

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

STATEMENT OF INTENT
TAUĀKĪ WHAKAMAUNGA ATU

2022–2026



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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2022-2026

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Statement of Intent 2022–2026

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Te kupu whakataki a te Tumuaki

E ora ana a Papatūānuku

Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata

Ka nui rā taku hari ki te tāpae atu i taku pūrongo ā-tau tuatahi mō Te Papa Atawhai the Department of Conservation (DOC) hei Tumuaki. Kei tēnei puka ō mātou whāinga matua mō ngā tau e whā kei mua i te aroaro, i a mātou e anga nei ki te tūhono i te tangata ki te aotūroa, ki te aukati, ki te whakapuhuki hoki i te hekenga o te kanorau koiora ahurei o Aotearoa.

Hei te hekenga o te kanorau koiora, ka noho mōrea ā tātou kai, tō tātou hauora, ngā mahi me te ōhanga. E whakawhirinaki ana ēnei mea katoa ki te katoa o te kupenga ora o te aotūroa me ōna mauri katoa, ka kitea i te turunga o te ua ki ngā pārae, kia haumako ngā one, kia whai hua ngā kai i te puāwaitanga, me ngā koiora – te aitanga pepeke, ngā manu, me ngā kararehe – e ora tonu nei.

Ko ngā kanorau koiora me te aotūroa hei wāhi o te tuakiri o Aotearoa: ko ngā tangi me ngā kakara, ko ngā rākau me ngā manu. Hei te kitenga atu kua hari te ngākau, ko te kakara hoki o te wā kāinga, i tēnei ao pāhekeheke. Mō ētahi tāngata, inā ngā maharatanga tino hari rawa, ko te wā i te aotūroa: ngā kaukauranga i ngā awa iti, te kautū haere i te takutai, te hanga whare kirikiri, te takahi whenua i te ngahere. Nā reira ki te ngaro te kanorau koiora o Aotearoa, kua ngaro anō hoki ko tātou.

Ka pāngia nei te tūtika matatini, ka raru te aotūroa, kua puta mai hoki āna tohu whakatūpato, ko ngā waipuke tērā, ko ngā ahi tērā, ko ngā tauraki tērā, ko ngā tahumaero tērā.

Koia i anga atu ai tā mātou arotahi ki ngā mahi tiaki taiao taketake. I tēnei tau kua whakarewaina e mātou tētahi rautaki whakahaere hou hei whakamārama i te tūranga o Te Papa Atawhai hei

kaitiaki mō te aotūroa, hei reo pakari mō te tiaki taiao. E kōkiri ana mātou i taua rautaki, ā, kei te whakarauorangia i roto i ngā tau e whā. Inā ngā putanga e whāia ana e mātou:

- he hoa kōtui Tiriti piripono a Te Papa Atawhai
- ko ngā pūnaha hauropi, me ngā momo koiora o Aotearoa e ora tūturu ana, mai i ngā maunga ki te takutai
- ngā whenua tautiaki tūmatanui me ngā wai e tiakina ana e whakapaingia ana mō ngā whakatupuranga kei mua i te aroaro
- te hononga ki te taiao me ngā taonga ahurea tuku iho e whakaranea nei i te noho o te tangata
- he whakahaere ingoa-nui a Te Papa Atawhai.

E aratakina ana mātou e tō mātou whāinga: kia ora tonu a Papatūānuku. Ka whakatutukitia tērā e mātou mā tā mātou arataki pūnaha o Te Mana o Te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

He nui tonu ngā mahi kei mua i a mātou i roto i ngā tau e whā kei mua i te aroaro, hei tautiaki, hei whakapiki hoki i ngā kanorau koiora ahurei o Aotearoa. E kore e taea e mātou anake. E tino ahu whakamua ai tātou ki te tūhonotia te ngākau-ū o ā mātou kaimahi ki te ngākaunui o ngā tini rōpū pupuru pānga me ngā hoa Tiriti, kia mahi tahi puta noa i te kāwanatanga ki te kōkiri i ngā mahi, ki te hora hoki i ngā tikanga arataki, waihoki ko te mawana tītī e tika ana kia urupare ki tēnei wero.



