

SECTION TWO
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2.1 A VISION FOR CONSERVATION IN THE EAST COAST CONSERVANCY

The Conservancy's function is to conserve the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand for the benefit of present and future generations. The following pages describe a vision for long term conservation on the East Coast (this CMS describes the ways in which the Conservancy will work towards achieving the vision over the next ten years). The elements of the vision have come from a series of public meetings, and have been combined with the aims of the legislation that the Conservancy works to. The vision is presented here in terms of what this Conservancy can do to contribute to it.

Regarding our Natural Heritage: The natural areas and resources managed by the Conservancy have been maintained and enhanced or rehabilitated as opportunities have arisen. The protection of their values, and public access to them has been managed according to the principal purposes of the relevant legislation. Te Urewera National Park is managed with an emphasis on preserving the natural values there in perpetuity. Management will foster recreation and allow tourism where these do not compromise natural values.

Biodiversity has been maintained through the protection of natural ecosystems, habitat and species. The range of habitats, and all indigenous life forms found throughout the Conservancy have been protected, and are managed with an awareness of their role in their habitats or ecosystems. The protection of representative or unique examples of natural and physical resources has been ensured, including significant examples of marine habitats, landforms, landscapes, rivers, lakes, wetlands and remnant forest. Threatened species including birds, freshwater fish, bats, reptiles, invertebrates and plants have been protected. The Conservancy works with local people to foster the protection of threatened species in their area.

The Conservancy has remained a key advocate for the maintenance and enhancement of our natural resources in general (including ecology, habitats, indigenous life forms, landscapes) through participation in statutory processes. Efforts have been made to identify and achieve legal protection for areas of significant natural and historic value in the region.

The management of natural areas is grounded in comprehensive baseline information on the natural values present. Management is planned and implemented through wide consultation with interested individuals and organisations including Tangata Whenua. Efforts are made to involve local communities in the on-going management of areas. The Conservancy has emphasised consultation in the management of natural values under its care.

Animal and plant pests in and adjacent to areas managed by the Conservancy have been controlled. Pest control methods are cost effective and do not pose any undue risk to the environment or public safety. Pests are controlled in a co-ordinated manner involving all agencies with pest control responsibilities and allowing for increased public and volunteer involvement. The Conservancy has contributed to the development of national initiatives and strategies for improved pest control.

The conservation of the marine environment of the Conservancy is given a high priority in recognition of the historical imbalance in terrestrial and marine protection measures. The Conservancy has contributed to the national network of Marine Reserves by endeavouring to gazette at least one representative marine reserve in each of the four biogeographic zones found wholly within the Conservancy's coastal area. Local communities have the opportunity to assist the Department in identifying the most appropriate sites within each zone. The Conservancy has

also supported formal protection of marine areas through alternative legislative mechanisms (eg Fisheries Act, Resource Management Act, Historic Places Act).

The Conservancy continues to advocate for the maintenance, enhancement or rehabilitation of freshwater values (including water quality) by other agencies. Impacts of land uses on the marine and freshwater environment have been identified and quantified. Indigenous freshwater fish species have been preserved, and the Conservancy has advocated the conservation of freshwater fisheries. Recreational freshwater fisheries have been protected, along with their habitat.

The Conservancy is heard on waste management and environmental issues affecting natural resources, advocating appropriate controls on development and use.

The Conservancy emphasises and maintains a strong field presence. The Conservancy is firm in implementing and enforcing controls where they are necessary. Soil and water conservation and the protection of native vegetation has been achieved through encouraging sustainable land uses in the community. The Conservancy has advocated for, and assisted with revegetation which has resulted in halting erosion, while acting to safeguard indigenous vegetation from development pressure.

Regarding our History: Historic resources administered by the Conservancy are known and documented. Our cultural heritage has been managed to practically minimise loss of values. Significant places have been managed to maintain or enhance their historic or cultural values, so that the best possible balance of the Conservancy's history is protected.

Where appropriate, historic resources have been interpreted in consultation with those who attach special significance to these places.

The Conservancy's work in cultural heritage conservation has reflected the significant priority accorded to it in this Conservancy. The Conservancy is firm in implementing and enforcing regulatory controls where they are necessary for the management of cultural and historic resources.

