

# Action for nature

Implementing New Zealand's  
Biodiversity Strategy 2025–2030

Discussion document



**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

**Action for nature – Implementing New Zealand’s  
Biodiversity Strategy 2025–2030: Discussion document**

ISBN (online): 978-1-7386283-3-9

Cover photo: Tanguru chafer. *Photo: Sabine Bernert*

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai  
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

May 2025

**Privacy statement**

All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and can be released, if requested, under that Act. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish for your name, or any other personal information, to be disclosed in any summary of submissions or external disclosures.

For further information, please refer to the Department of Conservation’s privacy statement ([www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/privacy-and-security](http://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/privacy-and-security)).

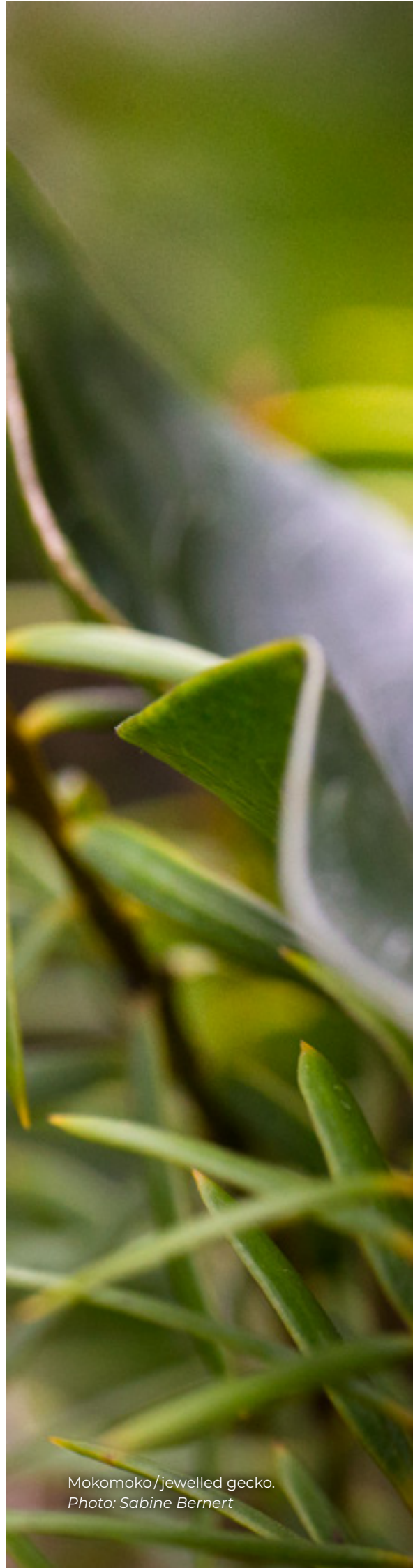
*Editing and design:*

Te Rōpū Ratonga Auaha, Te Papa Atawhai  
Creative Services, Department of Conservation



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. In essence, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to the Crown and abide by the other licence terms. To view a copy of this licence, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Mokomoko / jewelled gecko.  
*Photo: Sabine Bernert*





---

# Contents

<b>Message from the Minister .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 1: Background and context .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Purpose of this document.....	8
Why biodiversity matters.....	8
Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.....	10
Meeting our international commitments .....	11
Developing the next implementation plan for ANZBS.....	12
What makes up the implementation plan? .....	12
Next steps .....	12
<b>Section 2: Critical actions for advancing the implementation of ANZBS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Four themes to guide implementation between now and 2030 .....	14
Introducing the critical actions.....	15
<b>Section 3: Connecting the themes and actions to the strategy.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Theme 1: Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Developing a national picture of high biodiversity values .....	17
Agreeing on priority programmes to address biodiversity loss.....	19
<b>Theme 2: Increased external funding, revenue and support is delivering more work on biodiversity priorities .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Increasing external investment in biodiversity.....	22
Generating new revenue for biodiversity .....	24
Supporting a system for nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment .....	25
Increasing protection of biodiversity on private and Māori land.....	27

**Theme 3: An evidence- and knowledge-based approach is driving improvements in practice and decision making for biodiversity.....28**

Improving monitoring and reporting .....28

Enabling the use of different knowledge systems in biodiversity management..... 31

Applying lessons from partnership-based delivery models ..... 32

Driving greater investment in nature-based solutions ..... 33

**Theme 4: Increased capability and support enables New Zealand to address the state of our biodiversity .....36**

Planning for current and future capability needs..... 36

Mobilising New Zealanders to take action.....39

Improving capability for emerging biosecurity risks within New Zealand .....40

**Section 4: Reporting on progress and future implementation planning..... 42**

Annual progress reporting .....42

Overseeing implementation..... 42

Review and further implementation planning ..... 42

National reporting to the CBD.....43

**Section 5: How to have your say ..... 45**

Next steps .....45

**Appendix 1: New Zealand’s national targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework.....46**

---

## He kupu nā te Minita

Kia ora koutou katoa,

E noho ana ko te matahuhua o te kanorau koiora o Aotearoa me ō tātou whenua waiwaiā hei haringa ngākau mō ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa. Me anga atu tātou ki ngā mahi tika hei tiaki i tēnei taonga mō nāianeī, mō ngā rā hoki e heke mai nei.

E mārama ana au hei Minita Whāomoomo ki ngā pīkauranga kei mua i a tātou, i te taha ahumoni, te taha tiaki i te aotūroa, mō ngā mahi tautiaki taiao o Aotearoa. Neke atu i te whā mano momo koiora kua noho mōrearea, kua tata te haepapa rānei, kua piki ngā whiunga o te huarere ki a tātou, kei runga tonu ngā tūraru haumarutanga koiora, arā hoki ngā pēhanga ahumoni i te kāinga nei, i tawāhi anō hoki.

I runga i te mārama ki ēnei pēhanga, e anga ana au ki te tautiaki i ngā wāhi tiketike nei ngā taonga taiao o roto, e puta ai he hua mō te kanorau koiora.

He whakaarotau mārama tonu ō tēnei Kāwanatanga mō te manaaki me te tautiaki i te taiao o te aotūroa o Aotearoa. Ko tētahi o ngā whakaarotau mātāmua kia tika ngā whakapaunga pūtea tiaki taiao. Te tikanga o tēnei kia whakaarotahitia ngā haumitanga pūtea kia eke ai ngā putanga mō te kanorau koiora ki tōna tino teitei. Ko tētahi āhukatanga anō, he kimi pūtea hou mō te tiaki taiao – mā tēnei ka piki ake ngā mahi tautiaki taiao.

Ka noho ko te whakamana i ngā lwi hei mea nui, me te aha, ka pai ake ngā putanga tiaki taiao mā te katoa. Mā te mahi tahi o ngā rōpū hapori, tiaki taiao, ngā umanga me te Kāwanatanga, ka taea e tātou te mahi tahi i raro i te korowai tautiaki taiao.

