



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

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

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

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For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

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Cover photo: Tara iti / fairy tern foraging. *Photo: Jacob Ball, DOC*

Back cover photo: New Zealand Conservation Authority, Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board, and mana whenua at Taranaki Maunga. *Photo: Sarah Rowe*

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation

Tēnā koe Minister

I submit, in accordance with Section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), the annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority/Te Pou Atawhai Taiao Aotearoa (the Authority) for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The Act requires that the Authority report each year to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

Meetings

The Authority met on six occasions during the year, two of which were held outside of Wellington, at Canterbury Aoraki and Taranaki respectively. Each of these involved a day field trip alongside the local conservation board, regional departmental staff, and included meeting with local mana whenua.

The approval of plans

The Authority was not asked to approve either a conservation management strategy or national park management plan during the year under report. A priority for the Authority is timely review by the Department of Conservation of its management plans and strategies which are integral to the Department's function and performance. I point out that 80% of statutory planning documents are overdue for full review and 98% will be overdue in 5 years, a growing trend that has been evident for well over a decade now.¹

The Authority was strategically engaged in the Department's initiative to 'reimagine' management planning throughout 2023, however this initiative has been suspended. The Authority remains concerned at the state of management planning in the Department, with no clear path to improve the system.

Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

The Authority has been active in seeking progress on the partial review of the General Policies to give full effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi and consider the advice of the Options Development Group Report of April 2022.

¹ These figures include conservation management strategies, national park management plans and conservation management plans.

Committees

The Act enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated to the Authority between Authority meetings. In the reporting period the active committees included Biocontrol, Treaty Partnerships, Management Planning, and Tourism.

Advocacy

The Authority advocated its interests during the reporting period through submissions on the following matters:

- draft Tourism Environment Action Plan
- Hauraki Gulf/ Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill
- Exploring a Biodiversity Credit System for Aotearoa New Zealand
- Regulatory Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy
- Environmental Defence Society draft report Restoring Nature
- Fast-track Approvals Bill
- Science System Advisory Group: Phase 1.

Minister of Conservation

The Hon Tama Potaka attended the Authority's meeting in June 2024. Since the change in Government in November 2023, I have had phone calls with the Minister and discussed issues by phone as and when they arise. There is a standing invitation for the Minister to attend meetings of the Authority.

The Authority has provided advice directly to the Minister during the reporting year on a number of matters including:

- addition of Riversdale Flats to Arthur's Pass
- recommendations for appointment to conservation boards
- myrtle rust
- expenditure of IVL funding.

Director-General

The Authority has maintained a positive and connected relationship with the Director-General (DG) during the year, including a series of strategic discussions with the DG and Senior Leadership Team across priority issues and challenges facing conservation. The Authority aims to continue a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship with the DG.

Conservation boards

Authority members are invited to select a conservation board for which they act as a liaison person, to attend meetings, receive agenda papers and liaise with the board chair. Reporting back informs the Authority of issues that conservation boards may be facing and identifies actions the Authority may provide in tangible support. It also allows boards to raise significant issues.

In September 2023 the Authority hosted the annual conservation board chairs' conference at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. This is an important forum for building collaboration between the Authority and conservation boards, to share ideas, practices and develop deeper understanding of the role boards play in conservation leadership.

During the reporting period, a Conservation Board Working Group was established by the DG. The group has representation from conservation boards, the DOC Senior Leadership Team and the Authority (being Tak Mutu and Ina Kara-France). The aim of the group is to strengthen the focus and function of conservation boards.


In closing

Finally, I thank Authority members and support staff for their continued effort and application to their function, and particularly to those members who retired or whose terms expired at 30 June.

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

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

Nāku iti, noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Ellison', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Edward Ellison, ONZM

Chair, New Zealand Conservation Authority



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.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHORITY

The New Zealand Conservation Authority/Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa (the Authority) is a national statutory body, established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), that provides strategic advice on conservation issues of national importance to the Minister of Conservation (the Minister) and to the Director-General of Conservation.

The functions of the Authority are set out in the Act, 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 mana recognition, and acknowledging kaitiakitanga as an important foundation for Māori conservation outcomes.

A major responsibility of the Authority is the approval of the 10-year conservation management strategies and national park management plans that guide the Department of Conservation's (the Department's) management of public conservation lands, waters, and species.

The Authority is committed to collaborative models in the management of public conservation resources. This is embodied in the long history of formal engagement of New Zealanders in the conservation management of Aotearoa New Zealand, through bodies such as the Authority and conservation boards. The partnership between conservation boards and the Authority is a long-standing legislative mechanism that enables conservation through partnerships.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Authority has 13 members, appointed by the Minister. Authority members are appointed for 3-year terms, unless otherwise stated, and may be re-appointed. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences and geographical knowledge contributes to the advice and decisions made by the Authority. The Authority is made up of:

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

DR MICK ABBOTT of Waitati, appointed on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs Inc. Term: June 2024 to June 2026.

TĀNE DAVIS MNZM of Invercargill, appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Term: October 2018 to June 2025.

GREG DULEY of Hawke's Bay, appointed from public nominations. Term: July 2022 to June 2025.

EDWARD ELLISON ONZM of Dunedin, appointed from public nominations, is Chair of the Authority. Term: January 2019 to June 2026.

SALLY GEPP of Nelson, appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. Term: August 2020 to June 2025.