Penny Nelson
Director-General

Director-General's foreword



Director-General, Penny Nelson with a kākāpō. Photo: Brodie Philp

Papatūānuku thrives.

*If the land is well and the sea is well,
the people will thrive.*

I am pleased to present the strategic intentions for the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) for 2022 to 2026. This document outlines our priorities for the next four years, as we aim to connect people to nature and halt and reverse the decline of Aotearoa New Zealand's unique biodiversity.

When biodiversity is depleted, this threatens our food, health, jobs and economy. All of these rely on the delicate web of nature we see when the rain falls on fields, soils are fertile, crops are pollinated, and creatures – insects, birds and animals – all thrive.

Biodiversity and nature are part of Aotearoa New Zealand's identity: the sounds and scents, the trees and birds. They give a sense of home and a safe place in a world of uncertainties. For some people, their happiest memories are associated with time spent in nature: swimming in streams, paddling in the sea, building sandcastles, tramping in the bush. So, if the unique biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand is lost, we can lose ourselves.

That delicate balance has taken a knock and nature has been sending us warning signs in the shape of floods and fires, droughts and diseases.

That's why our renewed focus is on core conservation work. This year, we launched a new organisational strategy that clarifies DOC's role as a good steward of nature and a strong voice for conservation. We'll be driving that strategy and bringing it to life over the next four years.

The outcomes we are striving to achieve are:

- DOC is an honourable Treaty partner
- ecosystems and species across Aotearoa are thriving from mountains to sea
- public conservation lands and waters are maintained and improved for future generations
- connection with nature and cultural heritage enriches people's lives
- DOC is a great organisation.

We are guided by our purpose: to make sure Papatūānuku thrives. We will deliver on that through our systems leadership of Te Mana o Te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

We have a lot of work to do over the next four years to protect and enhance Aotearoa New Zealand's special biodiversity. We cannot do this alone. We will make great progress if we couple the commitment of our staff with the passion of the many stakeholder groups and Treaty partners, work effectively across government to mobilise action, and provide the bold leadership and unflagging dedication this challenge requires.

Ngā tauākī noho haepapa

Statements of responsibility

He whakapuaki takohanga nā te Tumuaki

Statement of responsibility by the Director-General

In signing this information, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information on strategic intentions for the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai. This information has been prepared in accordance with sections 38 and 40 of the Public Finance Act 1989.



Penny Nelson

Director-General

29 September 2022

He whakapuaki nā te Minita kawē takohanga

Statement by the responsible Minister

I am satisfied the information on strategic intentions prepared by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the Government.



Hon Poto Williams

Minister of Conservation

5 October 2022

He kupu whakataki

Introduction

This document outlines the strategic objectives the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) intends to achieve or contribute to over the next 4 years.

We have refreshed our strategic direction to continue delivering on the Government's priorities, while increasing our focus on biodiversity, actively partnering with whānau, hapū and iwi, and strengthening the organisation to deliver on our outcomes (see figure 1).

Through our new integrated strategy, we reinforce the main reason for our work: the conservation of nature.

Our roles are to:

1. protect the land, species, ecosystems, and cultural heritage for conservation purposes
2. manage threats and adverse impacts
3. be a voice for conservation
4. connect people to nature.

In delivering on these core roles, we give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi through actively partnering with whānau, hapū and iwi to protect and sustain our shared natural and cultural heritage.



Male hīhi/stitchbird singing on Kapiti Island. Photo: Leon Berard

Papatūānuku thrives

*Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata –
If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive*

We are an honourable Treaty partner

In achieving our purpose and outcomes, we give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by actively partnering with whānau, hapū and iwi to protect and sustain our shared natural and cultural heritage

Our outcomes

Ecosystems and species across Aotearoa are thriving from mountains to sea

- A full range of ecosystems on land, water and sea are protected and enhanced
- Indigenous species are not threatened with human-induced extinction
- Landscapes, ecosystems and species are resilient to climate risk

Public conservation lands and waters are maintained and improved for future generations

- Conservation lands and waters benefit from fewer pests and reduced pressures
- We understand whānau, hapū and iwi priorities
- Cultural heritage is managed and protected
- Our actions support Aotearoa to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Connection with nature and cultural heritage enriches people's lives

