


Towards a Strategic Direction for Biodiversity Enhancement

"The Whole of Northland Project"

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Glenys Mullooly, NZ Landcare Trust

Cover Photographs

Kiwi	*Photo: NZ Landcare Trust*
Tuatara	*Photo: Department of Conservation*
Pouto North Kaipara	*Photo: Northland Regional Council*
Metrosideros robusta-rata	*Photo: Northland Regional Council*

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Part 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This report should be considered as a developing document. The content is based on information available at the time of publication. Indeed, one of the aims of this project was to assess the level of information available for Northland. Agencies and organisations are continuing to develop and update information on biodiversity for Northland as resources become available.

Northland Biodiversity Group

The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group (N-Beg) was the first regional biodiversity forum established in New Zealand. When it was formed in 2001, the representative agencies and organisations agreed that N-Beg is a "forum of agencies in Northland with responsibility for promoting the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Northland". Since then it has continued to provide a forum for increased cooperation, networking and links between such agencies and organisations at a staff level.

Convened by the NZ Landcare Trust, N-Beg includes representatives of the Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation, QE II National Trust, Mid-North Farm Forestry Association, Fish & Game NZ, Bank of New Zealand Save the Kiwi, Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North District Council and the NZ Kiwi Foundation.

In 2004 N-Beg launched its self-help kit "Restoring the Balance", with the assistance of the Biodiversity Advice Fund. This presents a wide range of biodiversity enhancement information to provide landowners with a practical integrated approach to biodiversity management.

The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group recognised the need to increase the effectiveness of agencies and organisations to meet the regional needs for biodiversity enhancement on private land.

The process is only achieved by working in a collaborative partnership on various levels and utilising the strengths in the various agencies and organisations. N-Beg has built on the groundswell of interest in biodiversity in Northland resulting in biodiversity actions that would not otherwise have been made.

1.2 Biodiversity Values

Green Gecko (Photo: DOC)

Biodiversity describes the variety of all biological life-plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems on land or in water where they live. It is the diversity of life.

New Zealand's unique flora and fauna has been shaped through millions of years of isolation with a high percentage of species found nowhere else on earth. Since the arrival of people and changing land use a high percentage of indigenous species have been lost through habitat modification and clearance, over-harvesting and introduction of exotic species that have become plant and animal pests. All this has occurred despite people being dependent on healthy functioning ecosystems for their survival.

While a third of the country is managed for conservation purposes, most of this is in upland areas and mountains. A vast majority of the remainder is held in private ownership. Many of these areas are lowland, river margins, wetlands and coastal areas that have relatively few natural habitats for native species.

1.3 Biodiversity Loss in Northland

Over the past 160 years the Northland region has undergone dramatic changes through land use change.

By the time European settlement occurred much of the flightless megafauna, large frogs and giant reptiles had already disappeared, while other species such as tuatara and large *Cyclodina* lizards were restricted to rodent-free offshore islands (Conning 2001).

Table 1 lists the numbers of threatened taxa in Northland. Land clearance and modification and the introduction of exotic species has resulted in ecosystem loss of:

- 99% of podocarp forest
- 96% of kauri and volcanic broadleaf forests
- 95% of freshwater wetlands and dune forests.

Above - T.pauciflora; Puketotara gumfield
Top left – Kauri canopy; Waipoua
Bottom left – Te Paki dunescape
Below – Bog; Karikari
(All Photos: NRC)

Table 1: Threatened taxa of Northland and New Zealand – 1994 and 2002 categories

Source: Hitchmough 2002.

Number of taxa (species and sub species combined)		Northland Locally extinct	Northland Present	Nationally Present	% Present Northland
Plants	Nationally Critical	3	28	169	**16.6**
	Nationally Endangered	0	22	77	**28.6**
	Nationally Vulnerable	0	3	23	**13.0**
	Serious Decline	1	11	30	**36.7**
	Gradual Decline	2	20	84	**23.8**
	Sparse	0	32	149	**21.5**
	Range Restricted	0	69	523	**13.2**
Terrestrial Animals	Nationally Critical	4	36	120	**30.0**
	Nationally Endangered	5	31	117	**26.5**
	Nationally Vulnerable	1	3	18	**16.7**
	Serious Decline	0	7	25	**28.0**
	Gradual Decline	1	19	69	**27.5**
	Sparse	0	31	94	**33.0**
	Range Restricted	1	154	440	**35.0**
Freshwater and Marine Animals	Nationally Critical	0	5	21	**23.8**
	Nationally Endangered	0	2	6	**33.3**
	Nationally Vulnerable	0	1	2	**50.0**
	Serious Decline	0	2	6	**33.3**
	Gradual Decline	0	4	17	**23.5**
	Sparse	0	2	29	**6.9**
	Range Restricted	0	84	288	**29.2**

Dolphin fishing Poor Knights Is.
(Photo : DOC)

1.4 Northland's Unique Environment

A distinctive feature of Northland is that it is a peninsular. Less than 100km across at its widest point, it is bounded by the Tasman Sea to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The coastline around Northland is more than 3000 km long with many sandy and deep water harbours, rocky headlands, sandy bays, outstanding estuarine habitats, mangrove forests and two of the largest harbours in the world. Pohutukawa are a distinctive feature and an icon along Northland's coast.

There are hundreds of islands scattered along the east coast, including Hen and Chickens, Poor Knights Islands, Cavalli islands, Three Kings and the Bay of Islands.

North Island Kaka: (Photo: DOC)

Some of these islands are pest-free and provide a refuge for threatened plants and animals. The islands are a storehouse of biodiversity, important for the restoration and rehabilitation of threatened species with the potential to re-colonise areas of the mainland. This is already occurring with birds such as kaka, kakariki and bellbirds dispersing from the islands to the mainland.

The inland topography is mainly low lying (0-300 metres above sea level) but steep rolling hill country reaches to the highest point in Northland near Te Raupua in the Waima Ranges at 781 metres above sea level. Numerous rivers, tidal streams, inlets and harbour systems dissect and break the pattern of hills.

No part of Northland is more than 40km from the sea and the region experiences a strong oceanic influence. A diversity of landform and soil types has contributed to a wide diversity of natural ecosystems and an unusually high diversity and endemism of species in the Northland region.[1]

The Department of Conservation has direct management for more than 165,000 hectares of indigenous habitats in Northland. This does not include the many conservation covenants or crown land blocks administered by local authorities. The department provides mechanisms for legal protection of natural resources on private land through Nga Whenua Rahui and the Nature Heritage Fund.

Other organisations involved in facilitating legal protection on private land include Councils, QEII National Trust, Fish & Game NZ, and the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust. In addition Landcare groups are active on private land with over 55 Landcare groups actively managing private land.

Figure 1 maps areas of legally protected land in Northland.

[1] In addition a list of Regionally Threatened Plants has been drafted for Northland by regional botanical experts from the Department of Conservation, Northland Regional Council and Auckland Herbarium. Regionally Threatened Plants are native plants additional to those listed as Nationally Threatened. They include over 100 species which are rare or have limited distributions in Northland. This list will go out for public comments this year. (Lisa Forester *pers. comm*.)

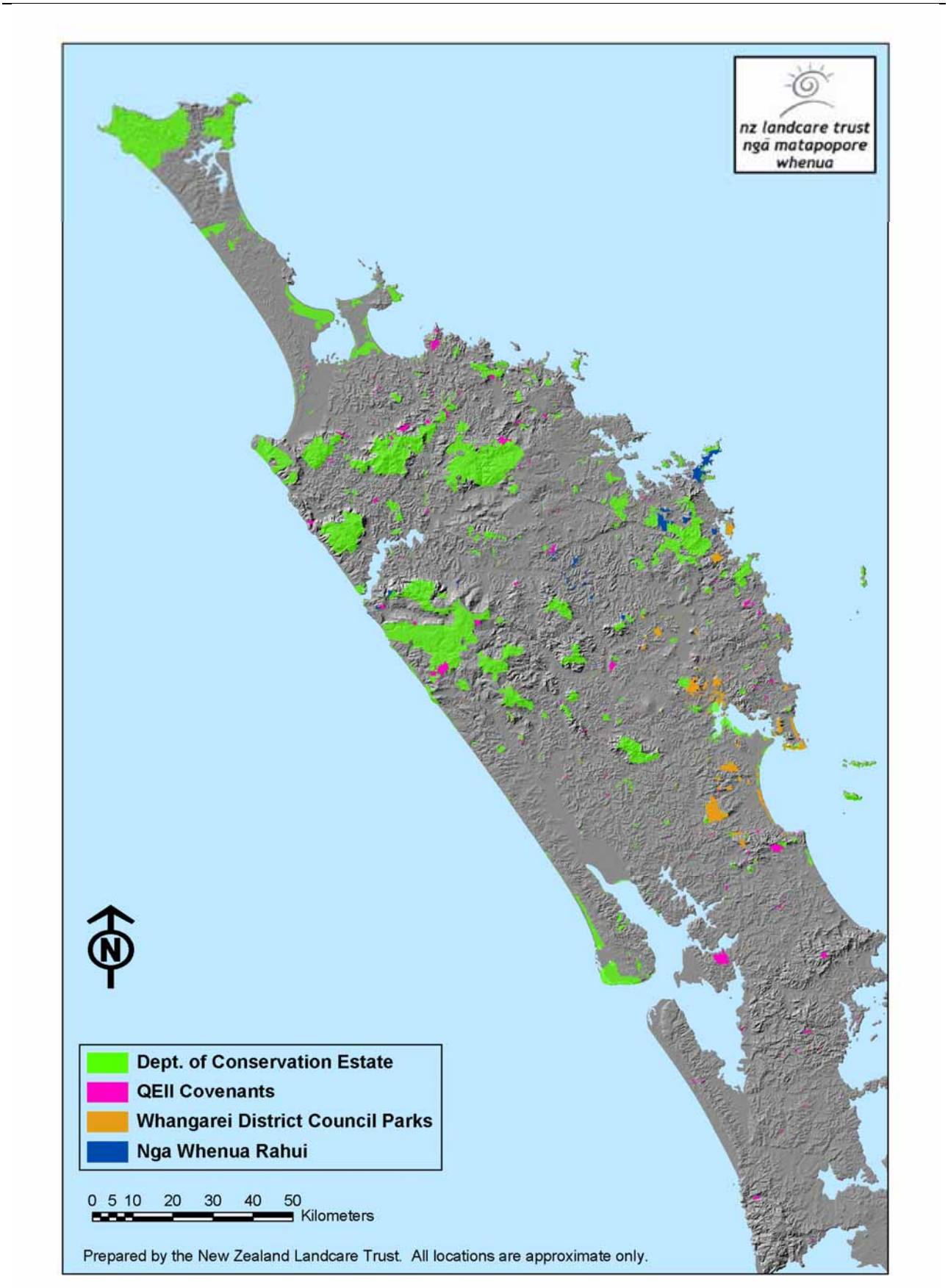


Figure 1: Legally Protected Land - GIS Database information available to July 2007

1.5 Indigenous Ecosystems of Northland

Dune Lakes Pouto, (Photo : NRC)

Conning 2001 describes four broad ecosystem types in Northland:

1. Forest and shrublands
2. Freshwater wetlands
3. Coasts, dunelands and estuaries
4. Offshore islands and stacks

The most extensive forest types are podocarp/hardwood/kauri and shrublands.

Nationally Northland has over half of the remaining kauri forest with large areas legally protected under the Department of Conservation including Waipoua, Warawara, Herekino, Puketi-Omahuta and Trounson Kauri Park.

The most distinctive coastal manuka/kanuka shrublands are found in the Far North such as Te Paki, Aupouri and Karikari Peninsula and Bream Head in the Whangarei Heads and are legally protected with the Department of Conservation.

Rare forest types

Only 1000 hectares of volcanic broadleaf forest remains in small fragmented remnants or as groups of individual trees around Whangarei, Kaikohe and Waimate North districts (Conning 2001). These forest remnants and other forest types in Northland are an important food source for the kukupa, tui, silvereye and kaka (as a seasonal visitor).

Extensive duneland forest occurs in two locations, the Aupouri Peninsula of the Far North and the Pouto Peninsula on the North Kaipara. Uncommon plants occur in both these areas, including *Pseudopanax ferox* and *Hebe diosmifolia* (Conning 2001).

The forests of Northland contain a number of threatened and endemic species including kokako, Northern NI brown kiwi, NZ pigeon, kauri snail, long and short-tailed bats, *Colensoa physaloides* and king fern, *Coprosma waima* and *Olearia crebra* (Conning 2001). Many of the avifauna are chronically threatened or locally extinct, including the tomtit and rifleman.

Dune Lakes, Pouto (Photo: NRC)

Wetlands and lakes

Northland has the most pristine dunelakes and associated freshwater wetlands remaining in mainland New Zealand. These are mainly situated on the west coast between stabilised sand dunes of the Pouto Peninsula, Kai Iwi Lakes, Aupouri and Karikari Peninsulas.

There are about 400 ancient dune lakes in Northland most between 5 to 10,000 years old. (Lisa Forester *pers. comm.)*

There is also a dense network of rivers and streams, many of which are relatively short and with small catchments. Significant inland wetlands associated with catchments are the Ngawha Springs, Motatau, Waitangi complex, Punakitere and Mangonui River wetlands.

Many of the inland freshwater wetlands have been greatly reduced due to land management practices in the region, and the remaining wetlands are small and scattered throughout the region. Northland has about 5% of the original freshwater wetlands remaining (including lakes) and less than half of these remaining wetlands are legally protected (Conning 2001). Wetlands remaining fall into several distinct types. Of these low nutrient systems such as fenns, bogs and gumlands are critically rare.

Privately owned land also contains a large percentage of important habitats, ecosystems and species and the protection of these areas relies on engagement with and management by private landowners.

Table 2 describes comparative habitat types on both private land and on crown land administered by the Department of Conservation.

Table 2: Comparative Areas of Habitat Types On and Off Land administered by the Department of Conservation

Ecosystem	Habitat Type	Area Represented *see scale below	
		Within DOC	**Outside DOC**
Forest and shrubland	Kauri-podocarp-broadleaf	5	5
	Podocarp-broadleaf:		
	(a) Lowland	5	5
	(b) Upland	2	1
	Kauri	3	2
	Shrubland-		
	(a) Manuka/kanuka	3	4
	(b) Coastal/broadleaf	2	2
	(c) Nth Cape/serpentine	1	1
	Coastal	2	2
	Volcanic broadleaf	1	1
	Podocarp	1	2
	Riverine flood/Alluvial	1	1
	Duneland	1	1
	Podzol Gumland	1	1
Freshwater wetland	**Rivers and Streams**		
	(a) Upper catchments and riparian	5	5
	(b) Lower orders and riparian	1	5
	Ephemeral		
	(a) Duneland	1	1
	(b) Hinterland	0	1
	Peatbog	1	1
	Intermediate	1	2
	Swamp	1	1
	Dunelake	2	2
	Dunelake riparian	1	1
	Volcanic lake	0	1
	Volcanic lake riparian	1	1
	Ngawha thermal lake	1	1
Estuarine	Mangrove	1	5
	Saltmarsh	1	1
	Sand/mudflat	2	5
	Shellbank	1	1
Coast	Hard coast	2	5
	Soft coast	4	5
Duneland	Sandhill	2	1
	Coastal deflation zone	2	1
	Pouto sandstone cliffs	1	1
Island	East coast	2	2
	West coast	1	1

Area Represented	**Scale**
greater than 30,000 ha	5
20,000 to 29,999 ha	4
10,000 to 19,999 ha	3
1000 to 9,999 ha	2
less than 999 ha	1
0 ha	0

(Source: DOC Conservation Management Strategy Northland 1999)

1.6 Protected Natural Areas Programme

The Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNAP) was established in 1982 to implement section 3 (b) of the Reserves Act 1977:

> *"Ensuring, that as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, and the preservation of representative examples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscapes which in the aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character."*

The goal of the programme is:

> "To identify and protect representative examples of the range of indigenous biological and landscape features in New Zealand, and thus maintain the distinctive New Zealand character of the country."

Department of Conservation (2005) describes the specific aim of the PNAP as being:

> "To identify, by process of field survey and evaluation, natural areas of ecological significance throughout New Zealand which are not well represented in existing protected natural areas, and to retain the greatest possible diversity of landform and vegetation patterns consistent with what was originally present. To achieve this, representative biological and landscape features that are common or extensive within an Ecological District are considered for protection, as well as those features which are special or unique."

An Ecological District (ED) is a local part of New Zealand where the topographical, geological, climatic, soil and biological features, including the broad cultural pattern, produce characteristic landscape and range of biological communities.

The Department of Conservation is currently surveying and updating information for significant natural areas within Northland's Ecological Districts.

Fenced off bush, Mangakahia
(Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Figure 2 maps the reconnaissance surveys within each Ecological District (ED) that are completed.

There are thirteen published reports with three reports in press (Kaipara, Te Paki and Tutamoe).

An additional three areas, including Manaia, Tokatoka and Tangihua Ecological Districts have surveys either complete or nearly complete. (Wendy Holland, DOC *pers. comm*.)

It is noted that the oldest districts were surveyed more than 14 years ago.