Our history is well known and is valued by the community. The Conservancy has contributed to the identification, recording and protection of historic resources in the region. The Conservancy has also remained a key contributor to the maintenance and enhancement of our historic resources in general, through participation in statutory processes.

Recognition is given, in the management of Te Urewera National Park, to the high value of the cultural and historic resources there.

Where landscape has natural or historic significance, it has been conserved. This work is based on adequate baseline information.

Regarding Recreation: Under the Conservation Act the department is given the responsibility of fostering recreational use of historic and natural resources and allowing their use for tourism, provided that this is consistent with conservation of these resources. Recreation activities and tourism initiatives take place where they do not compromise natural or historic values, or the rights of other users. The Conservancy has contributed to any national efforts to improve funding for impact management from the users who benefit financially from the activities involved.

The Conservancy has fostered a wide range of recreational activities. Recreation facilities have been established, maintained or enhanced as appropriate. The needs of all users and user groups have been considered. People are well informed about recreation and access opportunities. They are aware and considerate of protection measures needed to sustain the environment that they enjoy.

The creation of a network of track/walkway facilities has been encouraged. Legal access to riparian zones, especially to foreshore areas, has been facilitated through conservation advocacy.

Regarding Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi): The Conservancy has continued to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in carrying out its functions.

The management of natural and historic resources takes account where possible of the connections that iwi and hapu have to certain places. Wahi tapu and other historic taonga on land managed by the Conservancy have been protected in association with hapu, and the Conservancy has advocated for the protection of them in general.

When advocating for conservation of natural and historic resources, the Conservancy is sensitive to other aspirations that tangata whenua may have concerning use of their lands.

Regarding our Community: The Conservancy has investigated a variety of avenues by which local people can become more involved in conservation, and gain conservation expertise in the community. The community is involved in conservation management, and is willing and able to work in conservation, and to strive for conservation goals. The Conservancy has provided leadership, inspiration, guidance, co-ordination, information and action to the community in the protection of natural ecosystems and special places. The Conservancy has a positive, well developed profile in the community. It has won further recognition for the value of conservation, and has encouraged environmental enhancement as a balance to development.

The Conservancy works in an integrated way with different authorities to achieve practical conservation outcomes, accepting that associates also have an interest in achieving conservation outcomes and may be better resourced to carry out some tasks. The Conservancy has advocated for conservation priorities to be addressed in local and regional authorities' plans and policies. Rules and regulations (and the reasons for them), have been presented in a way that is easily understood, allowing for productive interaction with the community.

Community attitudes have developed with assistance from the Conservancy, to where there is consideration of the environment in our daily activities, and enforcement has become a rare last resort. Conservation is valued and viewed as a long term source of community well-being. The Conservancy has assisted in the education of children in the conservation ethic, partly through supporting conservation in school curricula. Information on conservation issues and environmental care is shared with the community.

2.2 KEY PRINCIPLES FOR CONSERVATION ACTION

The responsibilities of the East Coast Conservancy include management of approximately 500,000 hectares (being the largest area managed for protection purposes in the North Island). It also has some function for the protection of coastal marine areas, marine mammals and both terrestrial and aquatic native animal species. It is responsible, with the Historic Places Trust, for protection of historic sites and buildings. The Conservancy is generally empowered to protect and enhance natural and historic resources, to foster recreation and allow tourism in areas it manages, and to advocate for conservation generally.

In short, the Conservancy has wide responsibilities for conservation of natural and historic values, affecting both public and private land. The financial resourcing of the Conservancy ultimately determines the level to which these functions are undertaken, and it is widely acknowledged that resourcing can never be enough to fully achieve conservation goals. Achieving a balanced overall management strategy through careful prioritising of different management actions, has therefore become a crucial consideration in the development of this CMS, both within each management activity (eg protection of historic resources, animal pest control, species protection etc), and over the Conservancy as a whole.

A series of six key principles have been used as a basis for establishing priorities in this CMS. These principles are:

- *Priority will be given to the protection of threatened indigenous natural resources, threatened significant historic places, and nationally or regionally unique natural or historic resources.*

Explanation: These resources include threatened native plants, animals and ecosystems; and threatened historic places that are significant. These, once lost, are gone forever. The maintenance of nationally unique values which may not be threatened at present is included in this highest priority.