I ahau e huri haere nei i ngā tōpito o te motu, ka hari taku ngākau ina tūtaki au ki te hunga ngākaunui, piripono hoki e mahi nui nei mō tō tātou whenua. Ko te tūmanako o te tini tangata kia tautoko te kāwanatanga ā-motu me ngā kaunihera ā-rohe i ngā mahi pono.

Me aro nui tātou ki te hanga i te rerekētanga tino nui ka taea, ki ngā rawa kei ō tātou ringa. Mā roto i te mahere whakatinana mō Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS) ka whai wāhi tātou ki te āta whakatinana mārire i te ANZBS me ōna whāinga.

Ko taku hiahia kia anga atu te kāwanatanga ā-motu me ngā kaunihera ā-rohe ki te mahi tahi, ki te whakapau kaha hoki mō ngā momo koiora, ngā wāhi me ngā ripoinga e tino tika ana kia āwhinatia, me te aro anō ki ngā mahi e tino puta ai he hua.

Tēnā tukua mai ō koutou whakaaro.

**Hon Tama Potaka**

Minita Whāomoomo

---

## Message from the Minister

Kia ora koutou katoa,

The richness of Aotearoa Zealand's biodiversity and our iconic landscapes are a source of great pride to New Zealanders. We need to focus our minds on protecting this taonga now and into the future.

As Conservation Minister, I'm very much aware of the financial and environmental challenges affecting how Aotearoa New Zealand delivers action for conservation. Over 4,000 species are threatened or at risk of extinction, severe weather events are increasing, biosecurity risks are high and present, and on top of this we have domestic and international financial pressures.

With those challenges in mind, my sights are firmly set on protecting high value conservation areas that deliver for biodiversity.

The Government has clear priorities to enhance the care and protection of Aotearoa New Zealand's natural environment. A top priority is to spend conservation money wisely. That means focusing investment to deliver the best outcomes for biodiversity. We also need to generate new revenue for conservation – this will strengthen conservation efforts.

Empowering Iwi will be crucial, resulting in better conservation outcomes for all. Together, with community and environmental organisations, businesses, and Government, we can all work together under the korowai (cloak) of conservation.

As I travel around the country, I'm heartened by the passionate, dedicated people putting in the mahi for our whenua. Central and local government are often expected to support credible efforts.

Let's focus on making the biggest difference we can for nature, with the resources we have. Through the next implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS), we have the opportunity to take a more practical approach to delivering the ANZBS and its objectives.

I want to ensure that central and local government are collaborating and putting their energy into the species, places and habitats that need it most, and making sure our collective efforts have the greatest impact.

I encourage you to share your views.

**Hon Tama Potaka**

Minister of Conservation

---

## Section 1: Background and context

### Purpose of this document

This discussion document has been prepared to support public consultation on the next implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS).

Feedback is being sought on the proposed critical actions for central and regional government to complete between now and 2030, working alongside Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (Treaty) partners and stakeholders. These actions form part of the implementation plan that will support all New Zealanders to address the state of our biodiversity through to 2030.

We welcome your views on the proposed critical actions.

Any submissions received will be considered by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) working with Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and will inform the final implementation plan that is due to be completed in early 2026.

### Why biodiversity matters

A healthy natural environment supports our prosperity, wellbeing and way of life:

- Our biodiversity provides us with vital ecosystem services, such as reducing soil erosion and flooding, maintaining the quality and quantity of water for downstream use, and recycling nutrients.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2013 study estimated the total economic value of New Zealand's land-based ecosystems and the services they provide to be \$57 billion, or 27% of gross domestic product at that time.<sup>2</sup>
- Biodiversity underpins key economic sectors in New Zealand, such as the primary industries and international tourism, as well as the jobs and wealth that flow from them. It is also key to New Zealand's clean, green image and the role this plays in growing value across the economy, which provides New Zealand with a competitive advantage in international markets.
- Many New Zealanders feel a deep connection to our natural environment and see it as part of who they are. Our natural environment provides opportunities for recreation, a place to recharge or spend time with friends and family, and the opportunity to hunt and fish.

---

<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources, including land, marine and freshwater ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes the diversity within species (including genetic diversity), between species and of ecosystems (based on the definition of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

<sup>2</sup> Patterson MG, Cole AO. 2013. 'Total economic value' of New Zealand's land-based ecosystems and their services. In: Dymond JR, editor. Ecosystem services in New Zealand – conditions and trends. Lincoln: Manaaki Whenua Press; p. 496–510.

But these benefits that New Zealanders gain from nature are at risk because our biodiversity is in trouble:

- 45 of the country's 72 naturally uncommon ecosystem types are threatened, including biodiversity hotspots in coastal, geothermal, alpine and wetland environments.
- New Zealand has one of the highest proportions of threatened species in the world. Despite everything we are doing to protect and restore habitats and assist species, more than 4,300 species are threatened with extinction or at risk of becoming threatened if this decline continues.
- Many more species are likely to be threatened, but we are currently lacking the information needed to assess their threat status.
- Many of the habitats that species rely on are also under pressure – for example, only 10% of the country's inland wetlands remain; native forests in New Zealand are a fraction of what they once were, with only 30% of their original extent remaining.

The loss of biodiversity matters to all of us. Our native plants and animals are unique because many are found nowhere else in the world. Therefore, once they are lost, they are gone forever. We have a duty of care to current and future generations to ensure that New Zealand's biodiversity is healthy and thriving.

The decline in biodiversity can be attributed to a range of pressures, including changes in the use of land, freshwater and marine environments, introduced invasive species, and climate change.

While New Zealand's biodiversity challenge is significant, we know that where we act, we can make a difference. We have proven in many parts of the country that when we remove or manage pressures, restore habitats and reduce human impacts on the environment, nature can thrive.



*Pleurophyllum speciosum* field, Campbell Island / Motu Ihupuku. Photo: Stephen Jaquier

## Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS) is our national strategy for addressing the state of New Zealand's biodiversity.<sup>3</sup> It is a strategy for all New Zealanders and was developed in consultation with those who work with or have an impact on biodiversity – Iwi/Hapū, central and local government, landowners, non-government organisations (NGOs), research and science institutions, and communities around the country that are involved in conservation.

ANZBS provides direction across the biodiversity system through 13 objectives that outline how we can protect, restore and sustainably use biodiversity in New Zealand between 2020 and 2050.<sup>4</sup>

The scope of the strategy includes public, private and Māori land, as well as fresh water, estuaries, wetlands and the marine environment from the coastline to the outer edges of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the extended continental shelf. It also connects with and supports work within other systems, including those relating to resource management, biosecurity, climate change and research.

Working with Iwi/Hapū is an important part of the strategy. Working towards a shared vision for nature will ensure that central and regional government are maintaining and building positive working relations with Iwi/Hapū to honour Treaty settlement commitments.

### How is ANZBS currently being implemented?

The implementation of ANZBS is a collective effort.

Community groups, Iwi/Hapū, NGOs, businesses and individuals all make significant contributions to protecting and restoring biodiversity, and central government agencies and councils are delivering on-the-ground action through their biodiversity and biosecurity programmes and supporting others to work towards the outcomes of the strategy.