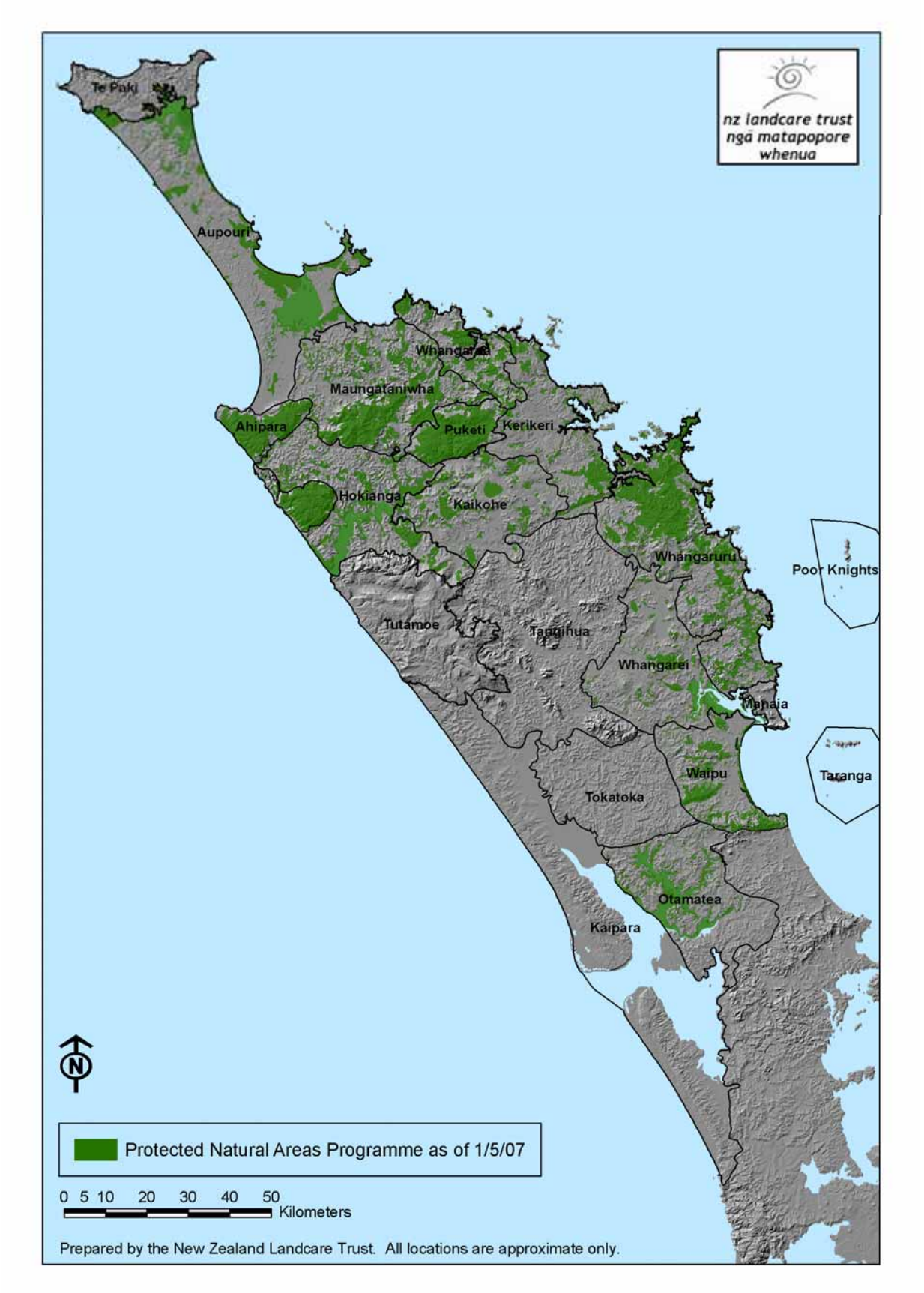


Figure 2: Ecological Districts showing PNA surveys completed to 1/05/07
Source: Department of Conservation

1.7 Land Use in Northland

Northland has a land area of 1.25 million hectares and a population of 150,440 as at March 2006 according to Statistics NZ.

Local governments in the area consist of the Northland Regional Council; and the Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North District Councils.

Pastoral farming is the dominant land use in the region accounting for more than half of the land area and contributing more than $1 billion per year to the regions economy. Table 3 details landuse in Northland as at 1990.

Northland Dairy Farm
(Photo: Jonathon Barran)

Native bush, scrub and other related vegetation types account for a quarter of the land area, with the remainder made up of exotic forests, un-vegetated dunes, wetlands, lakes and rivers, orchards and crops and urban areas.

Northland has a complex mix of soils, broken topography, near sub-tropical climate and a high level of indigenous biodiversity in comparison to most other regions in NZ.

The region has a variety of the land uses including agriculture, horticulture and exotic forestry but soils are generally poorly drained and over lower fertility. This region has a wonderful coastline and weather (indeed it is the longest coastline of any region) and is experiencing sustained population growth and development.

Table 3: Land Use in Northland in 1990

Land Use Type	Area (Ha)	% of Land Area
Pasture	745,000	59.0
Scrub, Shrub-land, Dune	164,000	13.6
Native Forest	160,000	12.7
Exotic Forest	125,000	10.0
Non-vegetated dunes	25,000	2.0
Wetland, Lakes, Rivers	23,000	1.8
Orchards, Crops	8,000	0.6
Urban Areas	6,000	0.5

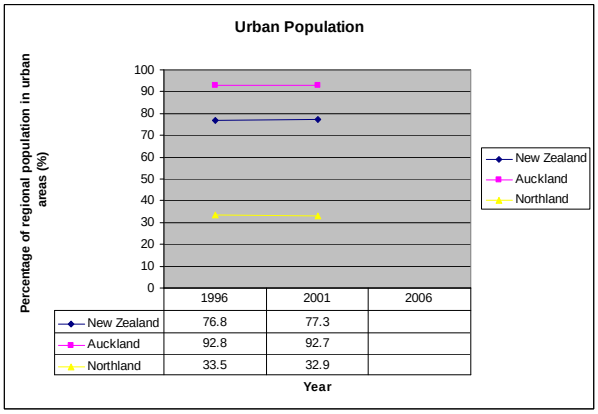
Source: DSIR Land Resource – NZ Land Resource Inventory – Northland Region, 2nd Edition.

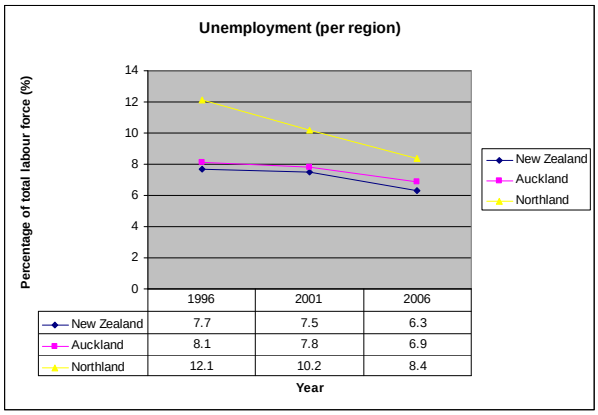
1.8 Socio-economics and Biodiversity

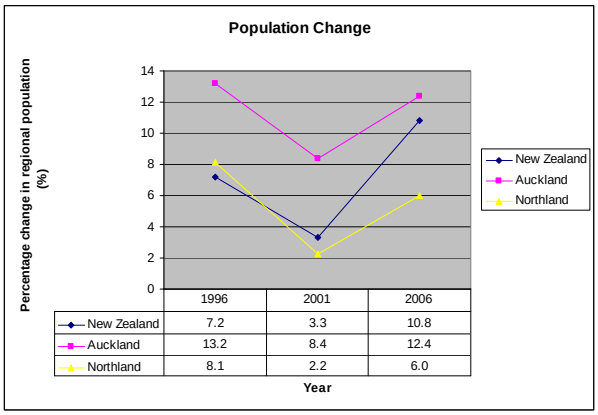
Whangarei district had a population of 73,463, Far North district 58,845 and Kaipara district 18,132 in 2006. Among the regions of New Zealand Northland has almost the lowest percentage of urban dwellers, the lowest median income and the second highest percentage Maori population after East Coast. The population is increasing dramatically and a high relative rate of unemployment exists even though the actual number has declined along with the rest of New Zealand during the census periods shown in Figure 3 (1996, 2001 and 2006). Figure 3 presents

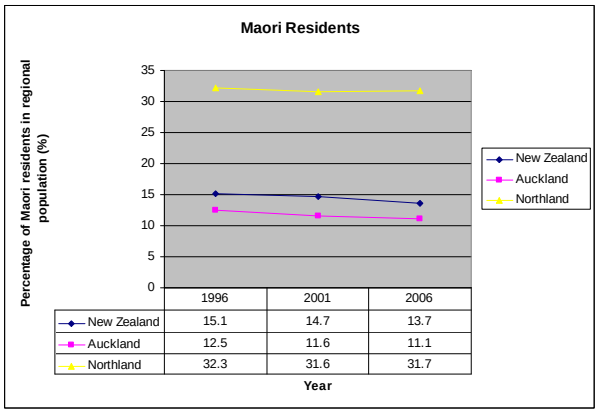
these six characteristics in a time series from the last three censuses, and compares percentages and rates of change for Northland and Auckland regions and for New Zealand.

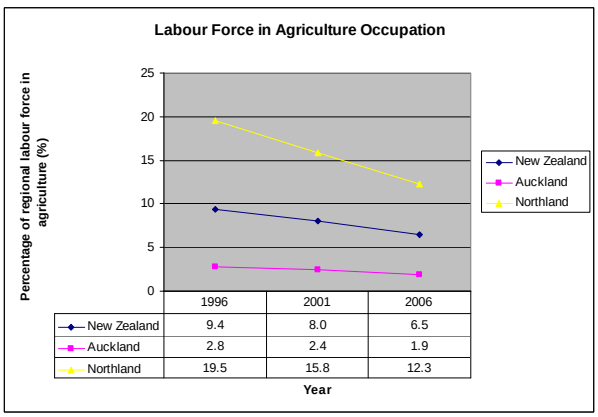
Figure 3: Relative Changes Comparative Rates of broad Census categories for Northland, Auckland and NZ

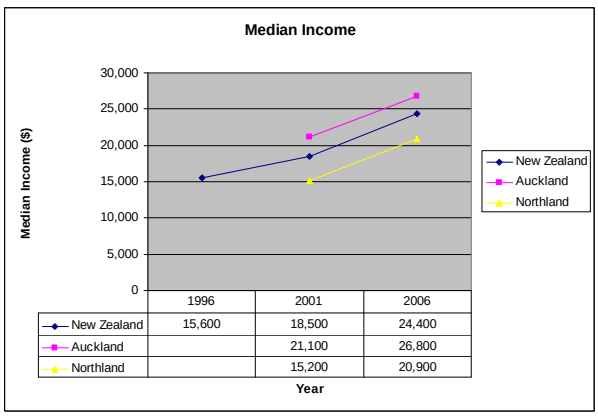












Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1996, 2001, 2006.

The socio-economic data presented in Figure 3 demonstrates that Auckland and Northland are quite different regions based on the set of characteristics analysed.

A central element to consider in the identity of Northland region is the amount of biodiversity in Northland relative to the rest of New Zealand. About 24 % of New Zealand's threatened plant and animal species were to be found in Northland, a disproportionately high amount given the area of our region. Around $^{1}/_{3}$ of threatened plants in Northland occur on the coast which is the main focus of subdivision in Northland (Lisa Forester *pers. comm.)*

Since the threatened species classifications were reviewed in 2002, the situation has remained similar. Initiatives to promote the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in Northland take place amongst this background of high biodiversity and low resources.

PART 2: THE WHOLE OF NORTHLAND PROJECT

2.1 History

The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group (N-Beg) recognised the need to increase the effectiveness of agencies and organisations to meet the regional needs for biodiversity enhancement on private land. The group embarked on a joint project to develop and implement an integrated approach to biodiversity enhancement in Northland.

Members of N-Beg with Marion Hobbs, Minister for the Environment (2004) (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Funding was jointly provided for this project by the Biodiversity Advice Fund, the Northland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation (Northland Conservancy). The aim was to move towards an integrated "Whole of Northland" approach for biodiversity enhancement and protection for Northland.

The project mission statement is ***"That the indigenous biodiversity values of Northland are maintained and enhanced and that biodiversity restoration in Northland is integrated into normal land practices by landowners throughout the region"***

A number of key tasks of the project were identified:

- Initial development of a GIS database identifying current activity in Northland for biodiversity enhancement alongside key areas of biodiversity value.
- Facilitation of an interagency approach to identify a willingness to pursue opportunities for coordination and collaboration between agencies and organisations in Northland.
- Provision of opportunities for landowners and those involved in biodiversity restoration activities to share information and ideas via a series of workshops and trapper training days, and to gain new skills in conjunction with training providers.
- Support and encouragement of existing and new Landcare groups of landowners seeking to manage the biodiversity of their properties.
- Support of regional initiatives to increase the level of monitoring of the state of biodiversity in the region, and of outcomes of on-ground work for biodiversity enhancement.
- Engagement of staff from the district councils in Northland with the project, and encouragement of an increased level of sharing of ideas and priorities within the region.
- Developing the components of a strategic direction to identify common priorities and opportunities for coordination and collaboration for more effective biodiversity restoration in Northland.

2.2 Methodology

A number of aims, processes and outcomes were identified by N-Beg for the project:

- Identify common priorities and opportunities for biodiversity restoration and enhancement.
- Build on cooperation already in place.

- Increase the effectiveness of existing restoration initiatives.
- Enhance the 'statutory basis' for biodiversity enhancement in Northland through regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms.

It was considered by the group that a number of actions would be required and these are summarised as follows:

- Sourcing and collating information on current biodiversity management activities in Northland.
- Liaising with landcare groups and other community initiatives, organisations and other agency staff to identify information needs, gaps and opportunities to resource further biodiversity work.
- Encouraging provision of information and advice in a way that meets the needs of both landowners and agencies.
- Developing a strategic direction for biodiversity enhancement in Northland.
- Presenting information as a series of layers within a GIS framework where possible.

A large number of agencies, organisations and landowners are undertaking biodiversity enhancement and management on public and private land. Completion of an inventory on biodiversity activities will meet a number of needs. It will identify the contribution that the region is making to New Zealand's overall biodiversity outcomes, help to grow the understanding and appreciation of the extent of biodiversity values in the region, and lever further community support for work to protect and enhance biodiversity values. The process will provide a benchmark for the basis of further work in Northland.

Biodiversity protection is an evolving process - new threats and new techniques are always on the horizon. There is a need for increased coordination between agencies and organisations around identification of what ecological information is required and what is available to assist agencies and organisations to encourage landowners' ability to sustain biodiversity.

The Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 clarified that managing biodiversity is an explicit function of both regional councils and territorial authorities (Section 30 (1) (c) (iiia); Section 30 (1) (ga) and Section 31 (b) (ii)).

As Regional and District Councils seek to meet these requirements for biodiversity protection there is scope to encourage a coordinated approach for land use by agencies and organisations responsible for biodiversity protection on private land. Currently prioritisation is based on a wide range of factors and policies. A process of consultation with a full range of stakeholders to identify priorities and opportunities will assist in development of a strategic direction for biodiversity enhancement in Northland.

A summary of some of the 'lessons learnt' during the project is given in Appendix 7.

The Whole of Northland Project's long-term outcomes are:

- A strategic direction for biodiversity enhancement in Northland
- A comprehensive understanding of regional ecological values
- Integration of efforts for biodiversity enhancement
- Increased biodiversity restoration capacity
- Collective monitoring of biodiversity health underway
- Integration of biodiversity enhancement into everyday land management.

DOC staff training landcare group members. (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Part 3: NORTHLAND'S ACTION TO ADDRESS BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

Marae Plant Training, Motatau.
(Photo: NRC)

There are a number of agencies, organisations, community groups and individual landowners that have a role in the protection, restoration and maintenance of biodiversity on both public and private land.

There is a variation in the capacity of local communities and their councils to enhance biodiversity in the region. Councils in Northland have adopted a wide range of approaches to biodiversity management from active involvement to the provision of policy tools and mechanisms to support biodiversity.

The Northland Regional Council works alongside landowners and communities to protect and restore biodiversity values. The Council provides a strong advocacy and education role to support landowners, community groups and environmental education in schools. There has been an increase in staff capacity and in-house expertise within the Land Operations unit to support landowners and biodiversity enhancement functions.

District councils are also contributing to protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in a range of projects and functions across the full range of council activities to varying degrees. All three district councils engage external ecologists to provide technical advice and expertise.

This section provides an outline of information from current regional policy statements and district plans with particular emphaisis on:

- The nature of existing rules and provisions that address biodiversity.
- Specific tools and mechanisms provided by councils to support biodiversity.
- The efforts of other agencies and organisations to support biodiversity.

3.1 Legislative Provision for Protecting Biodiversity in Northland

District and regional councils have a role in ensuring that the "planning environment" of the region is conducive to landowner protection of the region's biodiversity values. Policies, rules, and activities developed by these agencies and organisations can have a significant influence on the degree of protection of biodiversity values in the region.

The 2003 amendment to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) clarified that managing biodiversity is an explicit function of both regional and district councils and that they must provide for the maintenance of biodiversity in their regional and district plans.

The following additional functions were added for Regional Council's:

30. Functions of regional council's under this Act

(c) The control of the use of land for the purpose of

(iii)a The maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems in water bodies and coastal water:

(ga) The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity:

The following additional functions were added for territorial authorities (district councils):

31. Functions of territorial authorities under this Act

(b) The control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of:

(iii) the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity

This is in addition to the responsibilities under Part 2 of the RMA, particularly Section 6(c) which included as a matter of national importance "*the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna".*

The statutory mechanisms provided in the regional and district plans provide a long term strategic plan that addresses a 10-year planning horizon. They also include flexibility for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation, habitats, and fauna.