In relation to natural resources, namely plants, animals and ecosystems, the aim will be not so much protection of individuals but to maintain viable populations of plants and animals in their appropriate habitat. Since viable populations of plants and animals depend on the continued healthy functioning of ecosystems, the overall emphasis must be on maintaining, as much as possible, the continued healthy functioning of native ecosystems – wetland ecosystems, forest ecosystems, marine and freshwater ecosystems, particularly those which, separately or together, support an abundance and/or diversity of native species.

Historic resources within this category are those considered significant under the Historic Places Act registration criteria (*see Appendix 3*).

Protection of natural and historic resources of this nature will take priority over areas that do not have these resources or are of lesser value (because, for example, they support only a few remaining individuals of an endangered species, or because they have already been irreparably damaged).

- *Priority will be given to ensuring that the administration of the Conservation Act¹⁵ in the East Coast Conservancy, gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi through a working relationship with tangata whenua of the Conservancy.*

Explanation: The Conservancy's role is to manage this land on behalf of all people for conservation but with particular recognition to the Crown's treaty partnership with tangata whenua. Section 4 of the Conservation Act states that "the Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi".

The courts have indicated that the Treaty has created between the Crown and Maori a relationship akin to a partnership. Each party is obliged to act towards each other in good faith, fairly and honourably. Throughout this document expressions such as 'liaison and involvement', 'consultation' and 'fostering a relationship' with iwi describe the quality of the relationship intended i.e. one akin to a partnership and based on good faith, fairness and honour.

- *Priority will be given to conserving a representative range of historic resources and of indigenous natural resources as a means of conserving indigenous biological diversity, and a representative range of historic resources.*

Explanation: Many indigenous ecosystems, species and biological communities within the Conservancy cannot presently be considered nationally unique, rare or immediately threatened but nevertheless merit high priority. They include habitats which were once widespread but have become regionally rare or non-existent, (for example lowland and coastal forest and wetlands). They also include resources which are not yet considered rare in the Conservancy but show signs of long-term decline, (for example the pohutukawa, the native New Zealand pigeon, and the two native species of eel).

Representativeness as a concept applies also to historic resources, in the several themes which run throughout the history of the Conservancy, and historic places which reflect those themes. Protection of these resources helps retain natural and historic diversity on a regional basis over the long term.

- *Priority will be given to activities which raise public awareness and promote involvement in conservation.*

Explanation: Conservation problems are mostly caused by people. They are generally not so much problems of birds breeding too slowly, or invasion by introduced plants or animals, or erosion, or loss of genetic diversity, as disturbances to natural systems which are caused ultimately by people. They usually depend on human will and human action for prevention or correction, at least on a time scale relevant to people.

People need to be involved in management of land managed by the Conservancy because conservation land is public land and because their involvement is necessary to bring about long term change for protection of our natural and historic heritage. The Conservancy acknowledges that it has a special responsibility to facilitate public involvement and to provide leadership.

¹⁵ This obligation applies not only to the administration of the Conservation Act, but consequently to those Acts specified in the First Schedule of the Conservation Act as coming under the Department's administration (eg the Reserves Act 1977, the National Parks Act 1980).

- *Priority will be given to fostering recreation and allowing tourism in such a way as to ensure that the quality of the recreational experience is preserved and so that any impacts do not exceed the capacity of, or conflict with other legislative management purposes of, the areas in which they occur.*

Explanation: Legally, the public have right of access to almost all land managed by the Conservancy. In addition, public use and enjoyment of conservation land is a vital part of creating support for conservation. However, it is important that recreational use and tourism do not degrade the experience for which people come, or threaten natural and historic values. In some parts of the Conservancy, (for example, Anaura Bay and Lake Waikaremoana) visitor numbers and behaviour already threaten recreation and natural values. Therefore, recreational use and tourism need to be managed to ensure that the quality of the recreational experience is preserved, and so that the activities do not adversely impact on natural and historic values.

There may be scope for other uses of land managed by the Conservancy, provided they are consistent with conservation of natural and historic resources. Such uses can serve a conservation purpose by assisting management (e.g. grazing of historic sites by sheep).