INA KARA-FRANCE of Auckland, appointed after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development. Term: August 2023 to June 2026.

AROHA MEAD of Wellington, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Tourism. Term: July 2022 to June 2025.

ROBIN MCNEILL MNZM of Invercargill, appointed on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs Inc. Term: August 2020 to May 2024.

TAK MUTU of Rotorua, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Tourism. Term: April 2021 to June 2025.

WENDY NELSON MNZM of Wellington, appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, is Deputy Chair. Term: August 2020 to June 2026.

MARJORIE (JILL) PETTIS of Martinborough, appointed after consultation with the Minister of Local Government. Term: August 2023 to June 2025.

SHADRACH ROLLESTON of Tauranga, appointed from public nominations. Term: August 2023 to June 2026.

METIRIA STANTON TUREI of Dunedin, appointed from public nominations. Term: July 2022 to June 2025.

PUNA WANO-BRYANT of Waitara, appointed after consultation with the Minister for Māori Development. Term: June 2024 to June 2026.

The diversity amongst the members brings together a wide range of knowledge, focus and skill.

3. MEETINGS

The Authority met on six occasions during the year: in August, October, and December 2023, and in February, April, and June 2024. Each meeting takes place over two days, and those held outside of Wellington involve a one-day field trip on the first day alongside the local conservation board.

3.1 Strategic advice to the Minister

Throughout the reporting year the Authority has advised the Minister on the following matters:

- addition of Riversdale Flats to Arthur's Pass, in January 2024
- appointments to conservation boards in 2024, in March 2024
- advice on myrtle rust, in May 2024
- expenditure of IVL funding, in June 2024.

3.2 Strategic advice to the Department

The Authority continued to meet with members of the Department's Senior Leadership Team at each meeting to engage on strategic issues.

Strategic discussions with the Director-General and Deputy Directors-General included:

- section 4: progress on implementation
- impact of DOC advisory groups
- functioning of conservation boards
- priorities of the new Government
- regulatory services.

The Authority wrote an advice piece to the Department, at the request of the Director-General, on the 'Functioning of Conservation Boards' in October 2023.

3.3 Engagement with external parties

The Authority hosted and heard from the following speakers from outside of the Department:

- Daniel Patrick and Mel Mark-Shadbolt to discuss the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge, in February 2023.

3.4 Attendance at meetings 2023 / 24

Member	Number of meetings attended (total of 6)
Mick Abbott	1 *
Tāne Davis	6
Greg Duley	6
Edward Ellison (Chair)	6
Sally Gepp	3 **
Ina Kara-France	4
Aroha Mead	5
Robin McNeill	3
Tak Mutu	5
Wendy Nelson	5
Jill Pettis	5
Shadrach Rolleston	6
Metiria Turei	5
Puna Wano-Bryant	1 *

* Note: Mick Abbott and Puna Wano-Bryant were appointed in early June 2024 and attended the final meeting of the reporting year.

** Note: Sally Gepp took six months leave for the first half of the reporting year while overseas.

3.5 Treaty partner and stakeholder engagement

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 on site, 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. The Authority meets outside of Wellington twice annually at its April and October meetings.

17 and 18 October 2023 – Aoraki Mount Cook, Canterbury

The field trip began at the Mahaanui DOC Office, where there was a mihi whakatau with Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and lunch with the local staff. We then departed for Geraldine for a welcome at the Ruakapuka office, with a presentation on braided awa and the Rakitata River on the way, before spending the night in Twizel. The next morning we travelled to Mount Cook for a review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan, a climate change presentation with Dr Heather Purdie while standing on the terminal moraine of the Tasman Glacier, and a wilding conifer update with Professor Philip Hulme.

We travelled to Arowhenua Marae in Temuka the following morning, where the Authority was welcomed by pōwhiri, before the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and Authority split up for their respective meetings.

Overall, the trip was immensely valuable; we visited a diverse range of landscapes, and it was a great privilege to spend time with the Conservation Board and DOC staff across the South Canterbury offices. It is evident that the relationship with mana whenua is working well on the ground, as well as the relationship between the board and local staff, which is very pleasing to see.

19 April 2024 – Egmont National Park / Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, New Plymouth

The field trip started with a visit to the North Taranaki Visitor Centre. Here the Authority was received by Te Atiawa and the local DOC staff and heard about their project to redevelop the facility. Before stopping for lunch at the Stratford Mountain House, we visited the Manganui Bridge, currently under construction, where we received a presentation of the project from DOC project managers, Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Maru. As the last stop, we visited the construction site for Te Rere o Kapuni at Dawson Falls, where Ngāruahine shared with us their project plan as well as fascinating stories of their tūpuna and the maunga.

This field trip was of immense value for the Authority. We were pleased to have such a positive engagement with local iwi and are most grateful for their warm hospitality. It was great to see that the relationship between the local DOC staff and mana whenua is growing strongly and how the local iwi are actively engaged in many projects across Egmont National Park / Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, reflecting the growth and influence of the iwi voice on the ancestral maunga Taranaki.

4. BUDGET

4.1 Budget and member fees

The Authority's budget for the reporting year was \$130,000. 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.

The Authority is just able to meet its core functions within its significant budgetary constraints, following a 12.5% cut in 2022-23. However, the Authority could achieve significantly more work on behalf of the public conservation estate if its budget was commensurate with that of similar organisations.



