the biodiversity system

Everyone in the biodiversity system has a role to play in achieving Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS, including central government agencies, local government, tangata whenua (whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations), communities, individuals, scientists and researchers, industry, landowners, tourism, and businesses. However, the way the biodiversity system is currently set up means there is a lack of coordination and connection between all those involved.

Current actions are focussed on central and local government agencies, recognising that these agencies have key responsibilities for setting up the processes and structures that will enable the wider biodiversity system and other activities, such as those being led by communities and tangata whenua, to be better connected and make more effective contributions.

As outlined in the strategy, there is also a need to increase the integration of te ao Māori (the Māori world view) and elevate mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) in biodiversity decision making, management and funding. The He Awa Whiria approach in Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS describes the weaving together of mātauranga Māori and other knowledge systems. Once tools have been developed to guide how this can be achieved in practice, this approach will be applied to implementation.

Focus needs to be placed on developing integrated approaches to biodiversity protection that consider environmental, social, cultural and economic values. Emerging new tools and technologies for biodiversity protection will also be key to achieving the strategy's outcomes.

Interaction with other frameworks and programmes across government

Work that will help address the drivers of biodiversity loss is taking place across a wide range of government agencies, reflecting the complex and cross-cutting nature of the challenges biodiversity faces.

Some agencies, such as Toitū te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the Department of Conservation (DOC), have developed, or are developing, their own biodiversity strategies based on Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS to guide how they will contribute to the goals.

There are also many other programmes or frameworks in place across government that focus on cross-cutting themes and are connected to biodiversity. Actions happening in these themes are contributing to achieving the objectives and goals of Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS.

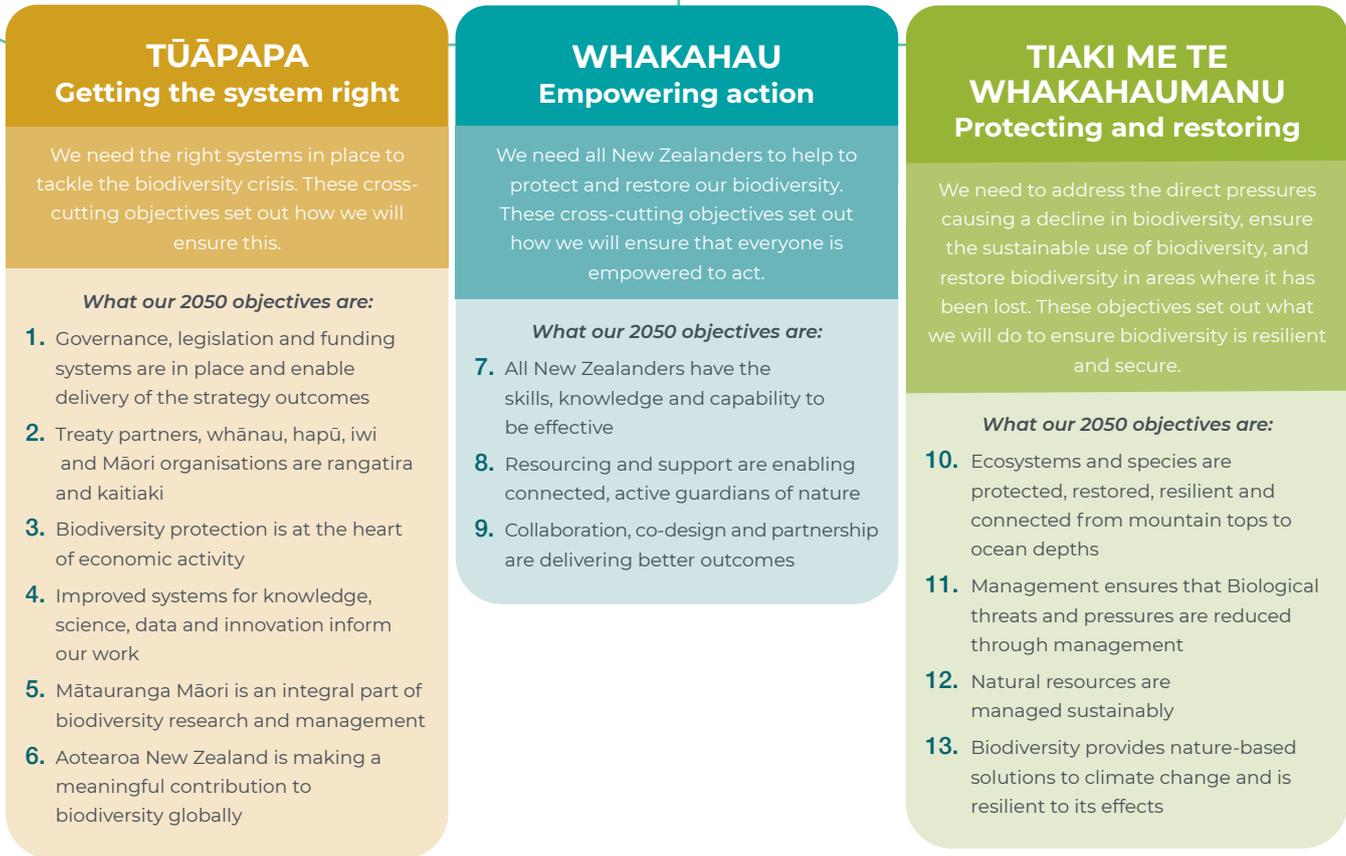
- Sustainable, productive and inclusive land and sea use (eg **Fit For a Better World**)
- Climate change (eg **One Billion Trees, He Waka Eke Noa**)
- Predator eradication (eg **Predator Free 2050**)
- Support for the communities and the economy through nature-based employment (eg **Jobs for Nature**)
- Responding to the issues raised in the Wai 262 inquiry and the recommendations of the Ko Aotearoa Tēnei report (Te Pae Tawhiti)

Figure 1. *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy framework.*



Figure 1 continued

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.



Priority areas

Steps need to be taken in these priority areas to ensure that the strategy outcomes can be achieved. Current actions that align with these areas are indicated with a symbol in the implementation plan.

Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, including:

- › Joined up efforts that **tackle biodiversity loss and climate change together**, which will be critical to our ability to restore and manage ecosystems and species.
- › Addressing the **ongoing threat of introduced pest species and weeds**, which is being extended by the increasing range of new biosecurity threats driven by a changing climate.
- › Achieving biodiversity outcomes on private land will help address **ecosystem impacts of land-use changes on terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems** where they extend beyond public conservation lands and waters.
- › Addressing the **increasing pressures on the marine environment**, particularly those related to climate change, freshwater, sediments, plastic pollution, and fishing.

Driving step changes in the biodiversity system, including:

- › Increasing the **integration of te ao Māori and elevation of mātauranga Māori** in biodiversity decision-making, management, and funding.
- › **Larger scale and more integrated approaches to biodiversity protection**, such as landscape-scale Predator Free 2050 projects developed alongside private and Māori landowners, integrated statutes for land use, development and environmental protection, and a regenerative approach to tourism.
- › **Emerging new tools and technologies** that have the potential to offer breakthrough opportunities for biodiversity protection.
- › **System-level design** of governance, including monitoring and reporting, decision making, institutions and policies, and integration across agencies



Moko kākāriki /jewelled gecko. *Photo: Sabine Bernert*

Implementation plan

The following tables outline actions contributing towards the Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS 2025 goals and objectives. For an explanation of the symbols, refer to **Figure 1**. Symbols are not shown for actions relating to more than three priority areas.

