

ACTION FOR NATURE

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



Cover: Clown nudibranch. *Photo: D Freeman*

**Action for nature: implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao –
Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020**

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doc.govt.nz/te-mana-o-te-taiao-implementation-plan

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ISBN 978-1-0671131-8-6 (print)

ISBN 978-1-0671131-9-3 (online)

Published by:

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Editing and design:

Te Rōpū Ratonga Auaha, Creative Services



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He karere nā te Minita



Photo: Department of Conservation

Ka nui taku hari ki te tāpae atu i **Action for nature**, te mahere whakatinana mō 2026 mō *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020*.¹

Tā tēnei mahere he whakatau atu i ngā whakaarotau taketake a te Kāwanatanga mō ngā tau e 5 e tū mai nei, hei whakarei i te āhua o ā tātou kawenga kaupapa papai mō te aotūroa.

He taonga nui te kanorau koiora me ngā horanuku o Aotearoa – he puiaki, he taonga ki te ngaro, e kore e taea te whakaara mai anō. Kua paiaka hōhonutia ngā koiora māori me ngā ripoiinga o konei ki te tuakiri me te toiora o ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa. Ko tā te kanorau toiora he whakapūmau i ngā pūnaha hauropi o te motu, he tautoko i tōna ōhanga, me te tūhono i ōna tāngata ki tō rātou whakapapa me tō rātou whenua.

Engari kua pā ētahi raru ki te aotūroa. I te ao whānui kei te kitea e tātou te heke o ngā momo koiora me ngā pūnaha hauropi, ā, i te kāinga neke atu i te 75% o ngā momo mokomoko, manu, pekapeka, ika wai māori kei te whakamōrea, kua tū ā-korehāhā rānei, inā te whakahuahuatanga o ngā ingoa i ngā pūrongo *Biodiversity in Aotearoa 2020*² me *Environment Aotearoa 2022*.³ Ehara ēnei i te tauanga noa iho, kei ēnei korekorenga ka kitea te ngaromanga o te ora, o te ahurea me ngā honohononga tuku iho.

Ko tēnei mahere whakatinana 2026 te wāhanga hōu o te hora i *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020*, ā, ko tēnei mahere hoki tā mātou rārangi tūtohu mō te ara whakamua. Hei whakaata tēnei i tō mātou ū ki te hora i tā

1 doc.govt.nz/anzbs-2020

2 doc.govt.nz/biodiversity-in-aotearoa-report

3 environment.govt.nz/publications/environment-aotearoa-2022

matou i kī taurangi ai, mā te haumitanga kakama kē atu, mā ngā ara mahi moni hou me ngā pātuitanga pakari kē atu. E aro ana te mahere ki ngā mahi ka tino taea e puta ai he painga nui mō te aotūroa.

E whakaae ana te mahere he haepapa e kawea tahitia ana tēnei mahi te tautiaki kanorau koiora, nā reira kua hoahoatia hei hāpainga mā te katoa – te kāwanatanga ā-motu, ngā kaunihera ā-rohe hoki, ngā rōpū Māori, ngā rōpū o waho i te kāwanatanga (NGO), ngā ahumahi, me ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa. Kei waenga tonu i a tātou ētahi rauemi huhua me ētahi taputapu e piki ake ana hei tautiaki i ngā momo koiora, i ngā horanga nuku me ngā pūnaha hauropi o Aotearoa mai i ngā tihi maunga ki te rire o te moana.

He wāhi taketake tonu tō te Kāwanatanga, engari kia mārama tōnu te titiro ki mua. He ruarua noa ngā rawa, ā, nā te nui o ētahi o ngā raru e kore e tau i te rā kotahi, inā hoki, he mahi uaua te whakatikatika. E whakaū ana mātou ki te whakahāngai tika i ā mātou mahi, me te mahi tahi kia puta ai te tino painga ka taea. Ka aroturuki mātou me te whakapūrongo mō ngā mea ka whakatinanatia e mātou i raro i tēnei mahere.

E whakamoemiti ana te ngākau ki a koutou katoa i tāpae whakaaro mai mō ngā kiko o te mahere. Nā ā koutou urupare i āwhina ngā mahi tārei i te mahere, i tika ai tana whakaata i ngā uara, i ngā whakaarotau me ngā moemoeā o te iwi puta noa i te motu mō te whenua, mō te wai māori me te moana.

Kei te aumihi hoki ki a koutou mō ā koutou mahi hei tautiaki, hei whakaora hoki i te aotūroa. Ahakoa huri i te tuawhenua ki te whakatō rākau, ahakoa hopu kīrearea rānei i tō iāri i tō kāinga, ahakoa kohikohi rāpihi rānei i ō tātou takutai, kei hea mai i ēnā mahi. Tāku noa iho ki a koutou kia piki mai koutou ki runga i te waka kia pai ai te whakatinananga o tā tātou mahere. Mā te piri tahi ka taea e tātou katoa te whakarauora i te kanorau koiora o Aotearoa.



Hōnore Tama Pōtaka
Minita Whāomoomo

Message from the Minister



I am proud to present **Action for nature**, the 2026 implementation plan for *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020*.⁴ This plan sets out the Government's key priorities for the next 5 years, enhancing how we work together to make a difference for nature.

Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity and landscapes are taonga – precious and irreplaceable treasures. The native species and habitats here are deeply woven into the identity and wellbeing of all New Zealanders. Biodiversity sustains the country's ecosystems, supports its economy, and connects its people to their whakapapa (genealogy) and the whenua (land).

But nature is in trouble. Globally, we are witnessing declines in species and ecosystems, and here at home, more than 75% of indigenous reptile, bird, bat and freshwater fish species are threatened or at risk of extinction, as detailed in the *Biodiversity in Aotearoa 2020*⁵ and *Environment Aotearoa 2022*⁶ reports. These are not just statistics – they represent the loss of life, culture and connection.

This 2026 implementation plan is the next phase of delivering *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020* and is our new roadmap for action. It reflects our commitment to deliver on what we have promised through smarter investment, new revenue generation and stronger partnerships. The plan is focused on achievable actions that will make a big difference for nature.

The plan recognises that biodiversity protection is a shared responsibility and is designed to include everyone – central and local government, Māori organisations,

4 doc.govt.nz/anzbs-2020

5 doc.govt.nz/biodiversity-in-aotearoa-report

6 environment.govt.nz/publications/environment-aotearoa-2022

non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry, and all New Zealanders. Among us, we have significant resources and ever-improving tools to safeguard the species, landscapes and ecosystems of New Zealand from the mountain tops to the ocean depths.

