

[In Confidence]

Office of the Minister of Conservation

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

New Zealand's submission under the Convention on Biological Diversity

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to New Zealand's response to the Global Biodiversity Framework (**GBF**) which delivers, in part, on our existing commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (**the Convention**). My proposed approach ensures New Zealand is taking a pragmatic and well-targeted approach to its ongoing work on and investment in biodiversity.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 Decisions about actions to deliver our obligations and commitments under the Convention are aligned to this Government's commitment to prioritise targeted multilateral engagement on global or transboundary issues where New Zealand has strong national interest or direct interests at stake [CAB-24-MIN-033].
- 3 Taking a focused approach to what matters most for New Zealand's unique biodiversity will enable this Government to ensure funding and resourcing commitments are well-targeted. This aligns with my Conservation portfolio priorities, including a focus on high value conservation areas and exploring sustainable funding approaches for conservation. It also supports coalition agreements relating to the reduction of wasteful public sector spending as there are no financial implications.

Executive Summary

- 4 New Zealand joined the Convention, which 196 States are parties to, in 1993, to contribute to global efforts to halt biodiversity decline and mitigate its negative impacts on our people and economy. Biodiversity loss is a significant international issue, and biodiversity also underpins New Zealand's clean, green image and supports key export sectors like primary industries and international tourism. Conservation-related tourism alone delivers around \$4.1 billion annually.
- 5 One of New Zealand's obligations under the Convention is to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Since its publication in 2020, this has been *Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020* (the **ANZBS**). New Zealand is now expected to revise its strategy and action plan to align with the GBF adopted in 2022 (see **Appendix 1**), and to develop a national biodiversity finance plan.
- 6 The revised strategy and action plan is expected to be delivered before Parties to the Convention are due to meet in October 2024. If this cannot be achieved by October, Parties are requested to at least submit "national targets" that address or contribute to achieving the global goals and targets of the GBF ahead of a revised strategy and action plan.

- 7 I have considered whether a revision of the published ANZBS is warranted and have concluded on balance that it is not – it would be costly and is unnecessary. The ANZBS is broad, containing goals which broadly align to the expectations set by the GBF within a New Zealand context. These goals include ones that speak directly to this Government’s aims for biodiversity – for example finding new sources of funding and ensuring carbon storage from the restoration of indigenous ecosystems contributes to our net emissions targets.
- 8 We can leverage the existing ANZBS goals, given their broad scope and high level of public buy in, to take a pragmatic approach, at least-cost, to deliver, in large part, on our commitments in a way that reflects this government’s priorities.
- 9 With this in mind, I propose that the thirteen existing objectives of the ANZBS, and their underpinning goals, amended to reflect this Government’s priorities, be submitted to the Convention as our national targets, supporting delivery against the global targets of the GBF, in advance of the October 2024 conference (see **Appendix 2**).
- 10 I propose this is supplemented by an updated implementation plan for the ANZBS, which outlines the most critical and practical actions for biodiversity that are aligned with our Government’s priorities, resources, and capacity. Practically, this will signal what targets New Zealand is most focused on delivering.
- 11 I will return to Cabinet next quarter to seek your agreement to publicly consult on a discussion document for the next ANZBS implementation plan, and to signal the potential approach for a national biodiversity finance plan. I intend to submit the final implementation plan to the Convention next year, subject to Cabinet approval, to complete delivery against New Zealand’s international commitments.
- 12 s6(a)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
s9(2)(j)
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[Redacted] We would then submit our implementation plan, when ready.

Background: why is action needed – and why now?

- 13 Biodiversity supports New Zealanders’ wellbeing and a healthy economy. Nature, and our connection with nature, is part of both our national identity, and our international image and brand. As such, our support of global efforts to protect and restore biodiversity is foundational for our economy, supporting our export sector to market itself internationally and us as a country to grow our GDP.
- 14 Biodiversity plays a significant role underpinning New Zealand’s primary industries and their economic contribution, with annual export revenue of the food and fibre sector estimated to have reached \$54.3 billion by 30 June 2024.¹ It also drives interest in New Zealand as a tourist destination, supporting tourism’s \$22.1 billion economic contribution in 2023.² In 2019, tourism on public conservation land and waters

¹ Ministry for Primary Industries (2023). *Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries*. From www.mpi.govt.nz
² Stats NZ (2024). *Tourism satellite account: Year ended March 2023*. From www.stats.govt.nz

provided an annual value of \$4.1 billion, or 21 per cent of the tourism industry.³ These industries provide incomes and opportunities for many regional communities.