In addition to the statutory mechanism regional and district councils advocate for legal protection of important ecological areas on private land. This protection can be achieved through a number of different mechanisms including:

- Open space covenants (QEII National Trust 1977)
- Conservation Covenants (Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987)
- Wildlife refuges (Wildlife Act 1963)
- Nga Whenua Rahui
- Nature Heritage Fund

QEII covenanted bush, (Photo: NRC)

The Long Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP) is another long term strategic plan that addresses a 9-year planning horizon. The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires that each council must prepare a LTCCP, with a detailed three year plan of the council's activities, a moderately detailed plan for six years and less detailed plan out to nine years. The LGA provides a broad mandate for local authorities to involve themselves in economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues. The Act provides a greater scope for community participation in determining what local authorities do and how they do it.

The Act is outcome-focused, meaning that it requires local authorities to plan for, and report on specific and measurable results in communities and their environments (*NRC LTCCP, June 2006 Enfocus Ltd- Biodiversity and the LTCCP, May 2004).* An outline of council's LTCCP is provided later in this section.

3.2 An outline of Council Effort to Support Biodiversity

3.2.1 Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) 2002 was prepared by the Northland Regional Council to achieve the integrated management of Northland's natural and physical resources. It is a key document for identifying issues related to the development, use, and protection of resources in Northland and establishing an associated management framework for dealing with them.

The RPS outlines issues, objectives, policies and methodologies that guide the preparation of strategies and plans. The RPS recognises the relationship between soil conservation, land management, and pest management and includes an Ecosystems and Biodiversity section.

The current RPS sets out policies, objectives, and methods aimed principally at protecting and maintaining areas of significant indigenous vegetation, and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the region. This guides the development of district plans prepared by the three district councils in Northland and the development of regional plans prepared by the NRC.

The RPS also promotes and encourages voluntary mechanisms for the protection and restoration of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, especially significant sites by:

- Providing advice on existing mechanisms (all agencies)
- The establishment of an Environment Fund.

Under the 2005 amendments to the RMA 1991, district and regional plans must now give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

The NRC has undertaken a five year review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the RPS. As part of this review, the Council identified that the ecosystems and biodiversity section is a top priority for review, particularly given the new functions for councils as discussed above. The NRC is currently investigating a plan change to the ecosystems and biodiversity chapter. A full review of the RPS will also be undertaken in 2009.

3.2.2 Regional Pest Management Strategy

Pest management is governed by the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the crown agency responsible for administering the Biosecurity Act is Biosecurity New Zealand which is a part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The Biosecurity Act also empowers Regional Councils and provides for Regional Pest Management Strategies (RPMS) aimed at controlling regionally significant pests. The strategies are not to be inconsistent with any national strategies, regulations and the Regional Policy Statement plan prepared under the RMA 1991. The council may also have regard to the provisions of hapu/iwi management plans in developing the pest management policy.

Legislation that may impact upon the strategy in areas of funding, control methods, service delivery and monitoring include:

- Agricultural Compounds Act 1998
- Conservation Act 1987
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Reserves Act 1977
- Wild Animal Control Act 1977.

Landcare group member controlling wild ginger. (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

A number of other agencies and individuals have responsibilities for pest management and these are set out within the the Biosecurity Act.

The three local authorities – Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils – have responsibility for pest management on council land and road verges (as the roading authority).

The Department of Conservation is not bound by the Regional Pest Strategy but can be required to contribute to funding pest control in the region as set out under the Biosecurity Act.

Northland Pest Management Strategies include animal, plant and insect pests and are aimed at eradication where possible, control, educating landowners, preventing pest introductions and stopping the further spread of established pests.

The council provides a range of mechanisms for prevention and management of pests including publicity and promotion, advisory services and pest management methods carried out by council or contractors (NRC).

Community Pest Control Areas

Under the Regional Pest Management Strategy, Community Pest Control Areas (CPCAs) are established in agreement between a community group and the Northland Regional Council. They are aimed at controlling animal and plant pests in a specified area. A management plan is prepared by the community group in consultation with landowners and council staff which clearly sets out the level of control to be achieved for each pest, the proposed costs to landowners and the level of council support that is required to manage the area. The plan also includes monitoring methods to measure the level of effectiveness of the pest control and outlines the agreed maintenance levels to be achieved to protect and enhance the biodiversity values in the area.

The council provides for the costs of the initial control of pests and additional materials which can include on-ground training, traps, agrichemicals, poisons and monitoring equipment. These resources can be supplied for a period of two years free of charge, followed by a further two years at 50% of the cost price.

Council has provided more the $500,000 for 2005-2006 towards Community Pest Control Areas in the region.

3.2.3 Northland Regional Council Environment Fund

Since 1996 over $1.5 million has been provided by the Northland Regional Council to private landowners and community groups with an annual contestable fund for 2006.
Currently more than $500,000 is available to landowners for the following projects:

- Restore and protect indigenous habitats.
- Fencing.
- Wetland protection and enhancement.
- Pest animal and plant control.
- Revegetation and enhancement of native plants.
- Coastal dune enhancement and protection.
- Stock exclusion from the coastal marine area.

Further information on this fund is available from the Northland Regional Council.



A range of projects are supported by the Environment Fund
(Photos: NRC)

Case Study-Oneriri Peninsula Community Pest Control Area

A co-operative agreement between neighbours is proving a success in the first Community Pest Control Area set up with the Northland Regional Council in 2005.

The agreement protects a 4000ha peninsula on the council's southern boundary on the Kaipara Harbour.

Council spokesperson Carl Cooper says with an access of just 400 meters across, the peninsula was considered the perfect spot for a CPCA because it was defensible from reinvasion by pests. In addition, one of the members of the group owns the land leading to the peninsula entrance point, so providing a buffer zone of pest control.

Mr Cooper says there was a lot of suspicion at first because the CPCA was a new concept, but the landowners in the area quickly came on board.

The council's contractors used a variety of poisons to knock down possum numbers on the peninsula to 4 %, well below the target of 10 % residual. Rat numbers are below 1 % and tracking tunnels and trapping have not managed to find any remaining mustelids. Since the initial cull, it is hoped to be able to use low levels of poisons to maintain the target numbers and minimise any effects on other animals and the environment. There are 4000 bait stations on the property to be maintained.

The response from the forest and birdlife has been dramatic, which has made the landowners even more enthusiastic.

Oneriri Peninsula
(Photo: NRC)

Pest control and fencing off bush areas and the coastline from stock has become part of the farm staff's schedule. Staff members are given an extra incentive of a weekly dozen of beer for their pest control efforts. The NRC's Environment Fund has helped with fencing costs. The management plan sets out the responsibilities of the landowners for the future maintenance of the pest control area.

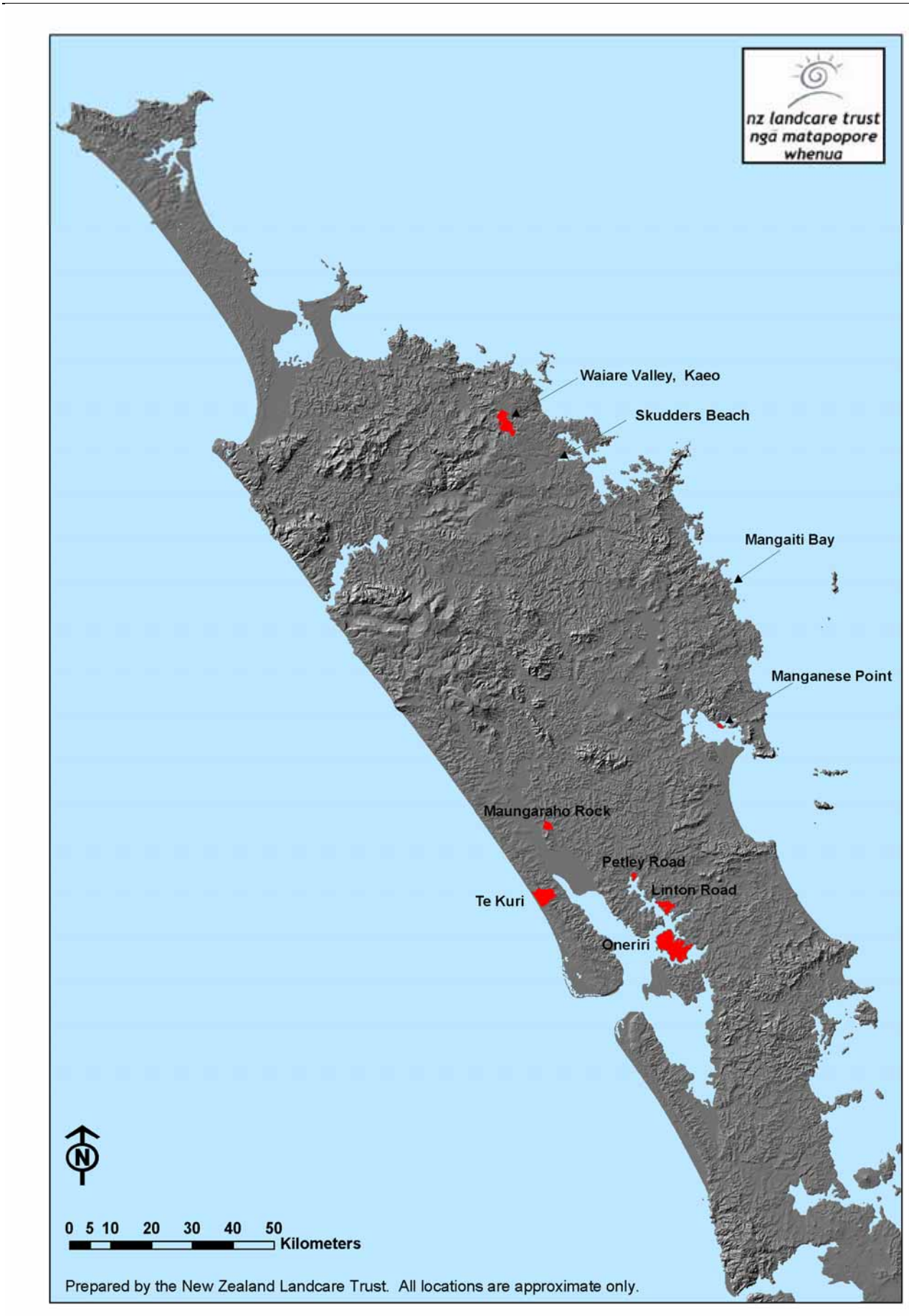


Figure 4: Community Pest Control Areas as at 2006
Source: Northland Regional Council

3.2.2 Whangarei District Council

Specific examples of formal mechanisms to support biodiversity values

Roadside Kiwi sign
(Photo : NZ Landcare Trust)

The operative Whangarei District Plan has detailed provision, policies and rules relating to clearance of indigenous vegetation and/or wetlands in Section 17 of the District Plan. Schedule 17a provides criteria for ranking significance of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat. Objectives and policies relating to significant ecological areas are used when assessing consent application include the following:

- Provision made for individual tree protection which only relates to urban trees identified in the district plan as heritage trees. A register of these trees is held with council. (The WDC has introduced a new rule to include protection for coastal pohutukawa over six metres high and within 200metres of the coast).
- Environmental benefit lots - a process by which the developer provides an extra lot for the protection of significant features including notable trees, indigenous habitats and wetlands that meet set criteria. These features are registered against the property.
- Provision to require conditions to be attached to consents to protect endangered species including prohibition of cats and dogs in or near kiwi habitat. A provision is also applied for goat exclusion areas, particularly in areas where they have been eradicated.
- Formal protection mechanisms through conservation covenants with QEII Trust or Reserves Act 1977 for areas that meet the stated criteria.
- Provision to establish linkages between significant ecological sites through the esplanade reserve requirement process on subdivision.

Specific examples of incentives and informal methods to support biodiversity values

The Whangarei District Council provides an economic incentive through rate relief for landowners who voluntarily covenant land for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats. WDC also undertakes monitoring of conservation covenants registered with it. Copies of the site report, along with some management advice, are provided to participating landowners.

Consideration is also given for a waiver or reduction of subdivision consent application fees where the sole or principle purpose of the subdivision is protection of significant habitats of indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna.

Since 1998 the council has contributed $30,000 per annum to the QEII National Trust for the establishment of new open space covenants within the district. To date 100 new covenants have been established in the district and these are monitored by the QEII National Trust with information provided back to the District Council.

Whangarei District Council approved a contestable Environmental Enhancement Fund in August 2007 that is available to both individuals and community groups. The sum available is $20,000 pre annum and can be applied to a range of projects that benefit biodiversity primarily on private land including (but not limited to) weed and animal pest control, restoration planting, and fencing.

Example of joint projects for biodiversity enhancement and protection

Joint management plans have been prepared for two large forest tracts of council's indigenous forest bordering the Whangarei city. Pukenui Forest (DOC) and Western Hill Reserves (WDC) provide an opportunity for a partnership approach involving several agencies, organisations, iwi and adjoining landowners for biodiversity restoration, maintenance and protection.

The Parihaka Management Plan provides an opportunity for a partnership with agencies, organisations, iwi and community for the biodiversity maintenance, enhancement and restoration.

Both these management plans were publicly notified and received final approval by Council in November 2006. This was subject to the various land parcels covered by the management plan being classified as reserves under Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977.

3.2.5 Far North District Council

Specific examples of Council's formal mechanisms to support biodiversity values

Community Day (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

The Far North District Plan provides policies and rules relating to clearance of indigenous vegetation and/or wetlands and criteria for ranking significance of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat.

Where the land is subject to permanent protection, Council will consider applications for a remission of rates on the land set out in their Remissions Policy. Where the protection is for a finite period, but for a term of less than 10 years, Council has introduced policy to provide for the postponement of rates for the period that the protection is in place.

Other methods for formal protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats are provided through conservation covenants with the QEII National Trust, Nga Whenua Rahui and conservation covenants under the Reserves Act 1977.

Specific examples of incentives and informal methods to support biodiversity values

Since 2003 the council has provided $50,000 per annum for biodiversity funding to assist and encourage landowners and community groups to protect and enhance indigenous vegetation on private land. The criteria set down for the Significant Natural Areas (SNA) Fund includes:

- fencing
- weed and animal pest programmes
- planting
- advocacy programmes aimed at protecting, maintaining and/or enhancing significant natural areas
- monitor pests, weeds and habitat values.

Some examples of non-regulatory or voluntary methods and advice to protect and enhance biodiversity values

The Council recognises and acknowledges the landowner's contribution to habitat protection and provides constructive advice to assist the landowner with identifying management priorities, (such as weed and pest control). The owners are encouraged to protect all sites of indigenous flora and fauna with site-specific recommendations as to how to gain assistance to meet these goals.
Where an area has high ecological values, and there are few other sites protected within the vicinity, the owners are advised of this. The landowner is encouraged to consider formal protection, generally QEII Open Space Covenant or Council covenant provision as an option. The area is registered with the council and follow-up visits are carried out by an ecologist. These voluntarily protected areas form a significant proportion of the total indigenous habitat in the Far North area and are consequently very important (Tricia Scott, *pers. comm*).

Advice is also given when the landowner applies to clear indigenous vegetation in a rural protection zone and is notifying Council as required in the District Plan. This provides an opportunity to monitor the property as a whole and discuss incentives available to protect and enhance indigenous habitats.

The Council takes a solutions-based approach in which alternative mechanisms to clearance for improving productivity/returns from the property are discussed. When the clearance can be offset by improvements in the quality of the protected areas and the clearance is necessary to the economic well being of the landowner, the agreed area and conditions of clearance are documented. Ecological information is collated and the areas proposed for clearance and protection are identified on aerial photographs, agreements documented and the outcomes monitored.

Landowners are provided with an information package containing a range of biodiversity information from various sources to assist with their projects.

3.2.4 Kaipara District Council

The Kaipara District Plan provides policies and rules relating to clearance of indigenous vegetation and/or wetlands and a criterion for ranking significance of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat. A register of ecological features is provided in the plan.

Council is currently undertaking a review of the District Plan and updating management methods to address significant ecological values in Kaipara District.

Pouto Lighthouse, West Coast.
(Photo: NRC)

Specific examples of council's formal mechanisms to support biodiversity

- Policies and rules relating to clearance of indigenous vegetation and/or wetlands.
- Objectives and policies relating to significant ecological and natural areas including ranking criteria.
- Conservation covenants with the QEII National Trust and subject to the Reserves Act 1977 and Nga Whenua Rahui. Rates relief is offered to landowners for protected land.

- Register for Trees of Special Amenity Value. Trees that are considered to be of historic, scenic and scientific value have protection status under the District Plan.
- Financial contribution by applicants towards the protection and/or enhancement of a significant heritage or natural feature as a condition of land use consent or subdivision consent including fencing or restoration planting.
- Financial contribution by applicants towards the protection and enhancement of riparian areas as a condition of land use consent where habitat or water quality values of adjoining lakes, rivers or coastal waters are likely to be adversely affected by land use activities.

Specific examples of incentives and informal methods to support biodiversity

Planting native gentian *Sebaea ovata* at Pouto. (Photo : DOC)

The Kaipara District Council Biodiversity Improvement Fund was established in 2005 and provides funding to landowners and community groups that will benefit native biodiversity. The Council currently provides $15,000 annually.

Kaipara District Plan provides rates relief for sites containing significant ecological features, formally or informally where the areas protected are clearly and accurately defined on a plan.

Provision is made for the reimbursement of survey and legal costs where the land is gifted to the council as a reserve and provision for the waiver of resource consent fees where an Open Space Covenant is to be registered over an ecological feature.

Table 4 summarises the policy tools and other mechanisms utilised by district and regional council's in Northland to encourage management and protection of the region's biodiversity values.

