

BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY UNIT

Roles and Responsibilities

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CONTENTS		page
1.0	Long Term Goals of the BRU	1
2.0	Using the Roles and Responsibilities Filter	3
3.0	Roles and Responsibilities Filter Analysis	5
3.1	Kakapo	5
3.2	CITES	6
3.3	New Organisms	8
3.4	Predators	9
3.5	Threatened Species	11

1.0 Vision

The vision for each of the five key functions of the Biodiversity Recovery Unit (BRU) are outlined here.

1.1 NATIONAL KAKAPO TEAM

- Through a combination of species and ecosystem management, research, and technical services, ensure the kakapo move from the IUCN ranking of "Extinct in the wild" to "Endangered" and, from Category A to Category B in the Department's ranking system.

1.2 CITES

Provide technical services and border support functions to:

- Detect and prevent international commercial trade (import or export) involving species of fauna and flora listed in the First Schedule of the Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Act.
- Permit only legal (documented) international trade of those species of fauna and flora listed in the Second Schedule of the TIES Act.
- Promote and maintain a high level of public awareness of, and support for, CITES objectives.

1.3 NEW ORGANISMS

Provide technical services and advice to:

- Encourage judicious use of new organisms in combating conservation pests and weeds and minimise the risk from introductions of new organisms for commercial and other uses.
- Minimise the risk the inadvertent introductions of harmful new organisms through trade and travel.

1.4 PREDATORS

Provide technical services and advice to:

- Ensure the most effective predator control techniques available are being used in species and ecosystem recovery programmes.
- Train staff to undertake predator control programmes.
- Disseminate information so that staff remain up to date on the latest techniques and developments.

- Audit and debrief eradication and control operations to maximise the learning opportunities

1.5 SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES

Provide technical services and advice to:

- Maximise the number and efficiency of Recovery programmes Category A, B and C species, including marine species and for threatened communities.
- Ensure that effective and integrated recovery programmes are being undertaken by appropriately skilled staff.
- Through training and dissemination of information, ensure that the most effective recovery techniques are being used.

2.0 Using the Roles and Responsibilities Filter

2.1 OVERVIEW

The roles and responsibilities filter is designed to assist persons outside BRU with determining if an issue falls within the sphere of duty of the BRU, and if so, the primary contact (within BRU) for that issue. The BRU has a diverse range of functions, focusing primarily on issues of national importance. However, many of BRU's responsibilities overlap with responsibilities of the Regions and Conservancies, and it is in these areas where the filter will be of particular use.

The filter focuses primarily on provision of technical services to field operations and planning. Additionally, the Unit provides input into national policy development, national training, technology development and other national services.

We encourage you to contact us if you are in doubt and we will endeavour to provide the service or information needed or refer you to others who can help.

