Report to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board on Implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy 1 January 2010 – 30 June 2011

Introduction

One of the statutory functions of the Conservation Board is 'to advise the [New Zealand] Conservation Authority and the Director-General [of Conservation] on the implementation of conservation management strategies ... for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board' (section 6M(1)(c), Conservation Act 1987).

The following table lists the Strategic Directions and the Significant Outcomes identified in the current Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy, and a summary of what has been achieved during the 18 months of January 2010 to June 2011.

Work has been initiated to review the Conservation Management Strategy. As well as being providing information on what has been achieved over the last 18 months across the conservancy, this report provides an opportunity for the Board to think about what it would like to see included in the new Conservation Management Strategy.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NELSON/MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 1 JANUARY 2010 – 30 JUNE 2011

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Maintain biodiversity of native species and ensure no threatened species are	Strategy 1 Retain basic native plant and animal associations on all large areas where an aggregation of biological values gives a rank of national or international importance.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	The Conservancy has 396 plant species that are either threatened (nationally critical, nationally endangered or nationally vulnerable), declining, naturally uncommon or data-deficient. these include: 51 Nationally Critical, 26 Nationally Endangered, 19 Nationally Vulnerable, 53 Declining, 211 Naturally Uncommon and 21 Data Deficient. There are more threatened species identified in this conservancy since the 2008 review. Some of these increases are due to new species discoveries. There is also a general movement of species into higher threat categories despite recovery efforts.
lost			A third of the 96 nationally threatened plant species (critical, endangered & vulnerable) have been the subjects of recovery work in 2010/11.
			Nelson/Marlborough Sounds
			For Nationally Critical species, 19 species were the subject of recovery work at 32 locations. For Nationally Endangered species, 6 species were the subject of recovery work at 9 locations. For Nationally Vulnerable species, 4 species were the subject of recovery work at 8 locations. For Declining and Naturally Uncommon species, 6 species were the subject of recovery work at 5 locations.
			Various recovery work included monitoring, survey, census, supplementary plantings, habitat plantings, new fencing and caging, maintaining existing fencing, exclosures and trunk protectors, seed collection, raising plants in the nursery, weed control and fungus and insect control.
			One of the highlights was the discovery of several populations including one large one, of the annual succulent <i>Crassula multicaulis</i> (nationally critical) on the Matiri plateau and St Arnaud Range, and the discovery of the grass <i>Simplicia buchananii</i> (nationally critical) in the Cobb Valley. A successful survey for the woollyhead, <i>Craspedia</i> "Loveridge", resulted in a recommendation that this species be downgraded from Nationally Critical to Naturally Uncommon.

			South Marlborough
			Nationally Critical species: An advocacy plan was written for <i>Carmichaelia carmichaeliae</i> . Monitoring of <i>Pachycladon fasciarium</i> showed the national population has increased to 53 plants. Weed control continues at Sedgemere on Molesworth where several critically threatened plants occur in one ephemeral tarn. Census of limestone plume grass showed a population of about 1000 plants.
			Nationally Endangered species: A new sub-population of the endangered <i>Craspedia</i> "Leatham" was found on Compensation Station. Survey was completed for <i>Melicytus</i> "cliff" at Isolated Hill finding one plant and bringing the confirmed population to three!
			Nine Data Deficient species are still awaiting survey and inventory in South Marlborough.
Maintain biodiversity of native species and ensure no threatened species are lost	Strategy 2 Develop more effective approaches to major intractable plant and pest problems and improve current techniques.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	The area under sustained possum control totals 138,711 ha. In 10/11, 12,258 ha were treated. The main operation was a joint funded Department and Animal Health Board aerial operation in the Waingaro catchment in Golden Bay. This effectively plugs a gap between Departmental operations in the Anatoki to the north and Cobb to the south and closes off the narrowest point of possum movement in the Animal Health Board's programme around the boundary of Kahurangi National Park. A shift of focus from possums to rats at many of our snail protection sites has seen planning and monitoring proceed for control operations in the Leslie (Kahurangi National Park) and Mt Stanley (Sounds), which were planned for winter/spring 2011. Rats have failed to reach trigger levels and both operations will not proceed this year. A 10 year resource consent has been obtained from West Coast Regional Council for the Leslie to allow for quick response to rat irruptions. A 10 year consent application is being sought for Mt Stanley.
			The area under sustained goat control totals 543,060 ha (land managed by the Department & others, including buffers & land coming to the Department through tenure review). In 10/11 367,219 ha were treated (maintenance of existing areas).
			Pest fish: the 8 remaining sites from last year's operation have been treated this year and the balance of the survey work is continuing.
			351,671 ha of Department administered land is under sustained (site led) weed control, of which 130,082 ha was treated in 10/11. Seven weed led programmes were also carried out, including: Climbing Spindleberry (eradication from a number of sites with ongoing surveillance at Motueka, Sounds & Golden Bay); Madeira Vine (eradication & surveillance at Sounds & Golden Bay); Boneseed (ongoing successful programme working with Marlborough District Council at Sounds); & Chilean Flame Creeper (controlled to zero density & eradication feasible).

