

TE MANA O TE TAI AO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT
for the year ended 30 June 2023



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Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy implementation progress report

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Introduction

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (the strategy) outlines the overall strategic direction for biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand through to 2050.

Implementation of the strategy is intended to be dynamic, adapting to new information, tools and methods as they arise, with plans regularly updated and progress publicly reported. The first Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan (ANZBS Implementation Plan), launched in April 2022, is a stocktake of actions underway or planned with resourcing by nine central government agencies (**Table 1**), Ngā Whenua Rāhui and Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa that contribute to the strategy’s objectives.

The nine central government agencies, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and Te Uru Kahika assessed their progress in carrying out actions at the end of the 2022/23 financial year (**Table 2**). This report summarises the status of all 204 actions. Regional councils and unitary authorities have reported on progress as a collective (of 16). These councils have varying levels of involvement in the actions attributed as a whole to ‘councils’, and not all councils are undertaking work.

Table 1: Central government agencies accountable for actions in the first ANZBS Implementation Plan

Department of Conservation	Environmental Protection Authority
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Education	Ministry for Primary Industries
Ministry for the Environment	Te Puni Kōkiri
Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand	

Table 2: Definitions for self-assessment of progress in carrying out actions

Status	Definition
Completed	For completed actions
Started and on track for completion	For timebound actions that are currently on track to be completed by the specified date in the plan
Started and unlikely to complete in the timeframe	For timebound actions that will not be completed by the date specified in the plan
Ongoing and in a good state	For ongoing actions, and where agencies are happy with progress
Ongoing and requires further work	For ongoing actions, and where agencies believe improvement can be made in regard to progress
Cancelled or on hold	For actions that are not progressing at this time

Progress in carrying out actions

Overall progress

Of all 204 actions, 6.9% are complete, 85.3% are in progress and 7.8% have a status of on hold, unlikely to complete or cancelled (**Table 3**). Agencies commonly cite resource constraints as a limiting factor for actions that require improvement through further work. Six actions that were originally captured in the ANZBS Implementation Plan with a defined timeframe for completion are now classified as ongoing.

Table 3: Status of actions reported by the agencies through this self-assessment process

Status	Percentage of actions (n = 204)
Completed	6.9%
Started and on track for completion	16.7%
Started and unlikely to complete in the timeframe	4.4%
Ongoing and in a good state	33.3%
Ongoing and requires further work	35.3%
Cancelled or on hold	3.4%

The **Appendix** provides a list of completed actions.

Progress of actions by objectives

The current actions are listed in the ANZBS Implementation Plan under one of the 13 objectives of the strategy. An indication of how current actions are progressing by objective is provided using a traffic-light framework.

Actions that are:



complete, ongoing and in a good state or on track for completion are classified as 'green'

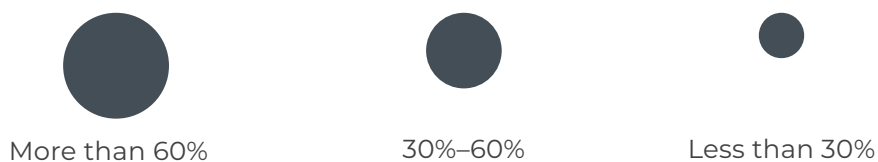


ongoing and requiring work are classified as 'orange'



cancelled, on hold or started but unlikely to complete in the timeframes are classified as 'red'.

The following representation of progress shows the percentage of actions for each traffic-light classification, with traffic lights scaled according to these percentage classes.