Figure 5 summarises the location of successful recipients of Far North and Kaipara District Council grants. Note that the recipients for the NRC Environment Fund or Whangarei District Council Environmental Enhancement Fund were not available in a digital format for inclusion at the time of publication.

Table 4: A summary of policy tools and mechanisms to support biodiversity utilised by local government in Northland.

Method:	NRC	WDC	KDC	FNDC
Register of significant ecological sites				
Vegetation clearance rules				
Criteria for ranking significant areas and habitats				
Subdivision controls				
Conservation covenants				
Assistance to establish QEII covenants				
Rates relief				
Management plans and agreements				
Education and advice to landowners				
Direct funding				

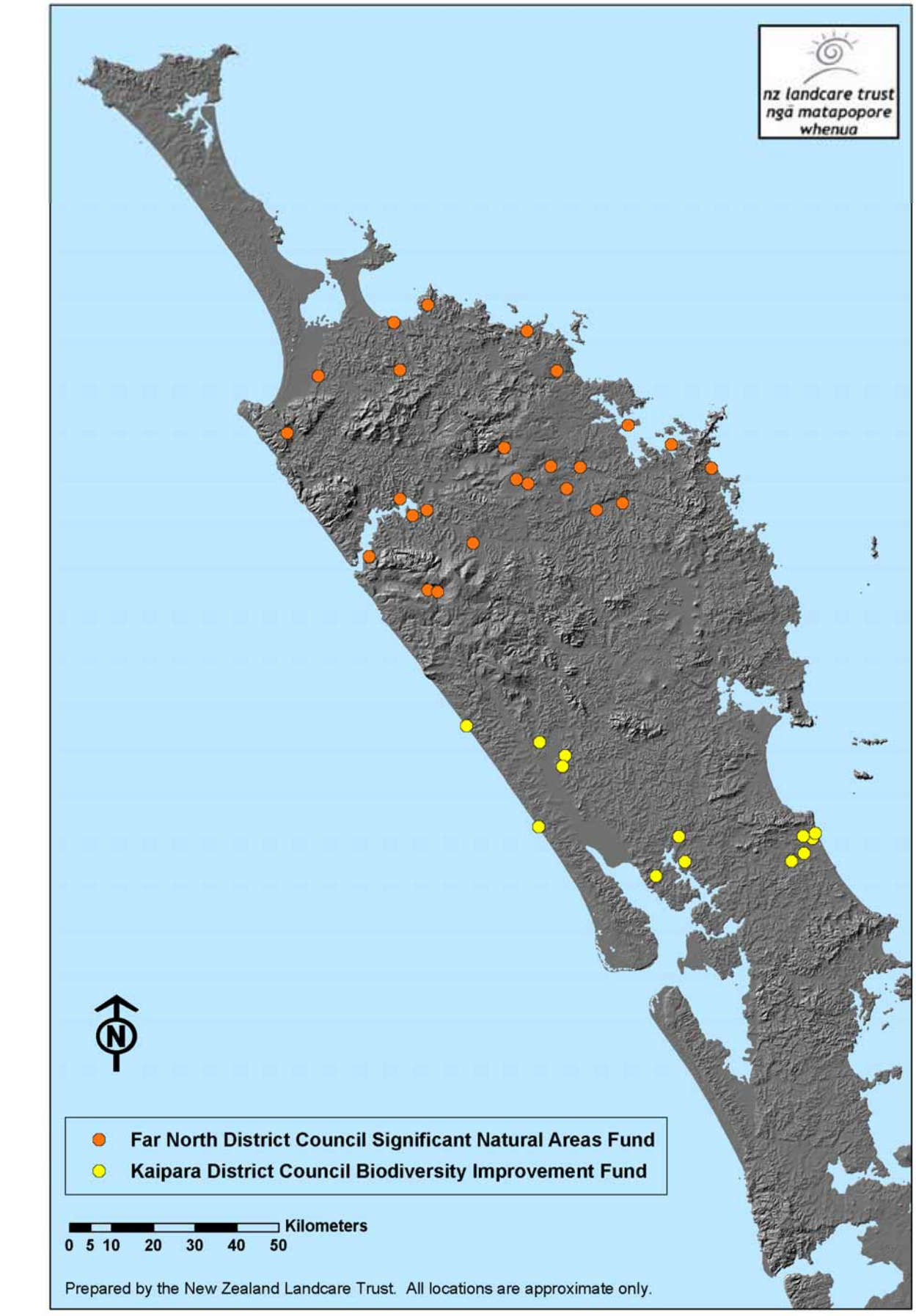


Figure 5 – District Council biodiversity enhancement fund grants to June 07
Location of some projects have not been entered at time of publication

3.3 Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCP)

Provisions to benefit biodiversity

A survey carried out in Northland (AC Nielson 2005) showed that the community valued the natural environments of Northland highly. This survey showed that sustainably managing Northland's natural environment was the third most important outcome sought by Northlanders behind a safe and healthy community and a sustainable infrastructure.

One of the core focuses of the Northland Regional Council is environmental management and under it's LTCCP it acts as lead agency, joint lead agency or in a supporting/advocating role for this focus.

The Regional Council has established working relationships to achieve community outcomes with a number of organisations including government, sector and community groups, Maori, private enterprise, and the regions' three district councils. The Regional Council has the responsibility to report regularly on the community's progress towards achieving its outcomes and to undertake regular environmental monitoring to assess progress. Biodiversity outcomes in the Regional Council's LTCCP relate to existing council planning documents which have a biodiversity component and include the Northland Regional Policy Statement, Regional Pest Management Strategies, Regional Water and Soil Plan of Northland and the Regional Coastal Plan.

Identified priority outcomes included in the NRC LTCCP that focus on biodiversity include:

- Maintaining and improving water quality.
- Developing and implementing a plan to identify and protect Northland land with high biodiversity values, together with landowners, relevant government agencies and the district councils
- Maintaining and where necessary improving soil conservation as an integral part of land use
- Preparing strategies to eradicate or control pest organisms that threaten indigenous biodiversity values
- Encouraging the development and implementation of a habitat strategy for threatened species in Northland, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation
- Increasing the area of high biodiversity-value land under formal protection together with the Department of Conservation, district councils and the QE II Trust
- Increasing the areas of marine reserves and marine parks in Northland

The Kaipara, Whangarei and Far North District Councils provide biodiversity outcomes in the LTCCP's and these are outlined as follows:

- Kaipara District Council: Particular attention has been paid to incentives to protect indigenous vegetation and species by supporting the QEII National Trust through the provision of covenants.
- Whangarei District Council outlines the balance between the built and natural environment. There are some biodiversity outcomes for management of the district's natural biodiversity particularly the icon species (kiwi) and for the weed management, and establishment and monitoring of the conservation covenants under the Reserves Act and QEII National Trust.
- The Far North District Council provides outcomes for biodiversity focused on the balance between the built and natural environment. Particular attention has been paid to an appropriate mix of incentives for the protection of native bush and wildlife in keeping with the objectives of the district plan.

3.4 Funding opportunities for indigenous biodiversity in Northland

Table 5 sets out a summary of funding potentials and opportunities that directly assist biodiversity in Northland.

Table 5: Local Government and other Funding For Biodiversity in Northland

Organisation	Type of funding	Annual Contribution	Comments / Criteria	Timing for funding
Whangarei District Council	• QEII covenanting	$30,000	• Additional funding to assist QEII for the management of covenants that meet QEII criteria	Annually
	• Crimson Coast NZ Refinery Co	$10,000	• Provision of pohutukawa trees for planting	Annually
	• Environmental Enhancement Fund	$50,000	• Maximum of $4000 or 50% of project costs. • To encourage and assist with voluntary work that benefits the natural environment generally on private land.	Annually
Far North District Council	• SNA Fund	$50,000	• Community based initiatives that aim to improve the quality and/or extent of indigenous vegetation and the survival rates of indigenous fauna • 50% of project costs and maximum of $5000 per project	Annually
	• Heritage Assistance fund	$50,000	• Conservation work relating to land or archaeological site, notable trees, cultural sites significant to Maori	Annually
Kaipara District Council	• Biodiversity Improvement Fund	$15,000	• 50% of project costs • Benefit to the native biodiversity • Degree of community benefit • Extent of contribution by applicant	Annually
	• Project Crimson		• Provision of pohutukawa seeds	Annually
	• Heritage Assistance Fund	$10,000	• 50% of project costs • Conservation work relating to land or archaeological site	Annually
Northland Regional Council	• Environment Fund	$525,000	• Up to 50% of costs for general restoration, fencing, biodiversity protection; wetland enhancement; tree planting; plant and animal pest control; coastal dune enhancement & protection, • Up to 33% of costs of stock exclusion from the coastal marine areas.	Annually

	• **Community Pest Control Areas**	**Variable**	• **As agreed in the management plan for each area**	
Queen Elizabeth II Trust	• **Conservation Covenants**	**Variable**	• **Protection and enhancement of habitats, landscapes**	**Throughout the year**
Department of Conservation	• **Nga Whenua Rahui**	**100%**	• **Protection of indigenous ecosystems on Maori Land**	**Every quarter**
Department of Conservation	• **Matauranga Kura Taiao Fund**	**Variable**	• **Revival, use & retention of traditional Maori knowledge & practices in biodiversity management**	**Annually**
DOC/MFE	• **Biodiversity Condition Fund**	**~$2m nationally**	• **Improve and maintain the conditions of indigenous vegetation, species and habitats on private land**	**Six Monthly**
DOC/MFE	• **Biodiversity Advice Fund**	**~$1m nationally**	• **Information and advice to land managers for protection of indigenous species, workshops, field days, publications**	**Six Monthly**
MFE	• **Sustainable Management Fund**	**Variable nationally**	• **Environmental management initiatives**	**Annually**

There is a range of other funders that provide support for biodiversity in the region, including;

- World Wildlife Fund Habitat Protection Fund
- Transpower Landcare Trust Grant
- Fish & Game NZ
- BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust
- ASB Community Trust
- Lotteries Environment and Heritage

More information on criteria and eligibility for these funds is available from the funder or the NZ Landcare Trust.

3.5 Biodiversity Advice and Condition Funds

A major opportunity for active management of biodiversity values on private land was the establishment by central Government of the Biodiversity Advice Fund (BAF) and the Biodiversity Condition Fund (BCF) in 2001. This currently has just over $3 million to allocate nationally each year. Increasingly these funds are prioritised towards projects that meet the Statement of National Priorities released by central government in April 2007 (see Appendix 2.)

The government biodiversity website www.biodiversity.govt.nz summarises the funds as follows:

Kukupa [NZ Pigeon] Photo: DOC

"*The Biodiversity Condition Fund aims to improve and maintain the condition of areas of indigenous vegetation, species and habitats (including wetlands and water bodies). The Fund seeks to broaden community effort in the management of indigenous biodiversity, and to complement contributions for its enhancement. It will fund projects that enhance biodiversity outside public conservation lands, and particularly on areas under legal protection. Projects could involve, for example, fencing or pest control"*

"The Biodiversity Advice Fund supports the provision of information and advice to land managers to assist them in managing indigenous biodiversity. It will fund projects that inspire landholders or groups to improve the condition of indigenous biodiversity (outside of public conservation land). The advisory services may be one off or ongoing. Methods of providing information and advice could include field days, expert advice, wananga, publications (including electronic material), training, workshops and seminars."

The introduction of these funds gave huge impetus to work for biodiversity on private land. From 2002, funding rounds 2 to 8 were "open" rounds which allocated funding to projects totalling over $3.5 million for the BAF and over $7.5 million for the BCF.

Within the overall data, Northland received nearly $308,000 from the BAF (or 9.27 % of the total funding available) in Rounds 2 – 8 and $1.275 million from the BCF (or 17.75 % of the total funds allocated). This reflects Northland's relatively high residual biodiversity values. These calculations were made by sorting "allocated funding" by Region ID and subtracting the "National NZ" Region ID from the total before working out percentages.

A full list of projects that have received Biodiversity Condition and Advise Fund support in Northland is included in Appendix 4.

Flax snail; (Photo: DOC)

Taiharuru Landcare Nursery; (Photo: NRC)

Poroti School Planting; (Photo: NRC)

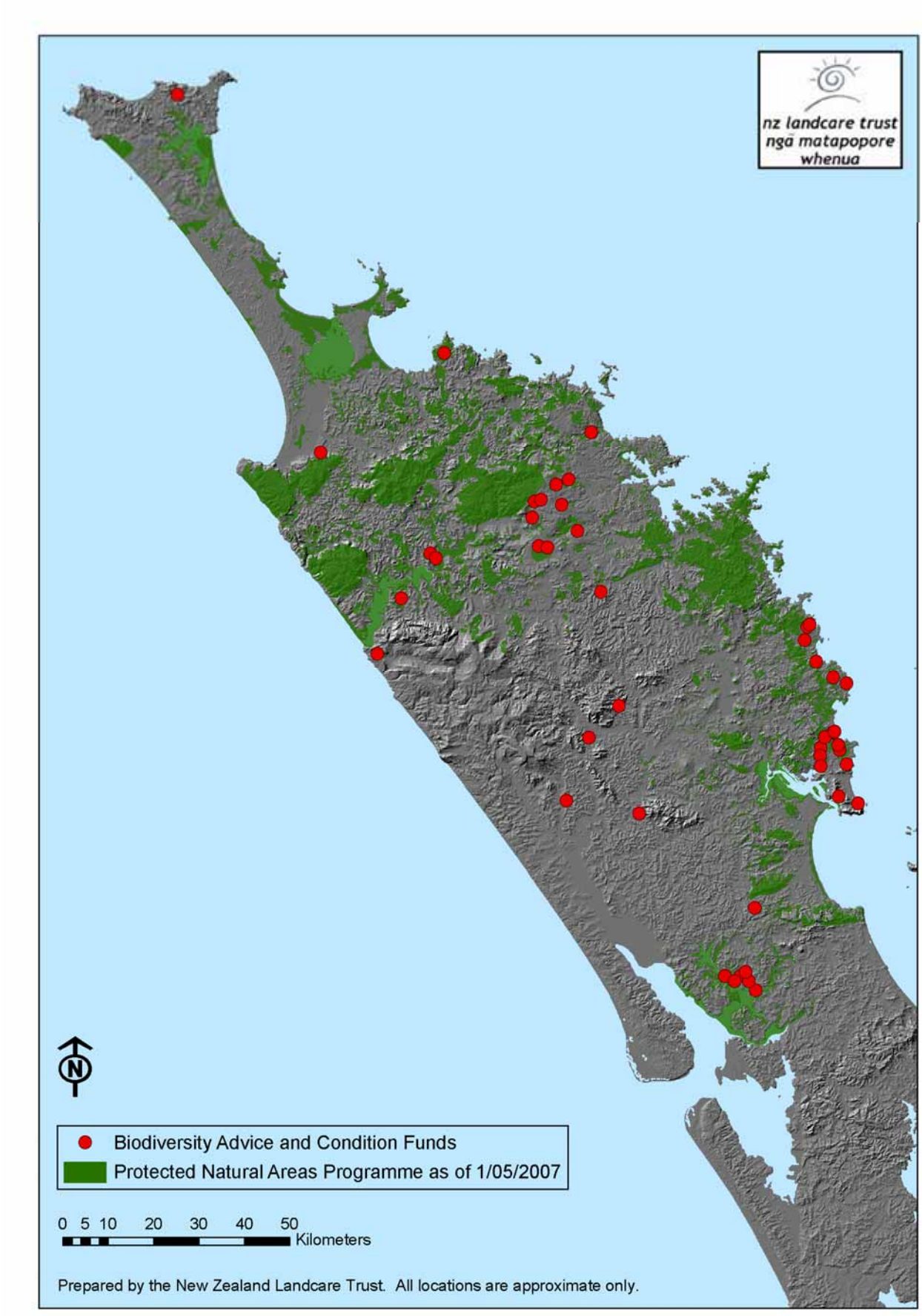


Figure 6: Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund projects.
NB: Locations of some projects have not been entered at time of publication

3.6 An outline of other agencies and organisations' management of biodiversity in Northland

3.6.1 Department of Conservation (DOC)

The Department of Conservation manages the Crown Estate in Northland and New Zealand. It is the main agency responsible for the management of indigenous vegetation and fauna and provides an advocacy role on private land. This is carried out under the Conservation Act 1987, created to promote the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources. The Department also has a statutory interest in the various processes of territorial authorities such as the RMA where consents may affect the public interest in biodiversity values.

The Department has three main general policies that relate to conservation in New Zealand. The purpose of general policy is to provide guidance for the interpretation of conservation legislation and the development of conservation management strategies and plans.

Table 6: Statutory framework for management of public conservation estate

Legislation

↓

Conservation Act
National Parks Act
Walkways Act
Reserves Act
Marine Reserves Act
Wildlife Act

Other acts specifically referred to the First Schedule of the Conservation Act

↓

General Policy
Conservation General Policy
National Parks General Policy
Walkways General Policy

↓

Conservation Management Strategies

↓

Management Plans
Conservation Management Plans
Sports Fish & Game Management Plans
National Park Management Plans

Conservation Management Strategies and Plans
The Department works to a range of plans, strategies and agreements which set out goals, actions and directions for management work and strategic directions.

The Statement of Intent 2005-2008 is a forward-looking document and sets out longer term directions for the Department, as well as management actions that will be undertaken in the coming year.

Conservation management strategies are 10-year regional strategies that provide an overview of conservation issues and give direction and set priorities for the management of public conservation land and waters, and species for which the Department has responsibility.

The Northland Conservation Management Strategy is currently under review and is expected to be updated for 2009.

The department also prepares other plans and strategies such as species recovery plans, recreation plans and pest management plans.