The Government has a vital role to play, but we must also be realistic. Resources are limited, and the scale of the challenge means that some issues will be ongoing and complex. We are committed to focusing our efforts and working together to achieve the greatest impact. We will be monitoring and reporting on what we deliver under this plan.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who made a submission on the content of this plan. Your feedback has contributed to shaping the plan, ensuring that it reflects the values, priorities and aspirations of people around the country for the land, fresh water and sea.

Thank you also for the actions you are taking to protect and restore nature. Whether you are out there planting trees, trapping in your backyard or taking part in a beach clean-up, your mahi (work) is making a difference. I encourage you to join us on our journey of delivering this plan. Together, we can turn the tide for biodiversity in New Zealand.



Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



Kea. Photo: Adéla Tarrová

Section 1: Introduction

New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy

*Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (the Biodiversity Strategy)*⁷ is our national strategy to protect and restore nature by 2050. It gives a shared pathway for all New Zealanders to help improve the state of biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand and guides actions at national, regional and local levels.

The Biodiversity Strategy covers all of New Zealand, from the mountains to the sea. It focuses on tackling the main threats to nature, like climate change, invasive species, pollution, and how people use the land and sea and take natural resources from the environment. We know that nature is in trouble, but we also know that if we take the right steps, nature can recover and thrive.

To support the Biodiversity Strategy, the Government creates an implementation plan every 5 years and tracks progress to make sure our efforts are well coordinated and effective.

Putting the strategy into action

Implementing the Biodiversity Strategy is a collective effort – it requires all of us to do our bit and work together to tackle the challenges facing New Zealand's special species and places. Central and local government agencies have a key role to play, as they directly fund and carry out biodiversity work, and also support and work with other organisations, groups and individuals.

People across New Zealand are already taking action for nature. From farmers planting native species along waterways to citizen scientists carrying out 5-minute bird counts and the fishing industry using seabird-safe fishing practices, there are endless examples that demonstrate how much New Zealanders care about biodiversity.

Many people have a deep and enduring relationship and understanding of the natural world and te taiao (the environment). The identity, culture and mātauranga (knowledge) of tangata whenua are intimately linked to the natural environment. Iwi/hapū/Māori-led restoration projects around the motu (country) are helping to deliver outcomes under the Biodiversity Strategy. This will ultimately benefit te taiao and all of New Zealand.

⁷ doc.govt.nz/anzbs-2020

However, we know that nature needs more help. **Action for nature** focuses on the most critical actions that central and local government agencies need to take by 2030 to help achieve the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy. These actions aim to amplify existing efforts and improve how we protect and restore nature by working better together, bringing in new funding and encouraging more people to get involved. They will support all New Zealanders in taking action for nature through to 2030. The 11 critical actions are grouped into four themes: **priorities, investment, evidence and capability** (see Section 2).

To complement these critical actions, the implementation plan includes a wider package of national and regional government programmes that contribute towards the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy. These programmes show the breadth and scale of biodiversity work that is already happening across the country.

This plan was shaped by feedback from engagement with tangata whenua and public consultation on the implementation plan discussion document.⁸

Contributing to global efforts

The actions we are taking in New Zealand are part of global efforts to reverse the loss of nature, coordinated through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Each country that has ratified the CBD sets national targets, contributing to shared global goals for biodiversity. New Zealand has 13 national targets that were drawn from the Biodiversity Strategy's objectives and align with government priorities.

The actions and programmes in this implementation plan will support the delivery of these national targets.

We will track progress to deliver the critical actions and report on progress annually (see Section 4). All actions and programmes in this plan are funded (see Section 5).

⁸ doc.govt.nz/action-for-nature-consultation

Nature needs us all to play a part



Overview of who is involved in the biodiversity system

Section 2: Critical actions

Nature in New Zealand is under serious threat and we have finite resources to help it recover. We need to work together and focus our efforts where they will make the biggest difference. We have grouped the 11 critical actions in this plan into four themes.

Theme 1: Shared biodiversity priorities support coordinated action and investment

This theme is about building the tools and processes to help us work together more effectively. This includes creating a national biodiversity information platform and developing a shared way to set priorities across the system. These changes will empower people across the country to focus their efforts where they will have the greatest impact, knowing that they are making a real difference for nature across land, fresh water and the sea.

Connecting communities to biodiversity data

Action A

Develop a publicly accessible source of biodiversity information to inform action at national, regional and community levels.

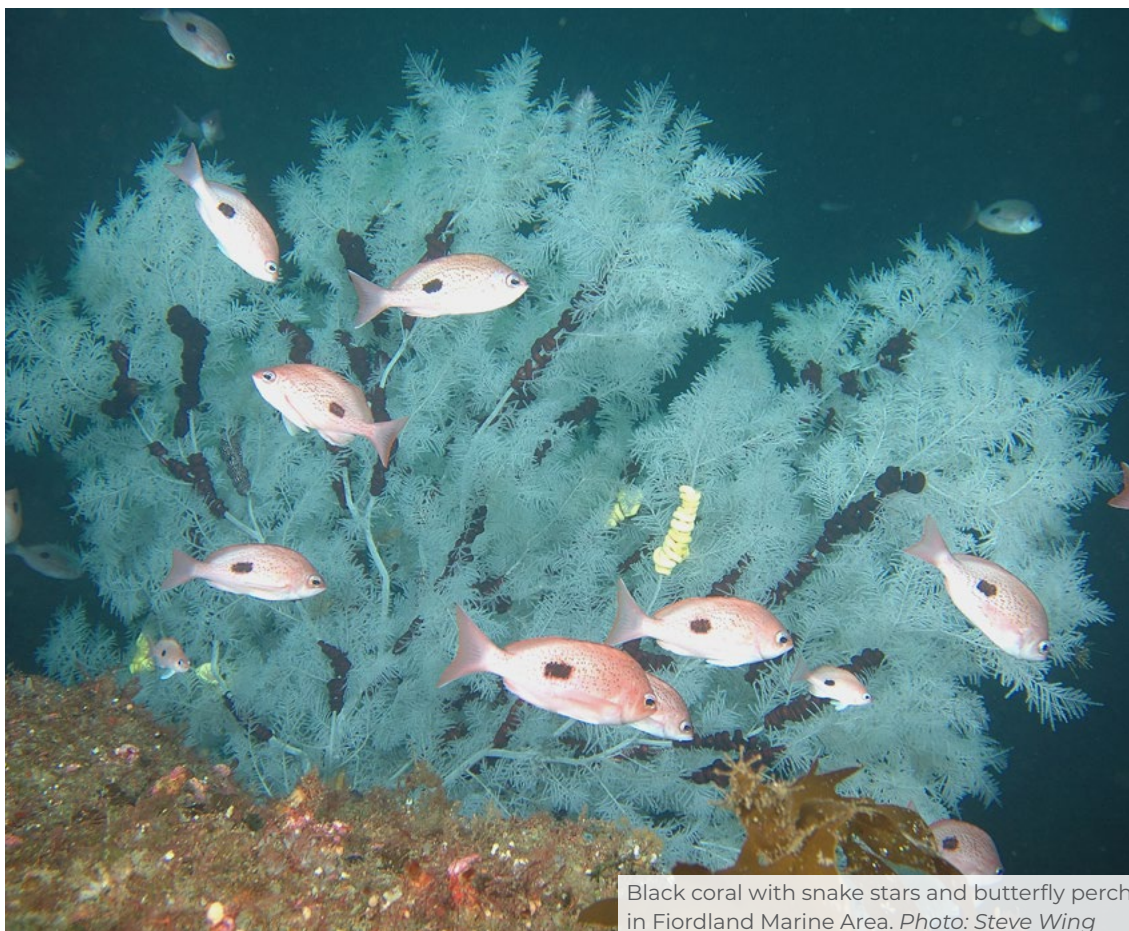
| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2027 for initial platform, 2-yearly updates |
| Lead agency | Department of Conservation |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | A shared understanding of biodiversity across the country requires trusted, accessible and up-to-date information. This action helps bring together separate data sources into a single, reliable system that supports collaboration, transparency and accountability. It lays the foundation for more strategic and inclusive biodiversity action, ensuring that decisions are informed by the best available evidence. |
| What success looks like | Everyone can access continually improving national-level biodiversity information and use it to make informed decisions about where to invest time, energy, money and other resources. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone can access the same biodiversity information in one easily accessible place, saving time and creating opportunities for collaboration. |