Maintain biodiversity of native species and ensure no	Strategy 3 Transfer populations of native species which cannot	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	Translocation of brown mudfish is now unlikely to be necessary given the discovery of four populations with further discoveries likely. The proposed introduction of whitebait and bully species and koura into three artificial wetland habitats by the Department in conjunction with landowners and councils will increase the biodiversity values of these habitats and provide increased understanding of population dynamics in artificial habitats.
threatened species are lost	survive <i>in situ</i> to special refuges.		The final translocation of Hutton's shearwater occurred in autumn 08. This new site on the Kaikoura Peninsula has been fenced and managed by the Huttons Shearwater Conservation Trust.
1031			Whio translocations continue, taking eggs from vulnerable wild nests and having these incubated and the chicks raised at Peacock Springs. These young have then been released into an increasing area around the Wangapeka that is being trapped for stoats. An aerial 1080 operation planned for winter 2011 is likely to confer even greater protection.
			Coastal peppercress (<i>Lepidium banksii</i>) (Nationally Critical) continues to be transferred to predator-free Tonga Island and Adele Island. White mistletoe (<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>) (Declining) planted on Adele and Fishermans Islands to provide possum-free refuges. <i>Deyeuxia lacustris</i> grass has been grown from seed and retained in cultivation as insurance against loss in the wild. It has also been planted out at its only known site in the Conservancy, Lake Sylvester. <i>Olearia polita</i> tree daisy has been planted out at three covenants in Sherry/Wangapeka catchments to supplement existing populations and as part of active management of these covenants. <i>Myriophyllum robustum</i> giant milfoil is being grown in cultivation as insurance against loss from its only known conservancy location: Mangarakau. <i>Pittosporum dallii</i> continue to be planted out in cages in the Cobb dam area to boost wild populations and avoid depredations by hares, deer and goats.
	Strategy 4 Give island refuges a high level of protection to enable further transfers to these havens.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	Existing island classifications are appropriate to protect them as refuges and enable transfers of species. Values are increasing on Wakaterepapanui Island, which is currently classified as a recreation reserve, and a higher status such as scenic reserve would be more appropriate. Improvements are continuing to the procedures aimed at providing biosecurity for island reserves. All authorised visitors to islands with nature or scientific reserve status are subject to strict quarantine protocol, with dedicated facilities at Picton and Havelock.

Maintain biodiversity of native species and ensure no threatened species are lost	Strategy 5 Identify areas with concentrations of natural values for intensive management to protect special and representative communities.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	A general survey was carried out in the Branch-Leatham catchment in South Marlborough to identify the values in this location. In the sub-alpine to alpine areas tarns and seeps show interesting plant communities, intermediate between the wetter western areas of Nelson Lakes National Park and drier eastern ecosystems. The survey report identifies appropriate management actions.
	Strategy 6 Develop research and monitoring systems to identify changes in ecosystems.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	At a National level, progress is continuing with the development of the Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS) which will incorporate key consistent monitoring methods and plans as well as identifying knowledge gaps which require research work. NHMS will ultimately form the basis for all national monitoring and research needs. Progress in 10/11 included: • Initial steps towards a national network of status and trend monitoring for indigenous vegetation - teams have now been organised to undertake monitoring from October to March. South Island plots will be managed by teams based in Southland and West Coast. A number of local staff are involved; • Work on Species Optimisation which seeks to refine the threatened species the Department works on, including the monitoring requirements – 50 species have been added into business planning nationally to be implemented in 11/12. 7 are being implemented initially in this conservancy (3 in Golden Bay, 1 in Motueka, 1 in Nelson Lakes, 1 in Sounds, 1 in South Marlborough). Further rollout of programmes will occur in subsequent years; • Work on Ecosystem Optimisation to refine rare and representative ecosystems in a national context which the Department needs to manage and monitor – initial maps of ecosystem unit were prepared. These are to be refined and prioritised in 11/12 with management prescriptions prepared and a selection incorporated into the business plan for 12/13 (as occurred with species); Nelson-Marlborough also continues to maintain and train staff in the use of a local biodiversity database (Biodiversity Information Storage and Retrieval, or BISAR) which is a bibliographic collation of all known site—based biodiversity references within the conservancy.

Maintain biodiversity of native species and ensure no threatened species are	Significant Outcome 1 Major progress on restoration of Maud and Stephens Islands.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	Takapourewa (Stephens) Island – restoration planting is continuing, earlier plantings are providing habitat for reptiles and petrels. Attempts to eradicate <i>Tradescantia</i> are well advanced. Maud Island – a restoration plan has been prepared involving weed control, retirement of grazing and encouragement of native regeneration.
lost	Significant Outcome 2 Creation of several more pest-free island refuges.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	Mice have been eradicated from Adele, Fisherman, Tonga and Blumine islands. There are now few if any island reserves with mammalian pests in this conservancy.
	Significant Outcome 3 Removal of old man's beard from the Upper Buller and Golden Bay.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	The Upper Buller Old Man's Beard programme is ongoing with good co-ordination with West Coast Conservancy. The Golden Bay Old Man's Beard programme is ongoing. A strategic approach involving better coordination with Tasman District Council, Land Information New Zealand and the local community is progressing well.
	Significant Outcome 4 Completion of freshwater fish survey of the conservancy.	Pg 32/ 4.2.1	Waters within the region are now generally well surveyed. Ongoing collaborative surveys with Tasman District Council, other agencies, consultants and landowners over the last year have contributed new records to the National NIWA Freshwater Fish database. Inanga spawning habitat surveys have been initiated this year and one new spawning site located in Poorman Valley Stream, Nelson. Survey work has added significantly to the understanding of regional fish distributions and also the state of freshwater habitats. If resources are available re-surveying of shortjaw and giant kokopu key population sites would be a high priority.
			Golden Bay and Motueka Area Offices are continuing to survey for mudfish and monitor existing mudfish sites at Golden Bay. Mudfish sites are still yet to be found within the Motueka Area Office region.