The current implementation plan for ANZBS, which is the first developed under the strategy, was published in April 2022 and outlines 204 actions that support the strategy's objectives and goals for 2025.<sup>5</sup> These actions were planned or are already being carried out by central and regional government. Progress reports on the current implementation plan were published on the DOC website in 2023 and 2024.

---

<sup>3</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity)

<sup>4</sup> The biodiversity system is the underlying foundation/structure that delivers policy and strategy, legislation and regulation, science and monitoring, and on-the-ground biodiversity action across all of New Zealand and our marine environment.

<sup>5</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-implementation-plan-2022.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-implementation-plan-2022.pdf)

The 2022 implementation plan highlighted work that was underway to contribute to the short-term goals of ANZBS, as well as any gaps. However, the number of individual actions has meant effort is spread too thinly and a different approach is needed for the next implementation plan to prioritise and focus effort on the critical actions that will make the biggest difference over the next 5 years.

## Meeting our international commitments

The next implementation plan will reflect New Zealand's commitment to both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which New Zealand joined in 1993.

The CBD is an international treaty consisting of 196 Parties, and it has three objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

In December 2022, Parties to the CBD, including New Zealand, adopted the GBF, which envisages a 'world living in harmony with nature by 2050'. The framework provides four overarching goals supported by 23 global targets to be achieved by 2030 in three areas: reducing threats, meeting people's needs, and tools and solutions.

ANZBS is New Zealand's national biodiversity strategy under the CBD. It was developed with the draft GBF in mind and broadly aligns with it, while also reflecting New Zealand's context and collective approach to improving biodiversity.

The next implementation plan for ANZBS will fulfil New Zealand's international commitment to the CBD to update our national biodiversity strategy and action plan to align with the GBF.

In October 2024, the New Zealand Government committed to 13 national targets for the GBF, comprised of the existing ANZBS objectives and the associated goals, and amended to reflect government priorities (Appendix 1).

The implementation plan will set out how these new national targets will be delivered.

## Developing the next implementation plan for ANZBS

The critical actions proposed in this discussion document focus on central and regional government. This recognises their role in directly funding and delivering biodiversity work, and in influencing, partnering with, facilitating and enabling other organisations, groups and individuals to contribute.

The proposed critical actions focus on setting the biodiversity system up well so that our collective efforts can have a greater impact.

We would like to hear your views on the scope of these actions.

The critical actions are one part of the next implementation plan. Other elements of the plan are outlined in the table below, including key existing policies and programmes, such as improving the conservation regulatory system, the Predator Free 2050 Strategy, Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana protection, and biosecurity system improvements, which will continue and support progress towards our national targets.

## What makes up the implementation plan?

Element	Description
National targets	The objectives from ANZBS and a set of adjusted goals. These were approved by the Government in September 2024 and submitted as New Zealand's national targets under the GBF.
Themes and critical actions	Actions for central and regional government that are most critical to complete between now and 2030 to support achievement of New Zealand's national targets. This includes who is responsible for leading and delivering the actions, when they will be delivered, and how progress will be monitored.
Supporting programmes and policies	Existing policies and programmes to support the national targets and implementation of ANZBS alongside the critical actions.
Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring indicators to track New Zealand's contribution to global biodiversity goals. Domestic and international reporting, including expectations for review of ANZBS and implementation plan.

## Next steps

We welcome your submission on this discussion document (see Section 5: How to provide feedback). Submissions close on **30 June 2025**.

Pending approval from Cabinet, the next ANZBS implementation plan will be completed and submitted to the CBD in 2026, as our action plan in response to the GBF.



---

## Section 2: Critical actions for advancing the implementation of ANZBS

This section proposes critical actions for central and regional government to focus on between now and 2030 in order to achieve the national targets and address the state of our biodiversity.

### Four themes to guide implementation between now and 2030

The proposed actions sit within four themes:

#### 1. **Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action**

Central and regional government agencies currently do not have an agreed set of biodiversity priorities to guide investment. Although there are many areas of collaboration between agencies that can be built on, each agency undertakes its own planning and prioritisation. Agreeing on and adopting shared priorities will drive a coordinated effort into critical biodiversity work across New Zealand.

#### 2. **Increased external funding, revenue and support is delivering more work on biodiversity priorities**

Many other organisations, groups and individuals are playing their part in addressing the state of our biodiversity. We can increase effort and make a bigger difference for biodiversity by supporting others and making it easier for people to contribute. We can also achieve more by generating new revenue from public conservation lands and waters and investing it back into biodiversity.

#### 3. **An evidence- and knowledge-based approach is driving improvements in practice and decision making for biodiversity**

Improving data, knowledge and systems will strengthen the foundations that support biodiversity work across New Zealand and ensure that we understand the costs and return on the investment of our efforts to protect and restore biodiversity. At present, gaps in our monitoring work are impacting our ability to understand the difference we are making and to make informed and robust decisions. We can also learn from existing programmes that address biodiversity risks and pressures and use this knowledge to improve future work. Improvements to understand the potential of nature-based solutions to climate change will also benefit the biodiversity system as a whole.

#### 4. **Increased capability and support enables New Zealand to address the state of our biodiversity**

A range of skills are needed to address the state of our biodiversity crisis and achieve the national targets. However, there are capability gaps in key areas of our workforce, and these are expected to worsen in the future. These gaps can be addressed by working together to plan for future needs.

There are opportunities to better coordinate and lift our existing capability to understand, detect and manage emerging biosecurity risks

within New Zealand. We also need to increase effort and ensure that New Zealanders understand the value of our biodiversity and are inspired and motivated to take personal action to protect and restore the species and places they care about.

Working together to make progress in these four areas will set the biodiversity system up for success and make it easier for everyone to contribute.

#### Discussion question

*What do you think of the four themes we are proposing to focus on and use as a way of framing the actions?*

### Introducing the critical actions

The proposed critical actions for the next ANZBS implementation plan are summarised in the table below. Further details and context for the actions are set out in Section 3 of this discussion document.

The proposed actions are achievable by 2030, have clear accountabilities and have cross-sector support to ensure that we can report on progress and delivery. Development has been informed by early engagement with stakeholders and guidance from the ANZBS Coordinating Group, a steering group which includes representatives from DOC, MPI (Biosecurity New Zealand [BNZ]), MfE, LINZ and regional councils.



Jewel anemone, Taputeranga Marine Reserve.  
Photo: DOC

Critical actions will be supported by key enablers, including private investment and partnership; access to the best available information, knowledge and technology; and international engagement and knowledge sharing.