NZCA members on a field trip to Aoraki Mount Cook. Photo: Sara Rowe

4.2 Carbon emissions

At the October 2021 meeting, the Authority adopted a Climate Change Policy that committed the Authority to calculate, as far as practicable, its carbon footprint and publish this in its annual reports. The Department’s Outcomes Management Office has provided the tools to enable the Authority to fulfil its commitment.*

The 2018/19 year is included as a baseline, with all six of the Authority’s meetings taking place in person.

	2018/19 (first year measured)	2021/22 (reporting year)	2022/23 (previous year)	2023/24 (reporting year)
CO ₂ e t	18.90	11.73	20.61	16.35

* Emissions reporting includes hosting the Conservation Board Chairs’ Conference (see section 8.4).

5. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

5.1 Section 4 of the Act

Section 4 of the Act 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 this Act, section 4 applies to the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

During the reporting year, the Treaty Partnerships Committee discussed giving effect to section 4 and what it means to become an honourable Treaty partner. The Authority developed a Section 4 Obligations paper. This paper is owned by the Authority and its purpose is to set out the priorities and perspectives of the Authority in relation to section 4, and to guide its interactions with the Department.

5.2 Functions of the Authority

Section 6B of the Act sets out the 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. There are two general policies, the General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation General Policy.

The Authority is waiting for the Department to advise on plans for the review of the general policies. It is a legal requirement to update the policies every 10 years; the current policies are 19 years old.

(b) Approve conservation management strategies

A conservation management strategy (CMS) is a 10-year statutory document that implements general policy and establishes 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 tangata whenua.

No conservation management strategies were received by the Authority for consideration this reporting year.

The lack of progress is an issue the Authority has consistently raised with the Department. The outdated state of both conservation management strategies and conservation management plans (CMPs) limits the ability of the Authority and conservation boards to exercise their statutory responsibilities in full.

There is a statutory requirement that CMSs and CMPs are reviewed as a whole by the Director-General, not later than 10 years after the date of the approval of the strategy or plan, as per section 17H(4)(b) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Authority is aware that eight CMSs and ten CMPs have not been reviewed within a 10-year period following their approval. Therefore, the Authority wrote to the Director-General on 13 July 2023 expressing its concern at the out-of-date state of management planning. The Authority also requested that the Department brief the Minister on the s17H requirement for CMS and CMP review periods to be extended by the Minister following consultation, and that the Minister then initiates consultation with the Authority and affected conservation boards in relation to all necessary extensions. The Authority finally received a response to this letter on 3 November 2023, that states the Department's position that while they are overdue, they remain operative.

(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 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 advocates for the review of the general policies.

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

The Authority investigates conservation matters it deems to be of national importance and provides advice to the Minister and Director-General of Conservation. The Authority provides this advice in a number of ways, such as in discussions at meetings, via letters (outlined in section 3 of this report), by way of its committees working closely with departmental staff, sharing its submissions (outlined in section 5.3), and by the Chairperson maintaining regular contact (via phone and/or online meetings) with the Minister and the Director-General.

(f) Change of land status – stewardship land

The Authority is waiting for decisions to be made by the Department on progressing the review of stewardship land.

(g) 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.

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

(h) Priorities for expenditure by the Department

The Authority did not provide advice to the Minister and the Director-General of Conservation on priorities for the expenditure of money for the financial year 2023/24. The Authority considered the timing for submitting advice on this matter was not appropriate due to the 6.5% saving targets the Department was asked to meet.

(i) 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.

(j) Ministerial delegations

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

5.3 Powers of the Authority

Section 6C of the Act sets out the powers of the Authority.

(a) 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:

- **Biocontrol Committee:** Wendy Nelson, Ina Kara-France, Jill Pettis

The National Parks Act 1980, section 5A, and the Reserves Act 1977, section 51A, stipulate that before authorising the introduction of any biological control organism in any national park or reserve respectively, the Minister shall consult with the Authority.

This reporting year the committee received an application from the Department seeking authorisation to introduce two biological control agents into Mount Aspiring National Park. The agents are ragwort plume moth (*Platyptilia isodactyla*) and ragwort flea beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*) to control ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*). Ragwort is an invasive weed species that has the ability to displace native species.

The application was considered by the full Authority at the June meeting; the application was approved.

- **Conservation Law Reform Committee:** Edward Ellison Tāne Davis, Aroha Mead, Sally Gepp, Shad Rolleston

This committee was established at the Authority's February 2022 meeting to advise the Minister on conservation law reform proposals. The committee did not meet during the 2023/2024 reporting year. The committee remains in place and will convene as and when required.

- **Treaty Partnerships Committee:** Edward Ellison, Metiria Stanton Turei, Tāne Davis, Ina Kara-France, Aroha Mead

The role of this committee is to ensure that the Department gives appropriate effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 and remains an honourable Treaty partner through upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.

This year, the committee has held regular meetings with Tame Malcolm, Deputy Director-General Treaty Relationships, and members of his team regarding the work of the Treaty Relationships group. The Committee has received updates on the group's plans to uplift the capability of staff with regards to section 4. The Committee also used the meetings to discuss how the Authority will continue to give effect to section 4 through their work programme for the 2024–25 reporting year.

- **Management Planning Committee:** Edward Ellison, Sally Gepp, Ina Kara-France, Metiria Stanton Turei, Shadrach Rolleston

This committee was established to provide the Department with advice on its internal system review and design, all matters relating to statutory plans and strategies, such as the national conservation management strategy review for biking.