Tūāpapa – getting the system right

Objective 1: Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Develop a DOC Biodiversity Action Strategy to identify which Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS goals DOC is accountable for and to guide the work required to deliver on these goals. Implementation of the strategy will contribute to multiple pou, objectives and goals.	DOC	Completed	4.3, 6.1
Work with other system participants on continued system improvement and ensure close alignment between the biosecurity and biodiversity systems. An effective biosecurity system is critical to achieving the goals of Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS.	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	Ongoing	1, 3, 4, 9, 11
Establish a system across central and regional government to support future implementation planning and facilitate connections across the wider biodiversity system.	DOC	Ongoing	1.1
Establish multi-agency national collaborative groups to plan and implement Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) activity, as well as local collaborative groups to progress landscape-scale regional projects.	DOC	Established and ongoing	1.1
Regional Councils operate according to a landscape-scale view of biodiversity management across all tenures, rohe and agencies.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	1.1 
Regional Councils are providing tactical leadership at ground level across many programmes and projects – interface between people and management operations.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	1.1 

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Establish an Interim Oversight Group to provide advice on what governance structure(s) could be adopted to achieve Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS, as well as strategic advice on implementation.	DOC	Established and ongoing	1.2 
Ensure a governance structure is in place that provides leadership, accountability, and inclusive and transparent decision making.	DOC	2024	1.2
Multi-stakeholder involvement and governance is an emerging practice through joint management agreements, alliances, resource management plans and council committees.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	1.2
Ensure a governance structure is in place for the Ngā Whenua Rāhui (NWR) Fund to provide leadership, accountability, and inclusive and transparent decision making for the protection of indigenous biodiversity on private land owned by Māori.	DOC/NWR	Established and ongoing	1.2
A new Oceans Secretariat has been established by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, comprising DOC, MPI and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) (with support from other agencies including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) as appropriate). Its purpose is to support collaboration and coordination by providing enhanced governance for significant marine initiatives and the sharing of resources and expertise. It supports the Government's commitment to a more holistic, integrated approach to managing our oceans.	DOC, MPI, MfE with support from MFAT	Ongoing	1.2  
The Resource Management Act (RMA) is repealed, and new legislation is enacted based on the recommendations of the Resource Management Review Panel. The three proposed acts are the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), as the main replacement for the RMA, to protect and restore the environment while better enabling development • Strategic Planning Act (SPA), requiring the development of long-term regional spatial strategies to help coordinate and integrate decisions made under relevant legislation • Climate Adaptation Act (CAA), to address complex issues associated with managed retreat. 	MfE	2022	1.3   

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Development of national direction that provides direction to councils on their responsibilities for protecting and maintaining indigenous biodiversity, supported by the work already undertaken to develop a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.	MfE	TBC	1.3 
Review conservation management planning documents and planning systems to improve biodiversity outcomes.	DOC	Ongoing	1.3
Establish a foundation for future comprehensive conservation legislation reform and undertake preparatory policy analysis. Initiate a review of the Wildlife Act 1953 and provide an update to Cabinet (subject to Cabinet's decision).	DOC	Q2 2023 (update to Cabinet)	1.3 
Review of the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 to end tenure review and improve the way 1.2 million hectares of Crown pastoral land is administered and regulated.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	1.3 
Create a more strategic, nationally coordinated framework for marine protection with modernised legislative tools and processes that improve integration with wider marine use.	DOC, MPI	Ongoing	1.3 
Review the Forests Act 1949, including Part 3A.	MPI	Bill next parliamentary term	1.3 
Review the Biosecurity Act 1993.	MPI	TBC	1.3 
Make amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996 to move towards a more ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and more responsive decision making and to drive more selective fishing.	MPI	October 2022, followed by a 4-year transition phase	1.3 
Carbon calculator and resource consent offsetting are being trialled in some regional councils. Biodiversity offsetting exists in some regional policy statements and plans.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	1.4, 3.2, 13.1.1

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Undertake a gap analysis to identify the additional actions and resources needed to deliver on the 2025 goals.	DOC	2023	1.5
Resource and funding are secured through the long-term planning cycle for Regional Councils for business as usual (BAU). Additional funding would need to be prioritised and approved through the same mechanism. Funding to scale up activities is also leveraged off government funding and landowner and community direct and in-kind resources.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	1.5
Toitū te Whenua LINZ is developing templates to support a funding system that will allow us to pool resources to more efficiently manage biosecurity and biodiversity across Crown land.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	1.5

Objective 2: Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Put a Kaitiakitanga Collaborative Group and Te Ao Māori Strategic Advisor in place to ensure that a te ao Māori perspective is embedded in the PF2050 programme.	DOC	2022	2.1 
Toitū te Whenua LINZ is engaging with Māori as kaitiaki and as having mana whenua where they have an interest in Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed Crown land, to ensure that Māori and iwi interests, te Ao Māori, and mātauranga Māori are incorporated into Toitū te Whenua LINZ programmes (where deemed appropriate by mana whenua).	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	2.1 
Mātauranga Māori is being incorporated through some Regional Councils into biodiversity activities, projects and management plans. Community group funding includes iwi/hapū to undertake biodiversity work. Some district councils also undertake this work.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	2.1, 2.2 
Biodiversity restoration projects on Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed Crown land are undertaken in partnership with iwi/rūnanga to support them as rangatira and kaitiaki and to achieve cultural outcomes. <i>Supported through Jobs for Nature funding</i>	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Q1 2025	2.2 
As part of Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan , two pilots for Ahu Moana projects (collaborative management between mana whenua and local communities of their local coastal area) are implemented and the learnings are used to inform development of an Ahu Moana Framework.	MPI	2023	2.2 (supports 10.5) 
Ensure that relationships with Māori landowners and communities are supporting their aspirations for indigenous biodiversity protection at places under NWR kawenata.	NWR	Started and ongoing for the term of the NWR kawenata	2.2, 2.3
Ensure that the whenua (land) remains in Māori ownership under the NWR kawenata, including a 25-year review clause with the intent of allowing for the next generation to have a say.	NWR	In place and ongoing	2.3
Actively seek whānau and hapū to undertake management work at place and land trusts to co-design management plans.	NWR	Annually or when required	2.3

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Ensure that whānau, hapū and iwi are leading or partnering on delivering Jobs for Nature projects to achieve their aspirations for their whenua.	DOC, MPI	Ongoing	2.3 
Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori are involved in decision making through elected officials and specialised governance committees. The advent of alliances and management agreements in some regions is also promoting a partnership framework of working together.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	2.3 
Support the protection and restoration of Māori land through projects funded by Jobs for Nature.	DOC	2025	2.3 
Work with mana whenua on regenerative tourism approaches for nature walks, including the co-design of walk experiences and links to te Taiao.	DOC	Ongoing	2.3 
South East Marine Protection (SEMP) network – Agencies and Kāi Tahu to establish an enduring rohe-based co-management structure for any marine protected areas implemented, including the funding of Kāi Tahu rangers.	DOC, MPI	End of 2024	2.3
Ensure that the Kauri Disease (<i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i>) National Pest Management Plan provides for and enables the exercise of rangatira and kaitiaki at operational, plan and governance levels, as well as through a specific funding stream pou for whānau, hapū and iwi.	MPI	Order in Council (OIC) mid-2022	2.3 
Put in place marine biodiversity and customary research plans that are agreed on by Fisheries New Zealand and Iwi Forums as part of a move to improve partnership between Māori and the Crown on all fisheries-related matters.	MPI	Established Nov 2022 and ongoing	2.3, 8.1 
Work across government agencies to implement the Te Pae Tawhiti work programme, in partnership with Te Taumata Whakapūmau, the original Wai 262 claimants' representative rōpū. Work streams related to objective 2 focus on the protection of taonga works, taonga taiao, taonga species and the biodiversity of Aotearoa New Zealand.	Te Puni Kōkiri	2026	All – but especially 2.3 and 2.4 
Joint management agreements and mātauranga Māori incorporated into monitoring and projects.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	2.4 