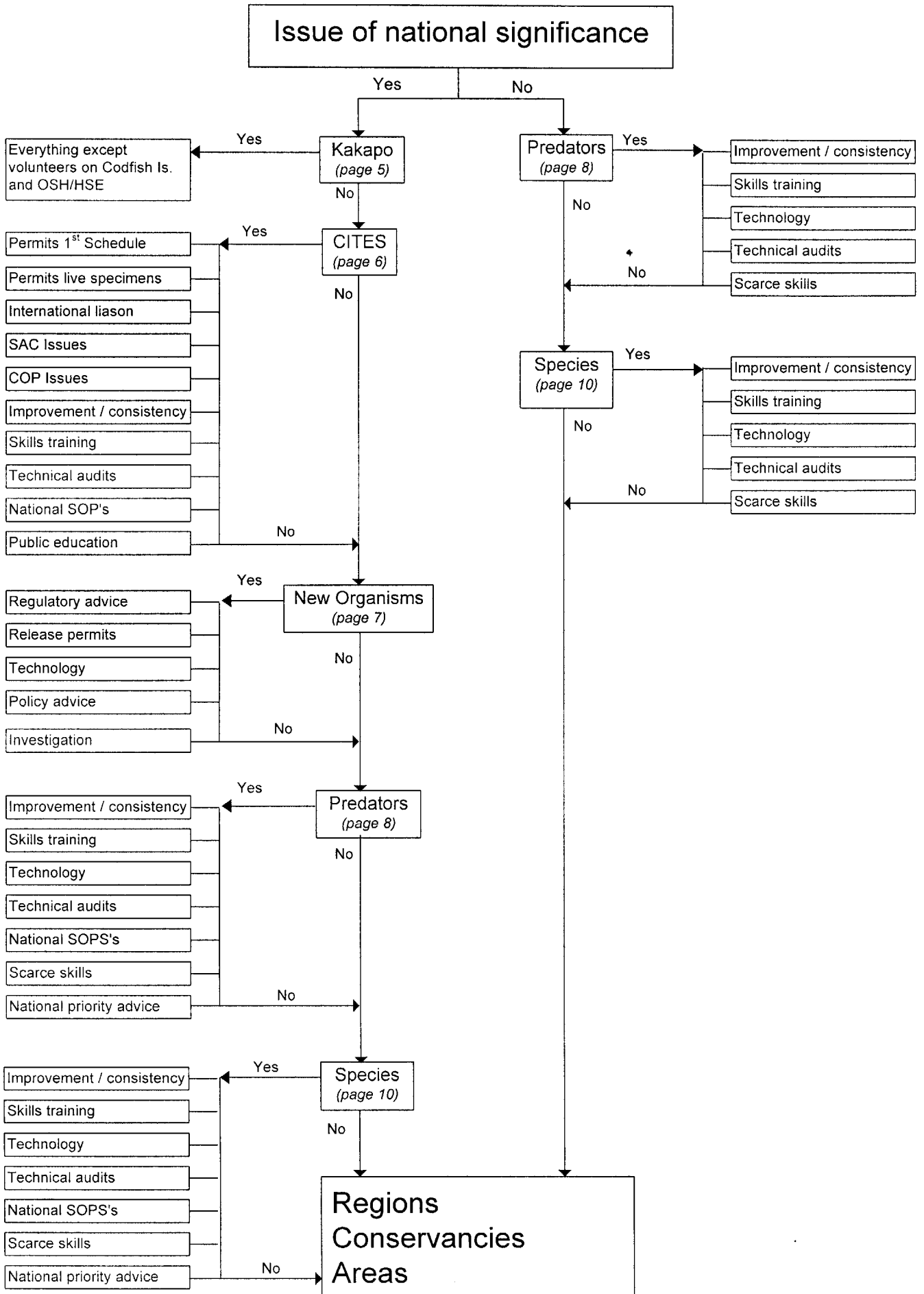
2.2 OPERATION

The BRU Roles and Responsibilities Filter is shown in Figure 1. A detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of BRU is provided in section three (Roles and Responsibilities Filter Analysis). Firstly, establish if your issue is of national significance. If not, it is most likely that the issue can be dealt with at the Conservancy or Regional level. There are two areas where a local issue may be relevant to the BRU. These are issues to do with threatened species or ecosystems and predator control, and are located on the right hand side of the filter (Figure 1). To refine the role, and to determine your first point of contact within BRU, refer to the appropriate page in section three.

If the issue is a national one and falls within one of the five main areas of kakapo, CITES, New Organisms, Predators and Species it is most likely that BRU will have a role. Once again, work through Figure 1 (this time on the left hand side of the filter) to determine your first point of contact within BRU. Refer to the page indicated in section three for a more detailed description of the BRU roles and responsibilities, and for contact details.

There will be some national issues which are not represented in the role boxes or in the Roles and Responsibilities Filter Analysis. These issues should be referred back to your Conservancy or Regional Office for action, where BRU may become involved at the request of the Regional General Manager.

FIGURE 1. BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY UNTI ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



3.0 Roles and Responsibilities Filter Analysis

3.1 NATIONAL KAKAPO TEAM

Primary contact: Paul Jansen

Overview

The National Kakapo Team is responsible for the management of kakapo on the four islands where they are currently held, and in any locations where they may live naturally. All issues involving, or that are likely to involve kakapo, must be channeled through the National Kakapo Team.