Theme	Critical actions
<p>Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Develop a national picture of our most important biodiversity</b> values and quantify the costs to protect and restore priority species and habitats.</li> <li>2. Tackle biodiversity loss by agreeing on priority programmes to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>protect and restore high-priority degraded habitats</b> (e.g. impacts from browsers, weeds, predators)</li> <li>b. <b>recover native species</b></li> <li>c. <b>develop nature-based solutions</b> for biodiversity and climate change (e.g. wetland restoration), in light of environmental and climate change responsibilities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>Increased external funding, revenue and support is delivering more work on biodiversity priorities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Develop a biodiversity investment prospectus</b> to attract and direct external investment into biodiversity priorities.</li> <li>4. <b>Generate new revenue</b> from public conservation lands and waters to invest back into biodiversity.</li> <li>5. <b>Increase private investment in biodiversity</b> by supporting business sector demand and system integrity: including private sector nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment.</li> <li>6. Increase the <b>protection of biodiversity on private and Māori land</b> by improving the accessibility and coordination of government support and incentives.</li> </ol>
<p>An evidence- and knowledge-based approach is driving improvements in practice and decision making for biodiversity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Agree and implement an <b>achievable set of priority indicators</b> for monitoring progress on national targets, monitoring the effectiveness of interventions, and meeting statutory and international reporting requirements.</li> <li>8. <b>Support Māori to use knowledge systems</b>, including mātauranga, in decision making and biodiversity management.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>9. Capture and <b>embed the lessons from existing partnership-based delivery models</b> for biodiversity and biosecurity management to inform decisions on future programmes.</li> <li>10. Encourage optimal <b>investment in nature-based solutions</b>, including the restoration and protection of native ecosystems for carbon and biodiversity benefits, by improving the evidence base, developing case studies and operationalising existing research.</li> </ol>
<p>Increased capability and support enables New Zealand to address the biodiversity crisis.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Develop a cross-sector plan to <b>address the most important capability gaps</b> in the biodiversity system.</li> <li>12. <b>Increase New Zealanders' awareness of the value of our biodiversity</b>, show how they can make a difference to biodiversity in their communities, and drive urgency and momentum for action.</li> <li>13. Establish cross-agency <b>emerging risks capability for domestic biosecurity</b> to horizon scan, share intelligence and support decision-makers in prioritising emerging risk management.</li> </ol>

<sup>6</sup> Mātauranga Māori, or Māori knowledge, is the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors. This includes the Māori world view and perspectives, Māori creativity, and cultural practices.

---

## Section 3: Connecting the themes and actions to the strategy

Further information about the proposed critical actions is provided in this section. Within each theme, information is provided on how the proposed actions contribute to the objectives of ANZBS, why the actions are needed, the difference they will make and how they will be implemented. Information on how the actions align with the key national targets is also provided, acknowledging that the critical actions are all connected and will support the delivery of multiple national targets and GBF global targets.<sup>7</sup>

Critical actions are not proposed for every objective within ANZBS, or for each of the corresponding national targets. The Government proposes to continue supporting programmes across all the ANZBS objectives that, together with the critical actions, will meet the national targets. Supporting programmes will be outlined in the final ANZBS implementation plan.

### **Theme 1: Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action**

Making decisions about where to invest is challenging given the scale and complexity of the work that is required to address the state of our biodiversity and the resources available. These decisions require trade-offs, as there is a balance to strike between interventions to save ecosystems (e.g. coastal dune systems) and species (e.g. kākāpō) that are in urgent need of recovery, and interventions to maintain healthy land, freshwater and marine environments to prevent further decline (e.g. biosecurity).

A significant challenge for New Zealand in the short to medium term is to prevent the irreversible loss of our most threatened ecosystems and species, many of which are hanging on by a thread. We are fortunate to have the knowledge and expertise to bring our biodiversity back from the brink; however, we need to ensure that resources and capability are used where they are most needed.

Central and regional government agencies agreeing on shared priorities will deliver efficiencies, provide greater certainty of funding, and improve planning for future capacity and capability needs. It will also allow agencies to work together to consider and respond to unplanned events, such as mast-driven rodent irruptions, weather events and new biosecurity threats. Providing greater visibility of priorities will benefit everyone involved in biodiversity by indicating priority work that they can contribute to, or other opportunities to protect and restore biodiversity that are not being pursued by central and regional government.

### **Developing a national picture of high biodiversity values**

Having a shared understanding of where our most important biodiversity values are, the opportunities we have to restore them and the cost is an important first step in focusing collective effort on the most important work, both nationally and regionally.

---

<sup>7</sup> Full wording of each of the GBF global targets can be found at [www.cbd.int/gbf/targets](http://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).

## Action

1. Develop a national picture of our most important biodiversity values and quantify the costs to protect and restore priority species and habitats.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Supports effective investment at a national and regional level.</p> <p>Helps ensure that capacity and capability within the biodiversity system is directed to where it is most needed.</p> <p>Underpins other proposed actions.</p>	<p>Drives effort into critical work across the biodiversity system, including into high-value domains, areas, habitats and species.</p>	<p>Provides greater visibility of priorities to those outside central and local government.</p> <p>Helps businesses, philanthropists, NGOs, Iwi and other groups identify where they could step in to protect and restore biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> DOC</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, MPI, LINZ, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2026</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 4:</b></p> <p>Improved systems for knowledge, science, data &amp; innovation inform our work.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A national, agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity.</li> <li>b. A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on.</li> </ol>		

DOC would deliver the proposed action in consultation with other agencies (including councils, MPI, MfE and LINZ) and alongside Iwi/Hapū, landowners and other stakeholders. Ideally, we would have a complete picture of all areas in New Zealand that have high biodiversity values, regardless of land tenure. However, we have heard concerns relating to how information on private and Māori land could be used, particularly in relation to private property rights and aspirations for the use of previously underdeveloped land.

This action does not envisage that new information would be collected from landowners, unless they wish to contribute voluntarily. Instead, existing information on areas with high biodiversity values that are held by central, local and regional government would be used to develop a national picture. This would be improved over time as new information becomes available and would be used to guide investment and work under other critical actions.

Related work to define New Zealand's Protected Areas Network (PAN-NZ) is being undertaken by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and will support this action. This work brings together information on legally protected areas at a national level, including those protected through covenants.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

## Agreeing on priority programmes to address biodiversity loss

New Zealand's biodiversity faces a range of risks and pressures. Some of these occur at a scale where they are best managed as a coordinated programme rather than at individual sites (e.g. National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, Tiakina Kauri, National Predator Control Programme). In other cases, multiple pressures are managed at a landscape, seascape or catchment scale, and often alongside other biodiversity work.

There are also programmes that require a threat-led approach, where the focus is on addressing a pressure regardless of the values at place, or on containing a pressure within a particular area to prevent spread and future impacts on high-value sites (e.g. Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme, National Interest Pest Responses programme).

Having cross-agency agreement would ensure that efforts across the sector are focused on the most important work for biodiversity. There would be benefit in extending this prioritisation to include other pressures, including abiotic pressures such as sedimentation, along with approaches to recovering native species and implementing nature-based solutions to climate change.