- *Priority will be given to ensuring that cost recovery and rental charges from commercial uses of land managed by the Conservancy, and charges for facilities or services are managed to maximise financial benefits for conservation.*

Explanation: Uses of land managed by the Conservancy which involve a commercial return or a potential commercial return for the user shall be charged. Charges for recreation or tourism concessions will be determined in accordance with the relevant legislation. Non-recreational and non-tourism uses will be charged on a full cost-recovery basis for the cost of all administration and monitoring involved. They may also be charged an additional resource rental for use of the resource, particularly if the lease or agreement conveys an exclusive right of use (e.g. grazing leases) or involves a restriction on public access, or in other ways restricts the option of alternative uses and users (e.g. campgrounds, and telecommunication facilities).

The application of these principles is implicit in the objectives and implementation statements for the different management activities discussed in Section Three. The priorities for conservation action across the range of management activities and subregions in the East Coast Conservancy are summarised in the following section of the CMS (*s.2.3 refers*).

2.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT

This CMS outlines objectives and implementation intentions for a range of Conservancy management activities (*see Section Three*). These have been determined by a number of factors including legislative requirements, departmental policy and priorities, and regional priorities. The "key principles for conservation action" (*introduced in the previous section 2.2*) were also used to guide the development of the objectives and implementation presented in this CMS, as were the views and aspirations of local communities that were expressed during the CMS development process.

The "key principles" have also been used in a broader sense, in gauging the relative priorities for the different subregions and management activities in the context of the entire Conservancy. The resulting priorities are presented in this section to show how different management activities will be balanced. It is important to note that having priority means that the Conservancy will be emphasising a particular activity. The priorities will be used to guide annual business planning for conservation activities over the next decade.

This section sums up the messages which have come out of the strategic analysis of both places and functions. It aims to set the scene for the next ten years, while recognising that strategic planning for long-term conservation "visions" is a process spanning many decades, not just the next one.

Implications for Subregions

Each of the seven terrestrial subregions (*discussed in Section One*) has a distinct character. Each has a different mix of natural and historic values, and a different set of threats to them. The conservation management priorities for each place vary greatly as a result. Brief overviews of significant management priorities for each subregion follow:

Western Coast: The Western Coast is special for the extent of ecological diversity within a relatively small area. Most of the subregion is in private ownership. The coast is under pressure for land development, both residential near urban areas and forestry. Advocacy for conservation is therefore the main challenge for the Conservancy in this subregion. Priority issues include:

- ▲ Advocacy and negotiation with landowners, local bodies and other agencies for appropriate protection of values;
- ▲ Securing access to the coast, promoting establishment of walkways, monitoring of carrying capacities for coastal reserves, recreation awareness of visitor impacts, behaviour codes and safety issues;
- ▲ Advocacy for protection of freshwater fish habitat and passage needs, surveying of species distribution, management of vulnerable species;
- ▲ Plant and animal pest control (particularly goats), public awareness of pest issues;
- ▲ Advocacy for historic place protection from land development, consultation with tangata whenua, assessment of historic values (eg coastal transport themes), liaison with Historic Places Trust, survey and historic place protection (specified previously);
- ▲ Maintenance of information and visitor centre services, volunteer opportunities, media liaison;
- ▲ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua including consultation;
- ▲ Statutory advocacy for natural character, landscape, water quality and freshwater fish protection in local or regional government processes;
- ▲ Advocacy for marine fisheries conservation, negotiation for Marine Reserve establishment at Maraetai Bay and other areas, marine mammal rescues.

Eastern Coast: The East Coast is growing in popularity as a recreation and tourism destination. This trend, and the location in the subregion of Gisborne (the Conservancy's largest urban centre) dominate as considerations in conservation management within the subregion. The area is also subject to development pressure, particularly in the coastal environment and on historic resources. Priority issues include:

- ▲ Enhancing appropriate recreation access to the coast, development of recreation opportunities at Anaura and Cook's Cove, further development of walkways, increasing public awareness of visitor impacts, health and safety issues;
- ▲ Advocacy for protection of freshwater fish habitat (such as whitebait spawning areas) and fish passage issues, public awareness of these issues;
- ▲ Animal and plant pest control (including goat and possum control at Waimahuru Bay Scenic Reserve), especially in association with recreation opportunities, advocacy and liaison with other agencies over pest control issues, fencing;
- ▲ Restoration of natural values in areas managed by the Conservancy;