- 15 New Zealand's unique biodiversity is also at risk. New Zealand has one of the highest proportions of threatened indigenous species in the world⁴, with more than 4,300 native species currently threatened or at risk of extinction.

New Zealand's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity

- 16 New Zealand joined the Convention, which has near universal state membership, in 1993. As a Party to the Convention, New Zealand is required to "develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt existing strategies, plan or programmes for this purpose", and has committed to report on these in line with international reporting cycles.
- 17 National biodiversity strategies and action plans are the main vehicle through which Parties establish and communicate their national contribution towards the GBF's global goals and targets. Our current national biodiversity strategy and action plan is the ANZBS, which has a high level of buy-in from domestic stakeholders, non-government organisations and businesses, and provides flexibility to specify implementation plans that fit with our government's priorities and objectives. The ANZBS was agreed by Cabinet and published in 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0364 refers].
- 18 Parties to the Convention have committed to revising their strategy and action plans, and to developing a national biodiversity finance plan, in response to the Convention's adoption of the GBF in 2022 (See **Appendix 1**). If Parties have not completed revisions to their strategy and action plans ahead of the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties in October 2024, they committed to instead submit revised or updated "national targets" closely aligned with the GBF's goals and targets by this date, ahead of submitting a revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- 19 National targets set out a Party's intended contribution to achieving of the GBF global targets for 2030. Parties have discretion about what national targets they set and how they set them. This supports all Parties to submit national targets that reflect their domestic circumstances and priorities.

Proposal: taking a practical approach to our commitments

- 20 I propose that we take a practical approach to our commitments, building from what already exists and bearing in mind capacity and the need to target our efforts to what matters most.

The broad goals of the published ANZBS already provides the flexibility for our submission under the Convention, without the need to undertake unnecessary further work...

- 21 The challenges we face to halt the decline of New Zealand's biodiversity are complex and require a joined-up approach across government and society. Our current national

³ Department of Conservation (2019). This was an indicative internal estimate on the annual average economic value of tourism activities on public conservation land.

⁴ Bradshaw CJA, Giam X, Sodhi NS (2010) Evaluating the Relative Environmental Impact of Countries. PLOS ONE 5(5): e10440. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0010440>

biodiversity strategy, the ANZBS, was developed to support this joined-up approach and ensure that we are, as a country, committed to meaningful action on biodiversity. While the Department of Conservation leads implementation and drives much of the work contributing to it, the strategy belongs to all New Zealanders.

- 22 The ANZBS is broad, containing goals which align to the expectations set by the GBF within a New Zealand context. These goals include ones that speak directly to this Government's aims for biodiversity – for example finding new sources of funding and/or recalibrating existing funding and ensuring carbon storage from the restoration of indigenous ecosystems contributes to our net emissions targets.
- 23 The ANZBS also has strong support domestically on the back of it being developed through robust, meaningful public consultation, scientific evidence and expert advice.
- 24 To ensure the targets we submit are well-aligned with this Government's priorities and the global goals and targets of the GBF, I have taken the full set of goals from the strategy and prioritised among these to adjust and highlight those which best reflect where our efforts will be targeted. This is not intended to change the published strategy or our domestic efforts, but will instead ensure that we provide clear, more aligned targets for the purpose of meeting our international commitments.

...so that we can focus efforts on setting out action-oriented, practical implementation plan that can be realistically achieved with current baselines

- 25 While the ANZBS sets a sound framework for New Zealand's ongoing efforts on biodiversity it requires more clarity about what actions matter most.
- 26 Therefore, to ensure that we most effectively target our efforts on biodiversity, I do not plan to revise the strategy itself in order to meet our international commitments. Instead, I intend to develop a new implementation plan for the strategy, so that we can take a practical, well-targeted approach that is aligned with our priorities, resources, and capacity.
- 27 This plan will serve to better prioritise the goals set out in the strategy, and to signal what New Zealand is most focused on.
- 28 This approach reflects my overarching Conservation portfolio priority: to focus on protecting high-value conservation areas. Being clear on what matters most will enable government, business, and the community, to most effectively mobilise their efforts, funding, and resources to where they will deliver the greatest benefit. This can also support us as a government to make informed, realistic choices about where we can reduce effort and investment, or divest, without significantly impacting on the outcomes we are seeking to achieve.

