



Annual Report of the
**New Zealand
Conservation Authority**

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2019 TO 30 JUNE 2020

Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987

Annual Report of the
New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Cover photo: Southern royal albatross, Kaikōura. *Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer*

Back cover: Hector's dolphin. *Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer*

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Minister

I submit, in terms of section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The Conservation Act requires that the Authority report each year to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

The Authority has enjoyed a busy and productive 12 months, albeit a year punctuated with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact on everyday life and conservation activity across the nation. Our activities fell into two main areas of advocacy and strategic advice to the Department. There were no plans received by the Authority for consideration during the period.

MEETINGS

The Authority held four meetings in Wellington and one in Hamilton where the opportunity to meet with members of the Waikato Conservation Board was a special feature and included a joint visit to Pirongia Forest Park and Living Water partnerships sites near Hamilton. The visit provided examples of the challenge for community initiatives for long-term pest control, and for protecting freshwater environments in intensively farmed landscapes. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the April 2020 meeting was a half day teleconference in lieu of the proposed visit to the Marlborough region.

CONSERVATION BOARDS

The Authority hosted the annual Conservation Board Chairpersons Conference in August 2019, where the topics discussed included Board support and servicing; the NZ Biodiversity Strategy; Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987; the DOC iwi engagement System; and, the Conservation Board Letters of Expectation and annual work programmes.

ADVOCACY

In terms of advocacy, we have engaged with Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, on the consequences of projected tourism growth on the environment. The COVID-19 induced shutdown of the tourism industry introduces the opportunity for New Zealand to 're-envision' the way tourism and conservation values are managed, an ongoing area of advocacy for the Authority.

The Authority has advocated by way of submission on a range of national strategies, action plans, and discussion documents covering kaupapa such as biodiversity, marine protection, walking access, predator free, and seabird bycatch.

APPROVAL OF PLANS

There were no plans requiring approval during the year however you, as Minister of Conservation, initiated discussions with the Authority on the partial review of the two general policies to fully give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

PROVISION OF STRATEGIC ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

The Authority took the opportunity to provide advice to you on the following strategic issues; the COVID-19 response, Predator Free priority areas, the Fox River landfill clean-up, and, support for community conservation.

PROVISION OF ADVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVAITON

The Authority engaged with the Director-General and the Senior Leadership Team on a range of strategic issues across the business groups during the course of the year, providing advice on the following strategic issues: Budget planning and reporting; Management Planning Processes; Climate Change and Sustainability; the Conservation Board Systems Improvement Project; the Department's Visitor Safety System; and the Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai work programme.

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Authority has established an additional subcommittee to work on the Department's Management Planning framework and proposes establishing a tourism subcommittee in August when new incoming members are present. The existing subcommittees continue to function, and the Section 4 subcommittee has been renamed 'Treaty Partnership subcommittee', to better reflect its work area.

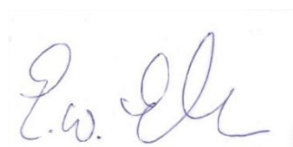
I wish also to acknowledge the contribution of all retiring and continuing Authority and conservation board members, and welcome new members.

'Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takatini.'

'Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.'

Nō reira

E noho ora mai



Edward Ellison ONZM
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority

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NEW ZEALAND

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure for the people of New Zealand that the richness of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage is valued, restored, maintained, and cared for by all, in order to enhance our environment and quality of life.

New Zealand Conservation Authority members, June 2020



Left to right: Tāne Davis, Jan Riddell, Tony Lepper, Kerry Prendergast, Rauru Kirikiri, Edward Ellison (Chair), Mark Brough, Robyn Jebson, Tania Simpson, Mick Clout, Gerry McSweeney, David Barnes. **Absent:** Nicole Anderson (inset). *Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer*

1. OVERVIEW OF 2019/20

The New Zealand Conservation Authority Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa (the Authority) met on six occasions during the year – in August, October and December 2019, and in February, April and June 2020. The October meeting was held in Hamilton, with the Waikato Conservation Board, and included a field trip to Pirongia Forest Park and Lake Ruatuna.