This reporting year, the committee has regularly met with Departmental staff. For several months, the committee was



NZCA members on a field trip to Aoraki Mount Cook. Photo: Sara Rowe

involved in advising the Department on the work on re-imagining management planning. However, the committee have recently been made aware that the re-imagining management planning work has been stopped; the committee remain concerned at the lack of progress with the Management Planning system.

- o **Marine Committee:** Wendy Nelson, Edward Ellison, Sally Gepp.

This committee did not meet during the 2023/2024 reporting year. The committee remains in place and will convene as and when required. The full Authority received regular marine-related updates during Authority meetings.

- o **Tourism Committee:** Tak Mutu, Robin McNeill, Tāne Davis

This committee was established to advise the Department on the future of tourism in New Zealand from a conservation perspective.

The committee has met once in this reporting year, in July 2023, to discuss sustainable management of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing with Department staff, as well as the Milford Opportunities Project. Also during this reporting year, the committee prepared a submission on MBIE's draft Tourism Environment Action Plan. In February, it was agreed that this Committee would incorporate the overview of the Milford Opportunities Project. Meetings with the Project Director in April and May 2024 provided the Authority with updates on the project, as they work towards their final report to Government at the end of the financial year.

(b) Advocacy

The Authority advocated its interests during the reporting period through several public submissions, available to read on its webpage on the Department's website. These include submissions on:

- MBIE draft Tourism Environment Action Plan, July 2023
- Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, November 2023
- Exploring a Biodiversity Credit System for Aotearoa New Zealand, November 2023
- Developing a Regulatory Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy, November 2023
- EDS draft report – Restoring Nature, February 2024
- Fast-track Approvals Bill, April 2024
- Science System Advisory Group: Phase 1, May 2024
- IVL funding.

6. THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

6.1 Functions of the Authority

Section 18 of the National Parks Act 1980 sets out the functions of the Authority.

(a) Review the General Policy for National Parks

General policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes. There are two general policies, the General Policy for National Parks and Conservation General Policy. The Authority is the custodian of the General Policy for National Parks.

The Authority is frustrated by the continued delays in the review of the General Policy for National Parks and lack of response to the Options Development Group's recommendations. As a result, the Authority has considered undertaking a review of the General Policy for National Parks, but this did not proceed.

(b) National park management plans

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

(c) Additions to, and deletions from, national parks

During the reporting period, the Authority received requests from the Department for additions to two national parks, being:

1. Proposed addition to Paparoa National Park
2. Proposed additions to Abel Tasman National Park.

In both cases, the Authority will undertake its own investigation to decide whether these additions are appropriate, as required by section 6(d) of the General Policy for National Parks.

(d) National park investigations

No national park investigations were undertaken during the reporting period.

(e) National park determinations

The Authority was asked by the Department to consider initiating a process to consider a limited determination to clarify if the Fiordland National Park Management Plan provides an exemption from the National Parks Act 1920 section 4(2)(b) requirement in relation to community management of introduced animals within the Wapiti area. The Authority was unsure if this determination was in their remit, and decided to seek legal advice. The requested legal advice has not yet been received from the Department.

Therefore, no determinations were made during the reporting period.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

7.1 JD Stout Trust

The Stout Trust was established to provide grants for the preservation of natural or historic sites or amenities for public enjoyment, and the promotion, creation or preservation of works of art, including visual, audio or literary arts.

The Authority has a representative that sits on the Historical and Natural Sites Panel, a board that advises on grants made by the Trust. Wendy Nelson is the Authority's representative on this panel and attended the Trust's meeting on 27 October 2023.

7.2 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a democratic membership union that uses the world's most influential organisations and experts to conserve nature and work towards sustainable use of natural resources. The IUCN has over 1,400 members from more than 170 countries; the Authority, along with another government agency, is one of eight members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN. The Committee meets quarterly. Wendy Nelson is the Authority's representative on the Committee.

In the 2023/2024 reporting year, six meetings were held of the New Zealand IUCN National Committee (July, September, November, February, March, May). The National Committee supported the nomination of Aroha Mead to the IUCN Working Group on Synthetic Biology Nature Conservation. In November the National Committee held a workshop with the Department of Conservation to provide early advice on the Te Mana o Te Taiao Implementation Plan and national targets in response to the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework. The IUCN Oceania Regional Director Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago attended the March meeting and held separate meetings with members of the committee, including with the NZCA representative. In May IUCN held a 24-hour global event – the first World Species Congress – during which Aroha Mead led a panel on 'Indigenous knowledge and species management' with colleagues from Aotearoa, Kenya and Mongolia. In New Zealand the Congress was marked with a satellite event,

hosted jointly by the NZ IUCN National Committee and Te Nukua Wellington Zoo (as a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums – WAZA). At this event a wide range of conservation groups signed the ‘Reverse the Red Pledge’ identifying key actions the organisations were taking aimed at species recovery.

7.3 Other organisations

Species Aotearoa – Wendy Nelson, Aroha Mead

Strategic Oversight Group for the Wildlife Review – Aroha Mead, Greg Duley

Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group – Tony Lepper (co-opted)

Wild Animal Management National Coordination Group – Greg Duley

8. CONSERVATION BOARDS

8.1 Conservation board boundaries

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

8.2 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 2024. The Authority was encouraged by the high standard of nominations received. It was heartening to see great diversity across these nominations, not only of ethnicity, gender and age, but also of experience, knowledge and skills.