Objective 3: Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Implement the New Zealand-Aotearoa Government Tourism Strategy , which sets out the Government's goals for tourism, including that tourism protects, restores and champions Aotearoa New Zealand's natural environment, culture and historic heritage.	DOC and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	Ongoing	3.1, 3.3
Ensure that DOC's key experiences, such as Great Walks, Short Walks and Day Hikes, have a strong vision and connection to te Taiao that is internationally recognised.	DOC	Established and ongoing	3.1
The regional sector is working to develop a brand that highlights the work we do across the environment, community and economics.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	3.1
Councils must operate across private land, within working landscapes. Every action or initiative affects economics for individuals and the region. Councils try to make biodiversity protection more economically attractive for landowners using a variety of tools (rates relief, funding, technical expertise sharing, etc).	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	3.2 
Support for affected businesses through the creation of nature-based employment opportunities (via Jobs for Nature) gives businesses the confidence to invest further in conservation activities.	DOC	2024	3.3
Work with stakeholders and partners to use destination management planning to explore the implementation of innovative management tools that can reduce visitor impacts in popular tourism destinations such as Milford, South Westland and Mackenzie.	DOC / Regional Tourism Organisations	Established and ongoing	3.3
As part of the Milford Opportunities Project , develop a plan to ensure that Milford Sound/Piopiotahi maintains its status as a key visitor icon in Aotearoa New Zealand and provides a world-class visitor experience that is accessible, upholds its World Heritage status and national park and conservation values, and adds value to Southland and Aotearoa New Zealand.	DOC / MBIE / Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) / Southland District Council / Queenstown District Council	Established and ongoing	3.3 

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Research by Crown Research Institutes and monitoring by regional councils is contributing to knowledge on impacts to biodiversity from economic activities. Significant issue with indigenous vegetation clearance for forestry or farming.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	3.3 
Ensure that spatial planning identifies areas where open ocean aquaculture can be developed while minimising impacts on other values, including biodiversity. <i>(DOC, regional councils, iwi and industry involved)</i>	MPI	Ongoing. Work in East Coast South Island to start 2022, time for completion TBC	3.3 
Identify steps to protect biodiversity from the adverse effects of fishing on the marine environment in all fisheries management plans, and embed actions in national plans of action and threat management plans.	MPI	Dec 2022 and ongoing	3.3 
Explore options to further reduce the effects of bottom trawling on benthic biodiversity through spatial gear restrictions and innovative gear design, whilst allowing for the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources.	MPI (DOC, iwi and industry involved)	2022/23	3.3 
Create nature-based employment opportunities through the Jobs for Nature programme.	DOC, MfE, Toitū te Whenua LINZ, MBIE, MPI	2024	3.4
Contractor roles for animal and plant pest control, fencing, biodiversity management plans, trapping, etc support local employment.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	3.4 
Scaling up biodiversity programmes in the terrestrial and freshwater space through collaborative delivery programmes with the assistance of Jobs for Nature.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	3.4
Some regions continue to identify significant natural areas for wetlands, terrestrial areas and marine areas (estuarine and reef systems).	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	
Development of protection programmes for significant natural areas.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	

Objective 4: Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Develop a DOC Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting Strategic Plan to provide line of sight from the data that are currently collected through to the use of reporting to inform DOC's investment decisions and management actions.	DOC	Mid-2023	4.1, 4.2 
A comprehensive, nationally agreed monitoring system is established to enable decision-makers to measure whether the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao - ANZBS is enabling better protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national-level biodiversity databases • relevant indicators • standard methods for data collection (or a process for alternative methods provided) • field protocols used by agencies. 	DOC	2025	4.1, 4.2  
Regional councils are undertaking monitoring, but it varies in scale and focus.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	4.1
A data improvement work stream for environmental reporting ensures consistent and representative data are available for future environmental reporting. Key areas of focus for future data are improving underdeveloped, insufficient and poor-quality data. The work may include developing new indicators, models, data sources, methodologies, analyses and presentation techniques.	MfE and Stats NZ	Ongoing	4.1
Through PF2050, trial common data and reporting frameworks in regions such as Taranaki to inform the development of a national framework.	DOC	2022	4.1
Ensure that centralised data on marine biodiversity are accessible at different spatial scales through purpose-built platforms that enable full querying of the data by all end-users.	MPI	Ongoing	4.2 
Develop a new research plan to assess economic interactions by valuing nature, biodiversity and ecosystems, communities, and climate change impacts and undertaking a socio-economic systems analysis.	MPI	Nov 2022, ongoing	4.2

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Most councils use zonation analysis tools to identify priority biodiversity.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	4.3
Identification of significant natural areas is completed at various levels.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	4.3
A prioritisation framework is being developed to justify investment into the priority rivers and lakes that Toitū te Whenua LINZ manages.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	4.3
Use the 'Readiness tool' framework to inform the suitability of potential new predator eradication projects for PF2050.	DOC	2023	4.3  
Use the Tourism Science Roadmap to coordinate and foster the research required to achieve regenerative outcomes, including for biodiversity.	DOC	Ongoing	4.4 
New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge , which aims to 'Protect and manage New Zealand's biodiversity, improve our biosecurity, and enhance our resilience to harmful organisms' by conducting research under the impact pillars 'Whakamana', 'Tiaki' and 'Whakahou'. Research funding is administered to a host organisation (Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research) and managed through an independent Governance Group, Director and Management Team representing the Challenge.	MBIE funded – devolved	2024	4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 
The Ngā Rākau Taketake Strategic Science Investment Fund platform, which was set up to enable kauri dieback and myrtle rust related research that aligns with the priorities identified in the Kauri Dieback Science Plan and Myrtle Rust Science Plan (developed by MPI). This investment has a strong focus on te ao Māori and integrates mātauranga Māori into nearly all aspects of the research. The platform looks to empower communities to protect, manage and help restore taonga that are impacted by these biosecurity threats.	MBIE funded – devolved	2023	4, 5, 8, 11  

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
The Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge , which aims to ‘Enhance the utilisation of our marine resources within environmental and biological constraints’. Sustainable Seas is tackling this by developing an ecosystem-based management approach to marine resource use, working with industry and research sectors to ensure sustainability. Research funding is administered to a host organisation (NIWA) and managed through an independent Governance Group, Director and Management Team representing the Challenge.	MBIE funded – devolved	2024	3, 4, 10, 12 
The land-based ecosystems Strategic Science Investment Fund platform, which is hosted by Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and supports research that enables Aotearoa New Zealand to sustainably manage its land-based species, habitats and ecosystems. Ultimately, this platform aims to reverse the decline of Aotearoa New Zealand’s biodiversity and enables land resources to be managed and used in ways that protect biodiversity for future generations.	MBIE funded – devolved	2024	
Crown Research Institutes work with regional councils to support ecosystem-based management aligned to regional plans, strategies and policies.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	4.4
Further develop data information sharing systems and capabilities with landowners and others to better inform decisions and plans collectively.	NWR/ landowners	2023	4.5 
Tools are being developed to gather data to support biosecurity and biodiversity work on the ground for Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed land.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	4.5
Continue work under the funding programmes Tools to Market and Products to Projects , which are helping to deliver research into tools, technologies and methodologies with the output of deliverable products for market.	DOC (with PF2050 Ltd)	Ongoing	4.5 
Support projects that stimulate innovation in on the ground techniques (eg pest control) and approaches to deliver conservation (eg the employment of tourism workers in the low season) through the Jobs for Nature programme.	DOC	2024	4.5 

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Innovative solutions to biodiversity issues are being applied at various councils (eg Taranaki).	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	4.5 
Development of a significant natural area framework for the marine environment in the Marlborough Sounds.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	4.5
Rollout of cameras on up to 300 inshore commercial fishing vessels. This rollout is targeted at vessels where fishing poses the greatest risk to protected species and/or have significant amounts of fish bycatch.	MPI	2024	4.5, 12.2.1 
Identify and implement methods for measuring the environmental performance for aquaculture.	MPI	Methods identified by Q1 2022, implementation ongoing	4.5
Continue to undertake and report on research to inform fisheries interactions and risks to protected species, including dolphins, seabirds and sharks, benthic impacts, and fish bycatch for the improved protection of biodiversity.	MPI	Ongoing	4.5 