Enabling strategic biodiversity investment

Action B

Develop criteria and processes for prioritising biodiversity investment and action across the system, ensuring that we deliver the most important outcomes for nature.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2026 |
| Lead agency | Department of Conservation |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | Given the scale of possible actions and our limited resources, we need a clear and coordinated approach to prioritising biodiversity efforts across the system. This will require central agencies to work together to agree on where to focus their effort, and similar processes at a regional level to agree on local priorities. Ensuring that our efforts are aligned at national and regional levels will allow us to maximise our impact on the issues we agree matter the most. |
| What success looks like | Action across terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments is well coordinated and aligned at a national and regional level, with priorities agreed in a collaborative way. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone understands how the Government is prioritising biodiversity action and investment and can use this information to inform their own decisions. |



Black coral with snake stars and butterfly perch in Fiordland Marine Area. Photo: Steve Wing

Theme 2: More funding and support deliver greater benefits for biodiversity

We need more investment in nature than is currently available. While government funding plays a key role, we will need to explore additional sources to meet the scale of the challenge. Traditional Crown funding alone will not take us all the way.

This theme is about finding new ways to bring in funding. This includes generating revenue from public conservation lands and waters, attracting donations, and unlocking the potential of market-based approaches to fund action on public, private and Māori lands and waters.

Generating revenue and investment for biodiversity

Action C

Generate revenue from public conservation lands and waters, and attract new investment for biodiversity priorities that benefit nature and people.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2030 |
| Lead agency | Department of Conservation |
| Why this action is critical | Generating sustainable revenue from the low-impact use of public conservation lands and waters is essential to funding biodiversity priorities. As ecological pressures grow, this action will ensure fair user contributions and attract co-investment, boosting our ability to protect threatened species and habitats while supporting long-term ecological and community wellbeing. |
| What success looks like | More funding is driving greater conservation action. New policies and fee structures are supporting users to contribute fairly. |
| How this will enable others | Increased funding enables more biodiversity work, including in partnership with others. |



Golden Bay/Mohua, Abel Tasman National Park.
Photo: Crystal Brindle, inpursuitofthewild.com

Building confidence in nature markets

Action D

Increase private sector investment in biodiversity by ensuring the integrity of markets and systems that support demand, confidence and the supply of nature projects, including on private and Māori land.

Timeframe 2030

Lead agency Ministry for the Environment

Contributing agency Department of Conservation

Why this action is critical Mobilising private sector investment is essential to scaling up biodiversity action. Market-based approaches such as nature credits have a key role to play in unlocking this potential, and the Government can play a role in supporting confidence in the integrity of these markets. This action has the potential to generate significant additional investment in biodiversity action across public, private and Māori land.

What success looks like There is increased private investment in biodiversity, with activities taking place across public, private and Māori land. Participants have confidence in the integrity of the markets they are involved in.

How this will enable others Private investors are increasingly able to identify high-impact opportunities, build partnerships and align biodiversity action with their own goals. Private and Māori landowners can access this private investment, increasing the protection and restoration action happening across the country.



Powelliphanta patrickensis. Photo: Department of Conservation



Photo: J Taylor

Case study

Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust is leading a kaupapa (programme) to restore and protect waterways across its rohe.

In 2025, the Trust independently monitored streams and rivers in the upper Whanganui River catchment, including Ōhura and Taringamotu Rivers, Waitaanga Stream, and urban streams around Taumarunui. This work builds on years of collaboration with the Department of Conservation through the Ngā Awa programme, which provided the foundation for Ngāti Hāua to secure external funding and develop its taiao strategy.

Theme 3: Better evidence and knowledge are improving biodiversity decision making and practices

To strengthen our efforts, we need access to high-quality information and a continually improving base of knowledge. This theme is about improving how we monitor and report on biodiversity, making space for traditional knowledge and applying lessons learned from successful partnerships. It also focuses on building stronger evidence for nature-based solutions that deliver benefits for both the climate and biodiversity.

These actions will improve our collective knowledge base and enable us to use evidence to assess the impacts of this plan.