- The health and wellbeing of whānau, hapū, iwi and communities are linked to the health of nature
- From the city to the wilderness, people connect with nature and our cultural heritage
- New Zealanders care for and take action to preserve our special places and species
- A range of sustainable recreational experiences encourage New Zealanders to enjoy the outdoors

DOC is a great organisation

- We work as one to deliver on our strategy
- Our people thrive and grow
- We have regard to whānau, hapū and iwi priorities in our decision making
- We have the capability to be an honourable Treaty partner
- Mātauranga Māori informs all our work
- We are trusted and known as being good to work with
- We are excellent at managing finances and our assets
- We keep our people and visitors safe

Our principles

Nature-centred

Treaty-anchored

Intergenerational

Climate-focused

Impactful

Kaimahi-centred

Our roles

Protecting land, species, ecosystems and cultural heritage for conservation purposes

Managing threats and adverse impacts

Being a voice for conservation

Connecting people to nature

Figure 1: Department of Conservation's strategic framework and key outcomes

Ō mātou tūranga, mahi taketake hoki

Our roles and functions

DOC has a legislative mandate to protect and care for Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural environment and historic and cultural heritage (see figure 2).

Our statutory functions are to:

- manage, for conservation purposes, all land and other natural and historic resources held under the Conservation Act 1987
- preserve all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats
- advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources
- promote the benefits of conservation of natural and historic resources, including of New Zealand’s subantarctic islands, and international cooperation on matters relating to conservation
- promote educational and promotional material relating to conservation
- foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and allow their use for tourism, to the extent that these uses are not inconsistent with their conservation
- advise the Minister on matters relating to any of those functions or to conservation generally.

We support the Minister of Conservation’s statutory roles and functions in the coastal environment by ensuring regional policy statements and plans and district plans give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Our mandate is also set by a statutory planning framework that supports the overarching legislation: the Conservation General Policy, the General Policy

for National Parks, and the strategies and plans that flow from these policies. Conservation management strategies identify the places we manage on behalf of New Zealanders and guide our management of public conservation lands and waters.

To achieve more conservation outcomes, we work in Treaty partnerships with whānau, hapū and iwi. We also work across central government and with regional and local government, businesses, landowners, science providers, recreation and conservation organisations, and community groups. We need to be deliberate in our partnerships, focusing on making the biggest effect in achieving our biodiversity, heritage and visitor priorities.

