



Lower North Island Strategy

22 May 2025

Purpose of this document

- This is our vision for the Lower North Island (LNI) in 2050 and how we will work to achieve that.
- This strategy expresses how we will give effect to the national DOC strategy in our region.
- It is for us but will benefit imi, iwi, hāpu, and support our stakeholders.
- It is a strategy – providing overall guidance and a framework for staff to develop their approach to delivering our priorities and vision.
- It was developed with input from staff in each district and the conservation boards. We have also drawn on our ongoing conversations with imi, iwi, and hapū and will strengthen this through kanohi ki te kanohi hui in 2025.
- It is a living document which will be further developed and refined.
- A Five-Year Plan accompanies this document.

Director's message

We've built this strategy together and it will guide the direction of our work in the Lower North Island.

Our current operating environment is fiscally challenging, so we need to be bold, creative, and united in our approach to ensure we can deliver the best conservation outcomes possible. No matter what the constraints are, we are going to set our sights high and focus on what is most important and impactful for nature and for people to thrive here.

We can't do this alone. We will need to be working closely with imi, iwi, hapū and likeminded partners to achieve our vision: "People feel connected to the land, ecosystems are thriving, and we are working with and through imi, iwi, hapū and partners to achieve it."

We need our work to help reposition conservation in the minds of people, so nature and its benefits becomes relevant to people again, in their homes and their communities. We want more kiwis involved with conservation, especially our tamariki.

This strategy takes a landscape scale approach to conservation within our region. Too often we work as if conservation stops at the DOC boundary. Instead, we will work in an integrated way with our partners to achieve outcomes at an ecosystem and landscape scale.

Finally, this strategy will help us to change the way we work. We're already brave, but we'll need to make some gutsy calls to turn around the threat status of our most precious birds and plants, to push back on forest canopy collapse, and to help imi, iwi, and hapū exercise their mana over the land. By being clear, intentional, innovative, and united in the way we work as a regional team, we will use our collective talent to best effect.

This strategy is our guiding light for what we can achieve for conservation in our region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Heather', with a stylized, flowing script.

Alice Heather, Director, Operations, Lower North Island

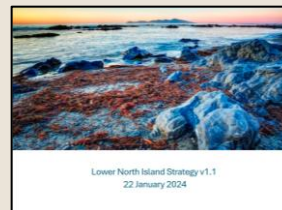
Internal and external factors influencing the LNI Strategy

This strategy and accompanying Five-year plan are living documents which will evolve to reflect changing internal and external strategies, requirements, and influences.

DOC Strategy



LNI Strategy



Five-year plans

Annual plans

Delivery planning

Monitoring and reporting

Internal influences

SLT

Better for Nature

BioInvest

FDV & Heritage Reset

Treaty settlements

Statutory requirements

PF2050, RPMS

External influences

Minister

Stakeholders

Technology

Treaty relationships

Public & communities

Conservation boards

Conservation management strategies

Our 2050 vision...

People feel connected to the land, ecosystems are thriving, and we are working with and through imi, iwi, hapū, and partners to achieve it.

For people living in our region this means...

- Ecosystems are thriving from mountain to sea. Species flourish alongside people, particularly in urban areas, and nature is taking care of itself.
- People are more connected to the land and to nature, particularly those who live in urban environments and our tamariki. People know stories about their local heritage and cultural sites, they understand what a healthy habitat looks like, and conservation is part of everyday conversations.
- There is a coherent network of nature experiences for people to enjoy. Access to nature is the norm.
- People can swim in clean rivers, drink the water, and our kids choose to be outside engaging with nature.
- There is awesome access to the back country, and access to tracks and huts for people with disabilities, the elderly, and tamariki.
- A cultural harvest is reestablished across the region.

How will we achieve the vision?

To achieve this vision...

We prioritise, we partner, we adapt, we make gutsy calls.
For conservation — we are the purveyors of hope.

This means...

- We need to work differently. We need to focus on our 2050 vision for the region. We will prioritise our work and focus on what will be most impactful to help us achieve that vision. We will be adaptive to change and not afraid to make 'gutsy calls'.
- We will measure the outcomes of our work in terms of the environmental, cultural, social, and economic impact.
- We don't have to do it all. We will work through and with imi, iwi, hapū, and our partners. We will empower the community to be guardians of their places. Working with others is not the goal, but our way to get there.
- We recognise we won't get there with our current tools. We need to adopt new technologies to better control pests and manage our ecosystems.
- We can mitigate against climate change and leverage its 'urgency' to advance our work.
- We will tell stories about the impact our work is making, educate people, and engage more locally.
- We will find new sources of funding and resources.
- At a time when nature faces unprecedented challenges, we need to be bolder, more creative, more strategic in our thinking. We need more 'we can' thinking.