Improving decision making through better biodiversity data

Action E

Adopt a set of measures to monitor and report on the Biodiversity Strategy outcomes so that New Zealanders have better information for making decisions for biodiversity.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2027 |
| Lead agencies | Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | Reliable, consistent data are essential for tracking progress and making informed decisions for biodiversity. Establishing a clear set of measures will ensure that agencies collect and share the right information using agreed standards. This will improve transparency, enable timely interventions and align efforts across the system to deliver better outcomes for nature. |
| What success looks like | Agencies are collecting agreed priority data against a balanced and achievable set of indicators and applying the same data standards. Information is transparent, using open data systems, and enabling efficient monitoring and reporting against the objectives and outcomes of the Biodiversity Strategy. Robust data are informing management interventions, resulting in better outcomes for biodiversity. |
| How this will enable others | Iwi, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, community groups and others benefit from access to trusted and consistent data, enabling better planning, collaboration and targeted action that supports shared biodiversity goals. Everyone in the biodiversity system can help to build a consistent information base, increasing value and use. |

Partnering with Māori to deliver biodiversity outcomes

Action F

Remove barriers so that Māori can enable and use traditional knowledge to lead systems that set and achieve biodiversity outcomes.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2030 |
| Lead agencies | Department of Conservation, Te Puni Kōkiri |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | This action acknowledges the benefits of Māori leading traditional knowledge systems, with place-based wisdom, values and practices being central to decision making. This strengthens cultural relevance, enhances biodiversity outcomes and upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi Treaty of Waitangi commitments. It also fosters trust, equity and enduring partnerships that benefit both nature and communities. |
| What success looks like | Traditional knowledge systems are valued and included in decision making and biodiversity management. Central and local government agencies, as well as all the players in the biodiversity system, recognise traditional knowledge alongside and with equal standing to other knowledge systems, science and information. These systems bring deeper place-based knowledge, enhance cultural relevance and contribute to building trust. Steps have been taken to address indigenous data rights and interests. |
| How this will enable others | Biodiversity practices reflect and include traditional knowledge, fostering deeper connections among communities and with nature. |



Landscape restoration as part of the Jobs for Nature project Ko Moehau ki Tai. Photo: Department of Conservation

Improving biodiversity action through shared lessons

Action G

Collate and apply the lessons from existing partnership-based delivery models to inform decisions on future actions so that we achieve the best outcomes for nature.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2027 |
| Lead agency | Te Uru Kahika |
| Contributing agencies | Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries |
| Why this action is critical | Partnership-based models have already delivered significant biodiversity gains across New Zealand. However, without systematically capturing and applying the lessons from these efforts, we risk repeating mistakes or missing opportunities to scale up approaches that work. This action ensures that future biodiversity initiatives are informed by proven approaches, improving effectiveness, strengthening collaboration and making better use of limited resources. |
| What success looks like | Successful collaborative biodiversity programmes (for example, Jobs for Nature, National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, Predator Free 2050) have informed and strengthened the delivery of key biodiversity work. Applying proven partnership models has improved efficiency, community engagement and long-term biodiversity outcomes. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone can benefit from the lessons learned from effective partnership models, leading to more successful future partnerships. |



Taputeranga Marine Reserve. Photo: Leon Everett, leonberardphotography.co.nz



Photo: Jarden Donkin

Case study

The Department of Conservation's partnership with One NZ is increasing public engagement in conservation.

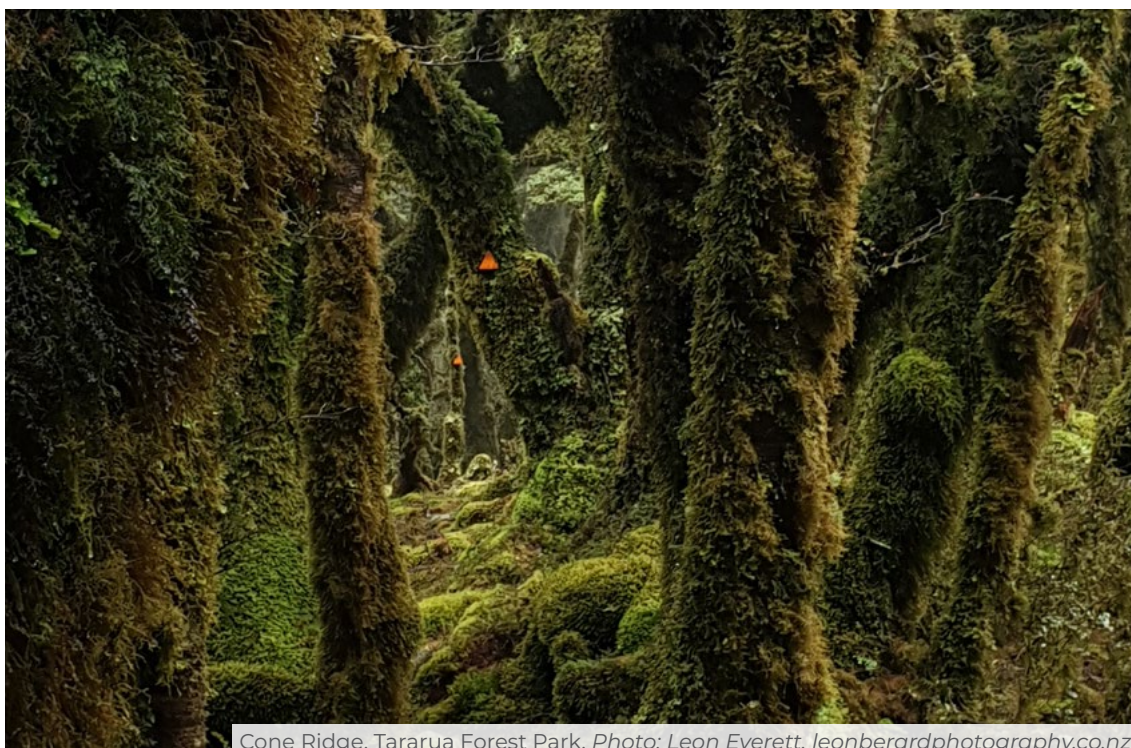
Announced in August 2025, this partnership is improving mobile connectivity and is also an ideal opportunity to trial emerging technology that promises greater efficiency and benefits for biodiversity. The partnership is valued at \$14 million over 6 years. One NZ has made an initial \$200,000 investment into priority nature projects, followed by \$100,000 annually for the next 5 years, and customer donations and eSIM sales are likely to increase its contributions over time. Pictured above is biodiversity ranger Heath Sinclair during a kiwi egg retrieval operation, using One NZ's satellite-to-mobile connection in Haast to check in with home base.