- △ Public awareness issues in general, emphasising visitor centre services, interpretation, education, media;
- △ Fire prevention and control, particularly near Gisborne;
- △ Historic conservation at Cook's Landing Site, Cook's Cove, and historic covenant areas, survey of historic values and threats (specified previously), advocacy and public awareness of historic values, liaison with Historic Places Trust, consultation with tangata whenua, particularly over historic resource management;
- △ Statutory advocacy for conservation of the coastal environment, natural elements (including landscape), water management and historic resources;
- △ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation;
- △ Coastal environment and fisheries advocacy, negotiation for the establishment of Marine Reserves at Kaiora and other areas;

Southern Coast: The Southern Coast subregion is mostly in private ownership, and in pastoral use. Tourism and coastal recreation are growing in importance in the subregion, with attendant development pressures on natural (including marine) and historic values. Advocacy for protection of values (through statutory processes and informal negotiation with community groups and tangata whenua) is the key to the Conservancy's involvement in this subregion. Priority issues include:

- △ Increasing knowledge of lagoon, wetland and estuary values and threats;
- △ Maintenance of appropriate access to the coast for recreation;
- △ Advocacy for freshwater fish passage, maintenance of habitat (particularly whitebait spawning areas), resolution of eel fishery conflicts, species distribution surveys, liaison with Eastern Region Fish and Game Council over game issues;
- △ Animal (stock) pest control fencing, assessment of values at threat, control of plant pests, liaison with other agencies;
- △ Development of management guidelines for Whakamahi Lagoon Scenic Reserve;
- △ Maintenance of volunteer and education opportunities;
- △ Advocacy for historic protection, liaison with Historic Places Trust, survey (areas identified previously) and historic places protection e.g. covenants;
- △ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation;
- △ Fire prevention and control especially near Wairoa;
- △ Statutory advocacy for protection of remnant vegetation, natural character and landscape, wetlands, water quality and the coastal environment generally, advocacy for sustainable land and water management;
- △ Advocacy for the establishment of a representative marine reserve in the Mahia biogeographic zone.

Te Urewera: Te Urewera subregion comprises Te Urewera National Park and outlying areas which are managed similarly. The majority of the subregion is therefore managed by the Conservancy for National Park purposes. Te Urewera is turangawaewae to Tuhoe, many of whom live in enclaves of private land within the Park. Recreational use of areas managed by the Conservancy is high in this subregion, and challenges the Conservancy to manage recreational use to ensure protection of natural and historic resources. Priority issues for Te Urewera subregion include:

- △ Monitoring of ecosystems, whole ecosystem management proposals in the northern Urewera;
- △ Provision of recreation facilities, impact management, public awareness, maintenance of major opportunities around Lake Waikaremoana environs, development of opportunities in the Horomanga and Waimana areas, encouragement of under-represented recreation

- users, maintenance of Search and Rescue capability, monitoring of carrying capacities, management of access issues and concession activities;
- ^ Resolving freshwater fish passage issues, management of introduced fish interaction, resolution of eel fishery conflicts, species distribution surveys;
 - ^ Threatened species management (eg kokako), species surveys, consultation over traditional use issues, management of species permitting;
 - ^ Plant and goat pest control on fringes of Park, possum control in northern Urewera in conjunction with threatened species and whole ecosystem management, fencing, hunter and concessionaire awareness of impact issues;
 - ^ Active management of several historic sites (specified previously), historic resource survey, advocacy for protection in other areas (e.g. covenants), management of Aniwanuiwa Museum, consultation;
 - ^ All public awareness issues, particularly interpretation, information, visitor centre services, provision of volunteer opportunities;
 - ^ Investigate classification of outlying reserve areas to ensure compatible management with the National Park;
 - ^ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation;

Waioeka: The Waioeka subregion provides a range of accessible back country opportunities. The Waioeka Gorge gives the Conservancy a chance to present natural and historic values to a relatively captive audience. The development of a "conservation corridor" is planned for the area over the term of this CMS. Priority issues for the Waioeka subregion include:

- ^ Advocacy for protection of remnant lowland forest, increased ecological information;
- ^ Management of opportunities and facilities, public awareness of waste, safety and impact management issues, development of Urutawa opportunities;
- ^ Management of introduced fish species interaction, species surveying, public awareness of freshwater fish issues;
- ^ Threatened species management, species surveys, consultation on and management of traditional kiekie use;
- ^ Plant and animal pest control, hunter awareness of impact issues;
- ^ Active management of three historic places, interpretation (particularly in Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve), survey completion;
- ^ Further development of public awareness (site interpretation, information) in the Waioeka Gorge area, investigate sponsorship;
- ^ Fire prevention and control;
- ^ Investigate classification of Waioeka reserve areas bordering Te Urewera National Park to ensure compatible management;
- ^ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation;
- ^ Statutory advocacy for protection of remnant native vegetation and habitats, sustainable land and water management.