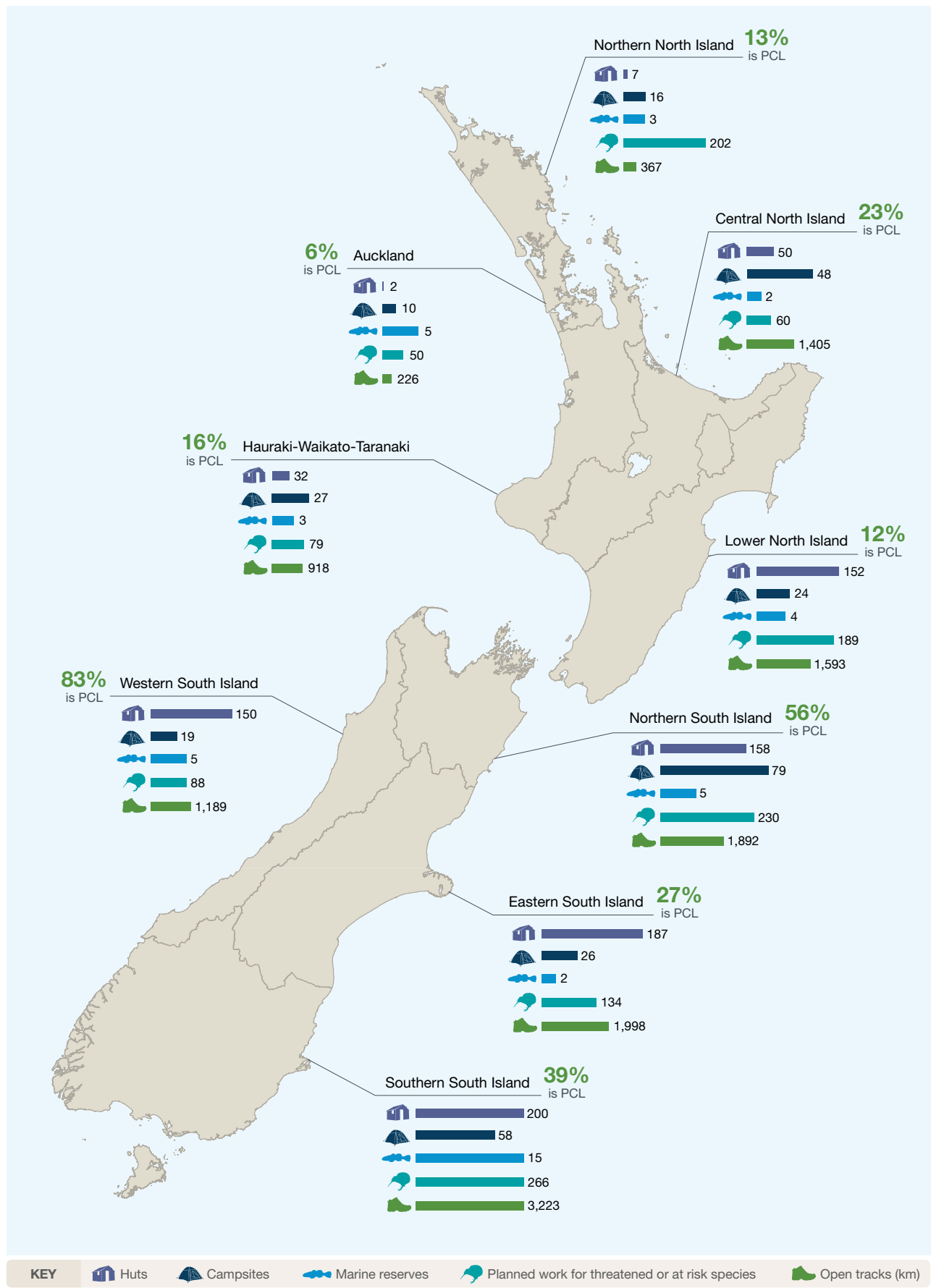


Figure 2: Key statistics on the Department of Conservation operational regions

Tō mātou horopaki whakahaere

Our operating environment

Along with the statutory functions outlined in the previous section, DOC operates within several strategies and frameworks, including:

- ‘Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy’
- the ‘New Zealand–Aotearoa Tourism Strategy’
- the Climate Change Response Act 2002
- the Living Standards Framework¹
- international obligations and conventions, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services.

In total, DOC administers 25 Acts of Parliament and contributes to others, including the Resource Management Act 1991, Fisheries Acts 1983 and 1996, Biosecurity Act 1993, Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.

Our work is guided by biodiversity, and heritage and visitor strategies. These help ensure we preserve and protect Aotearoa New Zealand’s special places and species for their intrinsic values, to protect the values for future generations, and allow visitors to enjoy them, and to do this through being an honourable Treaty partner.

To meet our core responsibilities, our focus will be on public conservation lands and waters and high-priority species, and we will target work on high-priority ecosystems beyond this. This shift in emphasis is needed because of the urgent threat

to biodiversity. Despite a third of the country being public conservation land, Aotearoa New Zealand has one of the highest proportions of threatened indigenous species and one of the highest rates of indigenous biodiversity loss in the world.

Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi also requires DOC to actively protect and sustain the connections whānau, hapū and iwi have to the land, mountains, rivers, seas, and taonga species.

Ngā whāinga matua a te Kāwanatanga Government priorities

The Government’s priorities were updated in 2020, to reflect the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government’s three overarching objectives are to:

- keep New Zealanders safe from COVID-19
- accelerate New Zealand’s economic recovery
- lay the foundation for a better future.

We contribute to these priorities through the Jobs for Nature programme, through our biodiversity work by supporting tourism, and by working alongside other government agencies in the Natural Resources Cluster.

¹ See www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-12/lst-as-poster.pdf, for more information.

Ā mātou putanga rautaki

Our strategic outcomes

Our unifying purpose Papatūānuku Thrives is not something we can do alone, and we continue to work alongside tangata whenua, communities, and local and central government.