Tauhō/silvereye on pōhutukawa.  
Photo: Sabine Bernert

## Action

2. Tackle biodiversity loss by agreeing on priority programmes to:

- protect and restore high-priority degraded habitats (e.g. impacts from browsers, weeds, predators)
- recover native species
- develop nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate change (e.g. wetland restoration), in light of environmental and climate change responsibilities.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Supports effective investment at a national and regional level.</p> <p>Provides an opportunity to gain efficiencies through collaborative approaches and working at scale.</p> <p>Ensures that capacity and capability within the biodiversity system is directed to where it is most needed.</p> <p>Underpins other proposed actions.</p>	<p>Drives effort into critical pressures, risks and programmes to restore biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provides greater visibility of priorities to those outside central and regional government.</p> <p>Helps businesses, philanthropists, NGOs, Iwi and other groups identify where they could step in to protect and restore biodiversity.</p> <p>Provides more consistent management across administrative boundaries.</p>
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> DOC</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, MPI, LINZ, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2026</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 1:</b></p> <p>Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, provides leadership, accountability including monitoring and reporting, and inclusive decision making.</li> <li>The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and inform decision making.</li> </ol>		

In adopting shared priorities, central and regional government agencies would still be required to operate within their individual mandates and may prioritise investment to support a range of values alongside biodiversity.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*



Tawaki nana hi / erect-crested penguins on Antipodes Island. Photo: Jo Hiscock



Native vegetation on predator-free Blumine Island / Ōruawairua. Photo: Michael Hayward

## **Theme 2: Increased external funding, revenue and support is delivering more work on biodiversity priorities**

This theme incorporates different approaches to increase the resources available for work on biodiversity priorities outside of direct Crown funding. The actions proposed within this theme will diversify the funding sources available for this work and improve the biodiversity system's resilience to changing economic conditions. These actions will also increase investment from third parties who are seeking to lead or contribute to the protection and restoration of our biodiversity.

### **Increasing external investment in biodiversity**

The state of our biodiversity is a challenge for all of New Zealand, and many individuals, groups and organisations are already taking action to help where they can. However, more can be done to attract further effort and investment, make it easier to contribute, and direct external funding and capability to where it is most needed. Developing a biodiversity investment prospectus is one way of achieving this.

## Action

3. Develop a biodiversity investment prospectus to attract and direct external investment into biodiversity priorities.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Attracts capability and funding from external partners who wish to co-fund or invest, expanding overall resources available to address the state of our biodiversity.</p> <p>Broadens the funding base, which reduces reliance on direct funding from rates and taxes.</p>	<p>Drives additional effort into the biodiversity priorities identified through other critical actions.</p>	<p>Provides visibility of investment-ready priority projects that could be advanced with additional funding.</p>
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> DOC</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, MPI, LINZ, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2026</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 3:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits.</li> </ul>		

The biodiversity investment prospectus would outline a set of investment-ready priority projects to a range of potential funders, including businesses, philanthropists, NGOs and Iwi, and seek their investment or co-funding. This might include seeking investment from infrastructure funders for nature-based solutions that provide multiple benefits for climate change, flood protection and biodiversity.

Opportunities would be developed in consultation with potential investors, Iwi/Hapū and stakeholders, and projects would align with the priorities identified through other critical actions.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

## Generating new revenue for biodiversity

There is a need to develop a better revenue model for access and use of public conservation lands and waters.

We need to ensure that those who benefit from using these areas contribute at an appropriate level to their maintenance and to protecting and restoring biodiversity.

Action		
4. Generate new revenue from public conservation lands and waters to invest back into biodiversity.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Increases overall funding for biodiversity.</p> <p>Broadens the funding base, which reduces reliance on direct funding from rates and taxes.</p>	<p>Drives additional effort into the biodiversity priorities identified through other critical actions.</p>	<p>Ensures that all resource users make a fair contribution to maintaining the values of the areas they are using.</p>
<b>Lead agency:</b> DOC		
<b>Timeframe</b> 2030		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 3:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits.</li> </ul>		

DOC will identify new sources of revenue and continue to review policies, processes and fee schedules for existing activities. This will ensure that the Crown is receiving a fair return from commercial activities within public conservation lands and waters, that there is standardisation and consistency between activities, and that DOC is recovering costs at an appropriate level. Changes would be reflected in existing agreements, where possible, and in approvals of new applications

to use public conservation lands and waters. Care will be taken to achieve a fair balance and to recognise the important contribution that many resource users already make to protecting and restoring our biodiversity on a voluntary basis.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

## Supporting a system for nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment

A healthy natural environment is critical for our prosperity and wellbeing. Many businesses and organisations in New Zealand support efforts to protect our biodiversity and want to do more. Organisations with an ambition to lead on nature have identified opportunities to

add value and create a distinctive brand by including nature-based solutions within their net zero transition plans, finding innovative ways to fund action on nature and taking nature-positive action that mitigates business risks. A system for nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment would support these organisations and provide verification of the actions they are taking for nature for customers and investors.

Action		
5. Increase private investment in biodiversity by supporting business sector demand and system integrity: including private sector nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Provides a consistent and trusted means for businesses to measure and understand the cost their activities have on nature and to report on the actions they are taking to address them.	Provides a catalyst for additional investment in biodiversity.	Meets a growing demand for information on these issues from consumers, businesses and investors.  Broadens the funding base, which reduces reliance on direct funding from rates and taxes.
<b>Lead agency:</b> MfE <b>Contributing agency:</b> DOC		
<b>Timeframe</b> 2030		
<b>This action contributes to national target 3:</b> Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.  By 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits.</li> </ul>		

MfE would support and facilitate efforts by the private sector to develop a nature-based financial disclosure, reporting and investment system.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*



## Increasing protection of biodiversity on private and Māori land

It is critical that we support the protection and restoration of biodiversity on private and Māori land and reduce barriers to action, as these areas contain many at-risk species and habitats. Many landowners are already taking actions to protect biodiversity on their land, and there are a number of existing support and funding mechanisms provided through trusts, including the QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, the Nature Heritage

Fund, councils and other sources, such as sustainable forest management plans. It is a decision for landowners to choose whether they protect biodiversity on their land and how they wish to do it. However, enabling landowners and providing real support to increase protection on private and Māori land is an essential part of our collective response. More can be done to improve the accessibility of existing support to ensure that landowners understand the support that is available to them and that the assistance offered by different agencies is better integrated.

Action		
6. Increase the protection of biodiversity on private and Māori land by improving the accessibility and coordination of government support and incentives.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Reduces barriers and enables private and Māori landowners to take action to protect and restore biodiversity.	Supports additional investment in biodiversity.	There is an opportunity for efficiencies if agencies take a shared approach to offering support and incentives.
<b>Lead agency:</b> Te Uru Kahika		
<b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, DOC, MPI		
<b>Timeframe</b>		
2027		
<b>This action contributes to national target 8:</b>		
Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active, guardians of nature.		
By 2030:		
a. Community action groups and Treaty partners are resourced to access knowledge, expertise and information to manage biodiversity and act as environmental stewards.		
b. Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.		