Overview of the Lower North Island



We manage some amazing country

At its best, the Lower North Island offers some great immersive experiences of nature. Our islands are biodiversity hotspots and tell important heritage stories for conservation, Moriori and Māori.

The flora and fauna on the Chatham Islands are especially important. Forty-seven plants and fungi, 10 seaweeds, 16 birds, one lizard, and over 50 invertebrates are found nowhere else in the world. The Chatham Islands has 5% of New Zealand's critically threatened species and 10% of New Zealand's threatened or at-risk species.

Our Wild South Coast, from Nga-ra-o-Kupe (Kupe's Sail) to Turakirae Head offers breathtaking scenery and a notable RAMSAR wetland restoration site. Over 50 rare and threatened species are found at the Wairarapa Moana, such as the bittern, black-fronted tern, the dwarf mistletoe *Korthalsella salicornioides*, torrent fish, and longfin eel.

Our Central Spine, from the Remutaka, to the Tararua, Ruahine and Kaweka, are vast areas of important biodiversity and recovery work, and the birthplace of tramping in New Zealand. They deliver essential ecosystem services such as freshwater and flood management. They also provide a massive backcountry recreational network for trampers and a nationally significant herd of Sika deer for hunters.

We have important river and wetland ecosystems throughout our region. Our marine reserves offer sanctuaries for marine wildlife, giving a glimpse of how bountiful nature can be.

And there are a few places special in their own right: the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Castle Point, the Manawatū River and Te Apiti, Hāpūpū, Te Whanganui Ā Orotū, and the Ōtātara Pā Historic Reserve.

Finally, Kapiti Island demonstrates how nature can thrive after a century of heroic conservation effort. One of New Zealand's oldest and most important nature reserves, the island is home to some of the country's most endangered birds and is a pre-eminent site for bird recovery and translocation. The Whare, built in the early 1860s, is the oldest conservation building in the country.

Overview of the Lower North Island



We work alongside some inspired people

We work alongside one imi and 30 iwi to deliver our shared responsibility to help Papatūānuku thrive. Our Natural Capital (Wellington) also has the largest, most engaged volunteer conservation community in the country and co-governance in action with mana whenua on surrounding islands.

Our volunteers help manage our huts, campsites, and our historic places, and are actively restoring some of our most degraded places. For example, at Pāuahatanui Wildlife Reserve, a local branch of the Forest & Bird Society has been actively restoring this coastal estuary. Every week, for the past 40 years, volunteers are in the Reserve removing weeds and predators, maintaining tracks, and planting native species from their on-site nursery. The restoration has been so successful, we have been able to safely re-release rare species back into this environment.

We have some big challenges

We are holding the line for the key threatened species we manage, but they are not thriving, often confined by fragmented remnants of once incredible ecosystems. Our large forest parks provide huge ecosystem services, like stable land and fresh water, but are under incredible pressure from browsers threatening canopy collapse in places.

Unlike other regions, we have no national parks, Great Walks, Great Short Walks or Day Hikes to manage. As a result, our visitor experiences attract few international tourists, so we fly under the radar of the government's tourism (and funding) strategy. Many of our best wildlife experiences are not easily accessible and our extensive backcountry network is not currently financially sustainable. Many of our sites look and feel tired. This impacts ranger morale. And we have a tendency to think that, if we work harder, we can keep it all going.

Overview of the Lower North Island

Biodiversity



3 marine reserves, including marine mammal haul out areas



Over 30% endemic NZ species are in LNI, mostly on the Chatham Islands



5 predator-free islands support rare and threatened ecosystems

Heritage & Visitor



157 Huts (40% under third party management - 63 total)



27 Campgrounds



1830 kms of tracks

70 Actively managed heritage places



4 Heritage icon sites: Nga-ra-o-Kupe (Kupe's Sail), Matiu/Somes Island, Otatara Pa, Hāpūpū/ J M Barker Historic Reserve (Chatham Islands)