We have refreshed our strategic direction to deliver on the Government's priorities, including our contribution to, and alignment with, 'Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy' (ANZBS).

DOC has dual roles in implementing the ANZBS:

- system lead for implementation, responsible for building the sector-wide systems and processes enabling implementation
- delivery agency in the biodiversity system, whose actions contribute to ANZBS goals.

The key deliverables for the next 4 years are in eight priority areas that focus on getting the foundations right.

- Establish interim and long-term governance with advice from the Interim Oversight Group.
- Establish and embed the collaboration system for future action planning, to promote buy-in, information sharing and partnership across central, regional and local government, Māori and iwi and stakeholders.
- Establish the monitoring and reporting framework to measure outcomes from the ANZBS for both Western science and mātauranga Māori indicators.
- Establish a system-wide assurance system to ensure actions in the implementation plans are on track for delivery and subject to regular performance reporting.
- Release the next iteration of the implementation plan that includes actions from iwi, non-governmental organisations, conservation groups, businesses and private landowners that contribute to meeting the ANZBS goals.

- Assess and prioritise the 2025 and 2030 goals with the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Framework. Reflect these in future ANZBS implementation plans.
- Continue to align our work programmes to the ANZBS through our integrated strategy and annual business planning process.
- Continue to provide ongoing departmental and agency leadership for the implementation of the ANZBS.

To deliver on this, we have refocused our outcomes framework to four outcomes, with an overarching commitment to be an honourable Treaty partner. The four outcomes are:

1. ecosystems and species across Aotearoa are thriving from mountains to sea
2. public conservation lands and waters are maintained and improved for future generations
3. connection with nature and cultural heritage enriches people's lives
4. DOC is a great organisation.

Together, the four outcomes and overarching Treaty commitment strongly reflect our legislative responsibilities. Each outcome supports and reinforces the other outcomes.

We will work towards these outcomes while continuing to improve our performance of the core services we provide. More work will be undertaken over the coming year to develop organisational measures based on our new strategy, and to monitor progress against those measures.

Ā mātou hōtaka mahi taketake

Our key work programmes

To give effect to our new integrated strategy, our priority work programmes over the next 1 to 4 years include the following.

He raupapatanga mahi kanorau koiora mārama

Clear biodiversity priorities

- Ongoing development of tools to progress the Predator Free 2050 goal.
- Continuing the development of effective management techniques to ensure threatened species recovery and strategies to minimise effects of significant threats.
- Continuing Arawai Kākāriki (wetland restoration), Ngā Awa (river restoration), and Living Waters programmes.
- Continuing national, freshwater, and marine reserve monitoring and reporting.
- Continuing the marine protected species programme.
- Implementing the 'collective delivery of the Predator Free 2050 Strategy' Budget 2022 initiative.
- Ongoing delivery of the kauri protection programme.

He wheako ātaahua mō te manuhiri

Great experiences for visitors

- Ensuring visitor experiences are fit for purpose, focused on levels of service and product set management.
- Ongoing destination management planning at Tongariro and Milford.

- Developing insights for decision making, including monitoring and evaluation.
- Maturing and implementing the visitor risk and safety system.

Te panonitanga āhuarangi

Climate change

- Integrating climate change adaptation into DOC's systems and practices.
- Providing specialist support for Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific.
- Defining regenerative tourism and heritage and visitor system approaches to climate change.

He kōtuitanga Tiriti pakari kē atu

Stronger Treaty partnerships

- Working with mana whenua on threatened species recovery.
- Ongoing implementation of Treaty settlement obligations.
- Growing staff knowledge and understanding of indigenous conservation.
- Ongoing regulatory improvements and relationship management with iwi.
- Developing an integrated Te Roopu Taiiao biodiversity operational plan.

Te mahi kōtui mō te tautiaki taiao **Partnering for conservation**

- Developing a clear partnering framework for our work with others on priority threatened ecosystems and species.
- Continuing Jobs for Nature and Predator Free partnerships to incentivise improved biodiversity performance.
- Delivering the DOC Community Fund round and supporting the Nature Heritage Fund committee.

He aroākapa mahi e tino tautokona ana **Well-supported frontline**

- Ongoing maintenance and improvements of DOC's systems and assets, including technology.
- Integrating and improving support for frontline staff.