I considered other options for our response but consider this provides the most practical way to respond within constrained resources

- 29 One alternative to this approach would have been to deliver a full implementation plan in time for the October Conference of the Parties. This is not feasible due to the timeframes required to consult publicly and seek your approval of the final implementation plan. Our most practical alternative is to deliver the implementation

plan next year while providing a submission that maintains, but does not extend, our existing commitments.

30 I also considered other options of what the submission – and in particular, the national targets might be. For example, we could have developed national targets based on specific ‘priority’ areas by refining existing ANZBS goals s6(a) [REDACTED], or fully adopted the GBF targets s6(a) [REDACTED]. A further alternative was to develop a new set of national targets ‘from the ground up’.

31 I discounted these options as I considered their level of ambition would carry unknown, and potentially significant additional costs. In particular, developing new targets ‘from the ground up’ would have required significant resource and would not have been feasible in the required timeframes. Any new national targets could have significant impacts on domestic biodiversity policy settings, may impact Treaty responsibilities, and may create confusion about New Zealand’s strategic direction given their potential divergence from the ANZBS.

32 We can choose to re-look at these options in the future, working on them in slower time, as New Zealand’s response to the GBF evolves over time.

In practice, this would involve two key pieces of work

Submission of our “national targets” to the Convention by October, based on existing commitments

33 Parties not providing a revised strategy and action plan are expected to submit their “national targets” for biodiversity before the conference of the parties in October. There is flexibility about the form of national targets submitted by Parties. Given the context I have outlined, I seek your agreement that New Zealand submit the thirteen objectives of the ANZBS⁵ as our national targets. These are set out briefly in Table 1 below, and in more detail in **Appendix 2**.

Table 1: Proposed “national targets” – the thirteen ANZBS objectives

Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects		
Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes	Natural resources are managed sustainably	Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity
Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work	Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes	Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally
All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective	Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management	Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active guardians of nature
Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and	Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, Iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki	Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management

⁵ The objectives set out what the ANZBS strives to achieve 2050. Each objective has underpinning goals for 2030.

connected from mountain tops to ocean depths		
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- 34 As New Zealand is already committed to the ANZBS, submitting the objectives as our national targets will not materially alter, or increase, New Zealand’s existing commitments.
- 35 Alongside the submission of national targets, New Zealand will be required to commit to “headline indicators” which are agreed to by the Conference of the Parties and will form the basis for ongoing reporting to the Convention against the targets.
- 36 Subject to any feedback received from Cabinet, I seek your authorisation to finalise and submit a response to the Convention before the conference begins in October.

Development of a new, more practical, implementation plan within our resource constraints

- 37 The ANZBS has a large number of goals to be achieved by 2030. It is not feasible to achieve all of these within the next six years. What is needed is a focus on what this Government wants delivered – the crucial actions to shift our biodiversity system in a way that makes sense to New Zealand, reflecting the relative priority of this work and our constrained resources. I have signalled this through the approach I set out in Appendix 2, which proposes that we provide a prioritised, adjusted set of the ANZBS goals to meet our international commitment.
- 38 For this reason, I also intend to deliver a new implementation plan for the ANZBS next year, which would be able to be funded through prioritisation and efficient allocation of resources, within existing funding levels. My proposed approach to a national biodiversity finance plan, which will be considered alongside this work, will also take this as a starting point.
- 39 Focusing on a new implementation plan gives us the opportunity to take a more practical approach to delivering on the ANZBS and its objectives, and to prioritise action in key areas. We could choose to focus our greatest efforts in areas that achieve multiple outcomes – such as supporting nature-based solutions to climate change – while targeting more tightly across other areas. For example, efforts relating to Treaty partnership and mātauranga Māori – which reflect the GBF’s acknowledgement of the important role and contribution of indigenous people, and their rights and interests in relation to biodiversity – could be better addressed through the government’s commitment to fulfilling existing Treaty settlement obligations, rather than specific actions in the implementation plan.
- 40 While I intend for the plan to focus on critical actions for central and regional government to take, it will inspire, motivate, and enable others to take action to protect biodiversity and deliver on the ANZBS goals while enabling a prosperous economy.
- 41 I intend to return to Cabinet next quarter to seek agreement to publicly consult on a discussion document for the next ANZBS implementation plan. I would then seek your agreement to the final plan, and proposed approach to a national biodiversity finance plan, in late 2025.