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*



Tētē kākārīki/Auckland Island teal on Adams Island.  
Photo: David Bundock

### **Theme 3: An evidence- and knowledge-based approach is driving improvements in practice and decision making for biodiversity**

Critical actions within this theme would strengthen the foundations that support biodiversity work through targeted improvements to the knowledge base.

#### **Improving monitoring and reporting**

Biodiversity monitoring and reporting is critical to giving us the right knowledge and data to ensure that the management of our terrestrial, marine and freshwater biodiversity is effective. We need to know which species and ecosystems are most at risk, where they are and what pressures they are facing, and we need to be able to use that knowledge to address any decline in biodiversity.

Improving data, knowledge and systems will strengthen the foundations that support biodiversity work across New Zealand and ensure that we understand the costs and return on investment from our efforts to protect and restore biodiversity.

Agencies must also meet their statutory and international monitoring and reporting obligations.

Progress has been made on the collaborative development of an outcome monitoring framework for ANZBS, incorporating both western science and mātauranga Māori.

A monitoring and reporting framework has also been completed to investigate habitat health, climate change effects, compliance, water quality and pollution across marine reserves.

Further work is needed between now and 2030 to finalise an overall monitoring system for ANZBS and to implement the monitoring of agreed indicators.

Action		
7. Agree and implement an achievable set of priority indicators for monitoring progress on national targets, monitoring the effectiveness of interventions, and meeting statutory and international reporting requirements.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Allows the state of our biodiversity to be addressed more effectively by understanding what species and ecosystems are most at risk, where they are and what pressures they are facing.</p> <p>Supports statutory and international reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Improves our ability to understand the difference we are making to biodiversity, which improves our effectiveness and ability to invest in the right work.</p>	<p>Drives improvement on supporting components, including common data standards, open data agreements and infrastructure, as well as addressing issues such as Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data interests regarding indigenous biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> MfE</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> DOC, MPI, LINZ, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>Agree indicators by 2026 and commence implementation by 2030.</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 4:</b></p> <p>Improved systems for knowledge, science, data &amp; innovation inform our work.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A national, agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity.</li> <li>A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on.</li> </ol>		

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*



## Enabling the use of different knowledge systems in biodiversity management

Mātauranga Māori is a knowledge system that has been built up over generations, drawn from the relationship Māori have with their natural environments and grounded within their cultural values, beliefs and practices. ANZBS aims to ensure that mātauranga Māori is used

alongside and with equal standing to other knowledge systems. Mātauranga and te ao Māori offer complementary ways of working, monitoring and telling New Zealand's biodiversity story. To achieve the aspiration of ANZBS, it is important that central and local government play a part in supporting and enabling the use of mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori in research and decision making.

Action		
8. Support Māori to use knowledge systems, including mātauranga, in decision making and biodiversity management.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Addresses the barriers to and promotes greater recognition and use of mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori within research and management.	Provides opportunities for new approaches to addressing the state of our biodiversity.	Helps maintain traditional knowledge and cultural links with biodiversity.
<b>Lead agency:</b> DOC		
<b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, MPI, LINZ, Te Uru Kahika		
<b>Timeframe</b> 2030		
<b>This action contributes to national target 5:</b> Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management. By 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treaty partners make decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori.</li> </ul>		

It is not the role of central and regional government to determine how mātauranga Māori is used as it belongs to Iwi/hapū at place. Work would be led by Iwi/hapū and mātauranga practitioners, with support from agencies to ensure that the use of mātauranga in research and management is supported and enabled.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

## Applying lessons from partnership-based delivery models

There are many examples around New Zealand of successful projects that demonstrate successful partnership-based approaches to achieving biodiversity outcomes. These include models such as Jobs for Nature, Living Water, Predator Free 2050, regional alliances

(e.g. Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance at the top of the South Island), national programmes for wilding conifers and wallabies, and integrated catchment management. There is a need to understand what contributes to these successes and to ensure that best practice is applied to programmes in the future where there may be greater opportunity for investment.

### Action

9. Capture and embed the lessons from existing partnership-based delivery models for biodiversity and biosecurity management to inform decisions on future programmes.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Provides opportunity to gain efficiencies through partnership-based approaches and working at scale.	Allows future projects to be set up using successful models to maximise gains for biodiversity.	Partnership-based approaches provide an opportunity to grow community support for biodiversity work.
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> Te Uru Kahika  <b>Contributing agencies:</b> DOC, MfE</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b>            2026</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 9:</b>            Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes.            By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-connected networks of relevant people, including urban and rural communities, stakeholders, Treaty partners, industry and central and local government, work together in partnership to implement the strategy.</li> </ul>		

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

## Driving greater investment in nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions, such as the protection and restoration of wetlands and coastal ecosystems or the restoration and planting of upper catchments, provide a way to increase the resilience of biodiversity to severe weather events. These events are likely to become more frequent and have a greater impact in a changing climate. Nature-based solutions can improve resilience by reducing erosion and sediment flows, buffering storm surges, and reducing or averting wildfires. They can also contribute to reducing emissions, improving biodiversity outcomes, and enhancing economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

There is an opportunity to drive greater investment into nature-based solutions to climate change and ecosystem restoration by improving the current evidence base. Essential research to build knowledge of carbon stocks in native forest ecosystems is underway, including the development of new ways to measure carbon storage in forests<sup>8</sup> and the development of new approaches for improving the supply of native trees and establishing new native forests to help with carbon reduction and support biodiversity.<sup>9</sup> Improving the condition and extent of wetlands and peatlands will also help with carbon reduction.



Northern scorpionfish with common and jewel anemones, Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve.  
*Photo: Crispin Middleton*

8 [www.doc.govt.nz/carbon-storage-in-native-ecosystems](http://www.doc.govt.nz/carbon-storage-in-native-ecosystems)

9 [www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forest-science-and-research](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forest-science-and-research)

## Action

10. Encourage optimal investment in nature-based solutions, including the restoration and protection of native ecosystems for carbon and biodiversity benefits, by improving the evidence base, developing case studies and operationalising existing research.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Improves understanding of how protection and restoration can benefit biodiversity and the climate and reduces barriers to investment.	Enables greater investment in biodiversity through nature-based solutions, including from external funders.	There is an opportunity for nature-based solutions to provide additional benefits, including greater resilience to severe weather events.
<p><b>Lead agencies:</b> DOC, MfE</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> MPI, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2030</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 13:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), contributes to net emissions targets through carbon storage and improves our resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels.</li> <li>Risks to biodiversity from climate change, including cascading effects (e.g. increases in introduced invasive species, water abstraction, fire risk, sedimentation) have been identified, assessed and managed to build resilience where possible.</li> </ol>		

Existing research has had a strong emphasis on forests, with less investment in understanding the amount and rate of carbon sequestration in native non-forest ecosystems (e.g. peatlands, mineral and coastal wetlands, kelp forests). Further work to ground truth and cost these opportunities, develop case studies, and operationalise approaches across all ecosystem types

will help to identify the best ecosystems for further investment and improve decision making. In the longer term, it may support or rule out the inclusion of non-forest systems in international and domestic emissions frameworks.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*





Marlborough green gecko.  
Photo: Sabine Bernert

## **Theme 4: Increased capability and support enables New Zealand to address the state of our biodiversity**

Critical actions within this theme seek to grow system capability in targeted areas and mobilise New Zealanders to contribute to biodiversity outcomes in their communities.