Maintain	Significant	Pg 32/	Takapourewa/Stephens Island has been retained as a nature reserve.
biodiversity	Outcome 5	4.2.1	
of native	Retention of		
species and	Stephens Island as		
ensure no	a nature reserve.		
threatened			
species are			
lost			

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Preserve a representative range of all landforms, natural features and natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems.	Strategy 1 Intensify legal protection programmes in South Marlborough, Kaikoura, Golden Bay, freshwater systems and in the marine environment to achieve greater areas in protection and a higher status for some areas already in protection.	Pg 32/ 4.2.2	Terrestrial - Over 10/11 the Department has continued its involvement in a number of Council-led initiatives which advocate protection and management of natural areas on private land. These initiatives include the Marlborough Significant Natural Areas (SNA) Working Group (including the Marlborough Sounds), Tasman Natural Areas Enhancement Group (TNAEG) and the Tasman Significant Natural Heritage survey project, the Kaikoura SNA Working Group and Nelson City Council's Biodiversity Strategy and SNA survey programme. These groups have all utilised central government funding (Biodiversity Advice Fund and Biodiversity Condition Fund) supplemented by Council funding to progress work with landowners in surveying, managing and protecting sites. Protection has commonly taken the form of QEII Trust covenants with QEII representation on all of these working groups. The Marlborough SNA project has now been largely completed, although the Working Group is still active in promoting biodiversity issues through planning instruments (e.g. Regional Policy Statements) and management/monitoring work with participating landowners continues. Since the inception of the SNA programme, around 50 sites are involved in some degree of protection and management. This has marked a dramatic increase in formal protection on the lowlands and coastal parts of Marlborough compared to the situation prior to 2003, particularly in South Marlborough. The Department has also been involved in a working group reviewing the biodiversity provisions of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement. The Kaikoura Significant Natural Areas project continues to build on formal protection and management of native habitats. Nelson City Council has led a working party process to review the significant natural area
			provisions in the Council's Resource Management Plan. The outcome of the working party process

Preserve a representative range of all landforms, natural features and natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems.	Strategy 1 cont'd Intensify legal protection programmes in South Marlborough, Kaikoura, Golden Bay, freshwater systems and in the marine environment to achieve greater areas in protection and a higher status for some areas		has been endorsed by the Council which is now working towards notifying a Plan Change. The Department has been an active participant in Tasman District Council's Native Habitats project agreement which is now in progress. The results of Nature Heritage Fund purchases and Department covenants are given in the Appendix 1. Freshwater — A purchase by the Nature Heritage Fund (as scenic reserve) of land adjacent to Kaihoka Lakes will result in improved protection for the lakes' ecosystem. The land will be administered by the Department. Marine — The Department and Marlborough District Council have jointly funded a report on significant natural marine areas in the Marlborough Sounds. A marine mammal sanctuary exists in Cloudy and Clifford Bays. This sanctuary manages seismic surveys. Fisheries by-catch issues are managed separately through Fisheries Regulations.
	already in protection.		Comment is provided below on progress on marine reserves within the Conservancy.
	Strategy 2 Improve legal protection for significant earth science sites in public ownership.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	There have been no new protection measures completed with only an Earth Science focus.
	Strategy 3 Increase advocacy for the protection of significant earth science sites on private land (for example, by covenant).	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	The main means by which the Department can advocate for protection on private land is via Resource Management Act processes e.g. consent applications that affect an earth science site. Advocacy for mitigation of effects of proposed subdivisions and other activities on karst land are a consistent area of activity, largely through dialogue with applicants. Significant geopreservation or earth science sites also support biodiversity values which are subject to protection and management through the SNA programmes described in Strategy 1 above.

Preserve a representative range of all landforms, natural features and natural terrestrial and marine ecosystems.	Significant Outcome 1 Significant progress towards protection of a network of areas on 10% of the coastal marine area.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	There are four marine reserves within Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy: Westhaven (Te Tai Tapu), Tonga Island, Horoirangi and Long Island-Kokomohua. These protect different ecosystems/ environments across the top of the South Island: a west coast estuary; a protected granite shoreline; an eastern Tasman Bay coastal environment; and a typical eastern Marlborough Sounds marine area. Ongoing management of these marine reserves includes compliance/law enforcement, interpretation, ecological monitoring, permit processing and community liaison. Subcommittees of the Conservation Board advise the Department on the management of Horoirangi and Long Island-Kokomohua Marine Reserves; meetings are held as and when needed. The conservancy continues to work with Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura in developing a marine management strategy for the Kaikoura coast, including possible marine protected areas. Significant progress was made over the last 12 months. Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura is launching its draft strategy on 1 September 2011.
	Significant Outcome 2 Significant progress on protecting habitat for giant kokopu and where possible for short- jawed kokopu.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	Habitat for giant kokopu continues to improve as planted riparian cover develops around the margins of the created wetland habitat near Wharariki and in Ellis Creek where planting and habitat improvements by landowners have been undertaken recently. Giant kokopu habitat augmentation in Otuwhero wetland is currently under active development by the Department and the community group. Collaboration with Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council, and Resource Management Act advocacy for freshwater habitat protection, has led to improved awareness and protection for giant kokopu populations.
	Significant Outcome 3 Establishment of Water Conservation Orders for the Buller and Motueka Rivers.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	Water Conservation Orders (WCO) for the Buller and Motueka Rivers are in place. Improved recognition of trout and eel fishery values and levels of protection were also put in place under variation to the Buller WCO.

Preserve a representative range of all landforms, natural features and natural terrestrial and	Significant Outcome 4 Significant progress on protection of lowland forests, especially in Golden Bay.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	The Nature Heritage Fund purchase of two blocks of land near Westhaven Inlet (as scenic reserve to be administered by the Department) will protect more lowland forest in Golden Bay.
marine ecosystems.	Significant Outcome 5 Significant progress towards implementing protection of key areas in South Marlborough and Kaikoura.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	As detailed under Strategy 1 above, there has been significant progress achieved in protecting key areas in South Marlborough and Kaikoura through the significant natural areas working groups. Negotiations have been taking place over the purchase by the Department of some land on the Kaikoura Peninsula.
	Significant Outcome 6 Recognition of significant geopreservation features and steps taken to improve their protection.	Pg 33/ 4.2.2	On conservation land these areas are protected in accordance with the legal status and managed in accordance with the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) or any relevant Conservation Management Plan. A significant step towards greater recognition of the conservancy's karst areas has been completion of the resources section of a draft document for karst management. This document will provide information on karst management for managers and the Conservation Board, and serve as an information source for the CMS.