NZCA members, Waikato Conservation Board members and Department staff at the start of the Mangakara Nature Walk Track, Pirongia Forest Park. *Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer*

The April meeting was due to be held in Blenheim with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board. Unfortunately, the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 forced the cancellation of this ‘out-of-Wellington’ meeting and field trip; instead, the Authority held a half-day meeting via teleconference.

Throughout the year the Authority discussed a range of issues of national long-term importance for public conservation resources. The Authority’s standing agenda items with the Department of Conservation (the Department) at every meeting include management planning updates, recategorisation of conservation land, and the Director-General’s report.

This reporting year, the Authority provided strategic advice to the Minister on issues such as the COVID-19 response, Predator Free priority areas, the Fox River landfill clean-up, and support for community conservation.

A priority for the Authority this year has been addressing issues with the Department’s management planning processes. This was highlighted as a priority at the Authority’s October 2019 meeting, and has appeared as an agenda item at every meeting since, with a subcommittee working closely with the Department’s Planning, Permissions and Land Team.

The end of the financial year saw New Zealand touched by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Authority publicly supported, by way of an open letter to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the call for an investment in nature as part of the post- COVID-19 recovery.



Tasman Lake, Aoraki / Mt Cook. Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHORITY

The Authority is a statutory advisor to the Minister of Conservation (the Minister) and to the Director-General of Conservation on conservation issues of national importance. The Authority was established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions of the Authority are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. The Authority also has specified responsibilities, set out in Treaty claims settlement legislation, in relation to engagement with tangata whenua. These include establishing respectful working relationships, exercising recognition of mana, and acknowledging kaitiakitanga as an important foundation for Māori conservation outcomes.

Notably, the Authority has the important function of approving the 10-year conservation management strategies and national park management plans that guide the Department's management of public conservation lands, waters and species.

The Authority is committed to the partnership model between New Zealanders and the Department for the management of public conservation resources. This is embodied in the long history of formal engagement of New Zealand citizens in New Zealand conservation management, and the diverse make-up of the Authority and conservation boards. The partnership between conservation boards and the Authority is a long-standing legislative mechanism of the Department's, 'Conservation through partnerships' ethic.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Minister appoints the 13 Authority members, including the chairperson. The members are selected:

- in consultation with the Minister of Tourism (two appointments), the Minister for Māori Development (two appointments), and the Minister of Local Government (one appointment)
- on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (one appointment)
- on the recommendation of the Royal Society of New Zealand (one appointment), Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (one appointment), and Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (one appointment)
- following nominations from the public (four appointments).

This process ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences and geographical knowledge contributes to the advice provided and decisions made by the Authority.

Authority members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term. The current members of the Authority are:

NICOLE ANDERSON (Ngāpuhi) of Kerikeri, appointed June 2018, after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development.

RAURU KIRIKIRI (Te Whānau a Apanui) of Wellington, appointed July 2017, after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development.

TANIA SIMPSON (Tainui, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi) of Hamilton, appointed October 2018, after consultation with the Minister of Tourism.

DAME KERRY PRENDERGAST of Wellington, appointed October 2017, after consultation with the Minister of Tourism.

JAN RIDDELL of Winton, appointed July 2017, after consultation with the Minister of Local Government.

TANE DAVIS MNZM (Waitaha, Kāti Mamoe, Ngāi Tahu) of Invercargill, appointed October 2018, on the nomination of Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu.

MICK CLOUT of Auckland, appointed July 2017, on the recommendation of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

GERRY MCSWEENEY of South Westland, appointed July 2017, on the recommendation of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand.

DAVID BARNES of Lower Hutt, appointed July 2017, on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs.

EDWARD ELLISON ONZM (Ngāi Tahu, Te Atiawa) of Dunedin, appointed January 2019 from public nominations, Chair of the NZCA.

MARK BROUGH (Ngāti Kahungunu) of the King Country, appointed July 2017 from public nominations.

ROBYN JEBSON of South Westland, appointed July 2017 from public nominations.

TONY LEPPER ONZM of Alexandra, appointed July 2017 from public nominations.

The term of all Authority members ends on 30 June 2020.



Black robin, Ulva Island. Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer

4. MEETINGS

During the year, the Authority held four one-and-a-half day meetings in Wellington; and a one-day meeting in Hamilton accompanied by a one-day field trip. Field trips are a vital part of the Authority's way of operating, giving members the chance to view concerns and opportunities raised in public submissions in situ, and to appreciate the local context faced by Departmental staff and communities in managing public conservation lands. It is also an opportunity for the Authority to spend time with local conservation board members, discussing matters important to their regions.