Objective 5: Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Facilitate the application of ecosystem research within a mātauranga Māori framework.	DOC	Ongoing	5.1 
It is emerging practice to integrate mātauranga Māori into policies, plans and actions.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	5.1 
SEMP network – Agencies to provide for mātauranga Māori through the practice of wānanga for any marine reserves progressed as directed by the Minister of Conservation.	DOC, MPI	End of 2024	5.1
Ensure that the Kauri Disease (<i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i>) National Pest Management Plan recognises and supports the use and application of mātauranga Māori in the fight against the spread of the pathogen and the disease.	MPI	OIC in 2022	5.1 
Ensure that Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures projects contribute towards biodiversity goals 4.5 and 5.1.	MPI	TBC	4.5, 5.1
Work is undertaken with certain iwi to incorporate mātauranga Māori into environmental monitoring tools and biosecurity solutions for Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed land. <i>Supported through Jobs for Nature funding</i>	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	5.1, 5.2 
Support whānau, hapū and iwi to preserve their traditional Māori knowledge and practice so that their tikanga, stories and history associated with Papatūānuku (Earth mother) and te Taiao are not forgotten.	NWR	Ongoing	5.1, 5.2 
Ensure effective engagement with Māori landowners to better understand their aspirations and goals for natural and cultural heritage. This will ensure that the use of Māori knowledge is integral in biodiversity research and management mahi (work) at place.	NWR	Ongoing	5.1, 5.2 

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
The Māori/Crown partnership of Te Pae Tawhiti relates to the protection, promotion and preservation of taonga and mātauranga Māori. Current work streams that support objective 5 focus on establishing relationships and structures to enable engagement between Māori and the Crown; and developing and strengthening the necessary policy frameworks to protect and develop mātauranga Māori.	Te Puni Kōkiri	2026	5.1, 5.2, 5.3 
Mātauranga Māori is a core component of key National Direction. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) explicitly requires the consideration of Mātauranga Māori as part of giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai: (a) enable the application of a diversity of systems of values and knowledge, such as mātauranga Māori, to the management of freshwater; and (b) adopt an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, to the management of freshwater (see clause 3.5).	MfE	Ongoing	5.1, 5.2, 5.3 
Ensure that mātauranga Māori and Treaty obligations are fully recognised across fisheries and marine biodiversity research planning frameworks through Iwi Forums giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai.	MPI	Nov 2022, ongoing	5.1, 5.3 

Objective 6: Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Fund, through MFAT, global and Pacific agencies that deliver biodiversity-related projects (eg the Global Environment Facility , the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme , the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency) and support projects that ensure Pacific natural resources are managed for ecosystem protection and maintenance.	MFAT	Ongoing	6.3
Existing council biodiversity programmes contribute to national and international progress.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	6.1
Contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to help advance domestic and international ambition and monitoring and reporting.	MFAT/DOC	May 2022	6.1
Regulate the international trade in plants and animals to contribute to ensuring their survival in the wild in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and support its implementation in the Pacific region.	DOC	Ongoing	6.1
Develop and implement an International Seabird Strategy by engaging with whānau, hapū and iwi and participating in key international fora for the conservation of seabirds.	DOC	Ongoing	6.1, 6.2, 6.3
Contribute to global recognition and protection of natural and cultural heritage for future generations through DOC's work under the World Heritage and Ramsar conventions.	DOC	Ongoing	6.1, 6.2, 6.3
Fully engage in positive international biodiversity outcomes for the High Seas and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, Pacific Islands, and Antarctica.	MPI	Ongoing	6.1, 6.3
Routinely add data collected through MPI-funded marine biodiversity projects to international databases.	MPI	Ongoing	6.3
Our systems for prioritising threatened species work are being used by others (eg the New South Wales State Government Saving our Species programme).	DOC	Ongoing	6.3
Achieving biodiversity outcomes on private land to help address impacts of land-use changes on terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems where they extend beyond public conservation lands and waters, supported by the work already undertaken to develop a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity	MfE	TBC	6.1



Mike Aviss (DOC) releasing an orange-fronted kākārīki on Blumine Island / Ōruawairua. Photo: Sabine Bernert

Whakahau – empowering action

Objective 7: All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Existing biodiversity and biosecurity education projects/campaigns include Weedbusters, the Kauri Dieback Programme, Check, Clean, Dry, and EnviroSchools. Local regional biodiversity initiatives are provided through community groups/education providers. Education is carried out as required in regional pest management plans. Education is provided to private landowners and community groups through active project management.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	7.1
Improve the communication of scientific results arising from projects commissioned by Fisheries New Zealand to non-technical audiences through web tools, synthesis reports, infographics and plain English report cards.	MPI	Ongoing	7.1
Incorporate learning that is important for respecting and caring for Te Mana o te Taiao as part of the refresh of the national curriculum for schooling (the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa) and changes to the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) . This includes mana ōrite mō te mātauranga Māori.	MoE	Q1 2024	7.1, 7.2
Provide curriculum resources that help early learning services, schools and kura work in partnership with communities and mana whenua to provide teaching and learning that connects to local environments and supports ākonga progress in learning that matters for Te Mana o te Taiao.	MoE	Q4 2025	7.1, 7.2 (also supports 8.2)
Engage with the Workforce Development Councils so that they can respond to skill needs relating to biodiversity. This will include leading planning and setting skill standards for incorporation into the education and training offered by providers.	DOC	Ongoing	7.1, 7.2
Create new skilled workforces for conservation career pathways through the Jobs for Nature programme.	DOC	2024	7.2 (also supports 9.3)
Incorporate training and skills development in every Jobs for Nature funded project.	DOC	2024	7.2

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Provide training, skills development and business support with all tangata whenua employment opportunities at place.	NWR	Established and ongoing for the term of the NWR kawenata	7.2
Work on gaps and future needs, training, capacity building, job creation, etc has been completed in some regions for Jobs for Nature, based on post-COVID-19 job losses, but still requires further in-depth analysis.	Regional and unitary councils	TBC	7.2
Conduct research into who our visitors are and what they are wanting when visiting public conservation land and waters helps DOC to plan visitor investment priorities for operational and capital expenditure, to both maintain the current visitor network and expand in the right places.	DOC	Ongoing	7.3
Conservation community group research is underway on societal values around nature. DOC / regional council social science research is also underway.	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	7.3

Objective 8: Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Resource employment and tools for whānau and/or hapū through 5-year management plans or annual work programmes and during protection agreement negotiations.	NWR Fund	Ongoing	8.1
Increased funding for NWR through Jobs for Nature enables more Māori land to be protected through kawenta.	DOC	Ongoing	8.1
Some funding is provided by regional councils to support iwi, hapū and whānau projects and work (eg nurseries, landscape-scale restoration).	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	8.1
Allocate Jobs for Nature funding to community and iwi-led projects tackling kauri dieback and myrtle rust issues.	DOC	2024	8.1, 8.3
Funding and support for landowners, iwi and hapū, and communities to carry out fencing, pest management and biodiversity restoration. Training and engagement, management plans, and workshops.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	8.2 
Continue to support community-led conservation projects on public and private land through the DOC Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori .	DOC	Ongoing	8.2
Continue to implement the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA's) local community environmental DNA (eDNA) initiative Wai Tūwhera o te Taiao Open waters Aotearoa to promote the connection of communities with science, biodiversity and their local environment.	EPA	Ongoing	8.2, 8.3

