

DOC's legislation and its framework for the conservation of natural and historic resources

Act	Purpose of the Act	Treaty of Waitangi	Management system (key components)	Places	Animals	Plants
<b>Conservation Act 1987</b>	An Act to promote the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources, and for that purpose to establish a Department of Conservation (long title)  Defines "conservation" as: preserving and protecting natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations (s 2)	<b>Section 4 Conservation Act, Treaty obligations</b> (applies across all DOC's Acts)  <b>Treaty of Waitangi</b>  DOC has responsibilities to iwi, hapū and whanau under the Treaty. Section 4 Conservation Act requires DOC to give effect to the principles of the Treaty when interpreting and administering all of its Acts. The principles continue to evolve, but those previously identified as most relevant to DOC's work are: • partnership (embodied in mutual good faith and reasonableness) • informed decision-making • active protection • redress and reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes DOC and its functions (s 6)</li> <li>Director-General general powers (s 53)</li> <li>Concessions: commercial activities in reserves, national parks, conservation areas (Part 3B)</li> <li>Statutory bodies &amp; their functions/powers: NZ Conservation Authority, Conservation Boards (Part 3A); Fish &amp; Game Councils (Part 5A)</li> <li>Statutory planning: Conservation General Policy (national); Management Strategies (regional, all PCL&amp;W, species), Management Plans (place, all PCL&amp;W except national parks) (Part 3A)</li> <li>Freshwater fisheries (Part 5B)</li> <li>Management, permits, enforcement, regs</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation areas, including: stewardship areas, conservation parks, wilderness areas, ecological areas, sanctuary areas, amenity areas, wildlife management areas, watercourse areas, marginal strips</p> <p>Covenants and Ngā Whenua Rahui Kawenata</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most freshwater fish, whitebait, non-commercial fisheries</li> <li>Sports fish (by Fish &amp; Game Councils)</li> </ul>	
<b>National Parks Act 1980</b>	Preserve in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, areas of NZ that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest. (s 4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory planning: National Park General Policy, National Park Management Plans (Part 5)</li> <li>Management, permits, enforcement, bylaws</li> </ul>	National parks		
<b>Reserves Act 1977</b>	Preserving and managing areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species, both rare and common, in their natural communities and habitats, and the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape which in the aggregate originally gave NZ its own recognisable character.  Ensuring public access to and along the coast, lakeshores, and riverbanks, and fostering and promoting the preservation of their natural character. (s 3)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management, permits, enforcement, bylaws, regulations</li> <li>Other bodies administering reserves (includes local authorities, reserve boards, trustees, Maori Trust Boards, voluntary organisations, other Ministers) (Part 3)</li> </ul>	<p>Reserves: national, nature, scenic, scientific, recreation, historic, local purpose, government purpose</p> <p>Conservation covenants and Ngā Whenua Rahui Kawenata</p>		
<b>QE II National Trust Act 1977</b>	To establish a national trust to encourage and promote the provision, protection, and enhancement of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of NZ. (long title)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes QE II National Trust &amp; powers</li> <li>Protection, public access, enforcement</li> </ul>	QE II open space covenants (through the QE II National Trust)		
<b>Marine Reserves Act 1971 (in review)</b>	Preserve, as marine reserves for the scientific study of marine life, areas of NZ that contain underwater scenery, natural features, or marine life, of such distinctive quality, or so typical, or beautiful, or unique, that their continued preservation is in the national interest. (s 3) (Applies out to the 12 nm limit of the territorial sea)		Management, permits, enforcement, regulations	Marine reserves		
<b>Wildlife Act 1953</b>	No specific purpose section. Applies throughout NZ, out to limit of the EEZ.  Absolutely protects all native bats, reptiles and frogs; most native birds; some marine fish and invertebrates (Sch 7A); and some land and freshwater invertebrates (Sch 7) (s 3). Classifies some wildlife as: game, partially protected, may be hunted subject to conditions, or not protected (s 4-7).	<b>Treaty Settlements</b>  Treaty settlement Acts create bespoke requirements for specific iwi and places in relation to: • planning documents, and how they are developed and approved • governance and management arrangements • shared decision-making for certain types of decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of wildlife protection, export, species in captivity, museum specimens</li> <li>Managing the hunting and killing of game</li> <li>Marine wildlife population management plans</li> <li>Management of wildlife protected areas</li> <li>Permits, enforcement, regulations</li> </ul>	Wildlife refuges, wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife management areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land and FW wildlife</li> <li>Game birds (by Fish &amp; Game Councils)</li> </ul>	Marine wildlife
<b>Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978</b>	To make provision for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals within NZ and within NZ fisheries waters. (long title) (Protects all marine mammals—seals, sealions, whales, dolphins, porpoises, dugong, manatee—out to the 200 nm limit of the EEZ)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management, permits, enforcement, regs</li> <li>Manage commercial activities (e.g. whale watching), and take of whalebone</li> <li>Population management plans</li> </ul>	Marine mammal sanctuaries	Marine mammals	
<b>Wild Animal Control Act 1977</b>	Controlling wild animals generally, and eradicating wild animals locally where necessary and practicable, as dictated by proper land use. (s 4) (“wild animals” = deer, tahr, chamois; feral pigs and feral goats)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of recreational hunting</li> <li>Concessions for wild animal recovery</li> <li>Provisions relating to deer farms, safari parks</li> <li>Wild Animal Control Plans</li> <li>Management, permits, enforcement, regs</li> </ul>		Deer, chamois, tahr, feral pigs, feral goats	
<b>Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989 (in review)</b>	To enable NZ to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and to promote the management, conservation, and protection of endangered, threatened, and exploited species to further enhance the survival of those species. (s 2)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of the trade, import, and export of the listed species</li> <li>Control possession by people arriving in NZ</li> <li>Permits, enforcement, regulations</li> </ul>		Land, freshwater and marine species listed under CITES as endangered, threatened, or exploited by trade	

**KEY**

- Public conservation land and freshwater
- Private and Māori land
- Marine places and species
- Land and freshwater species
- The management system
- Treaty obligations