Ngā tautuhinga pūnaha tōtika **The right system settings**

- Conservation law reform, including the Review of the Wildlife Act 1953.
- Conservation Management and Processes Bill.
- Partial reviews of the Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks.
- Stewardship land review and reclassification of legislative amendments.
- Marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf.

He pēhea mātou e whakaraupapa ai i ā mātou mahi

How we prioritise our work

Te whakahaere haumi me te taumahinga rawa **Investment management and asset performance**

We use a top-down investment approach to respond to our strategic context, through our Finance and Investment Governance Group. When funding allocation decisions are confirmed, relevant projects are activated and made available to our on-ground staff to operationalise and use through works orders and maintenance plans.

Technical reviews of projects are regular and ongoing, so projects are up to date in terms of methods and cost estimates. Because conservation outcomes are long term, costs are estimated for out-years and based on historical trends and future modelling.

Projects are linked to the strategic framework. They are ranked in order based on their cost-effectiveness, including benefits (urgency, demand, complementarity with existing activities), cost and feasibility. The multi-year business planning and project management framework steps provide secondary checks where the feasibility of project delivery is reviewed and signed off for delivery.

Ngā waihotanga ki muri, me ngā kōwhiringa toha rawa **Trade-offs and resource allocation choices**

The ANZBS and implementation plans will drive the prioritisation of work programmes to achieve the ANZBS's 2025 goals and ensure our efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change are joined up.

Our new integrated strategy has also led to the following trade-offs:

- Landscape-scale work is prioritised over management on a smaller scale, to increase gains and efficiencies.
- For visitors, the focus is on improving existing experiences, rather than on creating new ones.
- In addition, the safety and wellbeing of visitors is prioritised over creating new experiences.

Te āheinga

Capability

The critical focus over the next 4 years will be on supporting and enabling the achievement of the new organisational strategy.

One of the four strategic outcomes is ‘DOC is a great organisation’. This encompasses our passion for safety, operating excellence, being an honourable Treaty partner in everything we do, and creating work environments where our people can thrive and grow. Critical to achieving this is our ability to build the required organisational capability, nurture an optimal supporting culture and desired leadership behaviours, and ensure the frontline is optimised.

Ngā whakaōritenga whakawhiwhi mahi

Equal employment opportunities

Fundamental to achieving our organisational strategy is an inclusive and diverse workplace. Our inclusion and diversity work programme will focus mainly on work initiatives sitting under Papa Pounamu,² Kia Toipoto,³ and the Women in Leadership research.⁴ Over the next 4 years, a main focus will be on attracting a more diverse pool of employees, an area highlighted in our 2021 Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan.⁵

Te whai wāhi me te kanorau

Inclusion and diversity

In the first half of 2023, we plan to roll out the Leadership Development Centre’s Inclusive Leadership Conversations. We estimate all senior leaders (Tier 2 and Tier 3) will engage with the training during the first 12 months. The results will be measured through the inclusion and diversity items in our annual engagement survey.

Ngā pūmanawa hononga Māori ki te Karauna

Māori Crown Relations capability

Two main work programmes are under way in the public service to build Māori Crown Relations capability: Whāinga Amorangi – Transforming Leadership, and Maihi Karauna – Māori language planning.

1. Whāinga Amorangi – Transforming Leadership

Whāinga Amorangi has six competency areas based on the Māori Crown Relations Capability Framework:

- New Zealand history and Treaty of Waitangi literacy
- te reo Māori
- tikanga and kawa

2 Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission notes five priority commitments to enable the greatest collective impact on increasing the diversity of the public service workforce and building inclusion. See www.publicservice.govt.nz, for more information.

3 Kia Toipoto is the Public Service Pay Gaps Action Plan 2021–2024, see www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Action-Plan-Kia-Toipoto-Public-Service-Pay-Gaps-Action-Plan-2021-24.pdf, for more information.

4 In 2020/21, DOC conducted internal research to better understand why women were under-represented in Tier 3 roles.

5 See www.doc.govt.nz/pay-gap-action-plan, for more information.

- understanding racial equity and institutional racism
- worldview knowledge
- engagement with Māori.