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
<p>MfE contributes to or delivers on a number of key initiatives to ensure sustainable outcomes across Aotearoa New Zealand's environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jobs for Nature</i> – the Jobs for Nature programme aims to support Aotearoa New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19 by delivering nature-based employment • waste disposal levy – progressively increasing and expanding. Revenue gathered will be used for initiatives to reduce waste and encourage resource efficiency • He Waka Eke Noa – Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership – this is a partnership between government and primary sector organisations to equip farmers and growers with the knowledge, tools and support they need to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The partners are working together to equip farmers to measure, manage and reduce on-farm agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change to enable sustainable food and fibre production for future generations. 	<p>MfE</p> <p>MPI, MfE, DOC</p> <p>MfE, MPI</p>	Ongoing	8.2, 8.3, 8.4
Continue to help private landowners, local government, community groups and others to protect high-value ecosystems through the Nature Heritage Fund .	DOC	Ongoing	8.3, 8.4
Many district and regional councils support community groups and landowners through funding assistance and contestable grants, facilitation, and the provision of advice. The scale of council support varies between councils due to resource and budget constraints.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	8.3, 8.4
Continue Matariki Tu Rākau funding for memorial tree planting (part of the One Billion Trees Programme), which is helping people to plant living memorials that honour members of their communities who have made practical changes through their efforts, brought distinction to Aotearoa New Zealand through their work and/or enhanced Aotearoa New Zealand's reputation in their area or activity.	MPI	Ongoing	8.3

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Continue to help community-led projects to deliver conservation benefits through the Jobs for Nature community conservation fund.	DOC	2024	8.3
Continue to enable ecosystem restoration and legal protection via QEII covenants through Jobs for Nature funding.	DOC	2024	8.3
<p>Use the integrated farm planning (IFP) framework to integrate minimum regulatory requirements and good practice (including biodiversity) with regulated farm planning requirements such as freshwater farm plans.</p> <p>IFP work streams that support the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of resources and tools to support farmers and growers to increase their uptake of IFP, including development of a biodiversity module the PreSeed Accelerator Fund, which will provide funding to industry, Māori, regional and community groups, and catchment initiatives to accelerate, scale up or modify existing farm planning programmes or activities to better align with IFP a career pathway scheme to increase the number and diversity of advisers capable of providing whole-of-system advice (including biodiversity) to farmers and growers. 	MPI	<p>Fund open to applications in 2022</p> <p>Career pathway scheme to launch in 2022</p>	8.3, 8.4 
Councils support and, where appropriate, incentivise landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	8.4 
Explore a range of tools, products, services and financial incentives for positive biodiversity outcomes with the goal of identifying incentive mechanism(s) to pilot across different sectors.	MfE	TBC	8.4 (also supports 3.2 and 8.2) 
Resource groups of landowners to protect and restore biodiversity on private land through the Jobs for Nature private land biodiversity fund.	DOC	2024	8.4 

Objective 9: Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Toitū te Whenua LINZ engages with iwi/rūnanga with an interest in Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed Crown land to deliver better environmental and cultural outcomes.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ	Ongoing	9.1 
Multiple biodiversity projects are undertaken with iwi, hapū and the Crown, and community as partners.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	9.1 
Ensure that implementation of the Kauri Disease (<i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i>) National Pest Management Plan reflects the co-design and partnership approach that has increasingly been seen in the kauri protection work. This will include having a Treaty partner co-chair on the governance group and Māori representation on all groups, in addition to direct engagement with mana whenua.	MPI	OIC in 2022	9.1 
Drive the development of experience design projects and Great Walks, Short Walks and Day Hikes through collaboration and co-design processes that actively foster the values of Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations. In some projects, co-ownership or co-delivery will also be explored.	DOC	Ongoing	9.1, 9.2 
Working with local government and landowners on their responsibilities for protecting and maintaining indigenous biodiversity on private land, supported by the work already undertaken to develop a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity	MfE	TBC	9.3
Through NWR kawenata, whānau and hapū are able to establish collaborative relationships with the Crown, iwi, local and regional councils, DOC, PF2050, Kiwi for Kiwi and other active guardians of nature.	NWR	Ongoing	9.2 
Establish PF2050 collaborative groups that bring together organisations and agencies to help drive the collective achievement of the PF2050 goals.	DOC	Ongoing	9.2

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Support community-led collaborative farming groups in improving environmental outcomes and providing benefits for the economy and community cohesion (eg the Thriving Southland Change Project and Innovation Services project).	MPI	TBC	9.2
Continue to work with farming groups to measure, monitor and improve biodiversity and water quality in catchments through projects such as the WAI Wānaka Jobs for Nature project .	MPI	June 2023	9.2
Examples of emerging projects that collaborate with external partners and stakeholders include Reconnecting Northland, Raukumara, Kaimai Mamaku, Wild for Taranaki, Cape to City, Hawke’s Bay Biodiversity, Pūkaha to Palliser, Kotahitanga mō te Taiao and Te Hoiere restoration project in Marlborough.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	9.2
Councils engage with networks of stakeholders through regional biodiversity strategies, supporting community hubs or community-based organisations, direct funding of networks, and facilitation or participation in various forums, advisory groups and committees.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	9.3
Work together on Jobs for Nature to align resources and expertise to deliver greater benefits to the environment, individuals and communities.	Multiple agencies	2024	9.3
<p>In February 2021, the Government announced it would repeal the RMA and enact new legislation based on the recommendations of the Resource Management Review Panel. The three proposed acts are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), as the main replacement for the RMA, to protect and restore the environment while better enabling development • Strategic Planning Act (SPA), requiring the development of long-term regional spatial strategies to help coordinate and integrate decisions made under relevant legislation • Climate Adaptation Act (CAA) to address complex issues associated with managed retreat. <p>The resource management reforms provide a key vehicle through which collaboration, co-design and partnership will be delivered.</p>	MfE	2022	9.1

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Support mussel reef restoration in Marlborough and the Hauraki Gulf. <i>Supported by MPI, DOC, The Nature Conservancy, regional councils and iwi.</i>	MPI, Marine Farming association, Revive our Gulf	Hauraki ongoing; Marlborough due 2022	9.3
Continue the King Shag Research Project, which aims to protect the biodiversity of Nationally Endangered seabird species in the Marlborough Sounds.	King Shag Working Group (iwi, Marlborough District Council, MPI, DOC, MFA)	2022 for formal Seafood Innovations Limited (SIL)-funded reports; population monitoring support will be ongoing	9.3
Engage with regional and unitary councils on coastal planning processes, with a focus on integrated management and consideration of the effects of land-based activities on inshore fisheries and habitats.	MPI	Ongoing	9.3



Unfurling fern frond. Photo: Sabine Bernert

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – protecting and restoring

Objective 10: Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Through the Biodiversity Conservation Science Prospectus , work with the research community to prioritise and align biodiversity research with the Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS 2025 goals.	DOC	Ongoing	10.1.1 (also supports 4.4)
Baseline information is being improved through landscape-scale projects, priority biodiversity site programmes and resource management plans.	Regional, unitary and district councils	Ongoing	10.1.1
Use the Fisheries System Reform to provide incentives that drive more selective fishing to improve the sustainable management of fisheries resources. Greater use of technology, including on-board cameras, will improve the quality and quantity of information to support more responsive decision making. These changes will enable a move towards a more ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.	MPI	Oct 2022 for legislation, followed by a 4-year transition phase	10.1.1, 10.5.1
Ongoing research and regional-scale work on biodiversity pressures informs management plans and strategies. Council operate under various mandates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMA • Biosecurity Act • Coastal Policy • NPS-FM • national environmental standards. 	Regional and unitary councils	Ongoing	10.2.1
Working with local government and landowners on their responsibilities for protecting and maintaining indigenous biodiversity on private land, supported by the work already undertaken to develop a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.	MfE	TBC	10.2.1
DOC's Jobs for Nature programme is investing in the protection and restoration of at-risk catchments through the Ngā Awa strategic waterways programme.	DOC	2024	10.3.2