42 The implementation plan will then be submitted to the Convention, finalising our ‘revised’ national biodiversity strategy and action plan and clearly signalling which national targets New Zealand is focused on delivering.

s9(2)(j)

43 s9(2)(j)

44 s6(a), s9(2)(j)

45 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(j)

Treaty implications

46 I consider that the proposed approach mitigates potential Treaty of Waitangi implications of New Zealand's international commitments under the Convention. Our response will reiterate New Zealand's commitment to the ANZBS and the indicators and goals that are already published within it. These were shaped with input from the public, including iwi and Treaty partners, and have been adjusted to align with Government priorities. Māori will have a further opportunity to engage with the practical delivery of this strategy through upcoming engagement and work to shape the new implementation plan.

Next steps

47 Subject to your agreement to this advice, I will come back to Cabinet to seek your agreement to:

- 47.1 undertake public consultation on a discussion document for the ANZBS implementation plan in late 2024 or early 2025.
- 47.2 a final proposed implementation plan in late 2025.

Implementation

- 48 As a Party, New Zealand is required to submit national reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and our effectiveness in meeting its objectives. Upcoming reports are due in February 2026 and June 2029.
- 49 The Department of Conservation is working across agencies on the indicators required for reporting progress on the ANZBS. New Zealand's ability to credibly report on GBF implementation will depend on our commitment to continue resourcing existing long-term monitoring networks, and to establish new processes to compile selected headline indicators.

Cost-of-living Implications

- 50 There are no cost-of-living implications arising from this paper.

Financial Implications

- 51 This paper does not have financial implications as the development of New Zealand's national targets submission is covered through agency baselines, and no new commitments would be created by this submission.
- 52 The development of the ANZBS implementation plan and an approach to a national biodiversity finance plan can inform investment priorities for biodiversity in New Zealand. Together, these will enable government to better manage resources and potentially reduce – the ongoing costs to government of delivery of the ANZBS.
- 53 Any additional financial implications identified in the development of the implementation plan would be set out for Cabinet consideration and subject to reprioritisation processes initially, and/or any future Budget processes, if appropriate, after 2025.

Legislative Implications

- 54 There are no legislative implications for this paper.

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

- 55 The Regulatory Impact Analysis requirements do not apply.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 56 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment requirements do not apply.

Population Implications

- 57 There are no population implications for this paper. Public consultation on the forthcoming ANZBS implementation plan will enable people to provide further information on potential impacts and opportunities of the proposed actions.

Human Rights

58 There are no human rights implications for this paper.

Use of external Resources

59 There were no external resources used leading up to this paper.

Consultation

60 The following agencies were provided the opportunity to review this advice: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, The Treasury, Ministry of Health, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Puni Kōkiri, The Office for Māori Crown Relations, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for the Environment, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Women, Statistics New Zealand, and the Environmental Protection Authority.

61 Feedback was received from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, the Treasury, Ministry of Transport, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Puni Kōkiri, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry for the Environment, Land Information New Zealand, and Statistics New Zealand.

Communications

62 New Zealand's submission to the Conference will be available to the public through Convention's website, once made. However, there are no plans to publicly announce New Zealand's GBF response or submission to the Convention other than the proactive release of this paper and associated minutes. I will work with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure that any communications on New Zealand's approach in line with messages set out in this advice.