Building evidence to guide climate and biodiversity action

Action H

Increase the evidence base for nature-based solutions to inform investment and action to achieve the climate and biodiversity outcomes we need.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2030 |
| Lead agency | Department of Conservation |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | Nature-based solutions offer powerful opportunities to address both climate and biodiversity challenges, but their potential remains underutilised due to gaps in evidence and understanding. Strengthening the evidence base will help demonstrate the effectiveness of nature-based solutions across diverse ecosystems, guide smarter investment, and support policy and practice that delivers measurable outcomes for biodiversity, carbon removals and ecological resilience to climate change. |
| What success looks like | More investment in nature-based solutions across all ecosystems is delivering improved outcomes for the climate and biodiversity. Agencies and funders understand where restoration opportunities can deliver resilience and emissions reductions. There is an improved understanding of carbon and biodiversity benefits through case studies. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone can access and learn from case studies and research on an expanded range of nature-based solutions. The wider use of nature-based solutions allows more people to restore local ecosystems, generate income, and contribute to climate and biodiversity goals in ways that reflect local priorities. |



Cone Ridge, Tararua Forest Park. Photo: Leon Everett, leonberardphotography.co.nz

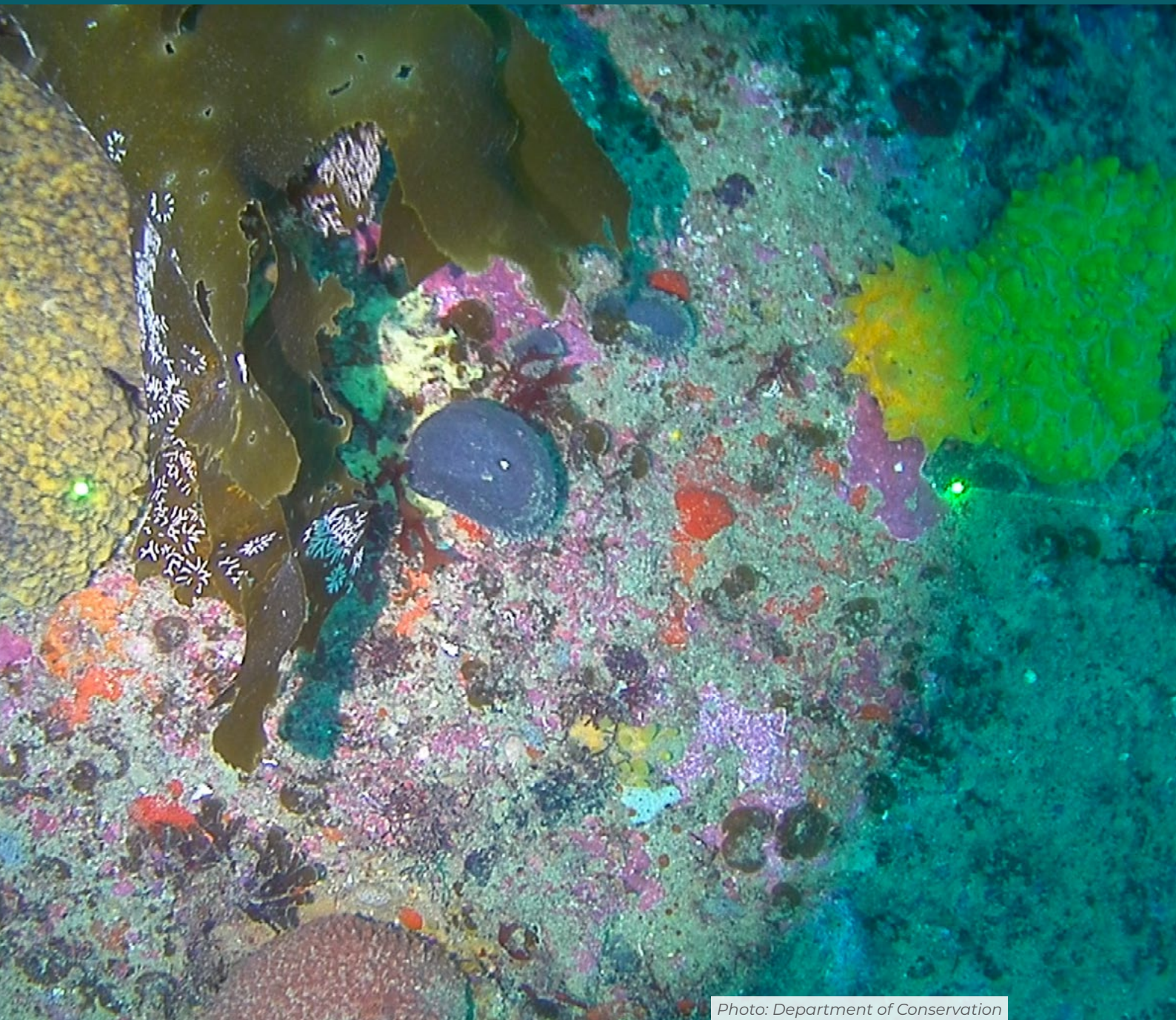


Photo: Department of Conservation

Case study

This underwater image from Maunganui Bay in the Bay of Islands reveals vibrant encrusting communities comprising sponges and invertebrates.

The image was captured by the Department of Conservation using a drop-down camera array as part of a programme of work to make high-quality information about New Zealand's undersea habitats publicly available. Developing a national picture of the country's most important marine biodiversity will inform policies, research and decision making to help protect and restore priority degraded habitats, recover native species and ensure that these unique places are managed sustainably.

Theme 4: Empowered people and partnerships are driving biodiversity progress

To achieve long-term success for nature, we need a biodiversity system that is supported by the right skills, knowledge and public involvement. This theme is about strengthening the system by identifying and addressing capability gaps, building resilience, and encouraging more people to get involved. It also focuses on making sure that we can respond quickly to new risks, so we are better prepared to protect nature when challenges arise.

Supporting system-wide capability growth for biodiversity success

Action I

Identify and address key capability gaps by developing a plan to lift performance across the biodiversity system.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2027 |
| Lead agencies | Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Te Puni Kōkiri |
| Why this action is critical | Achieving lasting biodiversity outcomes requires a skilled and well-supported workforce across the system. Uneven access to expertise, training and capacity is currently limiting the effectiveness and reach of biodiversity efforts. By identifying and developing a plan to address key capability gaps, we can lift the overall system performance, reduce reliance on overstretched volunteers, and enable more confident, coordinated and sustained action for nature. |
| What success looks like | Key capability gaps across the biodiversity system have been identified and suggested actions for addressing these gaps have been scoped, showing what is needed to build a stronger and more resilient workforce. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone in the system can see key capability gaps and consider these when determining training and development needs. Expertise can be shared across agencies and other groups. |



Southern skink basking in a mānuka bush. Photo: Jake Osborne



Case study

Nearly 90% of New Zealanders think that nature is in good shape, but the facts tell a different story: more than 4,000 native species are threatened or at risk of extinction.

The Department of Conservation's 3-year Always Be Naturing campaign is aimed at motivating the public to take action for nature and creating lasting change. Engagement with commercial partners, businesses, the tourism sector, environmental NGOs and others will raise awareness, deepen connection, prompt action, and drive private investment and revenue.