Community Involvement in Conservation
The Northland Conservancy of DOC has taken the lead in a number of community conservation initiatives. These include significant input to development of the department's national staff and community guidelines on conservation with communities, *From Seed to Success* and direct support for the Nga Maunga ki te Moana Trust's *Whitebait Connection* and *Experiencing Marine Reserves* programmes. Each of the department's area offices has its own annual conservation with communities action plan, which describes how the department and communities can work most effectively together and when the departments role is to support, guide, partner or lead. These plans link the department's on-the-ground work to conservancy-wide and national strategic directions. The conservancy is developing a culture of working at all levels of the participation and partnering continuums, aiming for collaborative conservation management wherever this is appropriate (Sioux Campbell *pers. comm.*).

3.6.2 NZ Landcare Trust

Trapper Training Day; (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Kiwi release with Murray and Helen Jagger; (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Waimate North Landcare nursery working bee; (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

The NZ Landcare Trust fosters sustainable land management and biodiversity initiatives by working with community groups in Northland operating on private land (and around the country).

The Landcare Trust has successfully contributed to many Landcare initiatives in Northland that are enhancing the biodiversity values of the region. It supports landowners and Landcare groups undertaking biodiversity management work in partnership with other agencies and organisations in the region. Landcare Trust also works closely with funding providers to support projects in Northland. The Landcare model focuses on keeping the balance of power within the community, by building community capacity and encouraging ownership of environmental issues. It helps groups establish, plan, develop networks, and to become effective in nature conservation.

The independence and absence of statutory roles has assisted the Landcare Trust in its role at the inter-agency level with facilitation of the Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group, the informal Northland Kiwi Landcare Forum and other regional initiatives.

Case Study-Puketi Forest

The Puketi Forest Trust aims to maintain the northern forest for the reintroduction of about 20 species, including robins, kiwi, kokako and kaka.

Trust chairman Gary Bramley says the charitable trust was formed in 2003 and is guided by its founding Document which sets out its purpose to restore Puketi to a "complete living forest" and raise the perception and the value of the forest in the collective consciousness of the community.

The trust has established a management agreement with the Department of Conservation, where the Department undertakes to control possums and goats.

The trust employs contractors to trap mustelids, cats and rats and aims to control pests in an area of about 5000ha.

Mr Bramley says neighbours also help with pest control work in a bid to provide a buffer zone for the forest to minimise reinvasion. At least 8 landowners in the vicinity of the trusts core work area in the Puketi Forest have been assisted by the NRC Environment Fund to undertake further fencing and restoration on their properties.

There is currently one very lonely male kokako living in the forest, and kaka visit occasionally from offshore islands that are free of pests. Robins have not been seen in the forest for more than 40 years.

Since the pest control work cut pest numbers, trustees have noted increasing numbers of North Island brown kiwi, kukupa, tomtits and tui. These results will help the trustees decide when the environment has improved enough for the reintroduction of the vanished species.

The trust has had most of its support from the ASB Community Trust as well as Lotteries Grants heritage fund and BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust.

The public is invited to help by sponsoring a hectare of forest, sponsoring a kilometer of track or buying traps and bait stations. Monitoring has shown a rapid increase in bird numbers.

3.6.3 Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

The QEII National Trust was established in 1977 under legislation to aid conservation on private land. It is a statutory organisation independent from government, managed by a Board of Trustees and comes under the "umbrella" of Department of Conservation as its current funding and administrative "parent". The QEII National Trust Act 1977 enables the trust to:

- Negotiate and administer open space covenants (or protection agreements) with landowners.
- Acquire and manage land.
- Provide financial grants for open space projects, and
- Advocate open space protection through advice, research and information.

The provision of the QEII Trust's open space covenant enables a mechanism through which landowners can voluntarily protect significant natural and cultural features on their land. The open space covenant is a perpetual legally binding agreement, which is registered on the title of the land. The QEII Trust assists landowners with ongoing management advice and support for covenanted areas including advice on pest control, species management and restoration methods.

The establishment of covenants can assist councils to meet their responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, including the recognition and protection of significant natural and cultural features and indigenous biodiversity.

Northland Regional Council and the Whangarei District Council assist and share costs for the management of conservation covenants and make annual financial allocations for the establishment and management of covenants.

Table 7:- Number of registered covenants and hectares approved for Northland

	Number of Covenants approved and still to be registered	**Area (ha) Registered**	**Number of Covenants Fully Registered**	**Area (ha) Approved**
All of Northland	88	1473	431	6458
By Habitat Type				
Wetland	17	298	45	439
Forests	78	1310	391	5780

Source: QEII National Trust, July 2007

QEII Trust is an active member of the Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group and has worked in close partnership with the councils, NZ Landcare Trust, agencies and organisations to protect and maintain significant habitats and features in the region.

Further information pertaining to the types of habitats and ecological values was not available at the time of preparation of this report. It is being collated by the QEII National Trust following permission from the landowners. The Trust anticipates this type of information will be available in 2007-2008 depending on landowner response. However, ecological information can be requested for QEII National Trust covenants established as a condition of consent for council subdivision applications. The Whangarei District council is currently working towards providing the locations and associated ecological information through council's GIS database.

Further discussion of legal protection options is given in Appendix 5.

3.6.4 Fish & Game NZ

Fish & Game NZ is an angler and game bird hunter organisation established under the Conservation Act 1987 and has a statutory mandate to manage New Zealand's freshwater sports fisheries as defined in the Freshwater Fishing Regulation 1983 and game bird hunting as defined in the Wildlife Act 1953. Its funding sources come mainly through annual licenses and permits and the Northland branch also receives funding through a capital reserve to assist towards revegetation, enhancement and weed control for wetland areas they manage.

The organisation also works closely with other agencies in Northland with particular focus on wetland restoration for game bird and fish habitat and access for game shooters.

There are three major wetland areas owned by F&G in Northland including the Flaxmill Wetland, Jack Bisset Wetland and Kawakawa Wetlands.

Bisset Wetland Field Day;
(Photo: Fish & Game NZ.)

Wetland areas such as the Waitangi Wetland and Wairua River Government Purpose Wildlife Management Reserve are managed on behalf of the Department of Conservation while still allowing access for game bird shooters. Borrowcut Wetland on the Hikurangi Swamp is managed on behalf of Whangarei District Council.

3.7 Landcare projects and other community initiatives

3.7.1 Regional Landcare initiatives

Community Planting;
(Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

There are currently more than 55 Landcare and community groups operating in Northland many of which are involved in a range of biodiversity focused projects from small scale possum control, plant pest eradication to large ecosystem protection projects. There are at least 52,000 hectares of land being actively managed for kiwi protection in Northland by Landcare groups and the Department of Conservation. 60% of the actively managed area for kiwi is on private land.

These initiatives are supported by the various agencies and organisations in Northland with provision of resources and technical advice via workshops and educational programmes and one on one assistance.

Figure 7 shows the location of landcare and other community group projects in Northland. A list of some of the landcare and community group activity is given in Appendix 3.

3.7.2 NZ Forest Restoration Trust (NZFRT)

The NZFRT was founded in 1980, and is particularly active in Northland. NZFRT specialises in the purchase and management of large blocks of land, often located adjacent to DOC estate. The Trust has acquired six blocks in Northland to protect species, restore habitats and improve quality of waterways:

- Puhoi in the Far North.
- Puketi Mokau.
- Professor W.R McGregor Reserve.
- Elvie McGregor Reserve.
- Cynthia Hewett Reserve.
- William Upton Hewett Memorial Reserve.

The NZFRT has received funding through the ASB Charitable Trust, Lotteries Grant, Whangarei Native Forest & Bird Protection Society and QE II National Trust and various donations and sponsorship.

Case Study - Waiotira Landcare Group – Run Furry Shield contenders!

The Waiotira Landcare Group has been in operation for only a couple of years but can already report a major impact on possum numbers in the area.

The group meets regularly at the Waiotira Golf Club for a social evening to compare tallies of possums killed. Since October 2005, the members of the group have reported more than a thousand culled.

In a spoof on the Ranfurly Shield, the group awards a keenly sought Run Furry Shield to the families that have the highest tallies of possums killed.

Waiotira farmer Ingleby Coxe says the shield was designed and made by the group's convenor Brian Hoy, and features possum skull and cross bones.

"It's quite awful to look at,'' she says.

The group uses fun trophies and neighbourhood social evenings and free sausage sizzles to try and encourage a sustained effort in pest control.

"It's all about making possum control more fun. We want to encourage more young people to get involved because they can go out with their Dads and have a great time. If we can get the younger generation involved, hopefully they will continue in the future.''

But Ingleby says maintaining enthusiasm is not easy and the Landcare group has mostly settled into a stalwart group.

Public Enemy Number One – the possum; (Photo: Landcare Research)

She says with possum fur fetching good prices, there are several professional possum pluckers operating in Northland who will visit a property and kill possums for fur.

Several families use contractors on their properties and this has helped keep possum numbers down in the district, which includes land that is mostly easy rolling farmland with some steep parts and pockets of native bush.

Ingleby, who was recently given a merit award in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and is well known for her research into farm forestry, says the group has been invited to apply for funding assistance. But they are quite suspicious of taking up funding, because of the legal ties and obligations that can be involved.

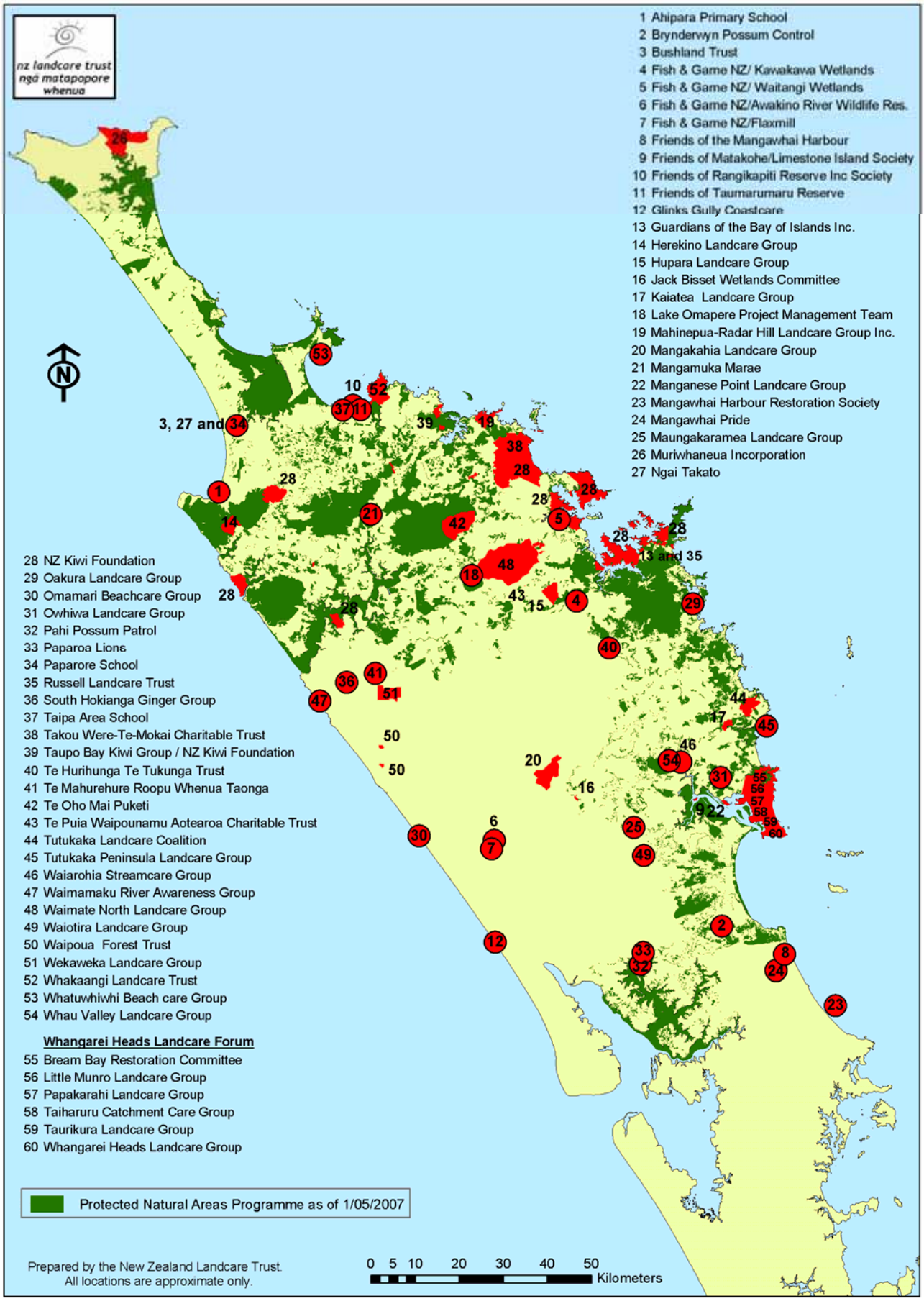


Figure 7. Some Landcare and Community Group Projects

3.7.3 The NZ Kiwi Foundation

The Kiwi Foundation is a charitable trust based in the Far North to assist in the protection of kiwi on private land. The trust currently covers up to an area of 15,000 hectares of private and legally protected land in Northland.

The foundation also works closely with other organisations, Landcare groups, agencies and councils in an advice and advocacy role. The foundation depends on funding from donations, sponsorship and charitable trusts.

Specific example of NZ Kiwi Foundation and landowner partnership

The future of the kiwi in Northland is looking brighter thanks in part to a unique partnership between land owners and the Kerikeri based NZ Kiwi Foundation.

Kiwi on about 16,000 hectares of Northland and 10,000 hectares on the Tapora peninsula near Wellsford will benefiting from predator control programmes.

Most of the land is privately owned and teams of trappers from the Kiwi Foundation work with the landowners to set up trapping and poisoning programmes.

"We quickly recognised that you had to have professional trappers to deal with the whole spectrum of pests. Most people are capable of dealing with rats and possums themselves using toxins and/or traps. But the big killers in terms of kiwi and wildlife are stoats and cats," said Dr Greg Blunden, convenor of the Kiwi Foundation,

A stoat caught in a Fenn trap; (Photo: NZ Landcare Trust)

Cats and stoats won't take poison and need to be trapped and this requires skill, he added, so the foundation has trained locals to work as trappers.

As new partnerships with landowners are made, the map on the wall of Dr Blunden's office is altered. It looks like a jigsaw puzzle and each time a new piece is fitted it adds towards the picture of a fully protected kiwi zone which is relatively safe from predators.

Dr Blunden said that the NZ Kiwi Foundation's long term aim is to eradicate mammalian pests north of Auckland.

"I don't consider that wat we are doing now is sustainable in the long run – over 30 community groups working for kiwi with huge amounts of volunteer time, funding and large amounts of toxins, all of which has to be maintained forever," said Dr Blunden. "What we need is a very big peninsula to eradicate pests from and then maintain very low numbers. The obvious peninsula starts at the Auckland isthmus."

Figure 8 shows the distribution of kiwi populations and areas of active management in Northland, based on data to 2005.

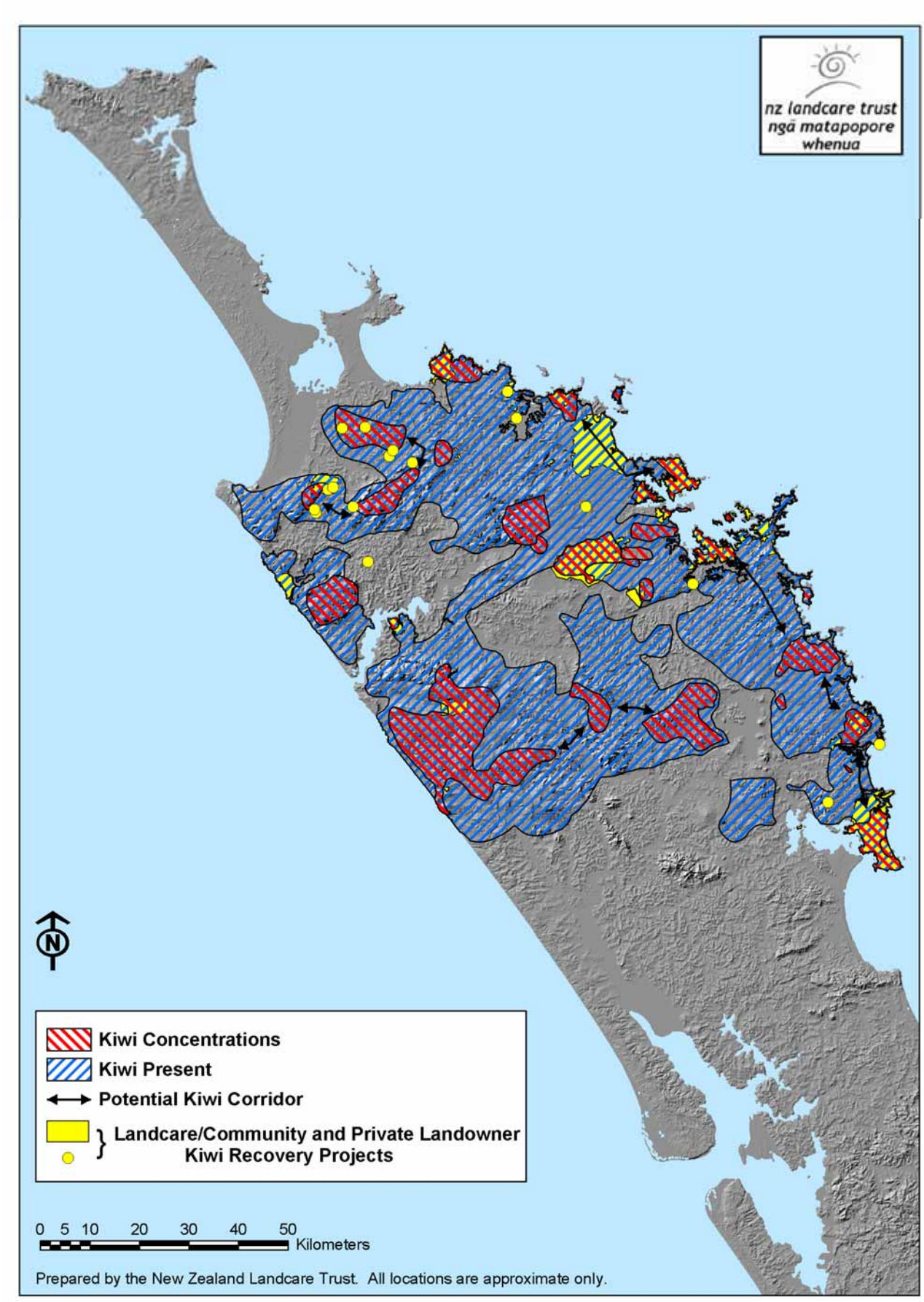


Figure 8: Kiwi distribution and kiwi recovery projects in Northland
Source: Based on Pierce et al 2006.