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Ensure appropriate	Strategy Retain the current	Pg 33/ 4.2.3	Of the known 900 historic sites and places on public conservation land in this conservancy 140 are being actively managed and maintained to ensure their long term preservation.
conservation of the historic heritage of the conservancy and encourage understanding of human history and associated	level of effort in protecting historic resources but concentrating on those areas administered by the department.		The historic Glenhope Railway Station and associated land (Historic Reserve) were acquired using funding from the Land Acquisition Fund. This is the last significant building remaining on site from the Nelson Railway and acquisition will allow it to be preserved and provide an opportunity to tell this important piece of regional history. Finding a compatible future use for the building is also important.
sites.	Significant Outcome	Pg 33/ 4.2.3	The field component of a survey of archaeological sites on public conservation land within the takiwa of Te Runanga o Kaikoura was completed and is currently being written up.
	Completion of a survey of a comprehensive		Work on the recording and reporting of Molesworth's historic values continues to be a significant historic priority for the conservancy.
	range of historic resources.		The Department continues to be strongly involved in the joint project to develop information and a plan for the Wairau Bar and Boulder Bank area (Marlborough). This work is a collaborative effort with Rangitane, Ngati Toa, Marlborough District Council, NZ Historic Places Trust and a private land owner.
			Major conservation repairs have been carried out on the remaining building, structures and machinery at the Perano Whaling Station and an oral history project with old whalers and families undertaken. This in recognition of its important role in the history of NZ whaling.
			Major conservation work has also been completed on the complex of 19 th and early 20 th century farm buildings at Quail Flat, Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia Conservation Park.

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Maintain and further develop consultation and co-operation with tangata whenua on conservation issues.	Outcomes Strategy Undertake meaningful ongoing consultation with iwi and tangata whenua on specific local conservation issues.	Pg 33/ 4.2.4	Treaty Claims Settlements progress: Ngati Kuia, Rangitane and Ngati Apa have signed Deeds of Settlement and are now awaiting settlement legislation for the Deeds to become unconditional. The settlements were negotiated between the settlement Trust (on behalf of iwi) and the Office of Treaty Settlements (on behalf of the Crown), with the Department of Conservation and other government agencies providing support to the Office of Treaty Settlements. Each settlement contains details of cultural redress which includes conservation land. Ngati Toa and Tainui Taranaki ki te Tonga have reached Agreement in Principle with the Crown, but are still in the phase of detailed negotiations. The claimants and the Crown are working on the finer detail of the settlements to agree draft Deed of Settlements that can be put to the claimant communities for ratification. Tainui Taranaki ki te Tonga comprises Te Atiawa ki Te Tau Ihu, Ngati Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Koata and the Wakatu Incorporation on behalf of the Wai 56 claimants. A cultural redress package which includes conservation land will also form part of these settlements.
			Around the conservancy consultation with iwi regularly takes place as an integral part of developing conservation and recreation projects. Staff regularly attend Manawhenua ki Mohua and Tiakina te Taiao meetings to consult about conservation work. Recent examples include the robin transfer from Canaan to Adele Island and proposed 1080 operations. The upgrade of the visitor interpretation and displays at Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre last year was carried out with the close involvement of Ngati Apa and before the displays were officially opened, they were blessed by Ngati Apa. Manawhenua ki Mohua are closely involved in the planned upgrade of facilities and interpretation of Te Waikoropupu Springs and in Motueka dialogue with iwi is taking place about the management of the Riwaka Resurgence. In Kaikoura, there is on-going tangata whenua involvement as partners in the development of the Kaikoura Peninsula walkway and the Hutton's shearwater restoration project. A hui was held at Takahanga Marae between rünanga members, concessionaires and the department to build relationships between concessionaires and tangata whenua and gain a better understanding by concessionaires about tangata whenua cultural values.

	In the Sounds there is ongoing dialogue with tangata whenua over species transfers, such as transferring saddleback from Motuara Island to Long Island; Rowi kiwi from the West Coast to Blumine Island; and Duvaucel's gecko from North Brother Island to Long Island. Iwi were consulted about rat and possum control using 1080 in the Tennyson Inlet area. Iwi were also consulted about the development of the interpretation for the pou whenua at Ship Cove.
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CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Encourage community participation in conservation	community Create greater 4.2 participation in opportunities for	Pg 33/ 4.2.5	Community conservation projects continue to be supported by the Department, with new groups continuing to emerge all the time. A number of these projects have iwi involvement and numerous other agencies also support them. Community groups undertake planting, pest control (eg stoat, possum, rats and wasps), eradicating weeds and improving conservation habitat, species protection and track maintenance. The Department works alongside these groups on conservation, recreation and historic projects. Many of these groups are now achieving significant outcomes and the ongoing challenge for the Department will be not only to maintain (both financially and in staff support) existing groups but also be available to respond to/support new initiatives as well.
			Opportunities for volunteers to get involved in conservation across the conservancy also remain strong. Some examples of things that have been taking place over the last 18 months follows.
			Sounds Area Much of the work carried out by communities in the Marlborough Sounds with the support of the Department focus on either pine removal or animal pest control. This work takes place across the Sounds in many places (as summarised in the last CMS implementation report for the Board).
			The Sounds Area continues to work closely with the Kaipupu Point Trust on the restoration of Kaipupu Point and with the Mistletoe Bay Trust on the development of the Mistletoe Bay Eco Village. The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust continues to make good advances in removing wilding pines, with the support of the Department and other agencies. Having controlled an estimated 25,000 wilding pines in inner Queen Charlotte Sound, the Trust has now set its sights on targeting wilding pines on D'Urville Island and in Kenepuru Sound this spring and summer. It has secured more than \$180,000 for this latest phase of control work.
			Public day trips are held to Maud Island over the summer period and a range of volunteer programmes are run in the Marlborough Sounds, with support & sponsorship from local & national businesses. Volunteers are involved in the restoration and enhancement of Blumine Island, Chetwode Island, Long Island, Takapourewa and Maud Island as well as Moawhitu on D'Urville Island. The Department also participates jointly in Garden Marlborough with Marlborough District Council staff.
			Former whalers continue to be among the volunteers that assist the annual Cook Strait Whale Survey which has now run over eight winters. The survey is assessing humpback whale recovery since commercial whaling ceased in New Zealand in 1964. The team had its most successful

Encourage community participation in conservation

Strategy 1 cont'd Create greater opportunities for community involvement in conservation management

projects.

survey period yet this year, sighting 73 humpbacks over four weeks.

