SCIENCE AND RESEARCH INTERNAL REPORT N0.5

REGISTER OF PROPOSED PROJECTS IN CONSERVATION SCIENCES AND RESEARCH

by

Science Information Liaison Section
Science and Research Directorate

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PREFACE

This register of conservation research proposals has been released
to make the information it contains more widely available and to
acknowledge the thought and effort put in on research proposals by
staff of the Department of Conservation and transfer funded agencies
throughout New Zealand. The proposals, numbering almost 500,
provided an excellent database on which to build the first
Conservation Sciences and Research Plan. They also provided
information that has been used during the corporate planning
exercise in the Department.

I am very grateful to Regional, District and Central Office staff
for their support and valuable contributions to the research
planning process. This will help ensure that the research effort is
tailored to management needs.

15th april 1988.

Richard Sadleir
Director, Science and Research
Department of Conservation

GUIDE TO THE PROPOSAL REGISTER AND CAUTIONARY REMARKS

Introduction

The proposal register is a printout of a computerised database which records the basic details of proposed projects for conservation research. These proposals do not all have the same status: they are a mix of ideas for research projects, management problems requiring a solution, and fully developed proposals for conservation research. A master copy of the proposals containing other details is kept at the Conservation Sciences Centre for proposal management and reference.

The proposals were received between September 1987 and February 1988 in response to a request from the Science and Research Directorate initiating the development of the Department of Conservation's first Science and Research Plan. All regions were sent the first 366 proposals to assess. Central Office directorates had the opportunity to assess these and an additional 60 proposals received by mid November. A further 20 proposals were received by mid December, but only one or two directorates had the opportunity to assess them. A few more proposals have been received since then. The size of the whole task has precluded wider circulation of new proposal summary information until now.

This section describes how information is arranged in the register, explains the sorts of information included, and makes cautionary remarks relevant to those using the register.

Programme and subprogamme classification

A classification system was developed to structure the science and research carried out for the Department of Conservation. The classification system will help in identifying and planning science activity. The classification, (Contents pages i to iii under THE REGISTER), will be revised as little as possible, although new programmes, subprogrammes or proposals can be added at the end of the series or within each programme without changing the overall numbering system used.

Each proposal has been assigned to only one subprogramme. Cross referencing shows where some overlap occurs between programmes, subprogrammes, or proposals. A keyword system for specific proposals will be developed in the future to assist in their location in the classification.

Title of proposal

This column in the register lists the title of each proposal received. The wording of some specific titles was changed to better describe the nature the proposed work. Titles normally indicate the place where field work would be carried out.

Accession number

Proposals were given accession numbers by the Science and Research Directorate according to originating agency and time of receipt. This number is unique for every proposal.

Agency and status

This column lists in abbreviated form (see LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS) the agency from where the proposal originated.

The status of the proposal is shown here. This is mostly "draft", meaning the proposal was still in an early stage of development when sent to the Science and Research Directorate. "Second draft" indicates that consultation and refinement of objectives have occurred, while "final" means that the proposal is well developed.

Summary rating

This column is a summary of the department-wide assessment of proposals. A three-person team from the Information and Contracts Unit of this directorate analysed all the assessments made by regions and directorates. This was done to standardise the large amount of information contained in these assessments and to give a final rating. This final rating is on a scale of A (high rating) to C (low rating). A dash indicates insufficient information was received on which to base a summary. The two pieces of information given (e.g. A/B or -/A) refer to regional/national - ie ratings with respect to "regional" importance and "national" importance.

The summary assessment used regional and directorate assessments and no other information. The analysis favoured proposals that were highly rated by several regions rather than one or two, but did not give greater weighting to "national" importance over "regional" importance in the summation. If proposals covered work known to be under way or substantial relevant information already exists the summary rating was lowered to reflect this. Thus the rating given indicates the need for new research. Proposals relating to management problems were rated low if they required no scientific input.

The analysis indicates which proposals should be implemented in research programmes and which should be handled by alternative means (see also 'Synthesised comment' below). People who have proposed projects can look up their proposals to see what rating was given. They can then infer whether their requirements are likely to be met, given that only a proportion of proposals will be approved for funding. Proposals will be implemented over a period of several years according to priority, feasibility and finance. The Science and Research Plan will outline these aspects more fully.

<u>Synthesised comment and cross referencing</u>

This column summarises comments made during the department-wide assessment in the main by use of standardised comments. (Refer STANDARD COMMENTS, page x). These comments indicate for example whether relevant information already exists and where it may be found.