3.8 Other components of the Whole of Northland Project.

3.8.1 Interagency Planning Workshop – August 2005

An Interagency Planning workshop held in August 2005 provided a forum for discussion with agencies and organisations to identify their priorities, opportunities and commonalities for biodiversity management and protection in the region.

Agencies and organisations who attended the workshop were:

- Department of Conservation
- Northland Conservation Board
- Northland Regional Council
- Far North District Council
- Kaipara District Council
- Q E II National Trust
- Northtec
- Te Puni Kokiri
- Fish & Game NZ
- NZ Landcare Trust.

The workshop provided facilitated group discussions on the following topics:

- What are the components of biodiversity?
- What are the opportunities for collective Biodiversity Enhancement in Northland?

The workshop identified the differing goals and objectives of agencies and organisations and provided some opportunities for co-operative work. These outcomes are set out in Appendix 1.

The opportunity exists now to build upon the foundations set by the Whole of Northland, to further the partnerships developed, develop new relationships with other key stakeholders, and enhance the priority setting with organisations and agencies responsible for promoting biodiversity enhancement in Northland.

A summary and components of the Interagency planning working is included in Appendix 1.

3.8.2 GIS database

Successful biodiversity enhancement and restoration requires coordinated responses from a range of organisations and agencies. Biodiversity enhancement over the Northland region will itself be enhanced by the ability to look at the “Big Picture” of what is going on at a regional basis.

A key component of the Whole of Northland project has been the initial development of a GIS database to identify priority ecosystems and current areas of management:

- **Biodiversity effort.** . As detailed in this report, a number of landowners belong to Landcare or community groups and a significant number of individual landowners are undertaking biodiversity activities on their land seeking to maintain, protect and restore habitats and fauna. A number of agencies and organisations in Northland contribute significantly to supporting these projects. Councils and other organisations including the Department of Conservation, QE II National Trust and the NZ Fish & Game also undertake biodiversity protection and maintenance activities on legally protected land throughout the region. Where possible these site are recorded on the GIS database.

- **Priority ecosystems.** Both the Significant Natural Areas programme of the Northland Conservancy of DOC, and the recently released national priorities for protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity on private land (Protecting our Places) identify priorities areas including rare ecosystems and species distribution.

Where the locations of biodiversity activities of landowners and agencies can be aligned to the location of priority ecosystems it will provide agencies and organisation with a management tool for identifying gaps and opportunities to focus and support further biodiversity effort and protection in Northland.

Agencies and organisations in Northland maintain biodiversity-related databases in varying stages of development. This report has attempted to capture biodiversity information currently accessible from agencies and organisations' Geographic Information System (GIS) and associated database information. GIS information has been provided by the Department of Conservation, Northland Regional Council, Whangarei District Council, QEII National Trust, Wildland Consultants, and NZLCT. A complete list of layers currently included in the database is included in Appendix 6.

Point and polygon information has been entered using grid references (NZMS 260 series 1:50000) from information provided by Kaipara and Far North District councils for their environment fund projects, Landcare groups, community groups, Fish & Game NZ, and the NZ Kiwi Foundation but is by no means a full and accurate picture of biodiversity activity in the region. Figure 9 show information on biodiversity activity overlaid on the Protected Natural Areas data (as of 1/05/07) to show how projects are aligned to valued ecosystems in Northland.

The GIS database aims to build on existing information which will in time provide a comprehensive picture of biodiversity values and management and information is being provided by agencies and organisations in Northland.

However this is by no means a complete picture of what is happening in Northland. A significant amount of biodiversity information is yet to be updated and entered in to the agencies and organisations GIS database. Two district councils have limited GIS capacity to capture data entry.

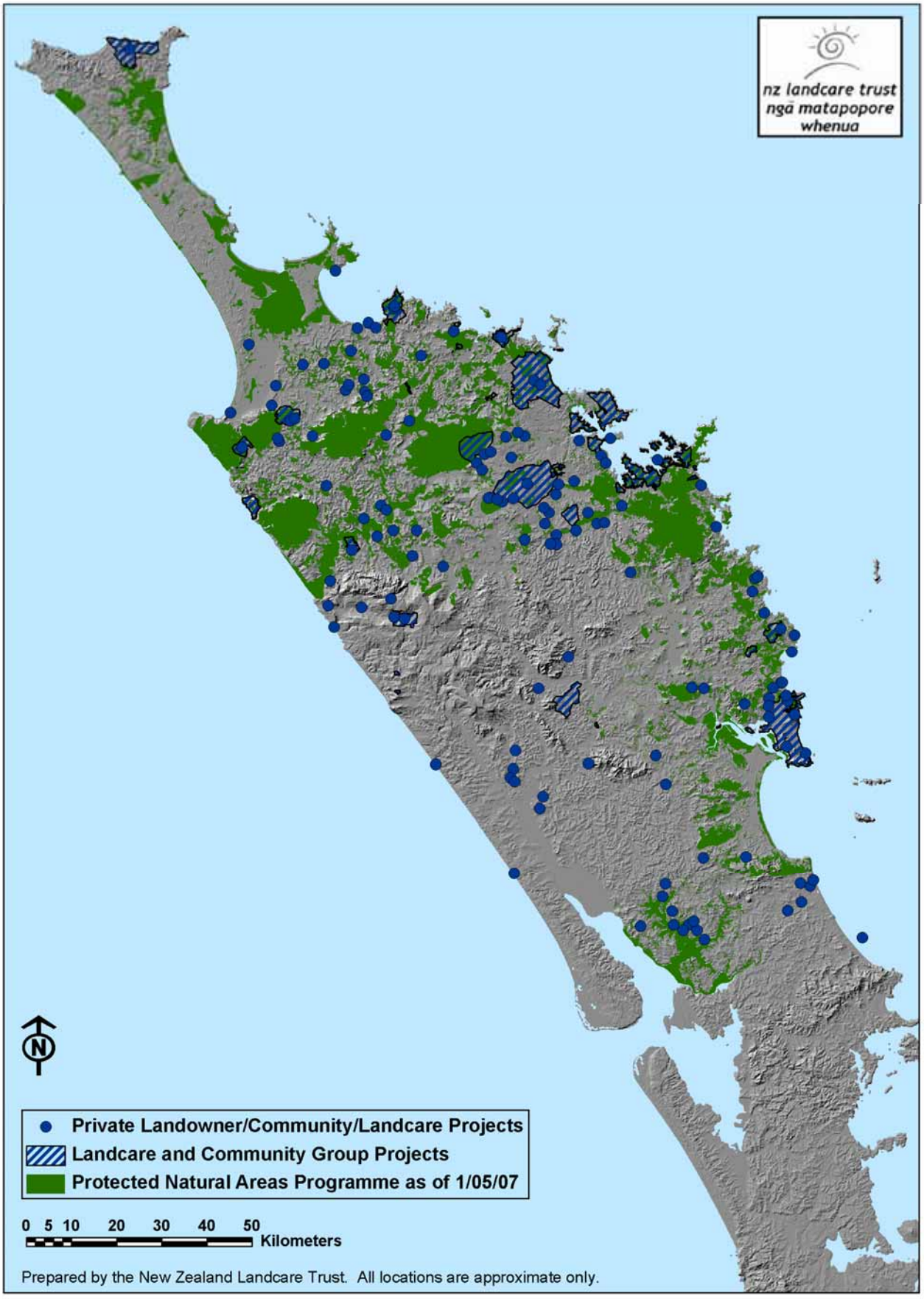


Figure 9: Biodiversity Enhancement Projects in Northland

PART 4 - SUMMARY

Manuka, Great Exhibition Bay;
(Photo: NRC)

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy released in February 2000 set out a programme to halt the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. Significant funding increases in biodiversity-related programmes have been made by central government. In Northland funding by regional and local councils has increased over the past five years as more people are undertaking restoration initiatives, either individually or in groups, collectively working for biodiversity enhancement and protection in the region.

The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group recognised the need to increase the effectiveness of agencies and organisations to meet the regional needs for biodiversity enhancement on private land. The group embarked on a joint project to develop and implement an integrated approach to biodiversity enhancement in Northland – the "Whole of Northland" project.

Key conclusions of the project are discussed.

4.1 Building relationships - coordination and collaboration is crucial

The biodiversity challenge is bigger than any one agency or organisation. Successful approaches to biodiversity enhancement and restoration require coordinated responses from all scales of management. Communication and relationship building between agencies and organisations is seen as an important role to effectively deliver biodiversity outcomes for Northland.

Some of the most threatened habitats in Northland are found in the more rural and lower socio-economic areas. Low rating bases in those areas remove some management options. Equally the three district councils in the region have different capacities, awareness and willingness to conserve biodiversity in the region; clarity of roles and responsibilities matched by capacity may be required to avoid duplication of effort.

Agencies and organisations are starting to see the role of N-Beg as an important mechanism through which to effectively assist delivery of biodiversity outcomes for the region.

N-Beg is building momentum although not all key players are fully on board.

The group has successfully provided a forum in which people can discuss informally a wide range of issues pertaining to Northland's biodiversity and related issues. The input and involvement by on-ground practitioners from agencies and organisations is seen as important as it brings a wider perspective of issues as well as all levels to the forum.

4.2 Some information needs are outstanding

- *The project has evolved as "work in progress".* Completion of an inventory on biodiversity activities alongside threatened environments will identify the contribution that the region is making to meeting New Zealand's national priorities for biodiversity, help to grow the understanding and appreciation of the extent of biodiversity values in the region, and lever further community support for work to protect and enhance priority ecosystems and threatened species in the region. A database of action underway has been started, and all existing information has been incorporated. However there are still

many areas in the database where the information is not available in an appropriate digital manner. There is valuable historical[2] and current biodiversity information captured by agencies and organisations that is not easily accessible.

- *Biodiversity protection is an evolving science.* There is a need for increased coordination between agencies and organisations around identification of what ecological information, resources and tools are required; and what is available to assist agencies, organisations and encourage landowner's ability to sustain biodiversity.

- *Agencies and organisations in Northland have different approaches, requirements and capacity to monitor key changes in the environment*. A regionally consistent approach to ecosystem assessment designed and implemented should have regard for the need to involve all agencies and organisations responsible for managing biodiversity. The Northland Regional Monitoring Forum provides a mechanism through which agencies and organisations can develop a consistent approach for environmental indicators and monitoring systems that integrates and aggregates monitoring and reporting obligations for state of the environment monitoring. A consistent approach for monitoring regional and central government funded projects[3] will assist agencies to meet agreed set of objectives for biodiversity outcomes. ***The Forum has made progress in addressing biodiversity monitoring. However, on-going support and facilitation is required for the Forum to address biodiversity monitoring and agreed outcomes.***

4.3 We are making progress!

Another kiwi released onto private land managed for kiwi recovery; (Photo: Blue Orb)

- ***The recently initiated Whole of Northland GIS based database detailing biodiversity values and action has contributed to an increased level of transfer of information by some agencies*** and is providing agencies and organisations with a management tool to assist and support integrated land use decisions. For example, the recently developed "General distribution and relative abundance of kiwi in Northland "(Feb 06, Wildlands Consultants) has been incorporated into councils' decisions for land use activities. The developing database will in time provide agencies and organisations access to a wide range of biodiversity information, identify gaps, commonalities and opportunities for agreed outcomes for the region's biodiversity alongside threatened ecosystems.

- ***N-Beg has provided a forum for discussions with the Northland Regional Monitoring Forum*** for opportunities to support regional initiatives to increase the level of monitoring. Progress has been made towards the development of a regional monitoring system to support agreed regional outcomes for biodiversity and State of the Environment monitoring.

- ***Coordinated effort between agencies and organisations has led to biodiversity gains that otherwise would not have been achieved.*** N-Beg has provided a process and a mechanism by which agencies and organisations can work co-operatively to achieve agreed outcomes for Northland. Policies, objectives, rules and activities within a

[2] Prior to 1994 Sites of Biological Interest Inventory (SSBI) was the main technique used by the Department of Conservation to identify and priorities natural areas for protection in private land.
[3] Biodiversity Condition Fund is a NZ Government initiative aimed at enhancing the management of indigenous biodiversity on private land, including Maori land. See www.biodiversity.govt.nz

range of agencies can have a significant influence on the degree of protection of biodiversity values of the region. Agencies and organisations are now referring to N-Beg as providing a role for supporting on-ground effort for biodiversity, evident in the uptake of individual councils to provide increased voluntary measures and financial incentives alongside a range of formal mechanisms to protect threatened ecosystems.

- ***Workshops and the Dargaville Field Days*** have provided a high public profile and demonstrated that organisations have been successfully working together to support on-ground work in communities. The field days also provided value through increased interaction between staff from different organisations.

- ***The Inter-Agency Planning Workshop*** (August 2006)[4] helped agencies and organisations to identify their priorities and opportunities to focus and support further biodiversity effort and protection in Northland. The workshop identified the differing goals and objectives of the agencies and organisations in Northland and provided some opportunities for co-operative work. It also highlighted commonalities and duplication of information through slightly different approaches. Follow-up meetings with key representatives from agencies and organisations have been undertaken to get agreement on common goals/outcomes for collaborative work.

4.4 Where to now?

It has been two years since the start of the Whole of Northland Project with the aim of developing the components of strategic direction for Northland.

There is now an opportunity to build upon the foundations set by the Whole of Northland Project to further the partnerships developed with other key stakeholders, and enhance the priority setting within agencies and organisations responsible for promoting biodiversity enhancement in Northland.

Key tasks identified:

Integration of effort for biodiversity in Northland:

- Build on the relationships developed through N-Beg to establish a long-term vision with agreed priorities and outcomes for biodiversity enhancement and protection in Northland. The current review of the Regional Policy Statement provides a process to agree on priorities and outcomes for biodiversity for inclusion into District and Long Term Council Plans.
- The developing database is providing a vehicle for identifying biodiversity enhancement activity in the region and, based on agreed outcomes, will identify where the gaps and opportunities are for further biodiversity work.
- Further engagement of all levels and groups of people within agencies and organisations.

Continued mapping of biodiversity and provision of information:

- There is a role to continue to coordinate and facilitate the transfer and sharing of biodiversity information between agencies, groups and individuals.
- More information is becoming accessible and there have been some agreements between agencies and organisations on roles and data/information sharing.
- It is important to improve access to project information for projects funded through national, regional and local funding. This is a key element in matching projects to threatened ecosystems and environments, and identifying opportunity for focussing effort.

[4] The outcomes from the Interagency Planning Workshop are outlined in Appendix 1

Monitor and review progress:

- Agree on a way to monitor and review progress to achieve the agreed biodiversity outcomes and, if necessary, modify the outcome or process for Northland's biodiversity. The Northland Regional Monitoring Forum and N-Beg provide a process through which agencies and organisations can facilitate the development of an integrated inventory and monitoring framework for biodiversity ensuring consistency and a regional approach is adopted where possible. An integrated monitoring framework will assist councils in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities for monitoring and reporting on the State of the Environment as well as to facilitate opportunities for uptake of a regionally consistent inventory and monitoring system for projects delivered by community groups and individual landowners.

Development of community relationships with Maori landowners:

- Maori and Maori landowners have a distinct relationship to biodiversity and perspective on land management and protection. The contribution and understanding of matauranga Maori into biodiversity and sustainable land management would provide an important role in the development of the Whole of Northland project. There is potential to build on existing relationships with Northland runanga and linkages with hapu management plans under development to encourage their involvement in the Whole of Northland approach.

Meeting the needs for information, knowledge and capacity:

- Collaborate with agencies and community groups for the development of a regional extension framework to integrate information and resources on management of biodiversity.
- Review and update current regional publications and look for opportunities to link potential training providers and individual initiatives for biodiversity projects on private land.
- Facilitate the investigation for the development of a website for the Whole of Northland Project that will assist agencies and communities with biodiversity information.

Facilitation and Support of On-Ground Action:

- Restoration initiatives and active management on private land is increasing in Northland. It is necessary to continue to motivate or facilitate support for these efforts to broaden the base of community interest and action in the protection of biodiversity. There are increasing opportunities in Northland for information brokering and capacity building, with the most important "winning of hearts and minds" of landowners to encourage active management of biodiversity values. Partnerships with other agencies and training providers are crucial in the provision of this support.

For Clinton Rameka, manager of the Takou Were-Te-Mokai project north of Kerikeri, looking after the land is part of his tikanga or way of life.

"I'm a landowner on ancestral land. I live here and I'll be living here until I die and my children and grandchildren will live here. I'd rather be looking after our place than working looking after somewhere else."