Mobilising New Zealanders for nature

Action J

Raise awareness of the state of nature and help mobilise New Zealanders to take action for nature.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2030 |
| Lead agency | Department of Conservation |
| Contributing agencies | Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | Public support is essential for achieving lasting biodiversity outcomes, but many New Zealanders remain unaware of the true state of nature or feel powerless to make a difference. By showing the value of nature and the impact of collective action, we can build momentum, strengthen public engagement, and create the conditions for widespread and sustained action. |
| What success looks like | Increased public understanding of the true state and value of biodiversity has closed the gap between perception and reality, creating a sense of urgency. People understand that they can make a difference, giving hope and inspiring individual and collective action to restore nature. People feel connected to te taiao through locally resonant messaging, including Māori storytelling of manaaki and kaitiakitanga (protection and guardianship). |
| How this will enable others | Iwi, community groups, NGOs and others are finding it easier to build support, attract funding, mobilise volunteers and drive collective action for biodiversity. |



Helping to protect hoiho/yellow-eyed penguins in Okia Reserve.
Photo: Department of Conservation

Improving the coordinated assessment of emerging domestic biosecurity risks

Action K

Establish a domestic emerging risk network to identify, evaluate and advise on emerging biosecurity risks within New Zealand.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timeframe | 2030 |
| Lead agency | Ministry for Primary Industries |
| Contributing agencies | Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, Te Uru Kahika |
| Why this action is critical | New Zealand has an effective Emerging Risks System (ERS) for identifying and responding to emerging pest and disease risks in other countries. However, there is currently no equivalent capability to identify changes in the risk profile for established pests and diseases. There is an opportunity to build on the systems and capability of the existing ERS to develop a domestic emerging risk network (people, systems and information), which will enable coordinated and informed horizon scanning, intelligence sharing, risk assessment, surveillance and response to emerging pest and disease risks within New Zealand that may threaten native species and ecosystems. |
| What success looks like | A domestic emerging risk network (people, systems, information) is enabling coordinated horizon scanning, intelligence sharing and risk assessment, improving prioritisation and management decisions for invasive pests and diseases affecting biodiversity and ecosystems in New Zealand. |
| How this will enable others | Everyone benefits from timely information and coordinated assessments of emerging pest and disease risks to support the prioritisation and management of biodiversity threats. |



Volunteers helping with Predator Free trapping. Photo: Department of Conservation

Section 3: Connecting the plan with the strategy

This implementation plan provides a roadmap of critical actions that are needed over the next 5 years to help deliver on the wider Biodiversity Strategy. At its heart are 13 national targets that have been drawn from the Biodiversity Strategy's objectives and are aligned with government priorities. These targets reflect our commitment to restoring ecosystems and protecting species and show how New Zealand is stepping up on the world stage to turn the tide for nature under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).⁹

This plan brings these targets to life through a combination of new critical actions and established programmes that are already making a difference. Together, they form a powerful package of work that connects people, places and partnerships across the motu and shows how this work aligns with the three pillars of the Biodiversity Strategy: Tūāpapa – getting the system right, Whakahau – empowering action and Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – protecting and restoring.

Each pillar represents a shared vision: a future where nature is part of everything we do and every New Zealander has a role to play. This is about more than a plan – it is about action, collaboration and hope for generations to come.

Tūāpapa – getting the system right

| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, provides leadership, accountability, including monitoring and reporting, and inclusive decision making.b) The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and inform decision making. | <p>B, F, E</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity system governance (Department of Conservation)• Implementation of new planning and environmental management system (Ministry for the Environment, Te Uru Kahika) |

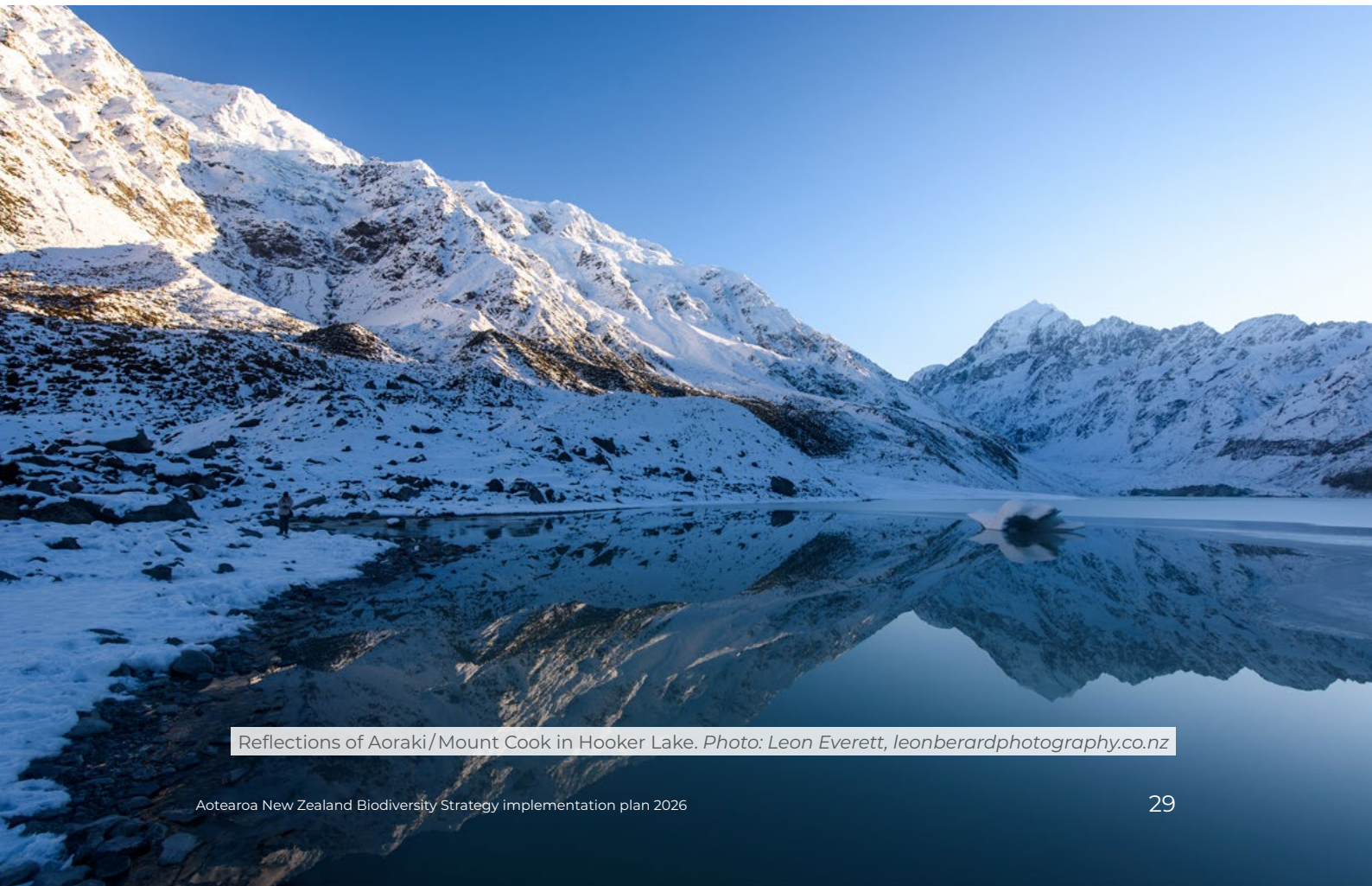
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⁹ For more information on how our national targets contribute to the global targets, visit doc.govt.nz/the-global-biodiversity-framework.

| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2. Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Innovative Treaty partnership approaches are developed and lead the delivery of many biodiversity restoration projects.</p> <p>b) Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data interests regarding indigenous biodiversity are upheld.</p> | <p>G, F</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiscovery system (Te Puni Kōkiri) • Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana marine protection (Department of Conservation) • Biosecurity system activities (Te Uru Kahika) • Tiakina Kauri Management Agency (Ministry for Primary Industries) |
| <p>3. Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits.</p> | <p>C, D</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional commercial partners (Department of Conservation) • Concessions system (Department of Conservation) |
| <p>4. Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) A national, agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity.</p> <p>b) A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on.</p> | <p>A, B, E</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the Environment Reporting Indicators (Ministry for the Environment) • Regional monitoring activities (Te Uru Kahika) |
| <p>5. Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Treaty partners make decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori.</p> | <p>F, A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the Māori Crown relationship – Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (all agencies) • Papa Pounamu Public Service work programme – Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (all agencies) |

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| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>6. Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>New Zealand provides leadership on policy and international commitments to biodiversity.</p> | <p>This plan</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment) • International Development Cooperation programme (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) • Servicing international agreement obligations (Department of Conservation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) • International threatened species strategies and action plans (Department of Conservation) • Multilateral Environmental Agreement governance (Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) |



Reflections of Aoraki/Mount Cook in Hooker Lake. Photo: Leon Everett, leonberardphotography.co.nz

Whakahau – empowering action

| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>7. All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Education and campaigns ensure people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity and that New Zealanders are aware of the value of biodiversity.</p> | I, J | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Waterways Register/Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (multi-agency) • Biosecurity behaviour change campaigns (Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) • National support and direction for the Enviroschools programme (Ministry for the Environment) |
| <p>8. Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Community action groups and Treaty partners are resourced to access knowledge, expertise and information to manage biodiversity and act as environmental stewards.</p> <p>b) Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are being supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.</p> | A, D, I, F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngā Whenua Rāhui (Department of Conservation) • Regional and business biosecurity collaborations (Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) • Contestable funds and other funding mechanisms (Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) • Tūhono taiao Jobs for Nature – Communities of Practice platform (Ministry for the Environment) • Catchment group support (Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) |
| <p>9. Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Well-connected networks of relevant people, including urban and rural communities, stakeholders, Treaty partners, industry, and central and local government, work together in partnership to implement the strategy.</p> | G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predator Free 2050 (Department of Conservation) • Arawai Kakariki wetland restoration programme (Department of Conservation) • Ngā Awa river restoration programme (Department of Conservation) • Regional biodiversity strategies (Te Uru Kahika) |

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – protecting and restoring

| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>10. Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Improved baseline information, comprehensive mapping, and improved knowledge of species and ecosystems help reduce the cumulative effects of pressures on biodiversity.</p> <p>b) There is no loss of the extent or condition of indigenous land, wetland, freshwater ecosystems, and marine and coastal habitats, which have been identified as having high biodiversity value.</p> <p>c) The state of indigenous species known to be at risk of extinction stabilises or improves.</p> | <p>A, E</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use information system investment package (Ministry for the Environment) • National ecosystem typology development, ecosystem mapping and threat status assessments of ecosystems (Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Te Uru Kahika) • Rare and threatened species and ecosystems research and delivery, including terrestrial, freshwater and marine domains (Department of Conservation, Te Uru Kahika) • New Zealand Threat Classification System (Department of Conservation) |
| <p>11. Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Introduced browsers, including valued introduced species, are actively managed to reduce pressures on indigenous biodiversity and maintain cultural and recreational values.</p> <p>b) The highest priority biosecurity threats, including weeds, animal pests and diseases (for example, introduced invasive plants, algae, mammals, fish, invertebrates and microorganisms), in all domains, have been identified and are being managed based on current and potential future impacts on indigenous biodiversity.</p> | <p>K</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Animals Management Programme (Department of Conservation) • Biosecurity System Action Plan (Ministry for Primary Industries) • Nationally coordinated, regionally delivered threat management programmes – for example, wilding conifers, wallabies (Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) • Pest and pathway management programmes – offshore, border and domestic (Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Kahika) |

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| National targets | Critical actions | Programmes (lead agencies) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>12. Natural resources are managed sustainably.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Marine and freshwater fisheries are managed within sustainable limits while retaining cultural and recreational values, including for valued introduced species.</p> <p>b) Sustainable use practices that include benefits for indigenous biodiversity are standard practice and environmental outcomes improve.</p> | <p>D</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable fisheries work programme (Ministry for Primary Industries) • Primary Sector Growth Fund (Ministry for Primary Industries) • Freshwater farm plan regulatory settings and systems (Ministry for the Environment) • Conservation Services Programme (Department of Conservation) • Crown Pastoral Land Reform Act 2022 implementation (Land Information New Zealand) |
| <p>13. Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), contributes to net emissions targets through carbon storage and improves our resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels.</p> <p>b) Risks to biodiversity from climate change, including cascading effects (for example, increases in introduced invasive species, water abstraction, fire risk, sedimentation) have been identified, assessed and managed to build resilience where possible.</p> | <p>H</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan (Ministry for the Environment) • National adaptation plan (Ministry for the Environment) • Peatland and forest restoration on public conservation land (Department of Conservation) |

Section 4: Monitoring our progress

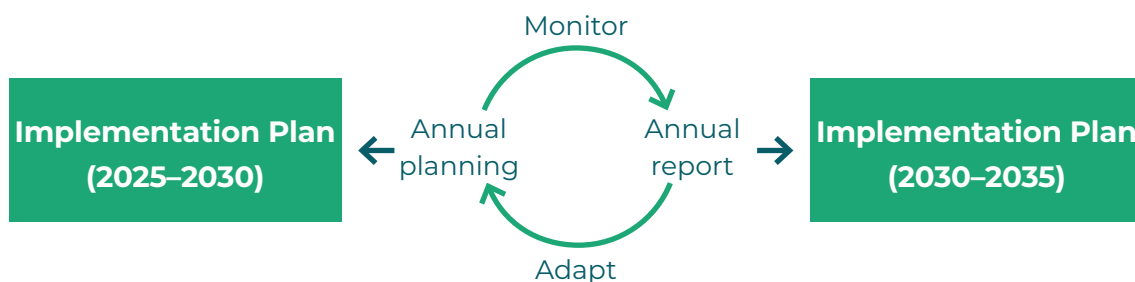
To ensure that the actions in this plan are delivered and making a difference, we will monitor and report on progress.