Motueka Area

In Motueka, the effort undertaken by Friends of Flora to control stoats and possums in an extended area around Flora and Deep creeks continues, with Great Spotted Kiwi returned to their project area last year.

The partnership between Torrent Bay residents, Tasman District Council and the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and DOC working on pest control around Torrent Bay, in the Abel Tasman also continues. The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust (a partnership between operators, the community and the department) has been working on pest control and planting. The Trust recently transferred robins from Canaan to Adele Island to increase the genetic diversity of the population.

Members of the Ornithological Society and Waimea Estuary Trapping group are controlling animal pests and predators on Motueka Sandspit and Bells Island. In Waimea Inlet, the Department, Nelson and Tasman District Councils and the community are pursuing several initiatives to protect and enhance habitat around the estuary and in tributaries.

More than 950 people took part in a Tasman Bay Big Beach Clean Up held for the first time for in November last year which cleared 10.4 tonnes of debris from 291 kilometres of coast. The beach clean up, led by the Motueka Area Office and supported by Tasman and Nelson councils and NELMAC, is to be held annually.

Golden Bay Area

Across Golden Bay a range of community conservation projects are still active:

- Onekaka Biodiversity group ongoing trapping at Washbourne Reserve and Onekaka coastline.
- Keep Golden Bay Beautiful riparian planting at Onekaka riparian restoration project and the Takaka oxbow (south of Paynes Ford).
- Friends of the Cobb the trapping network has continued to expand in the Cobb valley and now has met the Friends of Flora trapping network.
- Forest & Bird /Port Tarakohe / Coastcare— Stage 2 of the Tarakohe breakwater penguin habitat project completed. Concrete ramps planned for this year.
- Coast Care dune restoration at Motupipi sandspit continues, now focusing on rear dune species.
- Payne's Ford Conservation Group planting, animal pest and weed work in the Reserve. 1.5
 ha of flats were planted in the spring of 2010 with volunteer help at four planting days and
 funding from the Cobb Mitigation Fund.
- Parapara Valley Environment Group trapping and weed control in the Parapara Valley.

Encourage community participation in conservation

Strategy 1 cont'd

Create greater opportunities for community involvement in conservation management projects.

- OSNZ rock wren project trapping stoats and researching rock wren at Lake Henderson.
- OSNZ wader project monitoring of waders at Farewell Spit.
- Friends of Mangarakau restoration of a wetland; predator trapping at the Mangarakau snail colony.

Volunteers also help out with some of the Department's conservation programmes. The Totaranui weka project (re-introducing weka to Totaranui) continues with local volunteers maintaining the trapping grid. At Pillar Point in western Golden Bay, a local volunteer and concessionaire maintain the trap lines at the shearwater colony. A local volunteer and concessionaire also maintain trap lines on the Tata islands. Volunteer programmes were run again at Farewell Spit and another programme was run at Canaan building mountain bike tracks.

Hundreds of volunteers also assisted in refloating a pod of pilot whales that stranded three times over three days in February off the base of Farewell Spit. They included Project Jonah volunteers from around the country, Golden Bay and Tasman locals, and tourists. Although 17 whales died, another 67 whales were finally successfully refloated.

Nelson Lakes Area

Friends of Rotoiti - community involvement continues to be high in the "Mainland Island' project, trapping on the boundaries. Friends of Rotoiti will celebrate its 10th anniversary in November 2011.

Planting and weed work continue along the Black Valley Stream with involvement from the community and local school. The Murchison Environmental Care Group carries out riparian planting and stoat/rat control on conservation land; and the Rotoroa Environmental Care Group is carrying out stoat & rat trapping around the Rotoroa township on private land and in the national park.

A lot of volunteer activity in Nelson Lakes happens around requests from other groups, such as the trainee rangers programme, Conservation Corps, the armed forces and Pacific Discovery. Pacific Discovery offer volunteer activities to 12 USA students for a week a time.

Nelson Lakes has also put significant effort into developing and publicising a new structured volunteer programme within this period. Planned opportunities are:

- Travers /Sabine Circuit hut wardening circuit wardened by volunteers two at a time for two weeks periods, from December to April.
- Camp host campervan association volunteers, two at a time December to April, checking camp bookings and disseminating basic information at Kerr Bay and West Bay campgrounds.
- Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project volunteer ranger one person a time for between two and six