Due to the special circumstances of COVID-19, the Authority held their April meeting as a half-day meeting via teleconference.

- The Authority hosted and heard from numerous speakers from outside of the Department at its meetings. James Guild, Chair of the QEII National Trust, and incoming CEO Dan Coup, spoke about the work of the Trust, in August 2019.
- Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) discussed the PCE Office's review on the environmental consequences of projected tourist growth, in August 2019.
- Trish Kirkland-Smith, Fonterra General Manager Group Environment, and the DOC *Living Water* staff joined the Authority to provide an overview of Fonterra's programme to restore 50 catchments, in August 2019.
- Maui Hudson, Associate Professor/Manukura at the University of Waikato, presented on the work he is undertaking in the fields of genomic research and Mātauranga Māori, in October 2019.
- Poto Davies and Don Scarlet, Co-chairs of Maungatautari Sanctuary, presented on the work and aspirations of the Sanctuary, in October 2019.
- Katie Milne, NZ Federated Farmers, spoke about the work of Federated Farmers, in December 2019.
- Malcolm Alexander, Local Government NZ, discussed the priorities of Local Government in conservation, in December 2019.
- Keith Turner, Chair of the Milford Opportunities Project, spoke about the work of the Project, in June 2020.



The Authority hosted the annual Conservation Board Chairpersons' Conference on 17 and 18 August 2019, at the West Plaza Hotel in Wellington. These conferences are designed to build collaboration between the Authority and conservation boards, and for the boards to develop stronger working relationships with the Department of Conservation. They provide the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Government's expectations of the boards and the role they play in conservation leadership within their communities, and the opportunity to share ideas and practices.

Main topics on the conference's agenda included:

- Board support and servicing
- NZ Biodiversity Strategy
- Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987
- DOC Iwi Engagement System
- Conservation Board Letters of Expectation and annual work programmes.

4.1 Strategic advice to the Department of Conservation

In June 2017, the Director-General initiated a sequence of strategic sessions with the Authority. A member of the Department's Senior Leadership Team attends part of each meeting to engage the Authority on a strategic issue important for their business group. The purpose of these discussions is to get strategic advice and guidance from the Authority, on issues important to the Department's future success.

- Lou Sanson, Director-General, led a discussion on Department Budget planning for 2020/2021, in October 2019.
- Mike Slater, Deputy Director-General Operations, with Marie Long, Director Planning Permissions and Land (PP&L), discussed the Department's Management Planning Processes, in October 2019.
- Rachel Bruce, Deputy Director-General Corporate Services, spoke about Climate Change and Sustainability, in December 2019.
- Mervyn English, Chief of Governance, provided an overview of the Conservation Board Systems Improvement Project, in December 2019.
- Bruce Parkes, Deputy Director-General Policy and Visitors, and Mike Slater, Deputy Director-General Operations, spoke about the Department's Visitor Safety System, in February 2020.
- Michelle Hippolite, Deputy Director-General Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai, introduced the Authority to the Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai work programme, in February 2020 and provided an update in June 2020.
- Kay Booth, Deputy Director-General Partnerships, presented on the Department's developing Partnerships Strategy, and how the Department's way of working with others is developing, in June 2020.
- Mike Slater, Deputy Director-General Operations, with Natasha Hayward, Director Planning Permissions and Land, and Lynn Hansberry, Management Planning Manager, spoke about the progress being made with the NZCA Management Planning Subcommittee, in June 2020.
- Martin Kessick, Deputy Director-General Biodiversity, introduced the Authority to the Department's Biodiversity Pathway, in June 2020.

4.2 Field trips

The Authority held a meeting in Hamilton, hosted by the Waikato Conservation Board on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October 2019. Field trips are valuable, not only to expand the Authority's knowledge and understanding of regional conservation issues, but also in developing the relationship between the Authority and conservation boards.

The field trip began with a journey to Pirongia Forest Park, where the Authority heard from the Pirongia Restoration Society about their ongoing pest control work. The discussions focused on the requirements and possibilities for the Department to better support volunteer groups in conservation. The sighting of two kōkako early in the field trip set the bar high and the experience continued to deliver.