### **Planning for current and future capability needs**

A range of skills are needed across all levels of biodiversity work, from people setting traps to scientists collecting and interpreting data, through to those managing biodiversity projects. However, there are capability gaps now that are expected to worsen in the future.

Efforts to achieve the national targets could be hindered if our workforce lacks the appropriate people and skills or if we fail to plan for our long-term needs. While the focus of the next implementation plan is on central and regional government, the need for capability extends more widely to partner organisations, landowners and the volunteer sector, which receives significant support from local government.

## Action

11. Develop a cross-sector plan to address the most important capability gaps in the biodiversity system.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Identifies and addresses the most important capability gaps across the biodiversity system.	Reduces barriers to effectively protecting and restoring biodiversity.	Provides opportunity to gain efficiencies through collaborative approaches and working at scale.
<b>Lead agencies:</b> DOC, MPI, Te Uru Kahika <b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, LINZ, Te Puni Kōkiri		
<b>Timeframe</b> 2027		
<b>This action contributes to national target 7:</b> All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge, and capability to be effective. By 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and campaigns ensure people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity and that New Zealanders are aware of the value of biodiversity.</li> </ul>		

A joint plan would identify and focus on the most critical skill gaps that can start to be addressed between now and 2030. This would build on existing information sources, including the gaps identified through previous public consultation and stakeholder engagement.

The capability plan could explore various approaches, including greater sharing of expertise and training opportunities across agencies; the use of shared platforms or communities of best practice; working with the tertiary sector to ensure that

sufficient numbers of skilled, trained and experienced people are moving into biodiversity-related work; greater use of on-the-job experience opportunities; the development of a pipeline of future work to signal the need for particular skills at place; and greater use of international networks.

### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*



## Mobilising New Zealanders to take action

Addressing the state of New Zealand's biodiversity is going to require an effort by the whole country, over and above the work that is already underway across the Government, private sector and communities. However, there is currently a significant disconnect between New Zealanders' perception of the natural environment and the actual state of our biodiversity. In a recent survey, more than 80% of respondents rated the overall

state of New Zealand's environment as adequate to very good.<sup>10</sup> Similar positive responses were given for other aspects of the environment, including our native bush and forests, wetlands, protected natural areas, and marine and terrestrial plants. This contrasts with the more than 4,300 species in New Zealand that are threatened or at risk of extinction. Further efforts are needed to ensure that New Zealanders understand the value of our biodiversity, to create a sense of urgency and to mobilise people to take action.

Action		
12. Increase New Zealanders' awareness of the value of our biodiversity, show how they can make a difference to biodiversity in their communities, and drive urgency and momentum for action.		
Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
<p>Increases public awareness of the state of our biodiversity, the value of biodiversity to New Zealand and the need for action.</p> <p>Addresses the disconnect between the actual and perceived state of biodiversity in New Zealand.</p>	<p>Enables New Zealanders to take personal action to address the state of our biodiversity.</p> <p>Encourages more effort and investment.</p>	<p>Other campaign elements could support additional benefits for New Zealand and communities (e.g. economic benefits from greater visitation to the outdoors, increased social capital from biodiversity work in local communities).</p>
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> DOC</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> MfE, MPI, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2030</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 7:</b></p> <p>All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and campaigns ensure people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity and that New Zealanders are aware of the value of biodiversity.</li> </ul>		

<sup>10</sup> Booth PL, Hughey KFD, Kerr GN, Stahlmann-Brown P. 2022. New Zealand Environmental Perceptions Survey: 2022. Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research Contract Report No. LC4207. [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/environment/sustainable-society-and-policy/environmental-perceptions-survey](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/environment/sustainable-society-and-policy/environmental-perceptions-survey)

Working across central and local government and alongside Iwi/hapū, environmental groups and the tourism sector would support the development of common messaging. It would also enable campaigns to use the strengths of partners to reach and influence different audiences, allowing them to have a greater impact.

#### Discussion question

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

### Improving capability for emerging biosecurity risks within New Zealand

Invasive pests and diseases are one of the biggest drivers of biodiversity loss globally. As a result, biosecurity is a key enabler of biodiversity protection in New Zealand. Biosecurity in New Zealand encompasses the identification and management of pest, disease and pathway risks that could harm our environment, economy, and cultural and social values. These risks are managed through a broad range of offshore, border and domestic actions, including risk reduction, readiness, surveillance, response and long-term

pest management. MPI (BNZ) provides biosecurity system leadership, while management activities are delivered by a broad range of partners, including regional councils, who provide regional leadership and coordination, and other central and local government agencies, industry, Iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations, and communities.

New and emerging pest and disease risks are a key area of concern and are increasing as a result of the changing climate and evolving trade and travel patterns. New Zealand has highly effective systems to identify and manage these risks offshore and at the border. However, the system has gaps around both the pest and disease risks arriving by natural pathways (wind, dispersal, ocean currents, animal migration) and the changing risk profiles of species that are already present, which may expand in range and impact due to climate change.

Early intervention can reduce the chance of the establishment and spread of pests and diseases, minimise their impact, increase the potential for eradication, and reduce the longer-term cost of controlling them. Surveillance for early detection of new and emerging pests and diseases is a crucial part of this process.

## Action

13. Establish cross-agency emerging risks capability for domestic biosecurity to horizon scan, share intelligence and support decision-makers in prioritising emerging risk management.

Why this action is critical	What it achieves for biodiversity	Other benefits
Addresses increasing risks to biodiversity in New Zealand from new and emerging pests and diseases.	Enables earlier, more successful and cost-effective intervention, and reduces the potential impact on biodiversity.	Likely to be a catalyst for further improvements in domestic biosecurity.
<p><b>Lead agency:</b> MPI (BNZ)</p> <p><b>Contributing agencies:</b> DOC, Te Uru Kahika</p>		
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p> <p>2030</p>		
<p><b>This action contributes to national target 11:</b></p> <p>Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced browsers, including valued introduced species, are actively managed to reduce pressures on indigenous biodiversity and maintain cultural and recreational values.</li> <li>The highest priority biosecurity threats, including weeds, animal pests and diseases (e.g. introduced invasive plants, algae, mammals, fish, invertebrates and microorganisms), in all domains have been identified and are being managed based on current and potential future impacts on indigenous biodiversity.</li> </ol>		

A more integrated approach and better use of existing capability would improve collective understanding and management of emerging biosecurity risks within New Zealand. This action builds on a recommendation from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in his 2021 report *Space invaders: A review of how New Zealand manages weeds that threaten native ecosystems*.