Proactive Release

63 I intend to proactively release this Cabinet paper and associated minutes, subject to any redactions to protect our ability to make future decisions on the ANZBS implementation plan, within 30 days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

Recommendations

The Minister of Conservation recommends the Committee:

- 1 **Note** that in 1993, New Zealand became a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (**the Convention**), committing to address biodiversity decline and its impacts, delivering economic, environmental and diplomatic benefits.
- 2 **Note** that as a Party to the Convention, New Zealand is required, and has an international legal obligation, to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and has committed to either:

IN CONFIDENCE

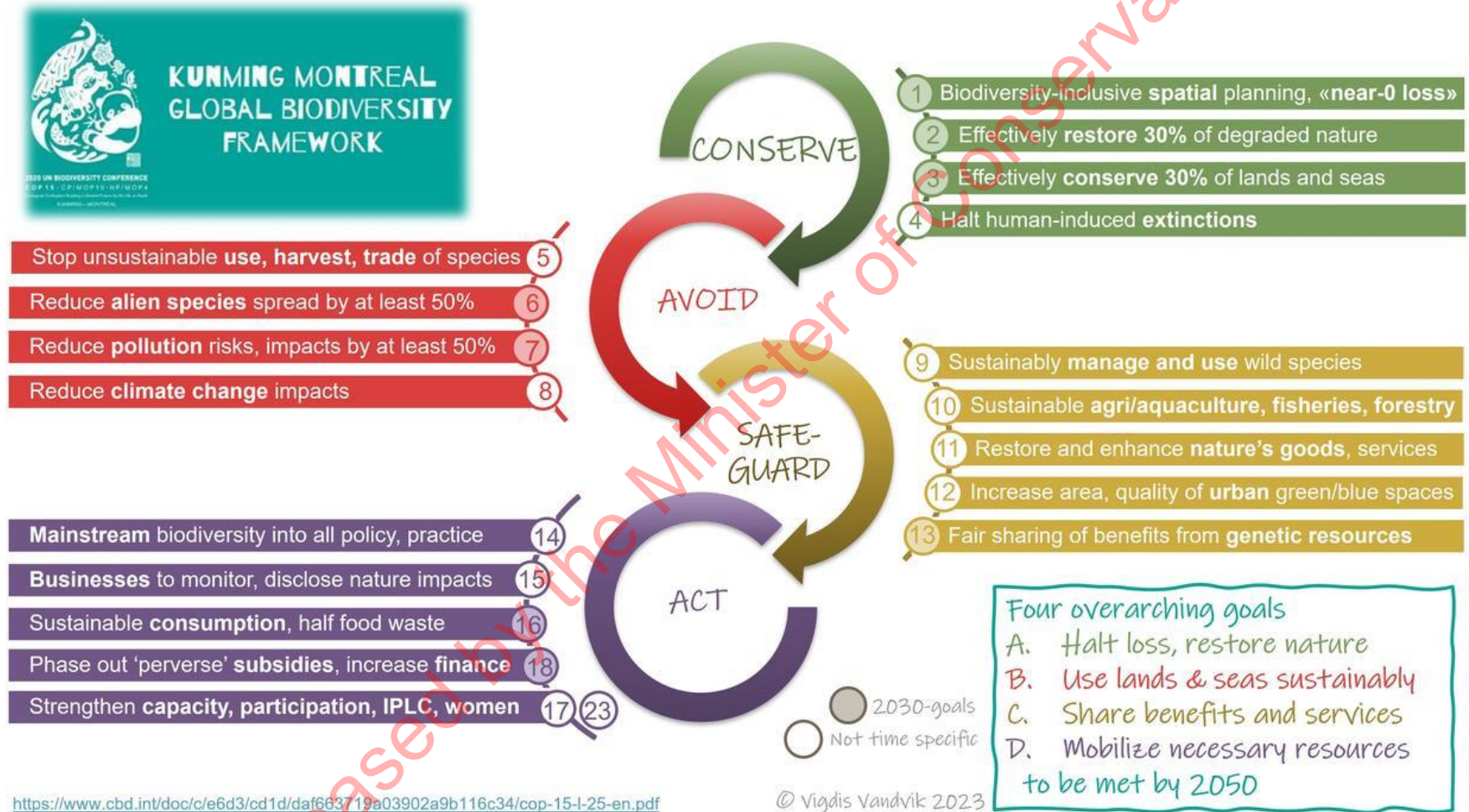
- 2.1 revise its strategy and action plan to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework (**GBF**) and submit this ahead of the upcoming conference of the parties in October; or
- 2.2 if it cannot provide a revised strategy and action plan by October, submit national targets and indicators by this date, and a revised strategy and action plan later.
- 3 **Agree** that New Zealand will submit the existing thirteen objectives and associated goals, amended to reflect this Government's priorities, of New Zealand's existing national biodiversity strategy and action plan, *Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (ANZBS)* as New Zealand's national targets and contribution to the GBF (therefore not committing New Zealand internationally to more than it is has committed domestically).
- 4 **Note** that the Minister of Conservation will return to Cabinet in the last quarter of 2024 to seek agreement to publicly consult on a discussion document for the next ANZBS implementation plan, that will give direction on critical actions needed, within existing baselines, for government to complete between now and 2030 to achieve the goals and objectives of the ANZBS.
- 5 **Note** that Cabinet's approval of the next ANZBS implementation plan will be sought in 2025, after which it will be provided to the Convention to complete New Zealand's revision of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan
- 6 **s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(i)**
[Redacted text]