After a short walk on the Mangakara Nature Walk Track, the Authority proceeded to Lake Ruatuna for a presentation from Living Water, a partnership of the Department and Fonterra, and from the Good to Grow partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Waipa Peat Lakes.

This included a discussion on protecting freshwater environments within intensively farmed landscapes.

The April meeting, due to be held in Blenheim, was unable to take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting has been postponed until October 2020.



Dave Bryden, Conservation Ecologist identifying a kōkako. Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing Officer

4.3 Members' attendance at Authority meetings 2019/20

Member	Number of meetings attended (total of 6)
Nicole Anderson	6
David Barnes	6
Mark Brough	5
Mick Clout	6
Tāne Davis	5
Edward Ellison (Chair)	6
Robyn Jebson	5
Rauru Kirikiri	5
Tony Lepper	6
Gerry McSweeney	4
Kerry Prendergast	5
Jan Riddell	3
Tania Simpson	5

5. BUDGET, FEES AND ALLOWANCES

The Authority's budget for 2019/20 was \$146,000. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$700, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$450.

6. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states: 'This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.' As a body established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

The Authority established the Section 4 Policy Committee in August 2018, which was renamed the Treaty Partnerships Committee in May 2020 to better reflect the role and mahi of the Committee. During the reporting year, the Treaty Partnerships Committee worked closely with the Department on a host of work following the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki Supreme Court Decision in December 2018. This has included work on the General Policy for National Parks Partial Review, the Department's Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai work programme, and the Taranaki Mōunga settlement.

6.2 Functions of the Authority

(a) Advise the Minister on statements of general policy

General Policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes.

The Authority is working with the Department on the partial review of the General Policy for National Parks.

(b) Approve conservation management strategies

A conservation management strategy is a 10-year statutory document. Its purpose is to implement the general policy and to establish objectives for the discharge of the Department's functions in the area covered by the strategy, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. Conservation management strategies are developed by Departmental planning staff in partnership with local conservation boards, and there are opportunities for input from tangata whenua and the public.

No strategies were received by the Authority for consideration during the reporting year.

(c) Approve conservation management plans

Although the Authority may be asked to approve conservation management plans, they are usually approved by conservation boards – in some cases jointly with an iwi authority, as provided for in Treaty Settlement legislation.

No plans were received by the Authority for consideration during the reporting year.

(d) Review the effectiveness of the Department's administration of general policies

When approving statutory planning documents, the Authority seeks to satisfy itself that appropriate effect is given to the two statements of general policy: the Conservation General Policy and the General Policy for National Parks.

The Authority did not review the effectiveness of the Department's administration of statements of general policy during the reporting period.



(e) Investigate or advise on conservation matters of national importance

On top of the strategic discussions undertaken with the Senior Leadership Team, other conservation matters of national importance discussed with the Department during the reporting period included:

- budget planning and reporting
- management planning processes
- climate change and sustainability
- Conservation Board Systems Improvement Project
- the Department's Visitor Safety System
- Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai work programme
- management of deer and tahr
- review of the General Policy for National Parks.

These discussions were iterative; further discussion will take place as more information is received and understanding and thinking evolves.

Advice as above was also provided to the Minister. Other topics included:

- the COVID-19 response
- Predator Free priority areas
- Fox River landfill clean-up
- support for community conservation
- whitebait.

(f) Change of land status – stewardship land

In April 2015, the then Minister, Hon Maggie Barry, requested the Authority's views on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's recommendation to the Minister that the Authority provide “guidance on the principles and processes that should be used when making decisions on net conservation benefit”, in the context of land exchanges under section 16A of the Conservation Act 1987. In response, the Authority provided the report *Stewardship Land: Net Conservation Benefit Assessments in Land Exchanges* in January 2016, which was revised in March 2018.

As of June 2020, the Authority is still working with the Department to progress these issues and is disappointed by the slow progress.

(g) Walkways (repealed)

(h) Education and publicity

Minutes, agendas and other information regarding the Authority's functions and activities (including its meetings, which are open to the public) are available on the Authority's website at www.doc.govt.nz/conservation-authority.