### Discussion questions

*What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?*

**Overall, are these actions the ones we should focus on to drive the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in New Zealand between now and 2030? What do you think of the proposals as a package?**

## Section 4: Reporting on progress and future implementation planning

The implementation of ANZBS is intended to be adaptable, making use of new information, tools and methods as they arise, with plans being regularly updated and progress being publicly reported. The proposed reporting and review process is shown in Figure 1.

This section outlines how progress on the next ANZBS implementation plan and achievement of the national targets will be tracked between now and 2030, and the process for further review and implementation planning for the strategy.

### Annual progress reporting

As the lead agency for the strategy, DOC will work with other central government agencies and regional and unitary councils to provide an annual progress report for the actions in the next ANZBS implementation plan. The report will detail the delivery status of the critical actions proposed in this discussion document and the supporting programmes, which together will meet the national targets. Annual progress reports will be published on DOC's website.

### Overseeing implementation

DOC will also coordinate and provide regular reporting on the delivery status of actions to the ANZBS Coordinating Group, made up of representatives from DOC, MfE, MPI (BNZ), LINZ and Te Uru Kahika. This reporting will enable operational oversight of progress and support the group to achieve coordinated delivery of the actions.

### Review and further implementation planning

A progress review of ANZBS will be undertaken by 2030 to ensure that the strategy remains up to date, relevant and influential and continues to reflect international developments. The progress review will also set new goals for 2035. Following this, a further implementation plan will be developed covering the period from 2030 to 2035.

Figure 1: Proposed reporting and review process

	Annual progress report	ANZBS progress review	New Zealand national report
Reporting on	ANZBS implementation plan	ANZBS	Convention on Biological Diversity
Frequency	Every year	Every 5 years	2026 and 2029
Purpose	Assess progress on the ANZBS implementation plan actions. Check the actions are still driving us in the right direction for achieving the national targets.	Inform the development of the next implementation plan. Ensure that the strategy is still fit for purpose.	Show New Zealand's contribution to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Fulfil international commitments.

## National reporting to the CBD

Parties to the GBF are expected to provide national reports based on a set of indicators outlined in the GBF monitoring framework.

The first national report under the GBF is expected to be submitted by 28 February 2026 and the second by 30 June 2029. National reports will provide the opportunity to assess New Zealand's contribution to global goals and targets and benchmark our contribution against other Parties. These reports will also be used to inform the progress review of ANZBS and further implementation planning.





---

## Section 5: How to have your say

We encourage you to complete the online form, which can be accessed at [www.doc.govt.nz/action-for-nature](http://www.doc.govt.nz/action-for-nature).

You can also make a submission using your own structure and layout and send it to DOC by email or post (see instructions below). The questions we have posed are intended to stimulate discussion and to prompt your responses.

Anyone is welcome to make a submission on the discussion document.

Submissions can be:

- completed online at [www.doc.govt.nz/action-for-nature](http://www.doc.govt.nz/action-for-nature)
- emailed to [biodiversitystrategy@doc.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversitystrategy@doc.govt.nz)
- posted to Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6140, Attention: Biodiversity Strategy consultation submissions.

Submissions must be lodged by **5 pm 30 June 2025**.

Any submission you make becomes public information. Anyone can ask for copies of all submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Under the OIA, we must make the information available unless we have a good reason under the Act for withholding it (grounds to do so can be found in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA).

If you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission, please let us know. Reasons for withholding information might include it being commercially sensitive or personal information; however, any decision DOC makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may require the information to be released.

### Next steps

Thank you for taking time to read this discussion document. We welcome your thoughts on the proposed critical actions that address the state of our biodiversity and deliver on the national targets. DOC will consider all feedback that is received via the submission process, with support from Te Uru Kahika, MPI, MfE and LINZ. This will then inform the development of the next ANZBS implementation plan. After Cabinet approval, the implementation plan will be publicly released by the Minister of Conservation and submitted to the CBD.

Topic	Questions
For each proposed action	What do you think of this action? Is there anything you would add or change?
Critical actions overall	Overall, are these actions the ones we should focus on to drive the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in New Zealand between now and 2030? What do you think of the proposals as a package?

## Appendix 1: New Zealand's national targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework

<p><b>Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), contributes to net emissions targets through carbon storage and improves our resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels</li> <li>Risks to biodiversity from climate change, including cascading effects (e.g. increases in introduced invasive species, water abstraction, fire risk, sedimentation) have been identified, assessed and managed to build resilience where possible</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 2, 8 and 11.</i></p>		
<p><b>Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, provides leadership, accountability, including monitoring and reporting, and inclusive decision making</li> <li>The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and inform decision making</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 14, 19, 22 and 23.</i></p>	<p><b>Natural resources are managed sustainably</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine and freshwater fisheries are managed within sustainable limits while retaining cultural and recreational values, including for valued introduced species</li> <li>Sustainable use practices that include benefits for indigenous biodiversity are standard practice and environmental outcomes improve</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16.</i></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits</li> </ul> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 10, 14, 15, 18 and 19.</i></p>
<p><b>Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A national agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity</li> <li>A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 1, 3 and 21.</i></p>	<p><b>Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-connected networks of relevant people, including urban and rural communities, stakeholders, Treaty partners, industry and central and local government, work together in partnership to implement the strategy</li> </ul> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 20, 21 and 22.</i></p>	<p><b>Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Zealand provides leadership on policy and international commitments to biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 19 and 22.</i></p>

<p><b>All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and campaigns ensure people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity and that New Zealanders are aware of the value of biodiversity</li> </ul> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 16, 20, 21, 22 and 23.</i></p>	<p><b>Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced browsers, including valued introduced species, are actively managed to reduce pressures on indigenous biodiversity and maintain cultural and recreational values</li> <li>The highest priority biosecurity threats, including weeds, animal pests and diseases (e.g. introduced invasive plants, algae, mammals, fish, invertebrates and microorganisms), in all domains have been identified and are being managed based on current and potential future impacts on indigenous biodiversity</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 6, 9 and 11.</i></p>	<p><b>Resourcing and support are enabling connected and active guardians of nature</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community action groups and Treaty partners are resourced to access knowledge, expertise and information to manage biodiversity and act as environmental stewards</li> <li>Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.</i></p>
<p><b>Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved baseline information, comprehensive mapping, and improved knowledge of species and ecosystems help reduce the cumulative effects of pressures on biodiversity</li> <li>There is no loss of the extent or condition of indigenous land, wetland, freshwater ecosystems, and marine and coastal habitats which have been identified as having high biodiversity value</li> <li>The state of indigenous species known to be at risk of extinction stabilises or improves</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 1, 2, 3, 4 and 21.</i></p>	<p><b>Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovative Treaty partnership approaches are developed and lead the delivery of many biodiversity restoration projects</li> <li>Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data interests regarding indigenous biodiversity are upheld</li> </ol> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 13, 17, 21 and 22.</i></p>	<p><b>Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management</b></p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treaty partners make decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori</li> </ul> <p><i>This national target contributes to global targets 20, 21 and 22.</i></p>