Raukumara: In the Raukumara subregion the Raukumara Conservation Park dominates. Much of the subregion is thus managed to maintain its wilderness recreation values, intact ecosystems, and for soil and water conservation. However there are substantial areas in private ownership between the Park and the coast which contain important ecosystem values. In addition, although a large part of the area is formally protected, its management would benefit from increased knowledge of the natural and historic values, both on conservation and private lands. Priority issues include:

- ▲ Advocacy and negotiation with landowners and other agencies for appropriate protection of values;
- ▲ Monitoring of carrying capacities for wilderness recreation, recreation awareness of visitor impacts and safety issues;
- ▲ Management of vulnerable freshwater fish species, and general species protection;
- ▲ Animal and plant pest control, particularly in Ecological Areas, liaison with landowners to prevent pest liberations;
- ▲ Protection of historic places, consultation with tangata whenua over places, survey assessment of historic values;
- ▲ Investigation and possible review of reserve status;
- ▲ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation.

Tairāwhiti: Tairāwhiti is the largest subregion in the Conservancy, characterised by substantial modification to the natural values within it. Erosion is an ongoing concern, and appropriate land use practices to ensure ecological sustainability are essential. The Conservancy manages many reserves, scattered throughout the subregion, most of which are conservation "islands" given the modified environment surrounding them. Priority issues include:

- ▲ Increased information on natural values, negotiation for new protection of natural areas;
- ▲ Recreation management of high use areas such as Morere, Otoko and Gray's Bush (particularly issues relating to high use of small reserves), provision for changing visitor demands to more accessible recreation in fringe areas, encouraging under-represented groups, access issues, potential for walkway development;
- ▲ Advocacy against loss of freshwater fish habitat, resolution of eel fishery conflicts, species distribution surveys, management of culturally significant plant and animal species (particularly pressure on small source areas), threatened species management;
- ▲ Plant and animal pest control in high priority areas (specified previously), assessment of values under threat, public awareness of pest issues (eg liberations, hunting impacts), fencing, liaison with forest companies and regional authorities regarding mutual responsibilities;
- ▲ Provision of public awareness information, volunteer and education opportunities;
- ▲ Survey of historic resources (listed previously), participation in East Coast Forestry Project, advocacy and public awareness regarding protection of historic resources on private lands, liaison with HPT;
- ▲ Development of management guidelines for Te Puia Hot Springs Reserve;
- ▲ Fire prevention and control;
- ▲ Statutory advocacy for protection of remnant indigenous elements (including landscape) and historic resources, sustainable land and water management;
- ▲ Liaison and involvement with tangata whenua, including consultation.

In analysing each of the seven subregions examined in this draft CMS it is impossible, and inappropriate to say "this is the order of priority of the six places". Each is important in its own way, each has its own assemblage of conservation treasures, and each a multitude of threats, both current and potential. Together, the areas managed for protection of natural and historic values represent much of what is left of the "natural" East Coast Conservancy. An indication of the relative priority of the subregions within the Conservancy as a whole, is given at the end of this section.

Management Activities

The functions carried out by the Conservancy, and analysed in *Section Three* of this CMS, are derived from the legislation the Conservancy administers and from the specific outputs the Government wishes to purchase from the Department. While all functions must be carried out, the relative level of resourcing and activity in this Conservancy will be strongly influenced by the priorities presented in this CMS.