[Authorised for lodgement]

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation

Appendix 1: Global Biodiversity Framework global goals and targets



Overview adopted from Vigdis Vandvik (2023). University of Bergen. Centre for Sustainable Area Management. Retrieved from <https://www.uib.no/en/cesam/159846/cheat-sheet-kunming-montr%C3%A9al-global-biodiversity-framework>

Appendix 2: National targets proposed for submission to the Convention – as already committed to in the ANZBS

<p>Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), contribute to net emissions targets through carbon storage and improves our resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels 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 		
<p>Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, provides leadership, accountability including monitoring and reporting, and inclusive decision making The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and informs decision making 	<p>Natural resources are managed sustainably</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine and freshwater fisheries are managed within sustainable limits while retaining cultural and recreational values, including for valued introduced species Sustainable use practices that include benefits for indigenous biodiversity are standard practice and environmental outcomes improve 	<p>Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits
<p>Improved systems for knowledge, science, data & innovation inform our work</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national, agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on 	<p>Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand provides leadership on policy and international commitments to biodiversity
<p>All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge, and capability to be effective</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced browsers, including valued introduced species, are actively managed to reduce pressures on indigenous biodiversity and maintain cultural and recreational values 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 	<p>Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active, guardians of nature</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community action groups and Treaty partners are resourced to access knowledge, expertise and information to manage biodiversity and act as environmental stewards Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity

IN CONFIDENCE

	<p>identified and are being managed based on current and potential future impacts on indigenous biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved baseline information, comprehensive mapping, and improved knowledge of species and ecosystems help reduce the cumulative effects of pressures on biodiversity • 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 • The state of indigenous species known to be at risk of extinction stabilise or improve 	<p>Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, Iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Treaty partnership approaches are developed and lead the delivery of many biodiversity restoration projects • Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data interests regarding indigenous biodiversity are upheld. 	<p>Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty partners make decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori.

Released by the Minister of Conservation



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

New Zealand's Submission under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Portfolio **Conservation**

On 23 September 2024, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in 1993, New Zealand became a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Convention), committing to address biodiversity decline and its impacts, delivering economic, environmental and diplomatic benefits;
- 2 **noted** that as a Party to the Convention, New Zealand is required, and has an international legal obligation, to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and has committed to either:
 - 2.1 revise its strategy and action plan to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and submit this ahead of the upcoming conference of the Parties in October 2024; or
 - 2.2 if it cannot provide a revised strategy and action plan by October, submit national targets and indicators by this date, and a revised strategy and action plan later;
- 3 **agreed** that New Zealand will submit the existing thirteen objectives and associated goals, amended to reflect this Government's priorities, of New Zealand's existing national biodiversity strategy and action plan, *Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020* (ANZBS) as New Zealand's national targets and contribution to the GBF (therefore not committing New Zealand internationally to more than it has committed domestically);
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Conservation intends to return to Cabinet in the last quarter of 2024 to seek agreement to publicly consult on a discussion document for the next ANZBS implementation plan, that will give direction on critical actions needed, within existing baselines, for Government to complete between now and 2030 to achieve the goals and objectives of the ANZBS;
- 5 **noted** that Cabinet approval of the next ANZBS implementation plan will be sought in 2025, after which it will be provided to the Convention to complete New Zealand's revision of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan;

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s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(j)
[Redacted]
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[Redacted]

s9(2)(a)
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Conservation