No education or publicity activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

(i) Priorities for expenditure by the Department

The Authority had several presentations from the Department during the reporting period on the Budget and expenditure priorities, as above in section 4.1.

The Authority established a formal process with the Department to ensure the Authority's advice is considered in the Department's budget process.

(j) New Zealand Fish & Game Council liaison

Section 6B(1)(i) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. The Authority and New Zealand Fish & Game Council provided each other with copies of agendas and meeting papers during the reporting period.

(k) Ministerial delegations

The Minister did not delegate any ministerial powers or functions to the Authority during the reporting period.

6.3 Powers of the Authority

(a) Establishment of committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Authority. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- **Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review Committee**
Rauru Kirikiri, Jan Riddell and Tony Lepper
- **East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy Committee**
Rauru Kirikiri, Mick Clout and Tania Simpson
- **Essential Freshwater: Action for Healthy Waterways Submission Committee**
Edward Ellison, Jan Riddell, Tony Lepper, Nicole Anderson and Robyn Jebson
- **Fiordland National Park Management Plan Review Committee**
Jan Riddell and Mick Clout
- **Grass Carp Committee**
Mick Clout and Mark Brough
- **Haast Grazing Permit Committee**
Robyn Jebson, David Barnes and Edward Ellison
- **Management Planning Committee**
Edward Ellison, Rauru Kirikiri, Robyn Jebson, Mark Brough and Tony Lepper
- **Mount Aspiring National Park Management Plan Review Committee**
David Barnes, Gerry McSweeney, Robyn Jebson and Tony Lepper
- **National Plan of Action - Seabirds Committee**
Mick Clout, Gerry McSweeney and Tāne Davis

- **NZ Biodiversity Strategy Committee**
Mark Brough, Mick Clout, Nicole Anderson Rauru Kirikiri
- **Paparoa National Park Management Plan Review Committee**
Edward Ellison, Robyn Jebson and Tāne Davis
- **Taranaki Mōunga Committee**
Mark Brough, Tania Simpson, Nicole Anderson and Kerry Prendergast
- **Treaty Partnerships Committee (formerly Section 4 Committee)**
Nicole Anderson, Mark Brough, Tania Simpson, Rauru Kirikiri and Tāne Davis
- **West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Management Strategy Committee**
Robyn Jebson, David Barnes, Gerry McSweeney and Tāne Davis
- **Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park Management Plan Review Committee.**
Robyn Jebson, Gerry McSweeney and Tāne Davis
- **Whitebait Proposal Committee**
Mick Clout, Jan Riddell, Mark Brough and Tony Lepper

(b) Advocacy

The Authority advocated its interests during the reporting period through several submissions, available to read through its website:

- *Improving Whitebait Management / Te whakapai ake i te whakahaere inanga* submitted 5 March 2020.
- *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity* submitted 5 March 2020.
- *National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020* submitted 27 January 2020.
- *Action for Healthy Waterways* submitted 31 October 2019.
- *Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy* submitted 31 October 2019.
- *Predator Free 2050 Strategy and Action Plan* submitted 1 August 2019.
- *Review of the Walking Access Act 2008* submitted 2 July 2019.



Gannet, Muriwai Gannet Colony. Photo: Lorna Travers, NZCA Servicing

Members also represented the Authority at multiple events and meetings throughout the year. This year, Robyn Jebson attended the ceremony for the unveiling of the Mokihinui Pou Whenua at Kahurangi National Park on 5 July 2019, and the opening of the Paparoa Track on 30 November 2019.

7. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

7.1 Review of the General Policy for National Parks

The partial review of the General Policy for National Parks is underway, and the Authority has provided advice to the Department throughout the reporting period. This review aims to give full effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

7.2 National park management plans

No reviews of national park management plans were conducted during the reporting period.

7.3 Additions to, and deletions from, national parks

No additions to, or deletions from, national parks were advised during the reporting period.

7.4 National park investigations

No national park investigations were undertaken during the reporting period.

7.5 National park determinations

Determinations are made to waive the requirements that introduced plants and animals be exterminated in national parks and native plants and animals be preserved. They are generally made as part of a national park management plan process.