Consultation prior to and during the development of this CMS, provided the Department with some clear messages from the community. The strongest and most consistent messages were that priority should be given to maintenance and enhancement of natural habitat (including forests, wetlands, the marine area and rivers) in the Conservancy, primarily through protection activities such as pest control. The relationship between the Conservancy and tangata whenua, recreation, historic resource protection, advocacy and public awareness activities were also important. The strategic planning and analysis process involved in the preparation of this CMS has generally confirmed these public views, as follows:

In general terms the priority activities for areas managed by the Conservancy for the next ten years will be:

- ▲ Protection of ecosystems, habitats and species (a high priority in almost every subregion);
- ▲ Fostering a relationship with tangata whenua (having importance across the whole Conservancy);
- ▲ Historic resource protection (having high priority over the Te Urewera, Waioeka, Western and Eastern Coastal subregions, and urban);
- ▲ Public Awareness (having high priorities in the Tairāwhiti, Te Urewera, Waioeka subregions, and urban areas);
- ▲ Statutory Advocacy (with a high priority in all coastal subregions and urban areas);
- ▲ Recreation (high in the Tairāwhiti, Te Urewera and Waioeka subregions).

Summary of Priorities for Conservation Management in the Conservancy

While some will expect a very tight and specific listing of conservation priorities for the future, that is not what this draft CMS has produced. What it has done is provide clear guidance on strategic directions for the future.

Conservation management in this Conservancy for the next ten years (and beyond) should concentrate on an increased emphasis on the protection of natural and historic resources, and in fostering a relationship with tangata whenua. In general, activities will be emphasised most in the Te Urewera, Western Coast, Waioeka and Tairāwhiti Subregions. There will generally be less focus on activities in the Southern Coast and Raukumara Subregions.

The Atāwhai Ruamano exercise undertaken by the Department over the last few years has given corporate directions which are consistent with the trends discussed above, that is, to focus on protection of biodiversity, and on encouraging other organisations (and the community in general) to share the responsibility for provision of recreation opportunities and for advocating conservation.

The guidance provided by this document will be encompassed in the Conservancy's annual business planning and budgeting exercise, and the consequent detailed day-to-day work programming by staff. It may, in addition, inspire people outside the Department to take

conservation initiatives in their local areas. This co-operation and involvement of local people in conservation will be essential if the Department is to meet the challenges posed by this CMS.

2.4 IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND MONITORING

The Conservation Management Strategy is implemented through the Department's annual business planning process. Within the overall directions set by the Strategy, the annual business plan will detail the relative allocation of efforts and funds to the objectives and implementations of the strategy. The business plan must also be in accord with national priorities and the direction of Government.

Monitoring will be carried out to ensure that the CMS is being implemented effectively and that the provisions are still relevant to the conservation of natural and historic resources.

Section 6M(c) of the Conservation Act establishes one of the functions of the Conservation Board as "to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General [of Conservation] on the implementation of conservation management strategies". A process will be set up to give the East Coast Conservation Board an opportunity to review progress in achieving the strategic objectives and implementation provisions of the CMS at intervals throughout its 10-year life.

Processes for review and amendment of the CMS are provided for in sections 17H and 17I of the Conservation Act. The procedures for review and amendment are the same as those for preparation and approval of the strategy as set out in section 17F. Essentially:

- ▲ A review of the CMS as a whole or in part may be initiated at any time by the Director-General after consultation with the Conservation Board. The entire CMS may be reviewed not later than ten years after its approval, although the Minister may extend this period.
- ▲ Amendments to the CMS may be initiated at any time by the Director General after consultation with the Conservation Board.
- ▲ Where the proposed amendment is of such a minor nature that the Director General and Conservation Board consider the amendment will not materially affect objectives and implementation, the simpler process of paragraphs (k) and (p) of section 17F will apply and no formal public consultation will be required.
- ▲ Major amendments require formal public consultation, as set out in section 17F, before they can be considered for approval by the East Coast Conservation Board and New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Management Objectives

1. To ensure that the CMS is incorporated into the annual business planning processes, and implemented accordingly,
2. To consult with the East Coast Conservation Board on implementation of the CMS,
3. To ensure this CMS remains an effective planning document through ongoing monitoring, review and amendments as required.

Implementation

1. The Conservancy will prepare annual business plans and attendant work programmes with regard to the provisions of the strategy.
2. A meeting will be convened of the East Coast Conservation Board in the middle of each Board's three-year term to monitor implementation and recommend appropriate responses to changing circumstances.
3. The CMS will be reviewed or amended when:
 - directed by Director-General of Conservation,
 - general policy or government directions represent a significant departure from provisions of the CMS,
 - when monitoring indicates that the provisions in the strategy are impractical or have been superseded by new information or evidence,
4. The CMS Resource Inventory (Volume II) will be updated as required, providing changes do not materially affect any objectives or implementation statement in this CMS.