The Takou Were-Te-Mokai project covers 3500 hectares of Maori and private land. It employs Clinton as trapper/manager and seven trustees.

Takao Bay area;
(Photo NZ Landcare Trust)

Since setting up the pest control project in 2003 Clinton has seen dramatic improvements in the flora and fauna.

"Possum numbers are down, there are more birds and the pohutukawa are not getting annihilated."

Clinton adds that looking after the land is an ongoing responsibility as well as a labour of love. "There's a lot of work to be done around here. It's our Maori way to care about the land, the natural environment. If you are going to feed off it and live off it you have to look after it and Takou Bay has been in Maori hands since the beginning."

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY & COMPONENTS OF THE INTERAGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP

In August 2006 an Interagency Planning Workshop was held in Whangarei. The workshop provided an opportunity for agencies and organisations to discuss their priorities for biodiversity, the basis on which those priorities are made, share information and identify common priorities and opportunities for biodiversity in Northland.

The following section summarises the components and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in Northland provided by the group.

1. Components of biodiversity enhancement.

Key points describing components of biodiversity enhancement

i) Knowledge/Information

- A comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Northland's ecological values and threats to support biodiversity and to assist agencies and organisation for planning and priority setting.
- A range of good informative and accessible information on biodiversity in Northland would provide a mechanism to support communities with on ground projects, foster support and empower communities.
- The development of a website would provide agencies and communities access to ecological information and a range of tools to support biodiversity.

ii) Capacity building/on-ground support

- A coordinated and collaborated approach for ecological priorities between agencies is seen as an important component to build support and capacity in communities.
- The knowledge and in house expertise of staff to confidently provide support to communities including financial and human resources to effectively support on the ground projects.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration with potential training providers to provide technical expertise and support for on ground work in communities.
- Accessible funding and a range of incentives and tools to support biodiversity on the land.

iii) Collaboration/Coordination

- Communication and relationship building between agencies and organisations is seen as an important role to effectively deliver biodiversity outcomes.
- An integrated and consistent approach to planning and legislation
- A long term vision by all agencies and organisations with agreed priorities and outcomes for the regions biodiversity.
- Good communication, understanding, respect and appreciation of Maori cultural values and knowledge for biodiversity.

2. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement

The group workshop provided a list of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and protection in Northland and these are summarised:

i) Tangata whenua needs are identified and respected:- Maori and Maori landowners have a distinct relationship to biodiversity and a distinct perspective on land management and protection. The contribution and understanding of Matauranga Maori into biodiversity and sustainable land management (Rural Sustainability Workshop July 2006) would provide an important role in the development of the "Whole of Northland" project.

Opportunities

- Presentation of the WON project to hapu/Runanga
- Link to hapu management plans and agreements
- Link to the Rural Sustainability Workshop/hui
- Develop a relationship with Te Puni Kokiri

ii) Database information and monitoring- Agencies and organisations have different approaches and capacity for data methodology and collection. A regionally consistent approach can be designed and implemented and information regionally co-ordinated.

Opportunities

- Consistent and compatible database information and maps
- Central collection/analysis for regional and national access
- Facilitate collective development of consistent monitoring methodology
- SOE monitoring
- Facilitate mechanisms for information sharing and accessibility for agencies and landowners

iii) Education and resources- a regional extension plan would integrate all information and resources available to landowners in the region to manage biodiversity.

Opportunities

- Landowner toolbox
- Review and update current publications i.e. Restoring the Balance kit, brochures, website information/access
- Regional extension plan to link potential training providers and individual initiatives-landowner toolbox
- Northland Biodiversity Enhancement group as a vehicle for encouraging coordination
- Information sharing about funding priorities and opportunities
- Develop a website

iv) Planning- A collaborative and coordinated approach to biodiversity priorities is required in Northland if we are to make progress in "halting the decline". There is the need to develop the "Big Picture" of what is happening in the region, assess what is important, prioritise an action plan and monitor progress towards a "strategic direction"

Opportunities

- Annual sharing of agency and organisations priorities pre-budget setting
- Establish priorities for action and immediate goals for specific on-ground projects
- Use the CMS/RPS and LTCCP to establish a strategic direction

v) Political buy-in – Outline the processes followed in the WON project. This will assist in providing a useful tool that can be transferred to other regions wishing to adopt a similar process for biodiversity management.

Opportunities

- The Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group and the Whole of Northland project as a tool for other regions − lessons learnt.

APPENDIX 2: STATEMENT OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PROTECTING RARE AND THREATENED NATIVE BIODIVERSITY ON PRIVATE LAND

In April 2007 the Ministry for the Environment released the statement of National Priorities that identifies the types of ecosystems and habitats most in need of protection.

The statement supports the government's pledge to maintain and preserve New Zealand's natural heritage and will be of particular use to local government, which has the primary role of protecting native biodiversity on private land − a role assigned to them under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.

Along with clear priorities, the statement provides a national perspective which councils can use in planning and decision-making.

Four national priorities for biodiversity protection have been set:

National Priority 1: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with land environments that have 20 % or less remaining in indigenous cover.

National Priority 2: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands; ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity.

National Priority 3: To protect indigenous vegetation associated with 'originally rare' terrestrial ecosystem types not already covered by priorities 1 and 2

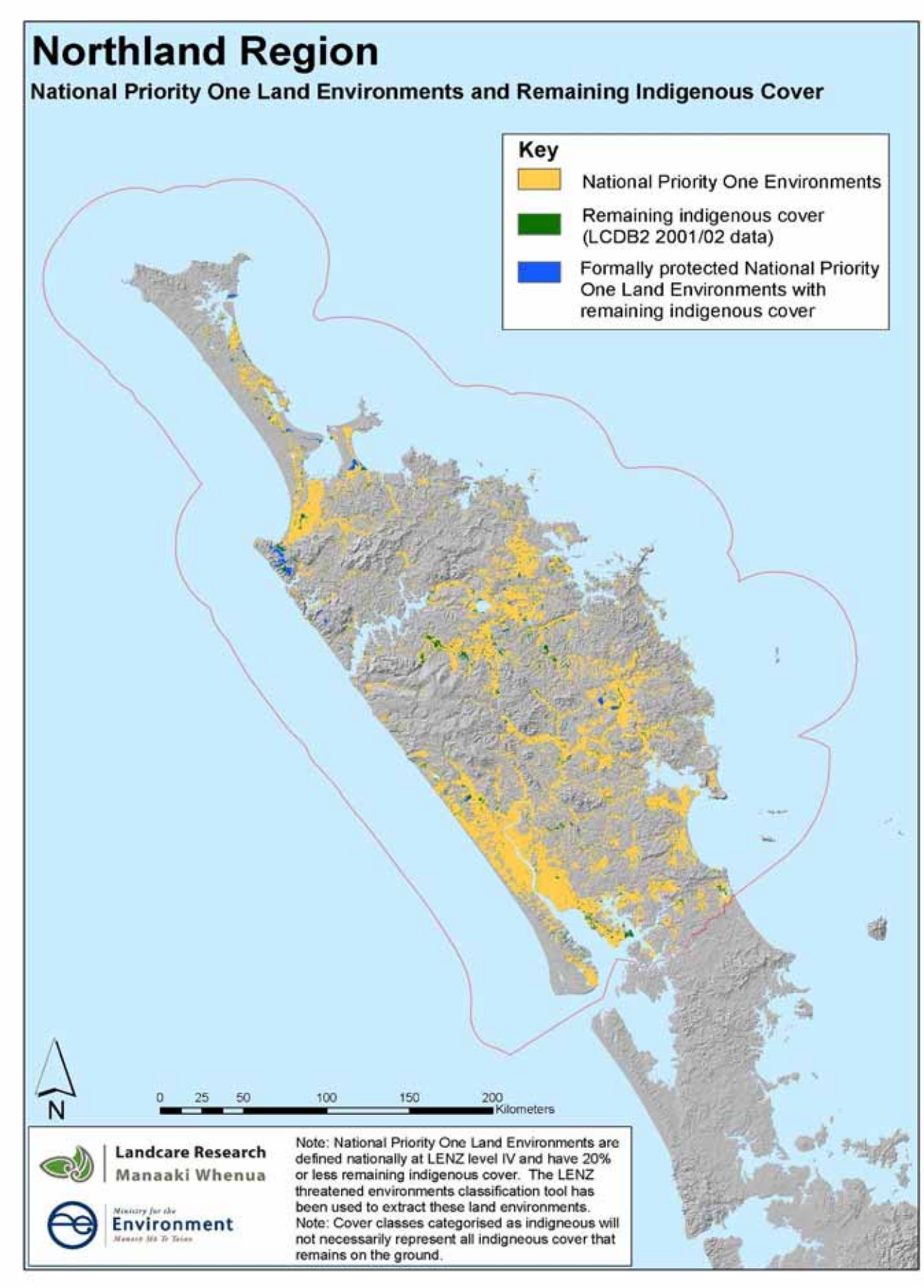
National Priority 4: To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.

Ackama nubicola, Wekaweka Valley; (Photo: NRC)

Dune Lake, Great Exhibition Bay; (Photo NRC)

Gunnera dentata, Pouto; (Photo: NRC)

Map of regional Priority 1



APPENDIX 3: SOME LANDCARE AND COMMUNITY GROUP ACTIVITY

Group Name	Weed Control	Possum/rat control	Predator control	Revegetation	Dune Restoration	Kiwi Recovery	Other:
Ahipara Primary School				✓			Threatened plant recovery
Bay of Islands Martime Park Inc							Integrated Environmental Management plan
Bream Head Restoration Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓			Predator proof fence proposed
Brynderwyn Possum Control		✓					
Bushland Trust	✓			✓			Sweetwater Lakes preservation and protection
Friends of Mangawhai Harbour				✓	✓		Riparian planting and protection
Friends of Matakohe-Limestone Island	✓	✓	✓	✓			Island restoration
Friends of Rangikapiti Reserve Inc Society	✓			✓			
Friends of Taumarumaru Reserve	✓			✓			
Glinks Gully Coastcare				✓	✓		
Guardians of the Bay of Islands		✓	✓				Island Restoration
Herekino Landcare	✓						
Honey Moon Valley group		✓	✓			✓	
Hupara Landcare		✓	✓			✓	
Jack Bisset Wetland Standholders Committee	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Kaiatea Landcare		✓	✓			✓	
Koumaru Landcare		✓	✓			✓	

Lake Omapere Project Management Team	✓			✓			Riparian restoration
Little Munro Landcare Group	✓			✓			
Mahinepua-Radar Hills Landcare		✓	✓			✓	Kiwi recovery
Mangakahia Landcare	✓			✓			Integrated Catchment Management
Mangamuka Marae				✓			Local environmental projects
Manganese Point Landcare Group	✓	✓		✓			CPCA
Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society		✓		✓	✓		
Mangawhai Pride				✓			Riparian planting
Maungakaramea Landcare group	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mt Tiger Landcare Group							Goat control
Muriwhenua Incorporation		✓					Fencing, habitat protection proposed
Ngunguru Ford Rd landcare	✓	✓	✓				
NZ Kiwi Foundation		✓	✓			✓	Council advocacy
Oakura Landcare Group							Water quality
Omamari Beach Care Group					✓		
Omapere Papa-Tahi Trust	✓						
Owhiwa Landcare Group		✓	✓				
Pahi Possum Patrol		✓					
Papakarahi Landcare	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Paparoa Lions		✓		✓			

Russell Landcare	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Weka recovery,
South Hokianga Ginger Group	✓						
Taiharuru Catchment Care Group	✓	✓		✓			Riparian Management
Taiharuru Conservation Area		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Taipa School				✓			
Takao Were te Mokai Charitable Trust		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Taupo Bay Kiwi Group		✓	✓			✓	
Taurikura Landcare							Argentine Ant control
Taurikura Ridge Landcare		✓	✓			✓	
Te Hurihunga Te Tukunga Trust		✓					
Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust		✓	✓			✓	Kokako recovery
Te Oho Mai Puketi		✓	✓			✓	Kokako recovery
Te Puia Waipounamu Aotearoa Charitable Trust	✓						Urupa protection
Tutukaka Landcare Coalition		✓	✓			✓	Pateke recovery
Tutukaka Peninsula Landcare group		✓					
Waiarohia Stream Care Group	✓			✓			Riparian management
Waimamaku River Awareness Group		✓		✓	✓		
Waimate North Landcare Trust		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Waiotira Landcare Group		✓					
Waipoua Forest Trust		✓	✓	✓		✓	

Wekaweka Landcare Group		✓	✓			✓	
Whakaangi Landcare Trust		✓	✓			✓	
Whangarei Heads Citizens Association	✓						
Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum						✓	Council Advocacy
Whatuwhiwhi Beach Care Group					✓		
Whau Valley Landcare Group	✓	✓					

APPENDIX 4: BIODIVERSITY CONDITION AND ADVICE FUND PROJECTS FOR NORTHLAND - 2003- 2006

Project Number	Advice Fund - Project Name	Organisaton	Amount	Area Treated (ha)	Value Protected
ADV-011a	Facilitating & supporting biodiversity management in Northland & Auckland	NZ LCT	$100,000		Biodiversity
ADV-041	Coordination of Biodiversity Enhancement in Northland	NRC	$50,000		Biodiversity
ADV-094a	Northland Landcare Biodiversity	NZ LCT	$54,595		Biodiversity
ADV-094g	Implementation of the "Self help tool hit" for landowners in Northland	NZ LCT	$5,130		Biodiversity
ADV-155a	A Whole of Northland Approach to Biodiversity Restoration	NZ LCT	$100,000		Biodiversity
ADV-173	Kaimamaku Biodiversity Recovery Programme	Private Individual	$3,000		Bush / Shrublands
ADV-199a	Unuwhao Restoration	NZ LCT	$3,732		Biodiversity
ADV-199b	Tutukaka Landcare Forum Biodiversity Action Plan	NZ LCT	$5,000		Biodiversity
ADV-218	Ecological advice / plan Pouto Topu A Trust	Pouto Topu A Trust	$5,000		Biodiversity information
ADV-219	Creation of Restoration and Management Plan for Middle Gable, Tutukaka	Kotuku Trust	$6,373		Coastal escarpment
ADV-238	Advice, design and project implementation of integrated predator management for biodiversity enhancement in kiwi country, Far North District (mostly)	NZ Kiwi Foundation	$22,800		Kiwi
ADV-257a	Northland Biodiversity Coordination - Collaboration, coordination and community action	NZ LCT	$165,000		Biodiversity information
ADV-265	Development / production of a Far North Kiwi Plan	Private Individual	$9,608		Kiwi
ADV-276	Biodiversity Enhancement at Whangarei Heads	Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum	$14,719		Kiwi

Project Number	Condition Fund - Project Name	Organisation	Amount	Area Treated (ha)	Value Protected
CON-030	Integrated predator management for baseline enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in Far North District	NZ Kiwi Foundation	$135,000	2623	Kiwi
CON-039a	Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum	NZ LCT	$2,600	6000	
CON-039b	Integrated predator management of indigenous biodiversity in Far North District	NZ LCT	$50,000		
CON-039e	Multi-Skilled Trapper for Greater Radar Hill & Mahinepua Mainland Island Areas	NZ LCT	$22,050		
CON-039f	Whakaangi Landcare Pest & Predator Programme	NZ LCT	$105,300	1300	Kiwi
CON-039g	Ta Mahurehure Phase 1 pest management	NZ LCT	$51,200		
CON-063a	Harambee Road Wetland & Bush	NRC	$28,425	5	Wetland
CON-063c	Kippenburger Wetland & Bush	NRC	$2,850		Bush / Shrublands
CON-063d	Tamal Trust	NRC	$13,000	21	Lowland forest
CON-063g	Jagger riparian	NRC	$4,000	3	Bush / Shrublands
CON-116a	Waiwhatawhata Bush Restoration (fencing of 55 ha of mature native coastal forest)	NRC	$10,000	55	Bush / Shrublands
CON-116b	Karaka Road Bush - Ruddell Property (fencing & possum control	NRC	$8,750	42	Lowland forest
CON-116c	MacPherson Bush Fencing	NRC	$3,250	9	Riparian
CON-116d	Ross Family Trust Wetland	NRC	$9,500	5	Riparian
CON-144a	Tutukaka Landcare Coalition coastal forest pest & predator control programme	NZ LCT	$31,133	1000	Kiwi
CON-144b	Integrated predator control in Wekaweka Valley	NZ LCT	$58,600	1300	Native Mammals
CON-144c	Waimate North Landcare Trust - Upper Waitangi Biodiversity Enhancement project	NZ LCT	$53,325	12000	Kiwi
CON-144d	Herekino Landcare Pest & Predator Programme	NZ LCT	$59,548	1000	Wetland
CON-160a	Design, install & service permanent rat & possum control systems to assist indigenous biodiversity in Far North District (51 covenants)	QEII	$22,481	1540	Kiwi
CON-160d	Bream Tail pest control	QEII	$8,345	22	Coastal forest
CON-160e	Waihue Bush remnants - fencing	QEII	$24,620	26	Bush / Shrublands
CON-160f	Blaxall & Soole pest control	QEII	$4,010	14	Bush / Shrublands
CON-160g	Monitoring & maintenance at Marunui	QEII	$3,000	417	Lowland forest