Cross references between specific proposals are made here (shown by "cf" or "see"). There is limited cross referencing between programmes subprogrammes. This could be most useful within the HARVESTED AND CONTROLLED ANIMALS programme. Proposers of proposals in 7010 should be aware of the review made by the Wildlife Research Liaison Group which should be published during 1988.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CO   Central Office
DOC   Department of Conservation

Directorate/Organisations within DOC

A&E   Advocacy and Extension
BRC   Biological Resources Centre
C&M   Coastal and Marine
HPT   Historic Places Trust
L&F   Land and Fauna
PES   Protected Ecosystems
RTHR   Recreation, Tourism and Historic Resources
S&R   Science and Research

Regions

CAN   Canterbury
EAS   Eastern
NEM   Nelson-Marlborough
NOR   Northern
SOU   Southern
WAI   Waikato
WAN   Wanganui
WES   West Coast

Transfer Funding Agencies

DSIR   Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
DSIR-BOT   DSIR Botany Division
DSIR-ECOL   DSIR Ecology Division
DSIR-MFS   DSIR Marine and Freshwater Sciences Division
*DSIR (MWD-HC) Hydrology Centre
*DSIR (MWD-SCC) Soil Conservation Centre
*DSIR (MWD-WQC) Water Quality Centre
MAF   Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MAF-FF   MAF Freshwater Fisheries Research
MOF   Ministry of Forestry
MOF-FRC   MOF Forest Research Centre, Ilam
MOF-FRC/FAE   MOF-FRC Forest Animal Ecology
MOF-FRC/FGE   MOF-FRC Forest and Grassland Ecology
MOF-FRC/FLI   MOF-FRC Forest Land Use Impact
MOF-FRC/FMP   MOF-FRC Forest Management and Productivity
MOF-FRI   MOF Forest Research Institute
MOF-IFM   MOF Indigenous Forest Management Group (includes
                Entomology Group)

* These agencies were part of the Ministry of Works and Development,
but were transferred to DSIR on 1 April 1988.

<u>Other External Agencies</u>

Acclim. Soc.	Acclimatisation Society
AU	Auckland University
C.Bds	Catchment Boards
CRM	Centre for Resource Management
CU	Canterbury University
DSIR-CHEM	DSIR - Chemistry Division
DSIR-ENT	DSIR -Entomology Division
L. Coll.	Lincoln College
Met Service	Meteorological Service
Met Soc.	Meteorological Society
MFE	Ministry for the Environment
MOE	Ministry of Energy
NZFS Westalnd	Former NZ Forest Service Westland
OU	Otago University
PCE	Parliamentary Commission for the Environment
Univ.	Universities
WU	Waikato University
VU	Victoria University
VU-Zoo	Victoria University -Zoology Department

STANDARD COMMENTS USED DURING DEPARTMENT- WIDE ASSESSMENT OF
PROPOSALS

Approved	Proposal approved by directorate responsible
Cf	Cross reference to identical, similar or related proposal
Combine with no.	There would be an advantage in combining with other proposal
Compilation required	Information exists but needs compiling
Elaborate/elaborate objectives	Proposal or particular objectives need further elaboration to be useful or able to be assessed
Existing project	Information submitted indicates that proposal covers work which is already under way
Info transfer	The information already exists and needs to be obtained by or transferred to the proposer/manger. Further research as such is not needed at this stage
Integrate work	Various work (and information) needs to be integrated before proceeding
Inventory	An inventory (eg of species) needs to be made but specialist input is required
Little research	Research component appears to be minimal
Lit. review	Existing published or non-published literature needs to be reviewed before any more research is done
Management	This is primarily or entirely a management task or responsibility, not research
Management review	The proposal needs to be reviewed for the purpose of management
Mapping	Mapping is required, not detailed research but specialist input is probably required
Methodology	The method for doing the work needs development
Modify proposal	Proposal should be modified -eg to make it more specific, to clarify objectives or to make it more useful to management
Name of agency or person eg MAF, or MAF info, or refer MAF	Organisation or person has an interest or information
Not research	Proposal involves management, not research
Ongoing research	Existing (current) research is already under way on the topic
Planning	Planning is required, not detailed research
Proposal needs assessment	Proposal has not been assessed eg because it was received late
Rated highly by	Named directorate rates proposal highly but other parts of DOC may not have
Redefine proposal	The proposal is too vague and may need to be made more relevant to management
Requires specific project	A specific proposal or project needs to be developed to give effect to this too general proposal

Resubmit 1989-90	The proposal should be resubmitted
Review info	Existing information needs to be reviewed before more research is done
Review priorities	The priority(s) of/for this work needs to be reviewed
- - - role	Directorate/agency shown has an interest or role in this
Same as	Proposal appears to be identical to another proposal
Science?	Uncertainty over whether this involved science or eg management
Strategic Research	Research of long-term value, not directly aimed at providing answers to immediate management needs
Survey	Survey is required, not detailed research but specialist input is probably required
Withdrawn	The proposal has been withdrawn by the proposing agency
Withdrawn because national approach	Central Office assessment was that a national approach is being adopted

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