8.3 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. Interactions, highlights, and issues are reported back to the Authority at each meeting.

Conservation board	Liaison member
Te Hiku o te Ika	Ina Kara-France
Northland	Ina Kara-France
Auckland	Ina Kara-France
Waikato	Shadrach Rolleston
Bay of Plenty	Tak Mutu
East Coast Hawke's Bay	Greg Duley
Tongariro Taupō	Tak Mutu
Taranaki Whanganui	Aroha Mead
Wellington	Wendy Nelson
Chatham Islands	Edward Ellison
Nelson Marlborough	Sally Gepp
West Coast Tai Poutini	Metiria Stanton Turei
Canterbury Aoraki	Greg Duley
Otago	Metiria Stanton Turei
Southland	Tāne Davis

8.4 Annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference 2023

The Authority hosted the annual Conservation Board Chairpersons' Conference on 8 and 9 September 2023, at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. These conferences are designed to build collaboration between the Authority and conservation boards, and for the boards to develop stronger working relationships with each other and the Department. 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. It is a vital opportunity to share ideas and practices. The theme for the 2023 conference was 'being an honourable Treaty partner', and the main topics on the conference agenda included:

- Discussions with the Director-General of Conservation
- Discussions with the Minister of Conservation
- Discussions on being an honourable Treaty partner
- Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy
- Management planning and regulatory strategy
- Discussions on recent conservation publications
- The functioning of conservation boards.

8.5 Annual reports

Conservation boards are each required by section 60 of the Act to provide the Authority with an annual report. These reports are available on each board's individual page on the Department's website.

8.6 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.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Authority reviews its performance and strategy annually at its June meeting. Members reviewed their work programme for 2023/24 (Appendix I) noting the status of actions to date. In forming the work programme 2024-25, members agreed that the Authority would focus on its own priorities, which will be informed by the Minister's priorities.

The Authority reviewed its performance and noted that it has been effective in its role as an independent advisor to the Minister and the Director-General.

9.1 Regular review of policies, procedures, and principles

The Authority undertakes a regular review of its policies, procedures and principles. This year, the Authority reviewed, amended and/or adopted the following:

- o **NZCA Criteria for Consideration of National Park Management Plans (2012)**: adopted in August 2023, this paper outlines the criteria the Authority will use in its approval role for National Park Management Plans (NPMPs).
- o **NZCA Committee Structure Policy (2019)**: adopted in August 2023, this policy gives effect to the Authority's ability to establish committees under section 6D of the Conservation Act 1987 and sets out the guidelines on the constitution, structure and function of committees. This policy also recognises that in order for the Authority to accomplish its role, it will be necessary from time to time, to appoint committees for specific purposes.
- o **NZCA National Heritage Procedure - Land Acquisition for National Parks (2019)**: adopted in August 2023, this Policy only applies to section 7 of the National Parks Act 1980. It outlines the assessment and consultation process defined in the Act before the Authority can recommend to the Minister of Conservation that an area should be added to a national park.

These policies, procedures and principles can be found on the Authority's webpage on the Department's website.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Authority members, past and present, for their contribution to the work of the Authority, and to note our appreciation to the Executive Officer, Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson, and Servicing Officers, Sarah Rowe and Martina Giusto, who have been most efficient in the support and delivery of our work.

I would also like to acknowledge Penny Nelson, Director-General, and the departmental staff whose dedication to our public land and waters has been ever present in their engagements with the Authority. These relationships are extremely important to the work of the Authority, and members appreciate the enthusiasm Department staff have shown to working with the Authority.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the conservation boards and their members, whose sincerity and passion has provided the Authority with valued advice and has played an active part in engaging the community with conservation.

- E Tū Tāngata -

11. SCHEDULES

11.1 First schedule

Conservation management strategies: approval dates and status of reviews as of 30 June 2024. The statutory expectation is that each conservation management strategy will be reviewed at 10-year intervals.

The Authority's role is to approve the strategies once they have been presented by the Department and the relevant conservation board.

The Authority does not undertake the reviews.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	DATE APPROVED	STATUS
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	14 October 1998 (East Coast) 19 October 1994 (Hawke's Bay)	Overdue for review
Nelson/Marlborough	12 September 1996	Overdue for review
Wanganui	9 April 1997	Overdue for review
Bay of Plenty	4 December 1997	Under review
Chatham Islands	12 August 1999	Overdue for review
Tongariro Taupō	30 May 2002	Overdue for review
West Coast Tai Poutini	15 April 2010	Under review
Stewart Island/Rakiura	9 February 2011	Overdue for review
Northland	8 September 2014	Current
Waikato	8 September 2014	Current
Auckland	9 October 2014	Current
Canterbury (Waitaha)	1 June 2016	Current
Otago	1 June 2016	Current
Southland Murihiku	1 June 2016	Current
Wellington	20 January 2019	Current
Te Hiku o Te Ika	Conservation board est. 2015	Work under way

11.2 Second schedule

National Park management plans: approval dates and status as of 30 June 2024. The statutory expectation is that each national park management plan will be reviewed at 10-year intervals.

The Authority's role is to approve the management plans once they have been presented by the Department and the relevant conservation board.

The Authority does not undertake the reviews.