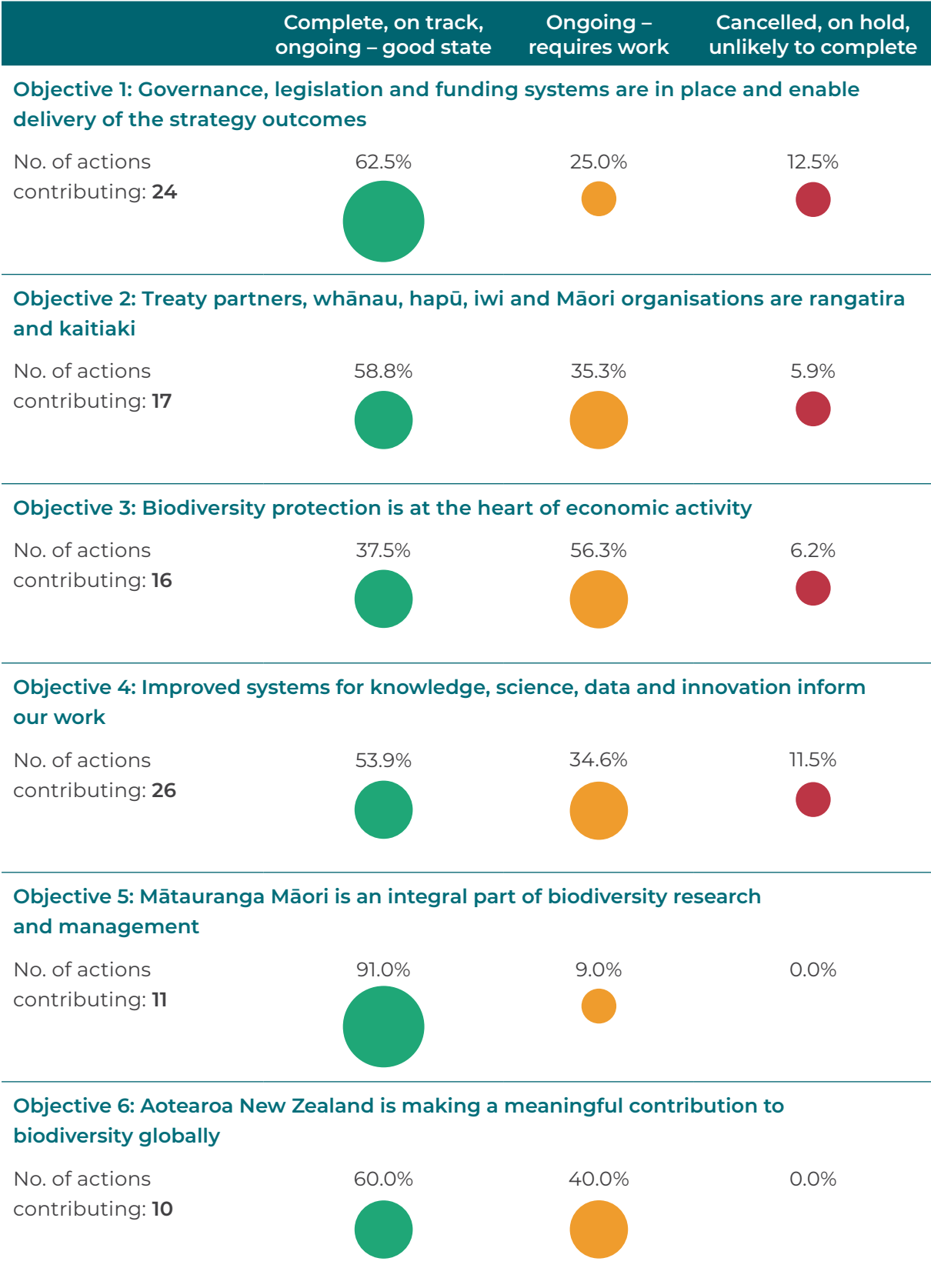
The following objectives had 60% or more of their actions reported as complete, ongoing and in a good state or on track for completion

- Objective 1: Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of strategy outcomes
- Objective 5: Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management
- Objective 6: Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally
- Objective 8: Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature
- Objective 9: Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes
- Objective 11: Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management








The following objectives had more than 10% of their actions as cancelled, on hold or unlikely to complete

- Objective 1: Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of strategy outcomes
- Objective 4: Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovative inform our work
- Objective 7: All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective
- Objective 13: Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.

