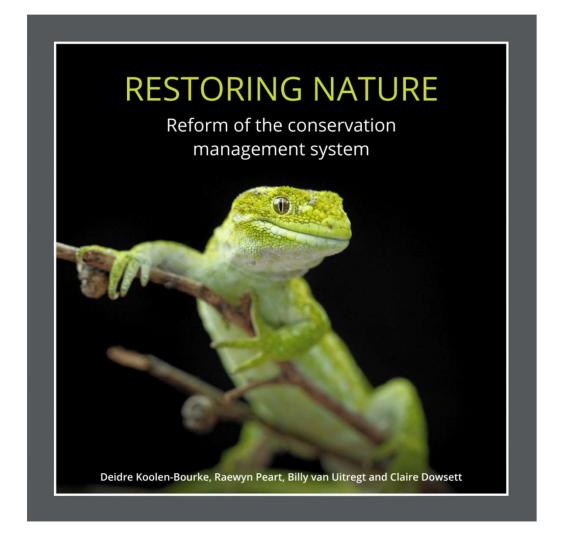
Conservation Law Reform

Summary of key findings, recommendations and options for reform



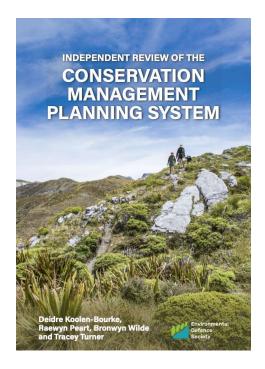
Dr Deidre Koolen-Bourke deidre@eds.org.nz



Core underpinnings of project







Clarify purpose

- Marked shift in conservation values since 1987
- Reformulate definition of 'conservation'
- Reflect climate change and biodiversity crises
- Build synergies between Te Ao Māori and mainstream conservation
- Provide clear purpose hierarchy



Provision for Māori

- Update General Policies to reflect s4
- Better align system with Māori values
- Consider Kura Taiao Council and Boards
- Enhance iwi management plans
- Facilitate customary use
- Mainstream Treaty governance arrangements
- Priority in conservation decision-making



Climate change

- Prioritise restoration (not maintenance)
- Support resilience of indigenous biodiversity
- Science-driven approach
- Incorporate climate into conservation planning
- Strengthen DOC's adaptation planning
- Address mitigation and adaptation in concessions system
- Provide more resources

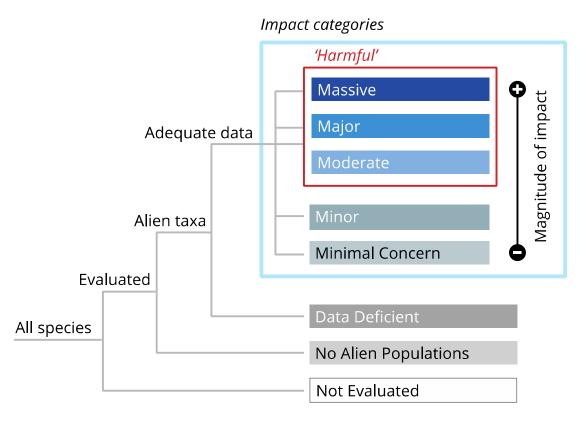


Introduced species

- Distinguish between introduced and indigenous species prioritising the latter
- Criteria to guide scheduling
- Threat management system
- Aligned terminology for harmful introduced species across statutes
- Clearer mandate for regional council pest management
- Strengthen Biosecurity Act's protection of indigenous biodiversity



ElCAT Category	Descriptor
Minimal concern	Impacts are characterised as negligible with "no reduction in performance of individuals in the native biota".
Minor concern	Causes reductions in the performance of individuals in the native biota, but no declines in native population sizes are evident, and there are no apparent impacts that would cause it to be classified in a higher impact category.
Moderate concern	Causes decline in population size of at least one taxon, but has not been observed to lead to local extinction of a native taxon.
Major concern	Causes community changes through the local or sub-population extinction of at least one taxon that would be naturally reversible if the alien taxon was removed. Impacts do not lead to irreversible local population, sub-population or global taxon extinction.
Massive concern	Causes naturally irreversible community changes to local, sub-population or global extinction of at least one taxon.



IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa categories and criteria

Tourism

- Define 'tourism' in Act
- Clarify where tourism sits in conservation hierarchy
- Explicitly address tourism in General Policies
- Link destination management plans with CMSs
- Stronger framework for concessions (including monitoring)
- Wider range of allocation mechanisms
- Fairer charging for concessions
- Statutory tools for demand management





Wildlife Act Reform

- Apply wildlife legislation to all taxonomic groups
- Focus on species protection, prevention of extinction, recovery and threat management
- Set clear hierarchy: Threatened species first, then indigenous, and then others
- Statutory recognition of taonga species and valued introduced species
- Threat management and recovery planning for threatened species
- Protect critical habitat: incentives scheme for habitat on private land
- Update permitting regime

Conservation management planning reform

Conservation Policy Statement

Replace Conservation General Policy and National Parks General Policy

Mandatory

Binding on Regional Conservation Plans and Consents

Finally approved by and binding on the Minister

National Conservation Standards

Prescribed National Standards

Binding on Regional Conservation Plans and Consents

Includes a Regional Conservation Plan template

Finally approved by and binding on the Minister

Regional Conservation Plans

Replace CMSs, CMPs and NPMPs with mandatory regionally-based plans

Plans must be consistent with the Conservation Policy Statement and implement
National Conservation Standards

Provide mandatory information on conservation values

Set objectives for integrated management of conservation values

Set objectives for recreation, tourism and other activities

Set policies and criteria for processing Consents

Clearly outline Te Tiriti partner roles

"Particular regard" to planning documents prepared by iwi authorities

Must be reviewed every 10 years

Plan changes to respond to events so that plans remain fit for purpose during their lifetime

Regional Operational Plans

Provide for implementation of Regional Conservation Plans

Sets out DOC's work plan and details annual operational expenditure

Informs DOC's Business Plans

Mandatory reporting on implementation progress to Conservation Boards

Consents

Replace concessions

Must follow stipulated requirements in Regional Conservation Plans

Prohibited activities may be outlined in the Conservation Policy Statement

Deemed activities to be provided for may be outlined in the Conservation Policy Statement

'Activity categories' to be comprehensively outlined in Plans

Plans to include categories requiring notification (and approval by DOC staff under delegation)

Plans to include criteria for considering applications

Te Tiriti partner roles in consenting clearly outlined

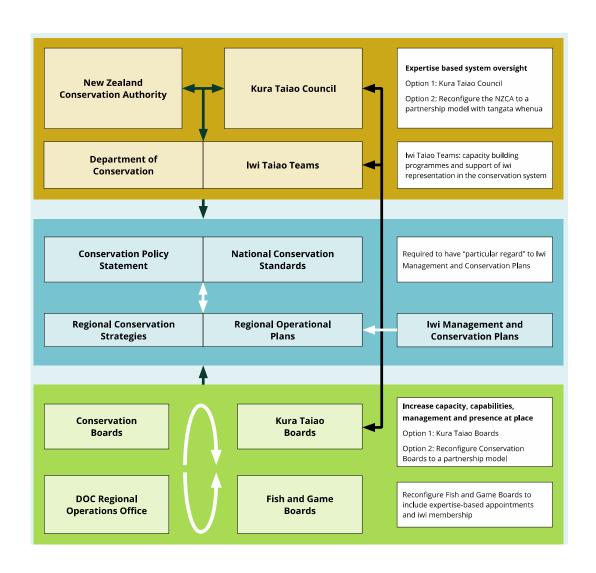
Consent fees include cost of ongoing monitoring and assessment.



Strengthened institutions

- Strengthen DOC regional capabilities and align DOC offices with CMS boundaries
- Increase independence, oversight functions and powers of NZCA
- Conservation Boards draft planning documents, trigger plan reviews and input into workplans and budgets
- Membership of NZCA and Boards expertise rather than "interest" based
- Strengthen secretariat, financial and other support for NZCA and Boards
- Implement recommendations of Fish and Game governance review re membership
- Consider merging Fish and Game and Game Animal Council
- Consider partnership-based models with mana whenua

Key elements of new conservation system





Funding conservation

- Increase International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy
- Reform concession charges
- Carbon credits for post-1990 forests
- Biodiversity credits to incentivise conservation
- Reformed tax system to charge for impacts and reward restoration



Next steps: Prepare for reform

- Undertake Public Values Mapping
- Review Treaty Settlement legislation to identify common arrangements
- Initiate national conversation with Māori to identify core concerns, values and needs from the conservation system
- Review existing protected area designations
- Investigate further conservation funding tools



Next steps: Begin reform

- Update General Policies (Treaty principles, climate change, tourism)
- Modernise concession fees and allocation methods
- Continue work on Wildlife Act reform
- Commence reform of the conservation management planning system