Encourage	Strategy 1		weeks, from August to April, working alongside our staff in the mainland island.
community cont'd participation in conservation opportunities for		 Lake Rotoroa 'beech clean_up' – four persons for one week cleaning up surplus science materials off Mt Misery December 2011. 	
Conconvation	community involvement in		 Sabine Hut 'spruce up' – four persons for one week painting the interior of Sabine Hut – Nov/Dec 2011.
	conservation management projects.		 Fyfe / Sandstone trapping – one person at a time for three trips trapping to protect whio in the Fyfe Sandstone catchment, Kahurangi National Park.
projects.		South Marlborough Area In South Marlborough coastal habitat restoration at Rarangi Beach, Grovetown Lagoons and Onamalutu Scenic Reserve continues with community and tangata whenua involvement. The Hutton's Shearwater Trust continues to go from strength to strength with a predator-proof fence now erected on the Kaikoura Peninsula and birds returning to breed there. The Department is working in partnership with Kaikoura Runanga and District Council on the restoration of the Kaikoura Peninsula. The Marlborough Falcon Conservation Trust continues with its programme of supporting awareness and conservation of native falcons, with the Department's support. The Department also supports the Marlborough District Council to run the Marlborough Environment Awards on a bi-annual basis.	
		Trained volunteers have also worked with DOC staff in disentangling three whales in the past nine months. Several members of the Kaikoura community have along with DOC staff been trained in whale disentanglement procedures. In February, the DOC and community team cut free a tangled juvenile orca off Kaikoura; and in March, cut rope from a humpback whale, also off Kaikoura. In July, the team partially cut rope from another humpback whale in the Marlborough Sounds, with three mussel workers later cutting the remaining rope from the whale after it got caught in a mussel farm.	
	Strategy 2 Provide opportunities for community involvement in consultation such as through NGO meetings.	Pg 33/ 4.2.5	Members of the Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum and other key stakeholders have been involved in the development of the draft Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan. This plan was prepared with input from Tasman District Council and has been publicly notified for submissions. Community forums continue to provide a means for interested individuals and groups to talk with the Department about conservation matters and attract good regular attendance. Regular community forums are held in Nelson and Golden Bay. DOC staff also hold meetings or attend other groups' meetings as required.

Encourage community participation in conservation	Strategy 3 Utilise opportunities for involvement in co-operative projects with associates.	Pg 33/ 4.2.5	See Strategy 1 above.
	Significant Outcome 1 Establishment of Kumeras and Wakapuaka as community-based restoration projects.	Pg 34/ 4.2.5	The Kumeras community restoration project has been completed. The Wakapuaka project is continuing.
	Significant Outcome 2 Improved understanding, by communities, of the role of the conservation boards in guiding conservation management.	Pg 34/ 4.2.5	The public can attend Conservation Board meetings and participate in the public forum. The Minister of Conservation's annual media release on Conservation Board appointments highlights the role of the Board. Media sometimes attend board meetings and report on matters raised. Media releases and statements in relation to management plans have highlighted the role of the Conservation Board in their review and approval. These have included, in the past 18 months, media releases on the partially reviewed Kahurangi Park National Park Management Plan coming into effect, particularly the three year trial for mountain biking on the Heaphy Track, and the public notification of the draft Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan.
	Significant Outcome 3 Greater sharing of information. Significant Outcome 4 More efficient	Pg 34/ 4.2.5	There are numerous private initiatives for the protection and/or management of terrestrial biodiversity happening in Nelson/Marlborough which the Department supports by providing advice. See comments above for Strategy 1.
	achievement of conservation outcomes through joint programmes.		

Further
develop strong
public support for
conservation,
based on
mutual
understanding

Strategy Focus public awareness programmes on the groups within the community that have positive but weak support for conservation and building on

this. **Significant**

Outcomes Establishment of Picton as a nationally significant visitor information centre for the department. supported by an integrated network of information services throughout the conservancy.

Greater awareness of individual responsibility for conservation.

Greatly improved

Pg 34/ 4.2.6

The media is a major tool for communicating with the public to build support for conservation. understanding of conservation issues and the Department's work. We encourage and facilitate media coverage on conservation matters in Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy and the region's media do run a fairly high proportion of conservation articles.

We have promoted or assisted media coverage in the reporting period on a wide range of matters. We've promoted media coverage on court convictions to give a deterrent message including convictions for night hunting of deer at Totaranui, for riding a bike on the Wangapeka Track and on the taking of seven common geckos from Arapawa Island.

Other methods for raising public awareness have been used as appropriate including information handouts, displays, and an advertisement promoting awareness of Tasman Bay marine reserves and island sanctuaries targeted at a fishing audience.

A DOC regional visitor centre has been established within Nelson City (co-located with the Nelson/Tasman i-site) to provide integrated information for Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough. The Nelson Lakes icon visitor centre was upgraded in 2010 and provides specific interpretation displays relevant to the national park as well as safety and recreation information for visitors.

Education

The "Whitebait Connection" programme (renamed Waimaori in Nelson) is an action-based freshwater educational programme for schools, and their wider community, to help improve the health of their local stream and its catchment. It continues to be delivered by co-ordinators in the Nelson/Tasman region and South Marlborough and to a lesser extent in the Sounds Area Offices and Kaikoura.

In Nelson Lakes a "Kiwi Ranger" education programme has been introduced for children. This was developed by the Otago University design school and is promoted through the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre and on the internet. The 'Nelson Lakes National Park Junior Ranger Cup' education programme is run with the Lake Rotoiti School each year.

The annual Cook Strait Whale Survey provided a learning experience for school children through the online education programme LEARNZ.

Events are undertaken throughout the conservancy around: Seaweek, Conservation Week, World Wetlands Day and Arbor Day. These provided opportunities to raise awareness and celebrate conservation with both schools and communities and are generally collaborative efforts with iwi and other agencies. Golden Bay focused on whitebait during the 2010 Conservation Week and had DVDs running in their office, with live fish in aquaria and model pest fish on show.

Nelson Lakes staff held a Conservation Week event focused on increasing goat hunting pressure in awareness and understanding of the area by locals. Staff gave presentations to several classes at Murchison school, talking about how and where to go goat hunting and why hunting was a good thing (reducing the threat goats the department's role, especially in posed to threatened plants). They then made a goat curry and distributed the recipe for all to enjoy! rural communities. The Department regularly attends A&P shows, boat shows and the Havelock Mussel Festival as well as a variety of other local events, including the Nelson-based Eco-fest. The Department and Coastcare Golden Bay won the "Best Trade" stand at the Golden Bay A&P show in January 2011! They created a natural sand dune complete with all the indigenous plants and driftwood (with a live katipo) and a "spider dig" for young kids to find plastic spiders. An event to celebrate Matariki was held in Kaikoura last vear. The successful Tasman Bay Big Beach Clean-up was initiated and led by Motueka Area Office in conjunction with the local councils in November 2010. Website: ongoing work, creating and upgrading conservation and recreation information for the public. Up-to-date and comprehensive information is required for safety reasons as well as information purposes.