Key visitor experiences – Kapiti Island, Pūkaha/ Mt Bruce, Castlepoint Scenic Reserve, Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve and Te Apiti



c.800 active permissions

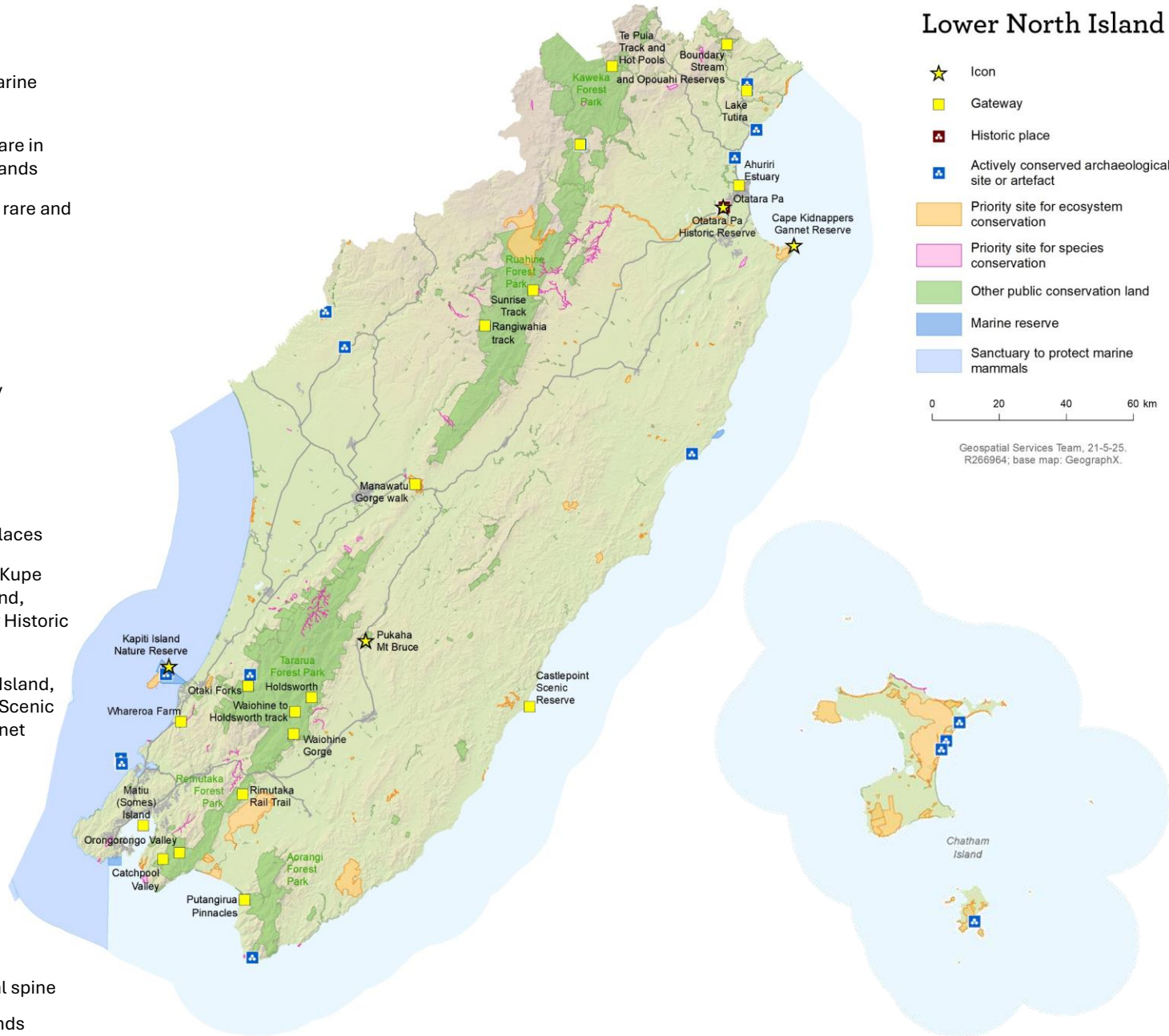
Threats



Sea spurge

Ungulate browsing in the central spine

Biosecurity of our pest free islands



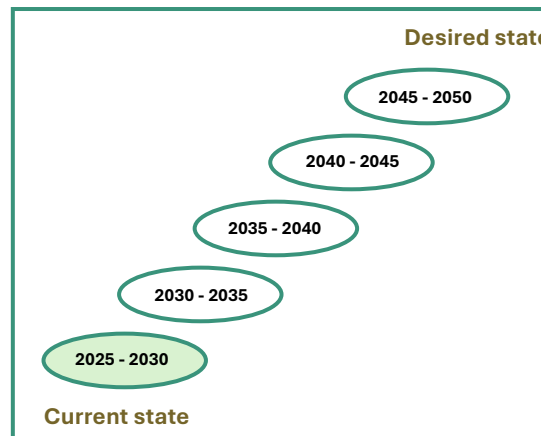
LNI strategic priorities

	Current state	2030 desired state	Five-year goals
We significantly change our ways of working	District focused work prioritisation and delivery. Silos between biodiversity, recreation, and community teams. A poverty mindset. We can't readily say how our work adds value.	Working regionally by default. We have implemented our Shifts and Enablers (page 16-17). We tell compelling stories, including the environmental, social, cultural and economic value we deliver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional prioritisation processes are underway We take a regional approach to land management Biodiversity work on the Chatham Islands is delivered by staff from across the region We have several case-studies providing a compelling story of the value we add Opportunities to divest or monetise conservation land (particularly low value land) are being realised.
We take an integrated landscape approach at our key sites	Work is split up across districts and is not coordinated. Sites are mostly resourced by local district staff and funding. Our local priorities may not align well with national or regional priorities.	Working with imi, iwi, hapū, and partners and across districts at a landscape level so DOC is receiving an outsized return on our investment. Focussing on our four landscapes (page 12-15) .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have cross regional teams working at key sites We are aligned with imi, iwi and partners on common goals
Ecosystems and species are thriving from mountains to sea	We are holding the line on biodiversity loss for our 20 species on the brink of extinction and our 5 threatened ecosystems.	Our threatened species are abundant, and their range is expanding, creating a positive halo effect for conservation. Cultural harvest of taonga species is sustainable. We engage with specialists to solve our knowledge gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our people are skilled in monitoring Threats to species are controlled in our key native ecosystems Kapiti, Mana, Matiu, Pitt, Mangere remain free of predators and threats Forest recovery in our central spine stabilises decline of whio and kaka
Visitors enjoy a sustainable number of experiences	Most of our sites are in managed decline. We manage too many assets for our (currently declining) resource base. We have some excellent partnerships in place.	We offer a high-quality experience at our priority visitor sites. We have a coherent, well maintained network of backcountry huts and tracks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Tier 3 sites are managed by others or closed Action plans are in place to uplift the quality of our priority visitor experiences We receive high net promotor scores at priority destinations

LNI strategic priorities

	Current state	2030 desired state	Five-year goals