Activities undertaken

- all husbandry and care of kakapo
- all searches for or sightings of kakapo
- volunteer organisation on Little Barrier Island. Volunteers for other islands are processed through the conservancy volunteer coordinator
- media enquiries pertaining to kakapo
- public enquiries pertaining to kakapo
- logistics and accommodation on Codfish Island only
- all business planning issues and funding
- review of recovery planning and strategic direction for recovery of kakapo
- develop policy and procedures for the management and recovery of kakapo

Notification required of

- poison/trapping operations on kakapo islands
- predator invasions on kakapo islands
- visitation to islands that will impact on kakapo operations
- Conservancy/Area operational standards
- intended changes to conservancy kakapo support regimes

Technology

Provision of advice on technological advances and equipment (e.g., video, telemetry, incubators, field computers/data collection) where this may have application to other species recovery programmes in species monitoring,.

Skills Training

Provide skills training opportunities for departmental staff in close order species management

Field Operations

The Unit provides field operations for the recovery of kakapo. At all times staff operating in the field fall under the responsibility of Area Managers and training standards for HSE and accident/rescue situations. Field operations must, therefore, comply with Area Managers requirements.

3.2 CITES

Primary contact: Dick Hutchinson

Overview

The CITES Team is the primary support arm for the CITES Management Authority. It provides the primary point for contact with the Convention Secretariat, other management authorities and Conferences of the Parties. All permits for live and First Schedule specimens are actioned here along with national support and advisory services.

Permits - First Schedule

All applications, correspondence and enquiries concerning international trade in specimens of any species listed in the First Schedule of the Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Act 1989 (cf. Appendix I of CITES).

Permits - Live Specimens

All applications, correspondence and enquiries concerning international trade in live specimens under the TIES Act 1989, including obtaining non-detriment findings and other advice from the Scientific Authorities Committee.

Improvement/consistency

Any questions or issues involving CITES/TIES Act trade documentation issuance procedures, specimen disposals, performance reporting, border administration, legislative amendments and annual report requirements.

Policy

Provide input into the development of national policy, strategic direction, legislative reform and their implementation.

Scientific Authorities Committee

All support services to the Committee, including provision of agenda papers and correspondence.

Skills Training

All MAF/Customs training requirements in respect of CITES/TIES Act administration at the New Zealand border and all introductory/refresher training requirements of Department staff assigned CITES/TIES Act administration responsibilities.

Technical Audits

Any issues involving CITES/TIES Act administration procedural compliance and performance quality, as carried out by Department staff, MAF Quarantine Services and Customs Department.

National Standard Operating Procedures

Confirmation of the need for, preparation and periodic review of, Standard Operating Procedures applicable to any aspect of CITES/TIES Act Administration/policy development for which national consistency is necessary or desirable.

3.3 NEW ORGANISMS

Primary contact: Michael Cameron

Overview

The New Organisms team is the primary contact point in DoC for applications to introduce or release new organisms in New Zealand. The team interfaces with MAF and other agencies to ensure appropriate actions are taken in any release proposals. Contact for advice or access to networks on any matters concerning release and use of new organisms.

Regulatory Advice and Policy

Advice to appropriate regulatory authorities on all applications, correspondence and enquiries concerning importation of new organisms. Provide input into policy development and legislative reform, noting that these are led by MAF and other agencies.

Permits - Release onto Conservation Land

Processing of applications by conservancies to release new organisms onto conservation land.

Technology

Information transfer on use of biocontrol agents to address pest and weed problems over the conservation estate.

Biosecurity advice

Technical advice for the development of biosecurity policy and for the response to biosecurity issues as they arise.

Investigation

Assessment of conservation merits of applications to import new organisms as biocontrol agents to address conservation pest and weed problems.

3.4 PREDATORS

Primary contact: Ian McFadden

Overview

The team's primary function is to ensure that project staff have access to, and training in, the best practices in operational planning and delivery. The team will provide procedures, advice and rapid transfer of technological developments between field programmes and from research to field application. The team will develop an action plan to meet the Department's strategic directions for island pest eradications and for control operations as part of integrated ecosystem management. Audit and debrief will be used to maximise learning experiences. Specialist skills will be made available to field programmes on request, to assist with operational planning or field delivery.

Improvement/Consistency

Any queries involving the best methods to control or eradicate predators, including operational planning, and bait, trap and lure types.