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Develop and co-ordinate recreational	Strategy 1 Aim recreation management at	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	The 'Parkmap' series of maps for Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks have been reprinted (or are being reprinted) due to continuing demand. The Mt Richmond Forest Park map (2 nd edition, 2009) has sold so well that a reprint is now underway.
opportunities in a way that preserves or	increasing public awareness of our heritage and		A poster depicting all the public backcountry huts in Nelson-Marlborough conservancy has been designed and will be printed next month.
enhances the current range of visitor	minimising its impacts on conservation and		Local recreation pamphlets are kept up to date and Great Walk booklets are updated annually. The conservancy also contributes to national publications included South Island Conservation Campsites and Great Walks and other tracks. All publications are on the Department's website.
experiences and preserves	social values.		Information has been put out on the Heaphy Track mountain bike trial and is focused on minimising impacts.
natural, historic and			The Queen Charlotte Track joint brochure and factsheet with the Queen Charlotte Track Land Co-operative has been very successful.
recreational values.	Strategy 2 Focus provision of	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	The Recreation Opportunities Review (carried out in 2003/4) recommended a number of upgrades which are progressively being implemented.
	high quality facilities for day visitors at key attractions.		Toilet and sewage work include: Totaranui sewage system upgrade, Totaranui Campground toilet block replacement, West Bay toilet rebuild, upgrade to Bark Bay sewerage system, Marfells Beach toilet, Isolated Hill toilets. Work underway includes Whites Bay septic system upgrade and a new toilet at the Grove (Golden Bay).
			Sections of the Abel Tasman Coast Track have been upgraded on a 5 year cycle.
			Wairau Lagoons track has been designed and trials for track construction are underway.
			The Destination Management Framework (DMF) is being implemented across the Department to increase visitor participation at high use frontcountry sites. The icon sites in Nelson/Marlborough are Te Waikoropupū Springs, Abel Tasman Coast Track, Kaikoura Peninsula walkway and Ship Cove. Gateway sites are Canaan Downs, Cobb Valley, Heaphy Track, Puponga Farm Park and Totaranui Campground.
			Te Araroa Trail - Daltons track formed (Department track connected to private track section).

Develop and a co-ordinate	Strategy 3 Maintain or enhance	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	Upgrading of assets and the strategic removal of others from some parts of the Conservancy have been undertaken, keeping in mind the protection of wilderness/remote experiences.
recreational opportunity in a way that preserves or	wilderness and remote experiences.		Angelus Hut rebuild was completed. The number of visitors staying at Angelus Hut (since the new hut was built and a seasonal booking system was introduced) has increased from around 2,500 bednights a year to 3,300 bednights a year.
enhances the current range of visitor			The Department has intentionally not upgraded tracks and facilities in remote areas in order to protect remote values.
experiences and preserves natural,	Strategy 4 Maintain and enhance public	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	A solution was reached with private landowners along parts of the Queen Charlotte Track to resolve access issues. The landowners have formed a co-operative and are charging people for walking and biking access across private land, which seems to have been well accepted.
historic and recreational values.	access to areas administered by the Department.		Work is continuing on negotiating a walking access agreement across private land on the left branch of the Wairoa River through to Mt Richmond Forest Park.
	Strategy 6 Encourage users to contribute to costs of	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	A booking system is in place for huts & camping sites on the Heaphy Track and the Abel Tasman Coast Track. The fee structure for hut & camp sites takes into account the range of user groups who use these sites.
	development and maintenance of huts and camping areas		The online seasonal booking system for Angelus Hut and campsite, Kerr Bay campsite and West Bay campsite was successful and will be continued.
	without charging for access.		Heaphy Track mountain bikers have donated \$10,000 for track work on the Heaphy Track.
	Strategy 7 Advocate for the maintenance and enhancement of public access to the margins of rivers, lakes and streams,	Pg 34/ 4.2.7	The main means of enhancing protection of riparian and in-stream conservation values, and improving public access to riparian and coastal margins, are via input into plans and resource consent applications. The Department continues to assess plan changes and applications for resource consents that may affect access to and along rivers and the coast; and lodges submissions where necessary to promote the purposes of esplanade reserves/strips. These purposes include both protection of conservation values and enhancing public access.
	and to the coast.		The Department no longer has a role in considering Council applications for esplanade reserve waivers and reductions because all district plans in the conservancy are now operative. At the plan level the Department provided submissions on rezoning proposals in Richmond East, Nelson South and in the Marsden and Brook Valleys. These comments supported Council proposals to

Significant Outcome 1 Better facilities on Heaphy, Cobb Valley, Cobb- Tablelands-Flora, Wangapeka & Travers-Sabine- Speargrass Tracks, Queen Charlotte Walking Track, & at Pelorus Bridge, Waikoropupu Springs, Kaikoura Peninsula.	Pg 35/ 4.2.7	improve public access to and along the margin of Waimea Inlet and along water bodies in the area. Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council have approved a strategic plan for the Waimea Inlet. The Department is a signatory to the charter which sits behind this plan. The proposed Tasman Loop cycleway provides both opportunities to enhance public access to and along the margins of the Waimea Inlet. The Department has been an active participant in the design of the cycleway and provided advice on the conservation values present and on mitigation measures to minimise adverse effects on ecological and wildlife values. Work has continued to improve access and upgrade the Peninsula Walkway at Kaikoura – Whalers Bay track has been upgraded. Stage 4 South Bay lookout is complete. Paving is underway. Pelorus Bridge campsite bathroom and kitchen block has been rebuilt. Heaphy track has new bike racks at Perry Saddle, Saxon, James Mackay and Heaphy huts. There is a plan for three replacement huts; Perry Saddle (summer 2011/12), Heaphy hut (2012/2013) and James Mackay hut (2013/14) and replacement bridges: Swanburn bridge (October 2011), Gunner bridge (February 2012), Heaphy bridge (spring 2012), Lewis bridge (summer 2012/2013).
Significant Outcome 3 More closely manage	Pg 35/ 4.2.7	A national booking system for campsites along the Abel Tasman coast has been in place for six years now with positive results.
visitor impacts on the Abel Tasman Coast.		In 2009 weather events caused beach erosion at Mosquito Bay. Photo monitoring has shown that the beach has almost returned to its original shape/height.
		Photo monitoring was undertaken at 4 campsites to assess vegetation impacts from campers encroaching on bush margins. This will be a long term process.
		Track and toilet door counters are being used to monitor visitor numbers. Sewage and water flow monitoring is continuing, to ensure consent conditions are met both along the track and at Totaranui.
		Monitoring returns of passenger movements from foreshore concessionaires continues.