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN	DATE APPROVED	STATUS
Kahurangi	13 June 2001	Overdue for review
Westland Tai Poutini	21 December 2001	Overdue for review
Egmont/Taranaki	14 February 2002	Overdue for review
Nelson Lakes	10 October 2002	Overdue for review
Aoraki/Mount Cook	12 August 2004	Under review
Tongariro	12 October 2006	Overdue for review
Fiordland	21 June 2007	Overdue for review
Arthur's Pass	13 December 2007	Overdue for review
Abel Tasman	9 October 2008	Overdue for review
Rakiura	9 February 2011	Overdue for review
Mount Aspiring	23 June 2011	Overdue for review
Whanganui	9 August 2012	Overdue for review
Paparoa	1 February 2017	Current

11.3 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 Whangārei 0140
Auckland	Private Bag 68908 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141
Waikato	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Bay of Plenty	PO Box 457 Whakatane 3120
East Coast Hawke's Bay	Private Bag 11010, Manawatū Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Tongariro Taupō	PO Box 528 Taupō 3351
Taranaki/Whanganui	Private Bag 3072 Hamilton 3240
Wellington	Private Bag 11010, Manawatū Mail Centre Palmerston North 4442
Chatham Islands	PO Box 114, Waitangi Chatham Islands 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

11.4 Fourth schedule

Statutory functions and powers of the Authority.

ACT	2023/24	STATUTORY FUNCTION
Statutory functions (Conservation Act 1987)		
6B(a)	N	Advise on statements of general policy
6B(b)	N	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)	N	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)	N	Advise annually on priorities for expenditure
6B(i)	N	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)	N	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)	Y	Give advice on any other matter relating to any NP
4(2)(b)	Y	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)	N	The Minister shall consult the Authority on Specially Protected Areas
14(1)	N	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 an NP re: section 59 of the 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

12. APPENDIX I – NZCA WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

This work programme has been developed in response to the letter expressing the Minister’s priorities, dated 21 July 2023, and to ensure the Authority is best placed to deliver on its statutory functions. The work programme provides clear strategic direction and focus for the Authority’s work between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. The NZCA work programme is structured in two parts:

PART 1: Priority workstreams for 2023/24: These are areas that the Authority has identified as a priority focus for the coming year and reflect the Minister’s priorities which have been considered in identifying these areas and formulating the work programme. The work programme provides actions to monitor the Authority’s performance against its focus areas for reporting purposes.

PART 2: Strategic priorities: These are the strategic priorities of the Authority that set long-term goals and direction. These strategic priorities are the foundation of the ongoing work of the Authority to deliver on its 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.’

In addition, the Authority maintains a rolling 12-month calendar to establish a working plan to achieve the goals and actions set out in this work programme, and to identify further risks, issues and opportunities for conservation that are not covered by this work programme.

To further ensure the completion of actions entered into the work programme, items that have yet to be addressed during the 2022/23 financial year have been pre-populated into the new 2023/24 work programme, for members to discuss and initiate.

NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24




 Action not started
  Action overdue
  Action underway or ongoing
  Action completed

PART 1: PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS 2023 / 24

1. Conservation law reform Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (D)(E)(F)(K)

Actions 2023/24

Status Progress commentary








- (a) Engage in the Wildlife Act Review process, advocating for fit-for-purpose and mana-enhancing legislation.  Update on progress to be received at the Dec 2023 meeting.
- (b) Engage in the Conservation Management and Processes Bill (CMAP).  Decisions still to be made on progressing this.
- (c) Engage in the Marine Reserves Act Review, advocating vision and ambition in legislative change.  Department yet to initiate work on the review, but the Authority submitted in favour of the Hauraki Gulf/ Tikapa Moana Protection Bill in November 2023.

2. Implementation of strategies and plans to address the climate and biodiversity crises

Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (E)(H)(I)(J)(K)

Actions 2023 / 24

Status Progress commentary






- | Actions 2023 / 24 | Status | Progress commentary |
|--|---|--|
| (a) Advocate for cross-party/interagency support for Te Mana o Te Taiao (TMoTT) implementation (post-election). |  | Update on progress to be received at the Feb 2024 meeting. |
| (b) Monitor and prioritise the biodiversity planning approach. |  | Update received at the Feb 2024 meeting. |
| (c) Advocate for the inclusion of marine ecosystems, habitats, and species in the implementation of TMoTT. |  | Ongoing. |
| (d) Support science/mātauranga to enable more effective implementation of TMoTT, and advocate for improved coordination of and access to environmental databases and collections. |  | |
| (e) Assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Vote Biodiversity Fund (\$180m) and subsequent impact and outcomes of budget moneys. |  | |
| (f) Monitor the implementation of the Department's Climate Change Adaption Action Plan (CCAAP). |  | |
| (g) Ensure major environment, conservation and climate change reforms are connected (e.g. TMoTT, Te Mana o te Wai, PF2050, conservation law reform, and Biosecurity Act overhaul). |  | |

3. Review and reclassifying stewardship land

Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (C)(D)(E)(F)(K)

Actions 2023 / 24

Status Progress commentary




- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| (a) Ensure the principles of Te Tiriti are embedded in the Department's programme and approach to prioritising stewardship land reclassifications in Western South Island (WSI) and Northern South Island (NSI). |  | Awaiting further decisions on the outcomes of the Stewardship Land project post-election. |
| (b) Conduct a credible and transparent investigation into the recommendations related to additions to national parks and provide clear recommendations for action. |  | |
| (c) Support the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board on specific land recategorisation matters. |  | |
| (d) Investigate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu position on national parks in considering recommendations on recategorisation to national park status. |  | |
| (e) Advise on the strategy/programme for prioritising stewardship land classification. |  | |

4. Partial reviews of the Conservation General Policy (CGP) and the General Policy for National Parks (GPNP)

Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (D)(E)(F)(K)

Actions 2023/24

Status Progress commentary




- (a) Explore conducting a full review of the CGP with the aim of better acknowledgement of section 4, improvements to CMSs, and create alignment to climate change and other crucial conservation matters. 
- (b) Complete the partial review of the GPNP (in accordance with its function under section 18(a) of the National Parks Act 1980). 
- (c) Advise MOC on the drafting of the CGP partial review (in accordance with its function under section 6B(1)(a) of the Act). 