We will continue to implement DOC's Whāinga Amorangi phase one: Empowering people plan. Work is also being undertaken to embed how staff use their cultural capability, and how DOC recognises this, in the Monthly Operating Review system (see figure 3). This will help drive and reward the capability shift we are seeking.

Our Te Pūkenga Atawhai programme, a week-long, marae-based wānanga, is a cultural development approach and programme that helps staff and Conservation Board members to deepen their understanding and application of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the marae-based introductions to te ao Māori through Te Pūkenga Atawhai were paused and an online Te Pūkenga was trialled in 2021/22. The marae-based programme of Te Pūkenga Atawhai has since restarted. Te Pūkenga Atawhai framework for DOC incorporates many aspects of Whāinga Amorangi, and an assessment of what needs to develop further is under way.

We have two measures to determine if we have met our aspirations:

- data on staff attendance at, and effectiveness of, Te Pūkenga Atawhai
- staff self-assessment surveys.

Cultural capability development



Figure 3: Overview of the Department of Conservation's cultural capability development system

2. Maihi Karauna – Māori language planning

DOC's current te reo Māori language strategy is being reviewed for 2022–2027, and will align with the obligations and principles of 'Maihi Karauna: the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019–2023'.⁶

Implementation and success are intended to be measured based on language planning elements recommended by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, including use, acquisition, critical awareness, status, and corpus (body of language). We will also contribute to the broader goals of Maihi Karauna: aotearoatanga (nationhood), mātauranga (knowledge and skills), and hononga (engagement).

Te hauora me te haumaruru **Health and safety**

Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing System has 12 focus areas (see figure 4), and an activity plan for 2022–2024 has been developed to address each one.

Our critical health and safety risks are managed through a critical risk programme, with risk controls in place at several levels and monitoring of potentially fatal incidents to detect trends. The focus for the next 4 years will include establishing an organisation-wide programme of risk control verifications designed to ensure controls are not only present when work is done but are effective at managing critical risk.

Another part of the risk management work programme will be embedding the safety governance arrangements of the bi-monthly Safety Governance Group meetings with independent external advice.

⁶ See www.tpk.govt.nz/docs/tpk-maihi-karauna-en-2018-v2.pdf, for further information.



Figure 4: Overview of the Department of Conservation’s health, safety and wellbeing system

Te panonitanga āhuarangi

Climate change

Urutau Adaptation

Aotearoa New Zealand's changing climate is a significant risk to its native species, ecosystems, cultural heritage and visitor experiences. Visitor experiences and infrastructure are being affected by the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising sea levels. Threatened ecosystems and species will become even more vulnerable.

DOC's climate change adaptation focus will be on the tools needed to inform and support decisions. Planned guidance for 2022/23 includes a risk assessment for drought and a climate model for the New Zealand subantarctic islands. An adaptive pathway for the future management of native frog species will be developed, as a case study for application to other threatened species.

Te whakamauru Mitigation

Our mitigation work programme is aligned with the Carbon Neutral Government Programme, which requires us to set greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in line with a reduction pathway that will limit global warming to 1.5°C.

We therefore have to meet the following reduction targets from our baseline of 11,091 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂e) in 2020/21:

- 21 percent, or 8,762t CO₂e, by 2024/25
- 42 percent, or 6,433t CO₂e, by 2029/30.

By December 2022, we will submit a comprehensive carbon reduction plan outlining our pathway to achieving those reductions (see figure 5).