Intense short term visitor counts were carried out at Onetahuti and Tonga Quarry over 5 days in December 2010 and January 2011. Monitoring confirmed visitor numbers are below limits even on peak summer holidays.
The draft Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan, jointly produced by the Department and Tasman District Council, was notified for public submissions. This plan contains a number of provisions to address the issue of managing visitor numbers and impacts. These complement similar provisions in the Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan.

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Make the most of planning opportunities to influence local authority policies and planning for the benefit of conservation.	Strategy Encourage the Nelson/ Marlborough community to avoid actions that will compromise the basic ecological processes on which natural communities depend and advocating their protection.	Pg 35/ 4.2.8	Opportunities to engage with the community continue. Over the last year the Department has continued its involvement in a number of Council-led initiatives which advocate protection and management of natural areas. These initiatives include the South Marlborough Significant Natural Areas Working Group, Tasman Natural Areas Enhancement and Significant Natural Areas working groups, and the Kaikoura SNA Working Group (see Strategic Direction 4.2.2 above). The Department is a member of the Nelson Biodiversity Forum and participated in the preparation of three biodiversity action plans to complement the Nelson City Biodiversity Strategy. These action plans are commitments from the Nelson community to work together to protect and restore natural ecological functioning in three key areas within the city. These areas are the Brook Stream, Whangamoa River, and remnant coastal and lowland forest areas at Delaware Bay. Department staff provide conservation advocacy on resource consent applications and plan processes by way of liaison with applicants, other stakeholders and formal submissions. The technical expertise that the Department contributes to planning processes helps applicants and decision makers and the wider community appreciate the potential impacts of developments on ecological, cultural and historical values and results in positive conservation outcomes.

Make the most of planning opportunities to influence local authority policies and planning for the benefit of conservation.	Significant Outcome Recognition of key conservation goals in local authority policy statements and plans.	4.2.8	Resource Consents Number of notified consent applications received & assessed − 207; submissions lodged - 28. Particular issues addressed through submissions include: Proposals directly affecting public conservation land, including works on Kaiuma Bay Road & works (e.g. access tracks, coastal protection works) on Sounds Foreshore Reserve; Surface water takes affecting freshwater habitats/species, including takes from the Flaxbourne River (Marlborough) and proposals for a small hydro scheme on Waitui Stream (Golden Bay); and Applications involving use or modification of the coastal marine area, including proposals for a new sewer pipeline across the Waimea Inlet between Monaco and Bells Island; SH60/ Johnstone Loop Road intersection upgrade; applications for moorings adjacent to Scenic Reserves in the Marlborough Sounds; proposals to establish a salmon farm in Melville Cove (Port Gore); and renewal of consents for marine farms at Waitata Bay, Yncyca Bay and Admiralty Bay. Hearings attended − 6. Of the 28 decisions on applications where the Department had lodged a submission; 24 provided the outcome(s) sought by the Department or otherwise addressed issues raised to our satisfaction; and 4 provided the outcome(s) sought in part. No decisions were completely contrary to the outcome(s) sought by the Department. No appeals were lodged by DOC. Two consent appeals were joined. Of these, one has been resolved through mediation, with a favourable outcome; and one is still before the Environment Court. Plans All regional and district plans in the conservancy are all either operative or very close to being made operative. Departmental input into second generation plans, and changes to operative plans provide opportunities to advocate for further improvements in the plans. The Department continues to provide input
			to plan changes & variations by way of submissions, evidence at hearings, & occasionally appeals. Submissions lodged – Marlborough District Council Private Plan Change, Port Marlborough Waikawa Marina; Changes No 19 (Blackwood Street Rezoning) and 20, Nelson Resource Management Plan; Plan Changes 20 (Richmond East) and 22 (Mapua Ruby Bay), Tasman Resource Management Plan; on regional
			planning provisions for activities on the surface and beds of rivers and lakes in the Tasman Resource Management Plan; and on draft annual and long term council community plans prepared by Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council, in order to raise awareness of conservation values to the community and ir relation to activities carried out by these councils.

CMS Strategic Direction	CMS Strategies and Significant Outcomes	Page/ Section	Progress During 10/11
Ensure that land status recognises the natural, historic and recreational values and management requirements of land units.	Significant Outcome 1 Resolution of status and management regimes within Wairau Lagoons.	Pg 35/ 4.2.9	Resolution of Land Status inconsistencies has been on hold pending the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement process.
	Significant Outcome 2 Resolution of land status for North-west Nelson.	_	Kahurangi National Park gazetted April 1996. Remnant area of North West Nelson Forest Park is subject to Treaty Settlement negotiaions.
	Significant Outcome 3 Resolution of land status for Kaikoura Ranges.		The Ka Whata Tu O Rakihouia Conservation Park was gazetted in June 2008, resolving the land status for the Kaikoura ranges.
	Significant Outcome 4 Resolution of land status for areas administered by the department around Murchison and alongside Nelson Lakes National Park.		No significant issues are known to exist at present.