5. Statutory management planning system and processes

Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)(F)(K)

Actions 2023/24

Status Progress commentary

- (a) Ensure section 4 considerations are appropriately addressed in policies and statutory plans that come before the Authority for approval. 
- (b) Advise the Department on the future-state of management planning, through the Re-imagining Management Planning Project. 
- (c) Monitor and advise on re-imagining management planning work and implementation. 

NZCA members have attended Sprint Review sessions on 6 and 20 October, wider RIMP matters were with the NZCA Management Planning Committee on 3 November and a strategic session was held at the December meeting.

NZCA members have attended Sprint Review sessions on 6 and 20 October, wider RIMP matters were with the NZCA Management Planning Committee on 3 November, and a strategic session was held at the December meeting.

6. Cross-government work on the future of tourism

Relates to NZCA strategic priorities (E)(F)(G)(K)

Actions 2023/24

Status Progress commentary

- (a) Advise MOC and DG on matters relating to tourism on public conservation land. 

The Authority submitted on the Draft Tourism Environment Action Plan in July 2023, and provided advice to the Minister on expenditure of IVL funds in June 2024.

PART 2: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (long-term objectives)
(Reviewed and approved at NZCA October 2023 meeting)

Statutory role for management planning and land status

Strategic priority (A&B)

NZCA role (A&B)

Goals (A&B)

Actions (A&B)

Conservation management strategies (A) and national park management plans (B)

Statutory (review and approval).

Review, approve, and champion improvements to the planning framework to ensure timeliness and quality of the planning process.

1. Follow NZCA approval processes and seek opportunities to expedite timelines and efficacy of the approval processes whilst holding or improving the quality of decisions.
2. Approve CMS/NPMP at the third meeting after receipt.
3. Continue to push for better, more dynamic and responsive plans, and smarter planning processes.
4. Ensure CMSs and NPMPs align with legislation.
5. Ensure Operations staff undertake their work in conformity with the statutory plans.
6. Ensure the inclusion of relevant recommendations of the Options Development Group (ODG) Report into statutory plans.
7. Ensure the inclusion of Treaty Settlement obligations into statutory plans.

Strategic priority (C)

NZCA role (C)

Goals (C)

Land status re-categorisation e.g. stewardship land

Statutory (for national parks) and advisory (for all conservation lands).

Ensure the process and decision for land recategorisation is credible and robust; and that this is apparent to all stakeholders, including hapū and iwi at the inception of the process.

Actions (C)

1. Conduct a credible and transparent investigation and provide a report with clear recommendations for action.
2. Support the relevant conservation board on specific land recategorisation matters.
3. Advise on the strategy/ programme for prioritising stewardship land reclassification.
4. Provide input to the WSI and NSI stewardship land review processes.

Strategic priority (D)

NZCA role (D)

Goals (D)

Statutory and advisory.

Meet requirements for NZCA as specified in settlement legislation; give ongoing effect to the principles of the Treaty (per section 4 and General Policies); provide advice in response to requests from settlement negotiation parties; evaluate and provide feedback on novel post-Treaty Settlement approaches to achieving conservation outcomes.

Actions (D)

Treaty of Waitangi and post-Treaty settlement conservation management

1. Ensure Conservation Act 1987 section 4 considerations are appropriately addressed in the updated General Policy for National Parks and that the procedures for this are updated with learnings from Treaty settlements, and other advice received.
2. Demonstrate openness and good faith when giving advice (if consulted) on alternative models for conservation oversight and management.
3. Maintain open and ongoing communication with iwi leaders.
4. Implement NZCA's section 4 policy, and annually review the Authority's performance in relation to this.
5. Ensure the Department develops an effective strategy for building relationships with iwi.
6. Receive updates from the Department on their implementation of the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki decision and the recommendations in the ODG Report.

Influence and 'step change' opportunities

Strategic priority (E)

Strategic advice to the Minister and DG in the current context of conservation, the governance requirements, and strategic advice on public policy documents and legislation

NZCA role (E)

Advisory.

Goals (E)

Be respected as an independent and influential source of strategic advice for conservation.

Actions (E)

1. Give clear, considered and timely advice:
 - on all matters, relevant to the NZCA effectively fulfilling its functions; and
 - where this can be influential in achieving better conservation outcomes.
2. Maintain an active environmental scan to ensure the current and future operating context for conservation is well understood.
3. Maintain active links with conservation boards and the community, and actively seek improved quality of conservation board nominees.
4. Follow up on submissions and advice to gauge their influence and identify where improvements in this role can be made.
5. Provide regular monitoring of and advice to achieve the Department's Strategy.