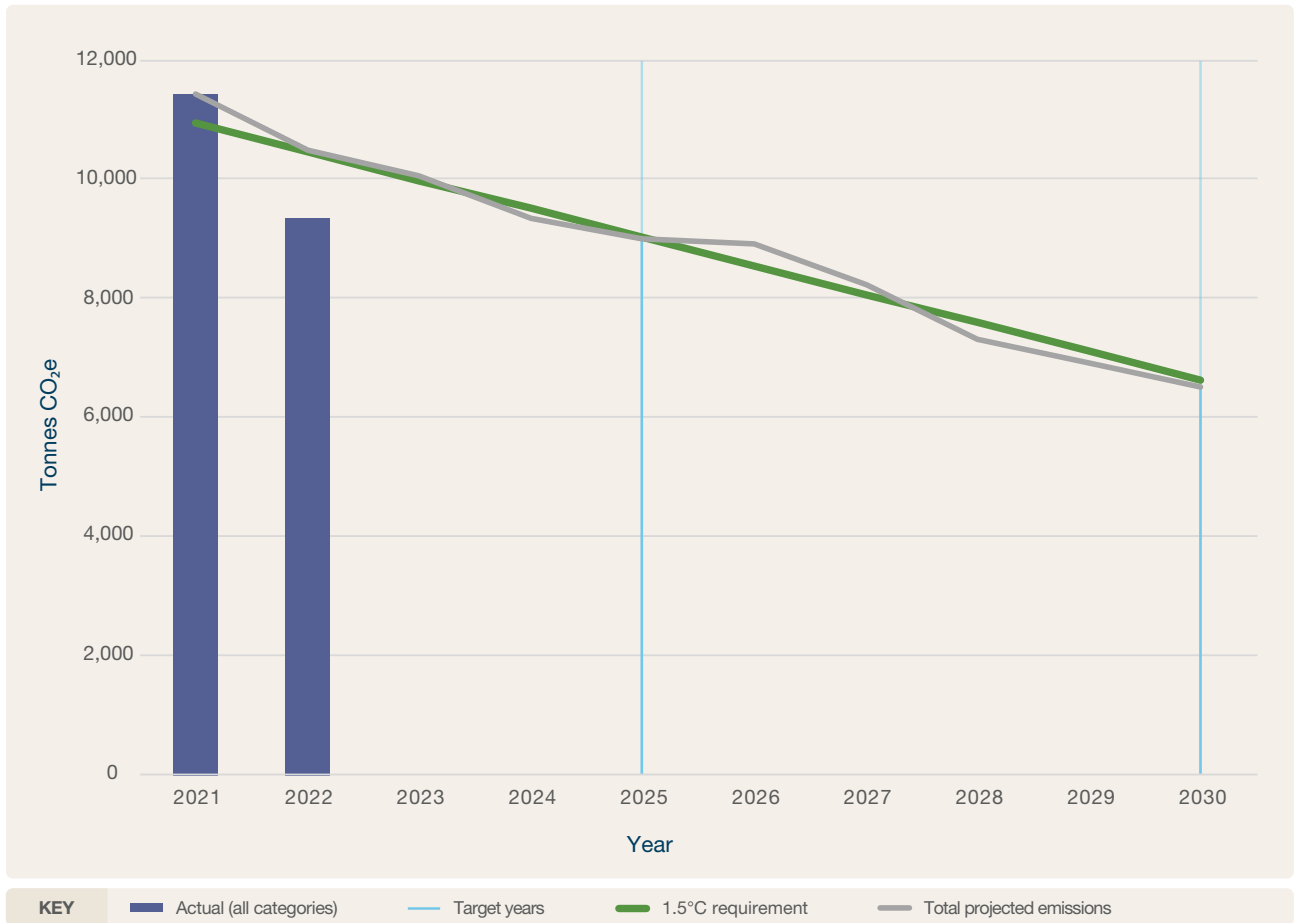
Te tāmāu waro Sequestration

Using native ecosystems for carbon sequestration provides the benefits of establishing and enhancing long-term carbon sinks while also supporting biodiversity goals. To explore ways to maximise carbon storage and increase natural sequestration within native ecosystems, we will take part in a cross-agency research programme with the Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Uru Rākau and Ministry for the Environment. DOC will lead the following research areas:

- improvement of spatial data to develop carbon and biodiversity maps
- building on analysis of carbon storage trends using Land Use and Carbon Analysis System data
- mapping public conservation land suitable for indigenous restoration that can maximise biodiversity and carbon gains.

This work will help us identify if browsing by ungulates, such as deer and goats, contributes to carbon losses. It will also examine the effects of climate change events, such as drought or storm damage, on carbon stocks, and trends to inform management.

As the science gaps are closed, helping inform future management and investment decisions, we will scope and design native ecosystem carbon solutions and products with tāngata whenua, businesses, councils, private landowners including Māori landowners, and co-funding partners.



Note: CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent.

Figure 5: Carbon Neutral Government Programme emissions target years and the Department of Conservation’s actual and projected total emissions out to 2030



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government