Skills Training

Staff training in predator control/eradication, in the field or through workshops and training courses. Work in conjunction with the Training Unit to provide technical input into the design of a national training programme and its implementation.

Technology

Information and advice on the latest technological developments, including new baits, new or modified methods of use, research findings concerning impacts on non target species, environmental effects of toxins, and research in progress. Technological development may originate through research field programmes (national or international) or in technology development projects run by the unit. Advice on equipment purchase will be available. Applications to register new toxins or obtain experimental use permits for all animal pest control operations will be actioned and a database of registered toxins and toxin labels will be maintained.

Technical Audits

Review of operational plans for eradication of predators from islands and operational plans for control operations, if requested. Audit of programme outcomes to assess success in achieving goals, new developments and techniques or any improvements achieved. Operation of the Island Peer Review Group will be maintained, with roles in review of operation plans, audit, transfer of information and provision of advice on priorities.

National Standard Operating Procedures

Assessment of the need for, preparation and periodic review of Standard Operating Procedures for the eradication or control of predators, to achieve the best practice. Documentation of legal obligations.

Scarce Skills

Provision of field or operational planning assistance for the control or eradication of predators where the skills and experience are not available locally and transfer of information on recent technical advances or field experience.

National Priority Advice

Preparation of a long-term (10 year) programme for eradication of predators from offshore and outlying islands. Preparation of an action plan for control of predators on the mainland (in conjunction with the mainland island and other ecosystem restoration programmes). Provision of advice to Regional General Manager's on the annual priorities to implement the programme and action plan.

Policy

Provide input into the development of national policy, strategic direction, legislative reform and their implementation.

3.5 SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES

Overview

The primary function of the team is to optimise species recovery potential in both operational planning and delivery. BRU will foster initiatives to integrate species recovery with threat mitigation and ecosystem recovery initiatives. It will work closely with research and field operations, including parallel programmes in mainland islands. It will provide training, procedures, advice and rapid transfer of technological developments between field programmes, and from research to field application. The team will identify national priorities and work with regions on implementation programmes. Audit and operational debrief will be used to maximise learning experiences. Specialist skills and services will be made available to field programmes on request, to assist with operational planning or field delivery.

Improvement/consistency

Ensure that choice, and use of, threatened species recovery techniques uses best practice throughout New Zealand where appropriate. The team will also provide technical advice to regional offices to enable them to undertake their improvement roles.

National Standard Operating Procedures

Provide technical advice where sought on development of Standard Operating Procedures relating to threatened species recovery operations and planning, wildlife husbandry, wildlife health, and related initiatives. BRU will produce Standard Operating Procedures where specialist skills exist in BRU.

Skills training

The Threatened Species Team will provide practical assistance through, training of Departmental staff in species recovery skills (i.e. as part of field work), holding specialist workshops on threatened species recovery techniques, and tutoring at training workshops (e.g. Ecological Management modules). BRU will work in conjunction with the Training Unit to provide technical input into the design of a national training programme and its implementation.

Technology

Identification of new applications for technology, needs and improvements for technological solutions, and dissemination of information on new technology relating to threatened species.

Technical audits

Identify potential problems or deficiencies in species recovery programmes. Where requested by regional offices, assist in technical audits of selected species recovery programmes.

National advice

Identification and review of national priorities and long-term action plans for threatened species management. Technical input and advice to regional offices when requested on allocation of resources to threatened species programmes and/or NPR Technical input to Conservation Policy and External Relations Divisions relating to threatened species programmes. Technical input into recovery group meetings and threatened species recovery plans. Involvement in Science and Research programme groups for threatened species research.

Policy

Provide input into the development of national policy, strategic direction, legislative reform and their implementation.

Publications

Production of Rarebits, Ecological Management, and Threatened Species Occasional Series publications, Species Recovery Plans, Captive Management Plans and other reports as necessary.

Scarce skills

Provision of field and operational planning assistance for the recovery of species and habitats where skills are not available locally and transfer of information on recent technical advances and field experience. BRU holds a number of scarce specialist skills and will make these available to recovery planning, operational design, technique development and problem solving within the time available. It will endeavour to refer requests which it cannot service or does not hold the best expertise to respond to other providers. It will endeavour to actively maintain networks on key and critical issues.