Strategic priority (F)

Opportunities for step-change in conservation

NZCA role (F)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (F)

Better understand, protect, enhance and appreciate Aotearoa New Zealand's native terrestrial and marine biodiversity, and ensure that conservation and efforts across major reforms and environment initiatives are connected and impactful.

Seek, consider and acknowledge the participation of community groups, Māori, and NGOs in conservation efforts.

Actions (F)

1. Provide strategic advice to the Director-General and the Minister for the effective management of introduced and pervasive pest species and weeds affecting native biodiversity.
2. Support the discussion and evaluation and, where appropriate, field assessment (probably meant to be in-containment), of gene drive/gene editing and other novel technologies that could help Aotearoa New Zealand become predator free by 2050.
3. Provide advice on securing and/or sustaining a social licence to responsibly use efficient pest and weed control technologies.
4. Continue to encourage the Department to undertake and sustain large-scale animal pest control and progress toward complete eradication of mammalian predators from large areas, such as Rakiura.
5. Encourage the Department to actively manage other threats to native biodiversity such as kauri dieback (PTA) disease and myrtle rust, and to take a strong stance on biosecurity in general.
6. Advocate for conservation on private land.
7. Encourage the Department to undertake and sustain landscape-scale plant pest and weed control, such as wilding pines eradication.
8. Encourage the Department to produce measurable positive outcomes for biodiversity at a species and habitat level.

Strategic priority (G)

Visitor management on public conservation lands and waters

NZCA role (G)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (G)

Manage and mitigate the activities of domestic and international visitors on public conservation land.

Actions(G)

1. Advise the Department on the implementation of its Visitor Strategy and the DOC/MBIE Tourism Strategy.
2. Ensure the concessions framework for tourism activities on public conservation land is fit for purpose.
3. Review the resilience and capabilities of conservation land to provide for visitors at specific sites, especially pressure points.
4. Work with other key stakeholders that have an interest in the tourism industry, eg Tourism Industry Aotearoa, MBIE, local government and iwi, hapū and whānau.

Advocacy on nationally significant issues for conservation

Strategic priority (H)

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

NZCA role (H)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (H)

Assess the implications of, and opportunities arising from, climate change and ensure conservation planning and expenditure priorities.

Actions (H)

1. Highlight the role of conservation in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and the means to reduce the risks of climate change to biodiversity and the Department's infrastructure and management of capital assets.
2. Show leadership with respect to landscape-scale pest and weed control and its contribution as a mitigating factor - improving ecosystem health/ resilience.
3. Monitor the implementation of DOC's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (CCAAP).
4. Advise on connectivity of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts between reforms and environmental programmes.

Strategic priority (I)

Rivers and freshwater ecosystems

NZCA role (I)

Advisory and advocacy.

Be an advocate for ecosystem services that public conservation land provides to New Zealanders and implement the principles of Te Mana o Te Wai with respect to protecting the values of our waterways and waterbodies.

Actions (I)

1. Maintain active advocacy for the comprehensive protection of a representative range of rivers.
2. Use the NZCA River Report (2011) and other national freshwater management initiatives as a basis for advocacy for freshwater ecosystem management.
3. Provide strategic advice on the management of whitebait and other endangered freshwater species such as the longfin eel.
4. Ensure DOC's environmental strategies align with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and its successors, and the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, to address cumulative impact issues in water use and management.
5. Encourage conservation boards to have a stronger focus on rivers and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

Strategic priority (J)

Marine ecosystems and protected areas

NZCA role (J)

Advisory and advocacy.

Goals (J)

Contribute to the better protection of the marine environment and biodiversity.

Actions(J)

1. Advocate for legislative reform and the development of a range of tools to enable protection of marine ecosystems, habitats and species.
2. Advocate for the inclusion of marine species, habitats and ecosystems in reporting on the status of indigenous biodiversity.
3. Contribute to discussion documents and maintain oversight of activities affecting the marine environment and biodiversity (e.g. coastal and offshore marine developments, aquaculture, fisheries by-catch, marine biosecurity).

Monitoring and evaluation

Strategic priority (K)

NZCA role (K)

Goals (K)

Effectiveness and efficiency of the Department's conservation management

Review and advisory.

Fulfil statutory function (CA 6B(c)) to review and report on the Department's administration of General Policies; provide insightful evaluation and advice that contributes to improved conservation outcomes and a 'check and balance' on the Department's strategic planning.

Ensure the Department maintains continuous acknowledgement of the Treaty Settlements it has key responsibilities to and their related obligations.

Actions (K)

1. Ensure General Policies are implemented in CMSs and NPMPs (via approval role – see A&B), and Milestone reporting is undertaken.
2. Provide advice on the Department's Statement of Intent.
3. Provide advice to the Minister of Conservation and Director-General on budget and priority spending.
4. Provide advice to the Department on how businesses, volunteer groups and communities can engage with them more easily in order to increase conservation outcomes.

Strategic priority (L)

NZCA role (L)

Goals (L)

Actions (L)

NZCA's performance

Self-review.

Effect continuous improvement to achieve greater value and impact.

1. Undertake annual self-review of performance and modus operandi.
2. Regularly review and update the NZCA policies and principles.
3. Work on a process to ensure better communications between conservation boards and the NZCA.
4. Produce an Annual Report for year ending 30 June 2024.
5. Strive for continuous growth of cultural competency of all members.



NEW ZEALAND

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

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**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government