Strengthen natural ecosystems to mitigate against the impacts of climate change	Much of our precious flora and fauna (and visitor assets) are vulnerable to severe weather events. A national climate change plan is currently being developed.	All priority biodiversity, heritage and visitor sites are climate resilient. Important non-PCL land has also been future-proofed for climate change impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaptation is a default way of thinking and working Vulnerable species, ecosystems, and assets are identified and a plan is in place to protect them We manage retreat at sites where it is not feasible to protect them from severe weather events and have begun to develop alternative habitats for relocating critical species
We attract investment into conservation and raise more revenue	We are failing to realise the full value of many of our assets and experiences, or recover costs where it is fair to do so. Receiving donations is not a part of our BAU. We are likely facing four more years of fiscal constraint.	We have a resilient funding base independent of changes in central government funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We tell compelling stories about the value of investment in conservation We identify quick wins for new revenue within our region We enable new funding streams e.g. trusts
Important cultural and historic sites are protected and offer a compelling experience	Our icon sites remain undeveloped. The fabric at some is vulnerable and our most important stories are not told.	Our icon sites are well-conserved and interpreted. They enjoy a high public profile and deliver a compelling experience of the past. DOC staff are knowledgeable about our sites and how to manage them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept plans for icon sites are finalised and inform capital investment External funding is secured for priority projects Strong partnerships are in place

We will plan in five-year increments towards our vision

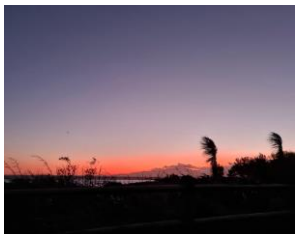


Priorities may change from one set of Five-Year Plans to the next, but they are all aiming for the same vision.

The Five-Year Plan is flexible, it will be refined regularly and adapted in response to change.

Our priorities will reflect the Biodiversity Investment Approach, Cultural Heritage Reset and the Future Visitor Network.

Landscape 1: Aquatic ecosystems



The goal is to work with others to create thriving river, wetland, and marine ecosystems, enriching people's lives.

Overview

Our rivers, wetlands, and marine environments have for centuries provided a rich resource for people to thrive. As agriculture and then suburbia grew, the quality of our aquatic ecosystems rapidly declined. Today, these ecosystems are still in decline, despite intact, largely pristine catchments. Close to half of New Zealand's total river length is now unswimmable. Half is partially inaccessible to migratory fish. The story is even worse for wetlands. Since the 1850s, New Zealand has lost 90 percent of its wetland areas due to draining for farming. Our marine environment is one of the largest in the world and central to our prosperity and wellbeing. It too faces pressures from climate change, pollution, and overfishing.