No determinations were made during the reporting period.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

8.1 JD Stout Trust

The Chair of the Authority, or a higher representative, sits on a granting advisory board that advises on grants made by the Trust. These charitable grants are for the purpose of the preservation of natural or historic sites, or amenities for public enjoyment.

The Trust meets once annually. Rauru Kirikiri is the Authority's representative on the Trust.

8.2 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The Authority, along with another government agency, is one of eight members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN, known as the World Conservation Union. The committee meets quarterly.

Mick Clout is the Authority's representative on the committee, and attended two meetings during the reporting year, on 11 October 2019 and on 20 February 2020, in Wellington.

8.3 Land and Water Forum

The Authority is a member of the Land and Water Forum. Details about the activities of the Forum during the reporting period are available at www.landandwater.org.nz. Having completed its first phase of work, the Forum took a formal break from July 2018.

9. CONSERVATION BOARDS

9.1 Conservation board boundaries

There were no changes to conservation board boundaries in the reporting period.

9.2 Conservation board nominations

The Minister is required to consult with the Authority prior to appointing public members to conservation boards. The Authority provided its advice to the Minister on the appointment process for 2020. A high standard of nominations was received for all boards and it was pleasing to see greater diversity and talent, particularly an increase in younger nominees.

9.3 Authority/Conservation Board liaison

One Authority member acts as liaison with each conservation board. This liaison function includes attendance at board meetings and informal liaison with the board chairperson, which is reported back to the Authority at each meeting.

Conservation Board	Liaison member
Te Hiku o te Ika	Nicole Anderson
Northland	Nicole Anderson
Auckland	Mick Clout / Nicole Anderson
Waikato	Mick Clout
Bay of Plenty	Mark Brough
East Coast Hawke's Bay	Rauru Kirikiri
Tongariro Taupo	Kerry Prendergast
Taranaki Whanganui	Mark Brough
Wellington	David Barnes
Chatham Islands	Edward Ellison
Nelson Marlborough	Robyn Jebson
West Coast Tai Poutini	Gerry McSweeney
Canterbury Aoraki	Tony Lepper
Otago	Tony Lepper
Southland	Jan Riddell

9.4 Annual reports

Conservation boards are each required by section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987 to provide the Authority with an annual report. These reports are available from the boards and posted on their individual pages on the Department's website.

9.5 Implementation of conservation management strategies

Most conservation boards have adopted a systematic process for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the conservation management strategy for their region, and for advising the Department's operations directors in that respect. Boards report on this monitoring in their annual reports.

Under the Conservation General Policy, the Department is required to provide each conservation board with a report (at least annually) on the implementation of the conservation management strategy for its region (see section 9.4 above).

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Authority reviewed its performance and strategy in June 2020 and agreed that its meeting culture, process, and communication was of a high standard. The Authority noted that the virtual meeting culture adopted towards the end of the year was beneficial to the work of subcommittees, and the use of MS Teams as a collaborative digital platform will be used in the future.

The Authority reviewed and amended its Strategic Priorities for the year 2020/2021 and agreed that the programme of reviewing and updating its policies, where necessary, needed to be reinstated. The Authority's policies and principles can be viewed on its website.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the many people who have assisted the Authority during the course of the year, those from the Department and those from the many agencies and interests who have responded to the invitation to inform the Authority on a host of kaupapa: e kore e mutu nga mihi ki a koutou katoa.

Edward Ellison ONZM
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority



12. SCHEDULES

First schedule

Conservation management strategies: approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2019. The statutory expectation is that each conservation management strategy will be reviewed at 10-year intervals.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	DATE APPROVED	STATUS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020
Te Hiku o Te Ika	New conservation board as of 17 December 2015	Work under way
Northland	8 September 2014	Operative
Auckland	9 October 2014	Operative
Waikato	8 September 2014	Operative
Bay of Plenty	4 December 1997	Under review
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	14 October 1998 (East Coast), 19 October 1994 (Hawke's Bay)	Under review
Tongariro/Taupō	30 May 2002	Due for review
Wanganui	9 April 1997	Due for review
Wellington (includes Rangitikei/Manawatu, formerly part of Whanganui)	20 January 2019	Operative
Chatham Islands	12 August 1999	Due for review
Nelson/Marlborough	12 September 1996	Due for review
West Coast	15 April 2010	Due for review
Canterbury (Waitaha)	1 June 2016	Operative
Otago	1 June 2016	Under review for new cycleways
Southland Murihiku	1 June 2016	Operative
Stewart Island/Rakiura	9 February 2011	Operative

Second schedule

National park management plans: approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2020.