Project Number	Condition Fund - Project Name	Organisation	Amount	Area Treated (ha)	Value Protected
CON-161	Pukahakaha Block Sanctuary; possum & muselid control, weed control & planting	Mahanga Ngaranoa Estate	$0	35	Bush / Shrublands
CON-191a	Smales Bush and Stream Protection	NRC	$4,980	10	Lowland forest
CON-191b	Fife Esturine Corridor	NRC	$10,000	10	Wetland
CON-191c	Harmon/McKenzie-Pollock Esturine Corridor	NRC	$18,500	21	Wetland
CON-191d	Onekaianga Forest Protection	NRC	$6,000	20	Kiwi
CON-191e	Fox Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$2,750	6	Lowland forest
CON-191f	Fiskal farm stock exclusion fencing - Stage 2 Pooh's bush	NRC	$11,000	5	Native bird species
CON-191g	Kohukohu Waterfront Society and Tautehihi Marae Riparian Corridor	NRC	$6,000	2	Riparian
CON-191h	Campbell Chitty Trust Bush Protection	NRC	$4,750	20	Bush / Shrublands
CON-222	Owhata Restoration Indigenous Programme	Owhata C Ahu Whenua Trust	$5,000	37	Coastal habitat
CON-224	Te Papa Paaororo	Ngati Hine Health Trust	$29,000	6	Wetland
CON-226	Tahere Restoration	Private Individual	$18,000	4	Bush / Shrublands
CON-245b	Waimate North Landcare Trust	NZ LCT	$22,000	9000	Lowland forest
CON-245d	Whangarei Heads Landcare Weed Control Project	NZ LCT	$19,164	5000	Lowland forest
CON-245e	Mahinepua Mainland Island Project	NZ LCT	$18,750	1500	Kiwi
CON-246	Intergrated predator Management for kiwi to enhance indigenous biodiversity in Far Nth District	NZ Kiwi Foundation	$40,000	13900	Kiwi
CON-248a	Rat and Possum control - Far North District	QEII	$16,117	447	Kiwi
CON-248b	Pigs Head Rd Pest Control	QEII	$3,295	23	Kiwi
CON-248c	Sandy Bay Kiwi	QEII	$17,296	300	Kiwi
CON-248d	Central Northland Weed Control	QEII	$33,500		Lowland forest
CON-248j	Oneriri Peninsula Pest Control	QEII	$5,814	47	Riparian
CON-251	Whakaangi Trust Extension	Whakaangi Landcare Trust	$31,500	800	Kiwi
CON-253f	Management of indigenous forest reserves in Northland	Company	$20,000	1001	Kiwi
CON-264	Pest Elimination	Private Individual	$2,250	25	Lowland forest
CON-269a	Possum & Rat control for Taiharuru and Papakarahi Landcare Groups	NZ LCT	$20,850	750	Bush / Shrublands
CON-269b	Jack Bisset Wetlands	NZ LCT	$16,911	162	Wetland
CON-273	Kaiikanui Kiwi Restoration Project	Private Individual	$2,005	70	Kiwi
CON-274	Motuotaua Island weed control	FOMLI	$5,628	1	Native bird species

Project Number	Condition Fund - Project Name	Organisation	Amount	Area Treated (ha)	Value Protected
CON-295e	Wood Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$11,250	10	Wetland
CON-295f	Craig Wetland and Estuarine Protection	NRC	$4,550	10	Wetland
CON-314	Takou Bay pest management	Takou Were Te Mokai Landcare	$67,933	5000	Kiwi
CON-315	Lourie Fencing	Private Individual	$14,500	40	Lowland forest
CON-318a	Argus Family Restoration	QEII	$11,084	4	Coastal forest
CON-318y	Central Northland Weed Management	QEII	$23,329	145	Bush / Shrublands
CON-318z	Far North District Pest Management	QEII	$34,183	1484	Bush / Shrublands
CON-367a	McKay Wetland and Estuarine Protection	NRC	$10,700	25	Native bird species
CON-367b	Linton Estuarine Edge, Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$10,750	28	Coastal habitat
CON-367c	Roadley Wetland Bush and Estuarine Protection	NRC	$12,000	33	Coastal habitat
CON-367d	Ball Estuarine and Native Bush Restoration	NRC	$16,000	20	Bush / Shrublands
CON-367e	Ballard Bush and Estuarine Wetland Protection	NRC	$4,500	28	Lowland forest
CON-367f	Lupton Estuarine Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$4,000	28	Coastal habitat
CON-367g	Te Ahu Ahu Wetland Protection	NRC	$9,000	23	Wetland
CON-367h	Te Totara Farm Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$15,000	6	Bush / Shrublands
CON-367i	Craig Dune Lake Restoration	NRC	$6,140	2	Coastal habitat
CON-367j	Blackwell Bush Convenants (fencing)	NRC	$11,104	12	Bush / Shrublands
CON-367k	Horrobin Wetland Planting	NRC	$3,100	4	Wetland
CON-370d	Tutukaka Landcare Coalition coastal forest pest and predator control programme for Pateke Recovery	NZ LCT	$9,762	1000	Wetland
CON-372a	Ocean Beach Restoration Project	QEII	$10,068	13	Coastal habitat
CON-386	Kaimamaku biodiversity recovery programme	Private Individual	$12,500	93	Lowland forest
CON-400a	Recovery of kiwi population in Pipiwai and Oputeke forests	Company	$22,500	1001	Kiwi
CON-401a	Waimate North and Upper Waitangi Biodiversity Enhancement project	NZ LCT	$33,750	9000	Native Mammals
CON-402b	Blackbourn Fencing Project	QEII	$6,145	9	Invertebrates
CON-406	Integrated predator management for the benefit of North Island Brown Kiwi and indigenous biodiversity	NZ Kiwi Foundation	$58,500	4300	Lowland forest
CON-407	Whakaangi Landcare Trust, Pest and predator control and forest heath monitoring	Whakaangi Landcare Trust	$117,720	2400	Lowland forest
CON-446f	Tutukaka Landcare Coalition - Pest animal control programme	NZ LCT	$34,764	1000	Lowland forest
CON-448e	Hayward Fencing Project	QEII	$20,003	76	Native Mammals
CON-448i	Ocean Beach Restoration	QEII	$26,452	13	Coastal escarpment

Project Number	Condition Fund - Project Name	Organisation	Amount	Area Treated (ha)	Value Protected
CON-448k	Sandy Bay Kiwi	QEII	$27,630	300	Lowland forest
CON-450a	Candy Forest Protection	NRC	$3,750	193	Native bird species
CON-450b	Magon Forest and Stream Protection	NRC	$6,700	173	Coastal forest
CON-450c	Griffiths Forest, gumland and wetland protection	NRC	$7,100	50	Wetland
CON-450d	Pulton Forest and River Protection	NRC	$5,000	14	Coastal forest
CON-450f	Bonham Forest and Wetland Protection and Restoration	NRC	$5,600	13	Riparian
CON-450h	Kearney Clark bush restoration	NRC	$3,800	10	Riparian
CON-450i	Hutchinson Wetland and Bash project	NRC	$1,900	3	Wetland
CON-450j	Mahanga Wetland and Bush Protection	NRC	$8,400	31	Wetland
CON-456	Stock & Pest Fencing for Kaingaroa Forest	Private Individual	$4,824	12	Biodiversity
CON-472A	Biodiversity protection/ restoratation in Kohumaru	NZ LCT	$59,690	272	Lowland forest
CON-475	Mahinepua Mainland Island Project	Mahinepua-Radar Hill Landcare Group	$60,825	1500	Coastal habitat
CON-478	Kiwi recovery in Whangarei Heads	Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum	$43,680	6000	Kiwi
CON-480	Leaf Farm Remnant Protection	NRC	$23,273	24	Native bird species
CON-487	Tahere Restoration	Private Individual	$7,000	4	Bush / Shrublands

APPENDIX 5: LEGAL PROTECTION OPTIONS

If you leave the protection of your native ecosystem to the goodwill of future owners, they could undo all your efforts. Legal protection ensures that your conservation achievements will continue, usually in perpetuity. It also means you can ask for funding from agencies like the Nature Heritage Fund, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, local authorities or Ngā Whenua Rāhui (for Māori land) to help with survey, legal and fencing costs.

To obtain legal protection, you will need to define the area by survey, decide on what sort of protection you want, and detail how the ecosystem will be managed to maintain or improve its values. You should seek formal protection early in the project so that you do not waste time, enthusiasm and money.

A number of legal protection options can be tailored to suit your wishes as the landholder:

Selling or gifting land

You can sell or gift land to a variety of agencies, organisations or trusts for protection purposes. The buyer usually meets some or all of the transaction costs. An area bought or gifted under the Reserves Act will be given a reserve classification. It then needs to be managed for the primary purpose stated in that classification. This will involve producing a management plan, which needs public input.

Conservation covenants

You can enter into a covenant with the Department of Conservation, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust or local authorities. A covenant is a legal agreement between the landholder and the covenanting agency about how the area's natural values will be protected (e.g., where fencing is needed and whether public access will be allowed). As the landholder, you retain ownership and the covenant is registered against the title, usually in perpetuity. It is binding on future owners. Owners of Māori land can place areas under a Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata. Although this may be for protection in perpetuity, the terms and conditions can be reviewed every generation (not less than 25 years).

Both parties manage covenanted land in accordance with the agreement, and the covenanting agency may provide specialist advice. Financial assistance may be available to the landholder, usually for survey, legal and fencing costs. As the landholder, you may also apply to the local authority for rates relief.

Monitoring is usually needed to assess the effectiveness of management actions and changes to protected values. Either you or the covenant agency can do the monitoring in accordance with the agreement.

Protected private land agreements

You can make a protected private land agreement with the Department of Conservation. As the landholder, you retain ownership, and the agreement is recorded on the title by gazette notice.

Land exchange

You can exchange land where it is of interest to both parties. You may have costs related to equality of exchange, survey and legal requirements. Local authorities undertaking land exchange under section 15 of the Reserves Act, must seek public comment.

Management agreements

Management agreements between the Department of Conservation and a landholder under section 29 of the Conservation Act are not registered against the title and do not bind future owners. These are temporary agreements that keep your management options open until you reach a final agreement for improved protection.

Esplanade reserves

Esplanade reserves can be used to provide voluntary riparian or ecological protection quite separate from the subdivision requirements of the Resource Management Act. Such reserves are set aside under the Reserves Act as local purpose (esplanade reserves) through a local authority or the Department of Conservation. They can be of various widths.

Table 1. Agencies that implement legal protection, offer funding assistance or provide advice about the management of protected areas

Agency	Offers legal protection	Possible funding source	Offers management advice
Department of Conservation	Y	Y	Y
Nature Heritage Fund	N	Y	N
Nga Whenua Rahui	N	Y	N
QEII National Trust	Y	Y	Y
Lottery Grants Board	N	Y	N
Local Authorities	Y	Y	Y
Landcare Research	N	Y	Y

APPENDIX 6: STATUS OF LAYERS WITHIN THE GIS DATABASE.

Possible Dataset	Source	Received by NZ Landcare Trust?	Comments
Tenure/legal protection land administered by DOC	DOC	Received	
Maori Land-Northland	DOC	Received	Boundaries to be clarified with DOC estate
Nga Whenua Rahui	DOC	Received	
Biodiversity Condition Funded projects	DOC WTGN	Received	Some manually entered by NZ Landcare Trust
Fish and Game administered wetlands	F&GNZ	Received	
SNA Fund	FNDC	Received	
Biodiversity Improvement Fund	KDC	Received	
Land Cover DataBase (LCDB) 1.1 & 2	MfE	Received	
Land Environments of NZ (LENZ)	MfE	Received	
CPCA (Community Pest Control Areas)	NRC	Received	CPCA's are updated as accepted by council.
Kiwi distribution and abundance Northland	NZLCT	Received	
Landcare Groups and activities	NZLCT	Received	
Covenant locations	QE II	Received	
Tenure/legally protected land administered by WDC	WDC	Received	
Conservation Covenants	WDC	Received	
Protection Effort Weed management	WDC parks	Received	
Estuarine Vegetation Mapping	NRC	Pending	There is an annual survey of two estuaries using the national estuarine monitoring protocol. To be expanded to estuaries in due course.
Wetlands Survey	NRC	Pending	
Environment Fund	NRC	Pending	
Lakes survey	NRC	Pending	
Ant Distribution (Pest Management)	NRC	Pending	
Biosecurity Records	NRC	Pending	Records of pest and animals mostly targeted in pest management strategies, although some incidents of marine spp and nationally targeted spp. Eg Nassella, Californian thistle, release of RHD, rhamnus, old mans beard, seasquirt.
Protected Natural Areas Database	DOC	Pending	

Protection effort Predator control Possum/ goat control areas Weed management	DOC	Pending	
Tenure/legally protected land administered by KDC	KDC	Pending	
Conservation covenants	KDC	Pending	
Tenure/legally protected land administered by FNDC	FNDC	Pending	Pending development of in-house GIS capability
Rare Plants in Northland	Bioweb	Unlikely to be included	
Endangered Species distribution	DOC	Unlikely to be included	

APPENDIX 7: LESSONS LEARNT - "WHOLE OF NORTHLAND" PROJECT

Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group (NBeg):

- NBeg arose from recognition of a lack of resources within agencies in Northland, and the realization that by working collaboratively we could use available resources more efficiently. Many forums consider that fostering relationships between members is a primary purpose and helps coordinate and integrate efforts.
- Initial NBeg meetings were generally ad hoc and were reliant on initiatives by individuals with little formal support and requirement.
- There was no initial MOU. The informal process of the group got around the "patch protection" and potential concerns that are common within organizations. It demonstrated a process that was working.
- The Dargaville Field Days provided a high public profile and showed that organisations were successfully working together. The field days also provided internal value in the process alone – increased interaction between staff. They showed something that worked.
- The informal approach was repeated with District Councils – getting them involved at a staff level rather than waiting for high level support.
- The importance of a personal attitude and approach must not be discounted in what makes the process work. The lack of "patch protection" at the officer level of council's and DOC allowed the process to develop.
- It is important to seek individuals in organisations that are working in the area and want to collaborate with other stakeholders.
- The differences in 'systems' between agencies involved needs to be recognized (eg DOC having to work to a central priority, vs NRC responding to local influence.)
- The differing abilities of each organisation to deliver must also be accepted. (eg Fish & Game/Landcare Trust with 2 staff members, vs NRC/DOC). The lack of resources meant that the agencies could achieve more by working collaboratively together.
- The approach to the various organisations and agencies cannot rely on one single entry point (person) due to staff turnover and importance of engagement and buy in of all staff engaged in biodiversity in participating organizations. A key issue here was to focus on those who initially want to be involved in the process and are already engaged. The next step was to bring in other agencies and organisations by keeping them informed through minutes from meetings, and inviting them to the NBeg meetings, workshops and presentations.

Opportunities still remain with:

Iwi-

- There has been much discussion on how to engage iwi in the process. Discussions with key Maori landholders show iwi are already engaged at different levels and that the process should continue to support them in the varying roles as land managers.
- Opportunities around liaison with rununga resource management units; potential for mentoring./.upskilling./ liaison and listening to Maori traditional knowledge around biodiversity which ties in with the Matauranga Kura Taiao fund.

Councils-

Historically, council involvement in biodiversity has relied on individual commitment – it is crucial that Councils requirements are institutionalized as Council's absorb their responsibility. The mentoring of council staff under the umbrella of NBeg is valuable to build relationships, share information and resources, learning about other efforts and aligning efforts.

- Would a MOU assist at a later or future stage in the development of a "Biodiversity Strategy?" Still to be shown.

- Should NBeg widen the focus to include other groups such at the Polytechnic where there is opportunity for capacity building and employment opportunities.
- It has been suggested the Pastoral Farming Development Group be included in the invitations to the NBeg meeting – and a report on N-Beg could be made to the PFDG.
- A questionnaire could be linked to Environment Fund's process to assist monitoring outcomes (e.g. NRC Environment Fund, QEII National Trust, District council funds).
- The development of an annual report would outline what has been achieved and what is working or not working. It is important to document associated costs throughout the process.
- The process has been parochial - this is a Northland focused project, and that is very important – the initiatives are coming from within and the development of collaborative leadership has created positive outcomes for all involved.
- There have been other spin offs from the project – e.g. more on-ground action better supported because the agencies are working better together. Provision of information, not direction is considered to be crucial to this.
- There are opportunities with the LTCCP process to use the NBeg "Whole of Northland" approach to assist in delivering community outcomes concerning biodiversity and environmental enhancement for local and regional councils.

Work in progress.

- It is true to say the project has evolved as a 'work in progress'. Translation of the bid details to a work programme was something of a reality check.
- There is a need to accept flexibility in the delivery of the project although this may have implications for funders versus the need for more input of the right people at the planning stage for the project; risk of 'paralysis by analysis'.

GIS Component

- The process of the project highlighted what little GIS database information has been captured digitally within the current systems and the databases currently available are often duplicated. There is a lot of information held in "hard copy" within the agencies but not easily accessible. In the future the capturing of digital database information on biodiversity will be a greater component.
- There was some reluctance and confusion as to how much commitment was expected by the organizations and agencies GIS Coordinators at the start of the project. It is suggested that these key staff are better briefed at the development stage of the project and clarify what levels of GIS expertise and capabilities is needed for the wider project.
- The high level of buy-in from DOC was very critical to the wider engagement of the project and to the development of the GIS database within the NZLCT. The MOU agreements developed around GIS information are an important part of the process to seal the buy-in to the project and this is reflected in the generosity for information sharing and support for the project by agencies.

Council engagement in to the project

- There was varying approaches made to the district councils and it was important to inform councillors and senior management about the project, however information did not always filter down through to the right people within councils. It was therefore necessary at times to enter "side doors" to engage key staff in to the process through NBeg and initiate face to face discussions.
- Not all councillors are expected to be fully engaged in the project because of other priorities but focus on those that have an interest and can act as political representative to raise awareness about council's legislative responsibility for biodiversity.