Current state

The current state of our aquatic ecosystems is fair but declining. We don't know what management actions are needed for many of our rivers, lakes, and wetlands. We also have insufficient data on the health of our marine reserves. We currently have five major collaborative projects underway in places of importance to iwi: Waikanae ki Uta ki Tai, Wairarapa Moana, the Manawatu Estuary Hawke's Bay Marine and Coastal Group and the Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga for Ahuriri estuary.



2050 outcomes

- Collaborative groups are self-reliant and actively protecting and restoring their aquatic ecosystems
- The halo effect has doubled the number of collaborative projects in LNI
- We have seen a turnaround in water quality degradation, with the restoration of healthy, swimmable waterways
- Freshwater fauna is flourishing, particularly those species we manage that are threatened with extinction
- Marine life is thriving within marine reserves; and respected
- Resilience to climate change and coastal erosion is improved and seen to be working
- Sustainable cultural harvest of taonga species is widely accepted and occurring

Landscape 2: Central Spine



The goal is for resilient, continuous forests to protect valuable ecosystem services for the surrounding communities, through sustained pest control at a landscape level.

Overview

Our Central Spine, from the Remutaka, to the Tararua, Ruahine, Kaweka and Maungaharuru, deliver essential ecosystem services such as fresh water and flood management but are under threat from over browsing by deer and goats. Left unchecked, the forests will fall silent and the communities downstream will face increased risks from severe weather events, like the Hawke's Bay recently experienced in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Current state

The current state of the environment in the central spine is fair but declining. Canopy collapse is a real danger in some areas following the loss of forest understory, but we need to understand this better.

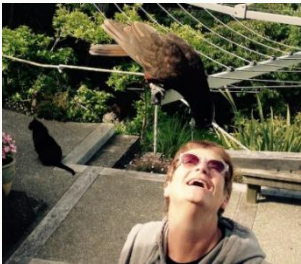
Without priority threatened species or ecosystems, DOC is unlikely to ever fund sustained ungulate and predator control across the Central Spine so a new model of partnership is needed to help restore a thriving, resilient forest ecosystem that continues to deliver clean drinking water and flood control.



2050 outcomes

- Forests have been brought back from the brink of collapse, with a recovering understorey protecting important downstream ecosystem services
- We have secured enduring ungulate control at a landscape scale
- We work with a large number of partners sharing an aligned vision
- Nature is returning as a result of pest control, including some of our most vulnerable species like whio
- Transformative weed pressures are being effectively managed

Landscape 3: Natural Capital



The goal is for abundant native flora and fauna everywhere, with agencies, communities, and mana whenua sharing a singular vision for how we can live well with nature.

Overview

Wellington is one city in the world where biodiversity is actually improving. Like most cities, Wellington lost its original old growth forest cover and the species that made their homes there following settlement. That trend only began to reverse in the 1990s with, amongst other initiatives, the establishment of the world's first mainland island wildlife sanctuary at Karori. Twenty-five years later, the 25 species that have been translocated there are thriving and starting to find homes outside of their fenced sanctuary. Native birds are back in Wellington. The halo effect of having kaka and kiwi around your home has changed the way Wellingtonians see themselves and their environment, leading to a blossoming of backyard trapping, conservation volunteering, and a preference for experiencing nature right where people live.

Current state

The current state of the environment in the Natural Capital is fair and improving. DOC is only one small player in the Natural Capital. Our managed islands remain predator free and populations of threatened species are thriving. There is extensive mainland pest control but there are gaps and a long way to go to achieve the vision of Predator Free by 2050. Many people are engaged in predator control and environmental restoration but there are opportunities to better coordinate their efforts.



2050 outcomes

- Abundant native flora and fauna everywhere
- Island and mainland sanctuaries remain free of predators or new threats, threatened species are thriving there
- Agencies and mana whenua work together seamlessly on shared goals
- Communities are champions for, and actively involved in conservation work
- Other cities try to emulate Wellington's thriving wildlife

Landscape 4: Rēkohu- Wharekauri Chatham Islands



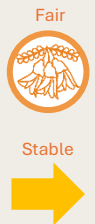
The goal is for the Chatham Islands to become predator-free, restoring the dawn chorus – a place where nature is part of life.