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN	DATE APPROVED	STATUS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020
Tongariro	12 October 2006	Due for review
Egmont	14 February 2002	Due for review, on hold until conservation management strategy review and Taranaki Mōunga Treaty settlement completed
Whanganui	9 August 2012	Current
Abel Tasman	9 October 2008	Due for review
Kahurangi	13 June 2001	Due for review
Nelson Lakes	10 October 2002	Due for review, on hold until conservation management strategy review completed
Paparoa	1 February 2017	Current
Arthur's Pass	13 December 2007	Due for review
Aoraki/Mount Cook	12 August 2004	Full review publicly paused
Westland Tai Poutini	21 December 2001	Full review publicly paused
Mount Aspiring	23 June 2011	Current
Fiordland	21 June 2007	Due for review
Rakiura	9 February 2011	Current

Third schedule

Address list for conservation boards.

CONSERVATION BOARD	BOARD ADDRESS (c/o Department of Conservation)
Te Hiku o Te Ika	PO Box 842 Whangarei 0140
Northland	PO Box 842 Whangarei 0140
Auckland	Private Bag 68908 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141
Waikato	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Bay of Plenty	PO Box 528 Taupo 3351
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	Private Bag 11010, Manawatu Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Tongariro/Taupō	PO Box 528 Taupō 3351
Taranaki/Whanganui	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Wellington	Private Bag 11010, Manawatu Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Chatham Islands	PO Box 114, Waitangi Chathams 8942
Nelson/Marlborough	Private Bag 5 Nelson 7042
West Coast Tai Poutini	Private Bag 701 Hokitika 7842
Canterbury Aoraki	Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre Christchurch 8140
Otago	PO Box 811 Queenstown 9348
Southland	PO Box 743 Invercargill 9840

Fourth schedule

Statutory functions and powers of the Authority.

ACT	ADDRESSED 2017-2020	STATUTORY FUNCTION
Statutory functions (Conservation Act 1987)		
6B(a)	N	Advise on statements of general policy
6B(b)	Y	Approve conservation management strategies and any amendments
6B(c)	N	Review and report on effectiveness of general policies
6B(d)	Y	Investigate matters of national importance
6B(e)	Y	Consider and make proposals for change of land status of national and international importance
6B(g)	N	Encourage and participate in educational and publicity activities
6B(h)	Y	Advise annually on priorities for expenditure
6B(i)	Y	Liaise with New Zealand Fish & Game Council
6B(j)	N	Exercise any other powers and functions delegated by the Minister
Statutory functions (National Parks Act 1980)		
18(a)	N	Prepare and approve statements of general policy for National Parks (NP)
18(b)	Y	Approve NP management plans and any amendments
18(c)	N	Advise on priorities for expenditure for NPs
18(d)	N	Review effectiveness of general policies for NPs
18(e)	Y	Consider and make proposals for addition of lands to NPs and establishment of new NPs
18(g)	N	Give advice on any other matter relating to any NP
4(2)(b)	N	Determinations re: native plants and animals preserved - introduced plants and animals exterminated
5A(2)(a)	Y	The Minister shall consult the Authority on introduction of any biological control organism
12(1)	Y	The Minister shall consult the Authority on Specially Protected Areas
14(1)	Y	Recommend establishment or revocation of Wilderness Areas
15(1)	N	Recommend establishment or revocation of Amenities Areas
18A	N	The Minister shall consult the Authority on access arrangements to a National Park re: s59 of Crown Minerals Act 1991
44(1)	N	Adopt or amend statements of General Policy
Statutory powers (Conservation Act 1987)		
6C(2)(a)	Y	Establish committees
6C(2)(b)	Y	Release for public information any recommendation, report or advice
6C(2)(c)	Y	Advocate at any public forum or in any statutory planning process
6C(2)(a)	Y	Establish committees



NEW ZEALAND

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Wellington 6143

www.doc.govt.nz/conservation-authority