Tracking delivery of the critical actions

At the start of each financial year, we will set specific deliverables or milestones for each critical action to help us monitor if we are on track. Lead agencies will report regularly to the cross-agency governance group, and an annual progress report will be prepared for the financial year to let the public know what we delivered and if our milestones were met. The report will also let the public know if the Government is on track to complete the critical actions on time and identify any challenges and opportunities that may indicate we should change our approach.

Monitoring progress towards the 2050 outcomes

It is important to know that our collective efforts are making a difference for New Zealand's native species and ecosystems. Effective outcome monitoring will help us develop new implementation plans every 5 years that ensure we are on track to deliver our 2050 outcomes for the Biodiversity Strategy.



Monitoring and reporting cycle

Delivering Action E will help central and local government agencies move towards a comprehensive and consistent approach to outcome monitoring. It will draw together data and information to ensure that we are collectively making a difference across the motu.

Iwi, community groups, businesses and private landowners also contribute actions that are critical to achieving our 2050 outcomes and undertake monitoring that will help us track progress. There are many different programmes and platforms to which iwi, community groups, businesses and private landowners can commit their actions and provide data. National examples include the Predator Free NZ Trust, trap.NZ, Trees That Count and the New Zealand Garden Bird Survey, while more local examples include regional council platforms like Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau | Conservation Auckland.

By weaving together data, information and stories shared by government agencies, iwi, community groups, businesses and private landowners, we will be able to track our collective progress towards the 2050 outcomes. We encourage everyone to help us do this.

Reporting to meet our international commitments

The New Zealand Government has an international obligation to report to the CBD every few years on our progress in implementing the convention and our contribution to the GBF.

The most recent report is the Seventh National Report released in February 2026. The Eighth National Report is due in 2029. National reports will be communicated publicly and made easily accessible.

Iwi, community groups, businesses and private landowners can also commit their actions to the GBF through the United Nations Nature Commitments portal.¹⁰

As well as reporting on GBF contributions, the national reports¹¹ provide data and information that support monitoring of progress towards the global goals and targets. The reports also highlight actions and achievements for each of New Zealand's national targets.



Toitoi / common bully. Photo: Department of Conservation

¹⁰ naturecommitments.org

¹¹ cbd.int/reports



Photo: Predator Free Dunedin

Case study

Predator Free 2050 holds a vision for people and native species to thrive together without introduced predators.

Hundreds of thousands of people are taking action to help make this happen, with support from the Department of Conservation and Predator Free groups across the country. There are already more than 9,000 trapping initiatives and 20 large, landscape-scale projects. Everyone has a role to play, including these students from Logan Park High School in Dunedin, who maintain a trap line as part of their EnviroSchools programme.

Section 5: Financial assurance

Government funding for biodiversity is delivered across multiple agencies, including the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry for the Environment. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment estimated total government expenditure on the environment in 2024/25 at \$3.56 billion, \$858 million of which was spent directly on improving New Zealand's biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and resilience.

All actions and programmes in this implementation plan have existing funding sources at the time of publication.

Environmental expenditure by the New Zealand Government in 2024/25

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. 2025. Estimate of environmental expenditure 2024/25: method and results. Wellington: Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment; p. 8.
pce.parliament.nz/media/2gljyjg3/eee-2024-25-web-v2.pdf

| Type of expenditure | Funding (\$000) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change | \$1,224,688 |
| Improving the biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and resilience of New Zealand | \$858,367 |
| Improving the land and fresh waters of New Zealand, including the sustainable management of resources | \$660,224 |
| Reducing pollution and waste | \$409,872 |
| Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of institutions designed to manage human interventions in the environment | \$292,644 |
| Improving the coastal and marine environments of New Zealand, including the sustainable management of resources | \$109,129 |
| Total | \$3,554,925 |

Biodiversity benefits not only from funding through general taxation but also from tools like the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (a \$100 fee paid by most visitors to New Zealand to ensure that they contribute to protecting the environment they are coming to enjoy) and the waste disposal levy, which fund a range of environmental activities at national and regional levels.

Regional and local authorities are a significant source of biodiversity investment, including through biosecurity, monitoring, planning, grants to community groups and restoration work.

Many individuals, businesses and community groups also make contributions, ranging from a few dollars to millions of dollars. This is on top of in-kind contributions and volunteer hours. For example:

- over its 10 years of operation, the NEXT Foundation invested \$100 million in biodiversity and education – the biodiversity projects focused on predator control, providing major impetus for the Predator Free 2050 goal
- Air New Zealand has been a long-term partner of the Department of Conservation, funding pest control around the country's Great Walks and the Conservation Dogs Programme
- Fulton Hogan, Meridian Energy and Genesis Energy have also been long-term partners, investing directly in bird recovery programmes.

New Zealand has a strong third sector of environmental NGOs, such as the Environmental Defence Society, Forest & Bird and WWF New Zealand. Membership and donations to these organisations fund biodiversity work, including advocacy, education, and on-the-ground restoration and protection.

However, the scale of the challenge biodiversity is facing means that our current funding sources are not enough. That is why this implementation plan emphasises the need to bring in new forms of funding.

Work is already well underway. The Department of Conservation has partnered with the New Zealand Nature Fund and has signed a pledge with the Island-Ocean Connection Challenge to bring in philanthropic support from across New Zealand and around the world (under Action C).

The Government is also exploring ways to support the expansion of voluntary nature credits by collaborating with 10 privately funded pilot projects to inform potential government roles in the market (under Action D). Through initiatives like these, we can increase the total funding available for biodiversity across public, private and Māori lands and waters.



Toroa/northern royal albatross. Photo: Sabine Bernert