Overview

The Chatham Islands contain several of the world's most threatened bird and plant species. A long period of isolation and complex geology has created a place like no other on the earth. Human occupation has had a significant impact on the environment, yet examples of most of the indigenous communities and ecosystems have survived and the natural character of the islands is still apparent almost everywhere. Tapuaenuku Little Mangere is the place of one of our most endearing conservation stories – Don Merton and Old Blue. From a single breeding pair of black robins, Don and his team showed how it was possible to bring back a bird on the very edge of extinction. Today, the population is stable with over 300 black robins living on Mangere and Hokoreoreo Rangatira islands.

Current state

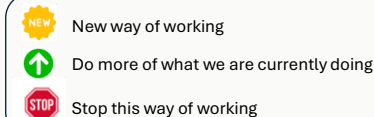
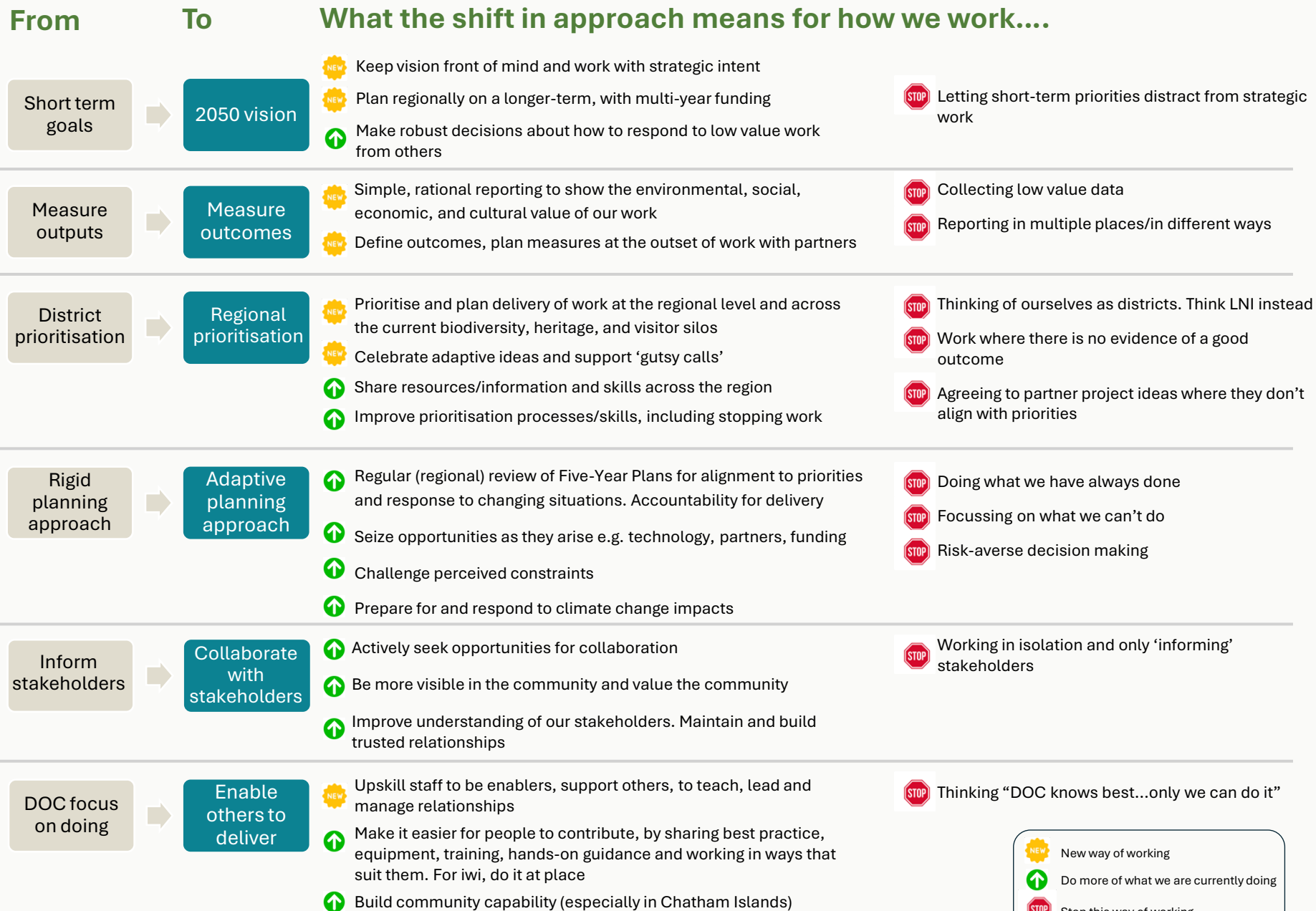
The current state of the environment in the Chathams is fair and stable. Large tracts of native vegetation has been cleared and replaced with pasture, reducing the habitat available for native fauna and flora – less than 8% of land is protected. There are numerous pest species. Remnant native vegetation remains unprotected and in poor condition. There is limited public access to nature, so limited opportunities to experience it. Rangatira and Mangere Islands are predator-free, providing a safe haven for some species. Species here are at risk of a single catastrophic event such as an incursion, or the arrival of aviary flu (HPAI).