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Ongoing work is being carried out on significant natural areas, identified priority biodiversity sites or management units, priority rare and threatened ecosystems management plans and some collaborative restorative initiatives that extend from the mountains to the sea.	Regional and district councils	Ongoing	10.3.2
The NPS-FM explicitly requires consideration of connectivity: (1) Adopting an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, as required by Te Mana o te Wai, requires that local authorities must: (a) recognise the interconnectedness of the whole environment, from the mountains and lakes, down the rivers to hāpua (lagoons), wahapū (estuaries) and to the sea; and (b) recognise interactions between freshwater, land, water bodies, ecosystems, and receiving environments ...	MfE	Ongoing	10.3.2, 10.4.1
Progress implementation of the Government's Hauraki Gulf Sea Change Strategy (Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan) to provide integrated marine management for the Gulf, including marine protection, restoration and fisheries management measures.	DOC, MPI	2024	10.4.1 
Implementation of a proposed network of marine protected areas is progressed in the southeastern South Island coastal marine area.	DOC, MPI	End of 2022	10.4.1 
Undertake work in partnership with mana whenua to review existing marine reserves (where reviews are legally required) to strengthen and enhance protection of high-biodiversity coastal ecosystems.	DOC	Ongoing	10.4.1 
The identification, mapping and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems is underway through significant natural area marine frameworks, Coastcare programmes for multiple regional councils, the Coastal Restoration Trust and regional coastal plans.	Regional councils	Ongoing	10.4.1
Regional councils use an ecosystem-based management approach to key priority sites. Policy statements and plans help to support and define this work.	Regional councils	Ongoing	10.5.1

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Aligning with the vision of the Oceans and Fisheries work programme, take an ecosystem-based approach to research, monitoring and management that optimises the protection and use of the marine space.	MPI	Ongoing	10.5.1 
Design and implement a best practice management framework for open ocean aquaculture. This includes the development of a fit-for-purpose legislative regime and management guidelines for open ocean aquaculture relating to seabirds, marine mammals, benthic impacts and water column impacts. Engagement on legislative framework to occur 2022. Management guidelines to be complete mid-2022. These will be updated as appropriate.	MPI	2022	10.5.1, 12.1.1
Ensure that fisheries interactions with marine biodiversity and adverse effects on the aquatic environment are measurably reducing, including through the development of guidance for decision-makers to take the Fisheries Act environmental principles into account.	MPI	By 2025	10.5.1
Continue research on fisheries interactions (eg with protected species such as dolphins, seabirds and sharks and the seabed) to improve outcomes for biodiversity through sealion and dolphin threat management plans, various national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and the ongoing development of spatially explicit fisheries risk assessment methods.	MPI	Ongoing	10.5.1, 10.6.1 
Protection standard for coastal and marine ecosystems – some regional policy statements and plans have this provision, and joint management agreements with iwi exist that address this.	Regional councils	Ongoing	10.6.1
Review DOC's strategic approach towards the management and recovery of threatened species to ensure alignment with Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS.	DOC	Mid-2023	10.7.1
Regional councils Special Interest Groups are undertaking limited research. Some species, habitats and ecosystems are not present on public conservation land, only on private land. Some unitary and regional councils are undertaking threatened species work.	Regional councils	Ongoing	10.7.1

Objective 11: Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
<p>Reduce browsing pressure to support ecosystem resilience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving monitoring, delivery and evaluation of wild animal management Coordinating efforts and enhancing capacity across the people, organisations and agencies involved in wild animal management 	DOC	Ongoing	11.1.1 
Actively manage introduced browsing animals at place across Aotearoa New Zealand, including the Chatham Islands (Wharekauri/Rekohu).	NWR	Ongoing	11.1.1
<p>Animal and plant pest control programmes are carried out under regional pest management plans and biosecurity strategies (non-regulatory).</p> <p>Regional leadership is provided for key pest management programmes, such as Cape to City, national wallaby eradication programme, the Wilding Conifer programme.</p>	Regional councils	Ongoing	11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1 
Carry out animal and plant pest control through the delivery of Jobs for Nature projects.	DOC	2024	11.1.2
Demonstrate that the Prevention of North Island Forest Collapse projects funded through Jobs for Nature are controlling browsing animals in the Raukūmara and Kaimai–Mamaku ranges.	DOC	2024	11.1.2
Landscape-scale predator control programmes are protecting indigenous species and forests. Sustained, long-term, large-scale predator control programmes (usually coordinated with complementary work done by other people and agencies), such as Tiakina Ngā Manu (DOC's nationally coordinated landscape-scale predator control programme), protect representative populations of Aotearoa New Zealand's most highly threatened species that are vulnerable to rat, stoat and possum predation until predator-free status can be achieved.	DOC	Ongoing	11.1.1, 11.2.1  

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Ensure that regional coalitions involving PF2050 Ltd, central government, regional councils, OSPRI and community groups are carrying out large, regional predator control projects.	DOC	Ongoing	11.2.1 
Establish a National Eradication Team within DOC to establish the internal infrastructure required to achieve the eradication of introduced predators (ferrets, weasels, stoats, possums and rats) from all uninhabited offshore islands. Offshore Islands will be prioritised for eradication based on feasibility, benefits to threatened species, the suite of pests present and other criteria.	DOC	Ongoing	11.2.1 
Reduce threats to freshwater biodiversity through requirements under the NPS-FM, such as fencing stock out of waterways and capping nitrogen. Note that, in due course, the NPS-FM will also require councils to set limits and rules to protect ecosystem health. These are not directly MfE actions but do relate to MfE regulations.	MfE	Ongoing	11.2.1
Establish intensive management sites within wider focus areas with plans to improve the management and control of predators at the landscape scale.	NWR	2025	11.2.1
Management of pest plants is reducing their impact on priority ecosystems and species.	DOC	Ongoing	11.3.1
Work with regional councils, MPI and others to identify and control invasive aquatic plants and animals and reduce their impact on river, lake, wetland and marine ecosystems.	DOC	Ongoing	11.3.1
Maintain and improve the ability to detect, investigate and respond to new threats to biodiversity, building on the recently increased capacity for readiness and response to threats that are new to Aotearoa New Zealand.	MPI (Biosecurity New Zealand)	Ongoing	11.3.1
Eradicate the aquatic weed <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> , as this has the potential to cause significant impacts to biodiversity and economic values if allowed to spread. This weed has been present in a small number of lakes in the Hawke's Bay and is being controlled under an MPI-led programme, which aims to achieve national eradication by 2026.	MPI	By 2026	11.3.1 

Action	Lead agency	Acheive by	2025 goal(s)
<p>Reduce wilding conifer impacts on farm production, biodiversity, water availability and wildfire risk through the National Wilding Conifer Management Programme, which is a partnership between central and local government, farming and forestry sectors, iwi, and communities. By 2025, the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme will protect over a million hectares of conservation land from wilding conifer invasion.</p> <p>The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) is considering how controls from new afforestation can be improved.</p>	MPI	Ongoing	11.3.1 
<p>Reduce the impacts of wallabies on farm production and biodiversity through the National Wallaby Eradication Programme, which is a partnership between central and local government, iwi, farmers, and environmental groups. This programme will fund research projects focussing on new wallaby detection and control tools to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of wallaby control.</p>	MPI	Ongoing	11.3.1 
<p>Reduce the threat and pressure of the pathogen <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> on the taonga of kauri through the Kauri Disease (<i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i>) National Pest Management Plan. Primarily, this will target the behaviours of landowners, businesses and forest users to increase spread prevention measures, including cleaning measures, public track upgrades and earthworks risk management. Implementation will involve collaboration between MPI, regional councils, iwi/hapū, DOC, industry and community groups.</p>	MPI	OIC in 2022	11.3.1 
<p>Wherever possible, apply the EPA's regulatory role in support of improved biodiversity outcomes.</p>	EPA	Ongoing	11.3.1