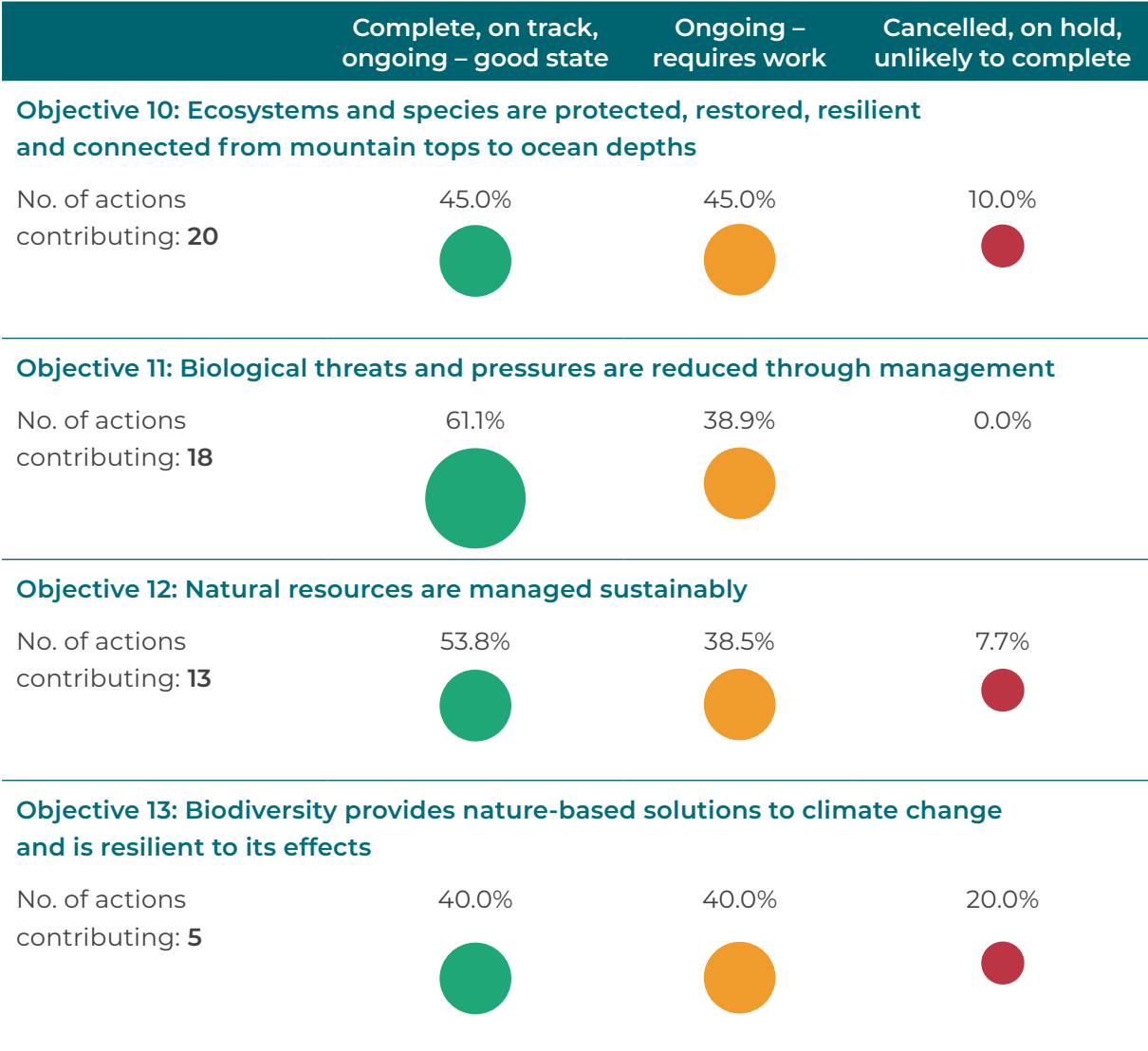
Tūāpapa – getting the system right



Whakahau – empowering action

	Complete, on track, ongoing – good state	Ongoing – requires work	Cancelled, on hold, unlikely to complete
Objective 7: All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective			
No. of actions contributing: 11	45.5% 	36.3% 	18.2% 
Objective 8: Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature			
No. of actions contributing: 17	64.7% 	35.3% 	0.0%
Objective 9: Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes			
No. of actions contributing: 16	68.7% 	31.3% 	0.0%

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – protecting and restoring



Next steps

Progress to deliver these actions is intended to be assessed again at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

The next ANZBS Implementation Plan is under development, and these progress assessments will be an input to determining new actions and future domestic and international reporting.

Appendix

Actions recorded as complete at the end of the 2022/23 financial year

Action	Reporting agency
Objective 1: Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes	
Develop a Department of Conservation Biodiversity Action Strategy to identify which Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS goals the Department of Conservation 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.	Department of Conservation
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.	Ministry for the Environment
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).	Department of Conservation
Objective 2: Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki	
Ensure that the National (Kauri Dieback) Pest Management Plan provides for and enables the exercise of rangatira and kaitiaki at operational, plan and governance levels, as well as through the funding stream pou for whānau, hapū and iwi.	Ministry for Primary Industries
Objective 3: Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity	
The regional sector is working to develop a brand that highlights the work we do across the environment, community and economics.	Te Uru Kahika
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.	Ministry for Primary Industries
Objective 5: Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management	
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.	Ministry for Primary Industries

Action	Reporting agency
Objective 8: Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature	
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 New Zealand's reputation in their area or activity.	Ministry for Primary Industries
Objective 9: Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes	
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.	Ministry for Primary Industries
Continue the King Shag Research Project, which aims to protect the biodiversity of Nationally Endangered seabird species in the Marlborough Sounds.	Department of Conservation
Objective 10: Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths	
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.	Ministry for Primary Industries
Objective 11: Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management	
Reduce the threat and pressure of the pathogen <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> on the taonga of kauri through the National (Kauri Dieback) 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 Ministry for Primary Industries, regional councils, iwi/hapū, Department of Conservation, industry and community groups.	Ministry for Primary Industries

Action	Reporting agency
Objective 12: Natural resources are managed sustainably	
Sustainably manage fisheries resources by setting fishery and stock targets and limits for fish stocks in the Quota Management System (QMS).	Ministry for Primary Industries
Objective 13: Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects	
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.	Ministry for the Environment