2050 outcomes

- The Chatham Islands are predator-free. The dawn chorus is restored, and nature is part of life
- Translocations are no longer required, offshore island biodiversity needs minimum intervention
- Species and ecosystems are more resilient to climate change and catastrophic events
- Sustainable cultural harvest of taonga species is widely accepted and occurring

To achieve our vision there are six shifts we need to make to our ways of working





Our mindset

- More bold, creative, proactive, visionary and strategic in our thinking. More “we can” thinking
- Trust ourselves to make decisions within our delegations – don’t over analyse
- Allow ourselves to ‘step back’ and to empower and build capability in others
- Support staff trying to work in new ways. Address fears of failing by piloting more
- Where we feel constrained by a lack of resources or time, improve our prioritisation



Innovation

- Be early adopters of emerging technologies (e.g. traps, drones, AI) to enable us to do more
- Connect with key players and seek opportunities to support innovation and research



Storytelling & education

- Tell the full story: What good and bad looks like; What we prioritise, what we don’t prioritise, and why
- Support imi, iwi, hapū, and partners to tell their stories
- Build knowledge of the historic and cultural narratives in and around the places we work
- Use our networks more to get our stories out
- Share with our communities the value of conservation and how to get involved.
- Help people to connect at place
- Leverage climate change urgency
- Advocate for conservation in the school curriculum/ kura kaupapa
- Use technology/social media to engage people
- Change the language of ‘conservation’ so its more broadly appealing and reflects a relationship with the environment that is more active and grounded in te ao Māori



Resources

- Leverage the resources of volunteers, commercial partners, and philanthropy organisations
- Seek more bequests. Be clear on what is needed and why

We are an Honourable Treaty Partner

We strive to be an honourable Treaty partner. This means we must:

- 1 Prioritise Treaty relationships and strengthen our partnership with imi, iwi, and hapū
- 2 Treat our imi, iwi, and hapū partners with respect and act in good faith
- 3 Build our Treaty literacy and Te Ao Māori capability

What does 'honourable' look like in our day-to-day work?

- Our relationships with imi, iwi, and hapū are strong; we can agree to disagree sometimes and continue to work towards shared goals. Our rangers know who the tangata whenua are, and are comfortable working alongside them.
- We make better decisions because we are informed by tikanga (customs), kawa (protocol), and mātauranga (traditional knowledge). We understand the significance of taonga and work with tangata whenua to look after it. Mātauranga is well-regarded and Māori can access resources and undertake cultural practices freely.
- Nature and tangata whenua are thriving together. Imi, iwi, hapū, and whānau are empowered to undertake kaitiakitanga and be guardians of their places.
- We grow trust and are known to be an honourable Treaty Partner.

Case Study: Co-governance on Matiu/Somes Island

In September 2009, the ownership of Wellington's harbour islands was returned to iwi as part of the settlement of the Treaty claims of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika.

The change marked a new era for mana whenua who established the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board to co-govern the islands with DOC. The Kaitiaki Plan establishes the vision, values, and guiding principles for the long-term management of the island, setting cultural, ecological, and financial objectives for our work there.

Settlement funding administered by DOC supports the employment of a kaitiaki ranger working alongside DOC rangers to deliver the mahi. Working so closely alongside the iwi enables our rangers to deepen their understanding of Te ao Māori, mātauranga, tikanga, kawa, and te reo.

VALUES

Te mouri o te taiao

We protect, preserve and enhance the motu and moana for generations to come

E kore e piri te uhu ki te rino, ka whitingia e te rā ka ngahoro

We uphold Taranaki tikanga and hawa in all that we do

Tū mai Taranaki

Taranaki culture, language, and histories are elevated and recognised

Te Kahu o te Raukura

We are guided by the philosophies of the raukura - aroha towards others, manaakitanga of our guests and respect for all

Poua ki runga, poua ki raro

Mai i te whenua ki te rangi - people, place and taonga are interconnected, interdependent and bound through the whakapapa of all things

Working with our partners

Our partners...