Objective 12: Natural resources are managed sustainably.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Sustainably manage fisheries resources by setting fishery and stock targets and limits for fish stocks in the Quota Management System (QMS).	MPI	QMS is implemented	12.1.1
Progress work to improve the sustainable management of fisheries resources through the Fisheries System Reform. The new rules on landings and discards would incentivise more selective fishing practices, and the ability to develop pre-set decision rules would allow more agile adjustments to the sustainability measures in response to changes in the state of the fisheries, further ensuring sustainability. The proposed Industry Transformation Plan is intended to support fishers to innovate in less impactful, more selective fishing practices.	MPI	Oct 2022 for legislation, followed by a 4-year transition phase	12.1.1
<p>The proposed Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA) is intended to be the primary piece of legislation to replace the RMA. Like the RMA, the NBA will be an integrated statute for land use and environmental protection. It will work in tandem with the proposed Strategic Planning Act (SPA).</p> <p>The Act sets out how the environment will be protected and enhanced in the future system, ensuring people and communities use the environment in a way that supports not only their wellbeing but that of future generations.</p> <p>This would be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting positive outcomes for both the natural and built environments • ensuring that use, development and protection of resources only occur within prescribed environmental limits. 	MfE	2022	12.1.1 
The NPS-FM requires that fresh water is managed through a National Objectives Framework to ensure that the health and wellbeing of degraded water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is improved, and the health and wellbeing of all other water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is maintained and (if communities choose) improved. To do this, councils must set target states and achieve them through setting limits on resource use.	MfE	Ongoing	12.3.1

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Through PF2050 investment, develop pest management tools for farmland and investigate the potential to use farms to prevent pest movement across Aotearoa New Zealand.	DOC	2026	12.4.1 
Create enduring benefits for freshwater ecosystems and water quality, biodiversity, climate change and cultural values.	DOC	2024	12.4.1
Councils partner and engage with multiple sectors to improve understanding of indigenous biodiversity and encourage sustainable use practices.	Regional and district councils	Ongoing	12.4.1
Almost every council has completed some type of mapping and/or prioritisation of key biodiversity sites for management.	Regional councils	Ongoing	12.5.1
Key areas of high biodiversity on Toitū te Whenua LINZ-managed Crown land are identified in alignment with regional councils to help inform decision making and investment.	Toitū te Whenua LINZ, regional councils, DOC	Ongoing	12.5.1
Indigenous planting is core work of councils and many projects are undertaken on this basis.	Regional and district councils	Ongoing	12.6.1
Maintain support for whānau, hapū, iwi, communities and other entities to significantly increase areas of restoration native planting at place to improve biodiversity and contribute to improving catchment water quality.	NWR	Ongoing	12.6.1
Using the NWR kawenata, engage with Māori to grow ecosystem protection and indigenous biodiversity preservation through a catchment approach, ensuring significant corridors connecting the mountains and sea are targeted.	NWR	Ongoing	12.6.1
Land, water and air pollutants are monitored, and adaptive management is applied. Regional policy statements, plans and strategies are developed to undertake this work.	Regional councils	Ongoing	12.7.1

Objective 13: Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
Nature-based solutions are integrated through council plans, strategies and policies.	Regional and district councils	Ongoing	13.2.1 
<p>MfE has a number of initiatives underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Emissions Reduction Plan</i> will put in place policies and strategies for Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its emissions reduction goals. • A <i>National Adaptation Plan</i> will put in place strategies, policies and proposals for Aotearoa New Zealand to manage the risks from climate change identified in the National Climate Change Risks Assessment (also to be published in August 2022). This includes the risks to ecosystems and species. The implementation and effectiveness of the National Adaptation Plan will be monitored by the Climate Change Commission. • The <i>Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP)</i> has been set up to accelerate the reduction of emissions within the public sector. The Government will join businesses and communities already leading the way to reduce their emissions as we transition to a low-emissions economy. The CNGP aims to make the participating government agencies carbon neutral by 2025. • <i>Climate-related disclosures</i> – The Government has introduced legislation to make climate-related disclosures mandatory for publicly listed companies and large insurers, banks, non-bank deposit takers and investment managers. Mandatory reporting of climate-related risks and opportunities would help Aotearoa New Zealand meet its international obligations and achieve its target of net zero carbon by 2050. It would also help to address climate change risks outlined in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment by making our financial system more resilient. 	MfE	Ongoing	13.1.1, 13.2.1, 13.3.1 

Action	Lead agency	Achieve by	2025 goal(s)
The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 will require Aotearoa New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change through (among other things) national adaptation plans produced by the Government, the implementation of which will be monitored by the Climate Change Commission. Work to prepare the National Adaptation Plan is underway.	MfE	2022	
Implement DOC's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan to guide DOC's strategic planning and management activities for increased resilience to climate change impacts.	DOC	2025	13.3.1 
Councils are developing climate change policies, plans and strategies that are integrated into day-to-day operations.	Regional and district councils	Ongoing	13.3.1 



Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve. Photo: Sabine Bernert

Appendix 1

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2025 goals

TŪĀPAPA / Getting the system right

OBJECTIVES

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

2025 GOALS

1.1 Cross-stakeholder biodiversity system implementation group(s) are in place to develop, monitor and report on implementation plans

1.2 Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations and informed by multi-stakeholder involvement, is in place and providing leadership, accountability, and inclusive and transparent decision making

1.3 Current natural resource legislation has been reviewed to ensure it is effective and comprehensive, recognises cumulative effects, and ensures ongoing biodiversity protection, including climate resilience

1.4 The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and are being actively used to inform decision making

1.5 Sufficient ongoing resource and funding have been secured from multiple sources to implement the strategy

2.1 Te ao Māori perspective is being embedded throughout the biodiversity system, including through the use of cultural practices and tools

2.2 Innovative Treaty partnership approaches have been developed and are leading the delivery of many biodiversity restoration projects

2.3 Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are better able to practice their responsibilities as rangatira and kaitiaki, including leading and partnering with the Government in decision making about taonga species and the whenua, awa and moana with which they associate

2.4 Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data sovereignty regarding indigenous biodiversity are being upheld

3.1 A nature-based brand is central to the economy of Aotearoa New Zealand and is increasing support for nature

3.2 Economic tools are promoting the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as for the economic benefits it provides

3.3 Economic activities that have the most significant adverse impacts on biodiversity have been identified, their impacts have been quantified and active measures are in place to reduce these impacts

3.4 Nature-based jobs are providing significant employment and delivering benefits for biodiversity in all regions and on both public and private land

TŪĀPAPA / Getting the system right

OBJECTIVES

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

2025 GOALS

4.1 A national, agreed set of indicators and an effective environmental monitoring and reporting system are informing biodiversity management and decision making

4.2 National, agreed common data standards and open data agreements are ensuring that everyone has access to a federated repository of biodiversity information

4.3 A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on

4.4 The research, science and innovation system is investing in and collaboratively delivering research and rangahau (research) in alignment with an agreed integrated set of biodiversity science priorities that cover ecological, biophysical, social, cultural, economic and other areas

4.5 Innovative solutions to biodiversity issues, including the development of new tools and technologies, are being collaboratively developed and actively sought from a range of sources and deployed on the ground

5.1 The use, development and restoration of mātauranga Māori is being invested in and supported and has equal mana to knowledge gained through other scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world

5.2 Traditional and customary practices, including mahinga kai, are increasing, and the intergenerational transfer of mātauranga is underpinning the work of rangatira and kaitiaki

5.3 Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are making decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/ understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori

6.1 Aotearoa New Zealand is influencing international policy and meeting commitments to international biodiversity-related agreements and conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity

6.2 Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are making informed contributions to developing Aotearoa New Zealand positions for international conversations, and the Treaty partnership and collaboration is recognised globally

6.3 Aotearoa New Zealand is recognised for providing leadership in international conservation knowledge and delivery through international collaboration and capacity building, especially in the Pacific region

Whakahau / Empowering action

OBJECTIVES

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

2025 GOALS

7.1 Education and campaigns are ensuring that all New Zealanders are aware of the current biodiversity crisis and the importance of nature and are encouraging people to take action to protect and restore nature and ensure sustainable use

7.2 An analysis of gaps and future needs, training, capacity-building and job creation are ensuring that enough people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity into the future

7.3 Research is improving our understanding of societal values, norms and beliefs, as well as the motivators, barriers and enablers of action to support biodiversity management and decision making

8.1 Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations as rangatira and kaitiaki are sufficiently supported and resourced to protect and manage biodiversity, particularly taonga species, in their place

8.2 Nature is part of the everyday life and identity of New Zealanders, and individuals are motivated, supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to make decisions that ensure sustainable use, reduce negative impacts, and restore and protect indigenous biodiversity

8.3 Community action groups are resourced, growing, connected and coordinated and also have access to knowledge, expertise and information to actively manage biodiversity and other natural resources and act as environmental stewards

8.4 Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as standard practice

9.1 The values of Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are being actively used in collaboration and co-design approaches

9.2 Collaboration and co-design processes that foster collective ownership and delivery through the consideration of multiple values in decision making are recognised as the key to success

9.3 Well-connected networks of relevant people, including urban and rural communities, stakeholders, industry and central and local government, are effectively working together in partnership and enabling collective action and successful implementation of the strategy at national, regional and local scales

Tiaki me te whakahaumanu / protecting and restoring

OBJECTIVES

10.

Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths

11.

Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management

2025 GOALS

10.1.1 Prioritised research is improving baseline information and knowledge of species and ecosystems

10.2.1 The cumulative effects of pressures on biodiversity are better understood

10.4.1 Significant progress has been made in identifying, mapping and protecting coastal ecosystems and identifying and mapping marine ecosystems of high biodiversity value

10.5.1 A framework has been established to promote ecosystem-based management, protect and enhance the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, and manage them within clear environmental limits

10.6.1 A protection standard for coastal and marine ecosystems established and implementation underway

10.7.1 There have been no known human-driven extinctions of indigenous species

10.8.1 The viability of current and future mahinga kai and cultural harvest of indigenous species has been assessed to guide future use

11.1.1 The impacts of introduced browsers, including valued introduced species (pigs, deer, tahr and chamois), on indigenous biodiversity have been quantified, and plans for their active management have been developed with Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations and stakeholders

11.2.1 Introduced predators (ferrets, weasels, stoats, possums and rats) have been suppressed across 1 million hectares of mainland and eradicated from all uninhabited offshore islands

11.3.1 New and emerging biosecurity threats, including weeds, animal pests and diseases (e.g. introduced invasive plants, algae, mammals, fish, invertebrates and micro-organisms), in all domains are actively identified and managed early through improvements in decision making, Treaty partnership approaches, skills and technology

Tiaki me te whakahaumanu / protecting and restoring

OBJECTIVES

12.

Natural resources are managed sustainably

13.

Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects

2025 GOALS

12.1.1 Environmental limits for the sustainable use of resources from marine ecosystems have been agreed on and are being implemented

12.2.1 The number of fishing-related deaths of protected marine species is decreasing towards zero for all species

12.3.1 Environmental limits for the sustainable use of resources from freshwater ecosystems have been agreed on, and plans for the active management of fisheries have been developed with Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations and stakeholders

12.4.1 The potential for different sectors to contribute to improved indigenous biodiversity is understood, and sustainable use practices that include benefits for indigenous biodiversity are becoming more widespread

12.5.1 The most appropriate places for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity and areas that are suitable for other uses have been identified

12.6.1 Indigenous vegetation planting is standard practice in urban areas, riparian zones, agricultural buffers, transport corridors and other areas

12.7.1 The most ecologically damaging pollutants (e.g. excess nutrients, sediment, biocides, plastics, light and sound) and pollutant sources have been identified, and an integrated plan for their management is in place

13.1.1 The potential for carbon storage from the restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), to contribute to our net emissions targets is understood

13.2.1 The potential for indigenous nature-based solutions is understood and being incorporated into planning

13.3.1 Potential impacts from climate change have been integrated into ecosystem and species management plans and strategies, and a research and rangahau strategy has been developed to increase knowledge and understanding of climate change effects

Appendix 2

Summary of the state, trends and pressures of biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand, as developed for the **Biodiversity in Aotearoa – an overview of state, trends and pressures** report.

Biodiversity in Aotearoa – an overview of state, trends and pressures

Ngā taiao whenua, wai māori, moana hoki o Aotearoa | New Zealand's land, freshwater and marine domains



49%[#] of all assessed indigenous species are found nowhere else on earth.

*This figure is likely to be much higher given that a large proportion of the remainder is either unspecified or unknown

Biodiversity is inherently valuable. It is central to the identity of New Zealanders and is fundamental to Māori through whakapapa. Nature supports life and human activity, and our wellbeing can only thrive when nature also thrives.

Aotearoa is a global biodiversity hotspot – it is a part of the world where there are exceptional concentrations of species, many of which are endemic (not found elsewhere), and many of which are under threat.

Aotearoa New Zealand biodiversity state and trends

Decline in ecosystems



Pre human settlement Indigenous vegetation 2018 / 2019 Indigenous vegetation

Source: reproduced with permission of Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

Decline is still occurring - between 1996 and 2018 there was a net loss of 85,600 ha of indigenous forest, scrub, shrubland and grassland.

Wetland ecosystems have been reduced by **90%** since human arrival in Aotearoa New Zealand.

■ Data Deficient* ■ Threatened

■ At Risk ■ Not Threatened

*A species is 'Data Deficient' when not enough is known to assign a conservation status.

Conservation status of resident indigenous species 2019

37%	7%	23%	33%
Number of species assessed: 13385			

What we don't know



Roughly **1 in 3** species that have been assessed are considered to be Data Deficient i.e. there is insufficient knowledge to allocate a conservation status.



For some life forms, we know very little e.g. only a small percentage of freshwater macroalgae, fungi, invertebrates and mosses have been assessed under the NZ Threat Classification System.

Species under Threat



Roughly **1 in 14** indigenous species assessed is threatened with extinction

Aotearoa New Zealand biodiversity pressures

Examples of how pressures are impacting on indigenous biodiversity




a

Many species of birds, lizards, bats and invertebrates are under pressure from introduced predators. Predator-free islands, sanctuaries and intensively managed areas offer the best protection for these species.

b

Drainage and conversion to intensive production land uses over many decades have dramatically reduced the extent and quality of indigenous ecosystems and habitats.

c

Historical impacts of hunting marine mammals are still obvious today with several species such as seals, sea lions, and whales nowhere near their former abundance and distribution.

d

Excessive leaching of nutrients (e.g. from fertilisers and stock effluent) into waterways and estuaries causes them to become hyper-fertile, leading to infestations of waterweeds and algal blooms.

e

Climate change poses a significant threat to all indigenous biodiversity e.g. through more frequent and damaging storm and flood events, increased fire risk in many places, sea level rise and ocean acidification.

Related Resources:

The information presented in this series of factsheets is sourced from the report Biodiversity in Aotearoa – State, Trends and Pressures: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/biodiversity>

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy www.doc.govt.nz/anzbs-strategy sets a strategic direction for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in Aotearoa for the next 30 years.

Factsheets are also available for the marine, freshwater and land domains at XXXXXX

New Zealand Government

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan

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Appendix 3

Description of the strategy framework, showing the pathway from the vision to the implementation plan, as presented in **Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020**.