Conservation
boards

Imi, Iwi and
hapū

Public &
philanthropists

NGOs

Govt agencies
& councils

Businesses

We won't achieve our ambitious vision for the Lower North Island without working with others and at a landscape level. We won't even come close.

To scale-up our conservation work, we'll need to work with imi, iwi, hapū, and others who are willing to support us with their knowledge, their mahi, and their money. Taking a landscape approach starts in our local communities. We build trust and common ground then leverage local action and investment across large spaces. Parks Canada is an example of this.

Parks Canada has created one of the world's first urban national parks in Toronto – a city of three million people. Based around the Rouge River catchment, the park is a patchwork of urban, rural, and natural landscapes connected with a shared vision of conserving nature, connecting people with nature, and advancing reconciliation with indigenous peoples. The park has created significant benefits for not only biodiversity, but also for the climate, ecosystem services, recreation, education, and the protection of some of the most fertile farmland in Canada. It's estimated that the 8000-hectare area generates \$176 million per year in non-market economic benefits.

By working together, we'll achieve the transformational changes we're seeking for Papatūānuku to thrive, Hawke's Bay bequest is an example of this:

Hawke's Bay bequest

DOC received \$13.75 million as a bequest from an individual in Hawke's Bay. Their wish was for the money to be used for predator control and revegetation projects to fill the trees with birds.

Traditionally we might have spent the funds on one or two large DOC focussed projects, but a different approach was taken – focussing on working in partnership, prioritising funding in perpetuity, and taking a landscape approach to conservation in the Hawke's Bay.

DOC chose to establish a new conservation grant funding programme by divesting the funds to Eastern & Central Community Trust. The fund is open to everyone wanting to undertake predator control or replanting in areas of significance. It will grant seed funding, from the fund dividend, to projects that have sustainable plans.

By taking a landscape approach, DOC is taking a holistic view of all land within the Hawke's Bay region, not just PCL and handing control over to the community.

To achieve our priorities we need to stop some work

We will stop work which doesn't contribute to our priorities, including:



Agreeing to take on non-priority work



Lower value biodiversity work, for example EMU sites ranked >850, or species which are adequately managed elsewhere for persistence



Working on Tier 3 FVN sites and parts of Tier 1 & 2 sites that are no longer fit-for-purpose



Accepting funding which does not align with our priorities



Accepting operational work requests from others in DOC that does not align with our priorities

Summary of Lower North Island Strategy



VISION

Nature is thriving in Aotearoa | Te Oranga o te Ao Tūroa

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

The LNI Strategy shows how we will give effect to the DOC Strategy in our region

Our vision for LNI in 2050

People feel connected to the land, ecosystems are thriving,
and we are working with and through imi, iwi, hapū, and partners to achieve it

We are an Honourable Treaty Partner

LNI strategic priorities

We significantly change our ways of working

We take an integrated landscape approach

Ecosystems and species are thriving from mountains to sea

Visitors enjoy a sustainable number of experiences

Strengthen natural ecosystems to mitigate against the impacts of climate change

We attract investment into conservation and raise more revenue

Important cultural and historic sites are protected and offer a compelling experience

The 6 shifts we need to make

2050 vision

Measure outcomes

Regional prioritisation

Adaptive planning approach

Collaborate with stakeholders

Enable others to deliver

Enablers which will help us make the shifts

Our mindset

Storytelling & education

Innovation

Resources

Our approach

We prioritise, we partner, we adapt, we make gutsy calls.
For conservation – we are the purveyors of hope.

We have three conservation boards that oversee and inform our work in LNI. These are: Wellington, East Coast Hawke's Bay and the Chatham Islands. The role of the boards is to share in a vision to protect our flora and fauna and to represent the public interest in conservation within their region.

The boards have played an important role in helping develop our strategy. There were many similarities between the aspirations for the strategy articulated by the district staff and the Boards. In addition, the Boards also reflected their own context.

In particular their depictions of the 2050 vision included:

- A non-partisan political conservation approach where political leaders value and prioritise conservation
- Changing the language around 'conservation', towards a relationship with nature that is more active and grounded in te ao Māori
- Making taiao (nature) a core subject in the school curriculum, running nature focused holiday programmes, and embedding our stories in education resources
- Marketing DOCs expertise. Being the "go to" for good advice and to lead innovation
- Supporting the marketing of innovation through research funds
- Shifting DOCs role from compliance to enablement
- Integrating more with the community e.g. through Marae type working environments

We will work with the boards to implement this strategy, the Five-Year Plan, annual plans and the relevant parts of the Conservation Management Strategies.