



Annual Report of the
**New Zealand
Conservation Authority**

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012

*Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of
Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987*

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Cover photo: Whanganui National Park. View from above Tahupo Hut to Ruapehu Matemateaonga Block 1 AFBI, 2009.

Photographer: Amy Hawcroft

The extensive forests of the Park are at the heart of a vast area of intact native forest, the second largest on the North Island. They hold the largest remaining kiwi population on the North Island, along with significant populations of other rare and threatened native fauna and flora species. The rivers that flow into the Whanganui are also an internationally important stronghold for whio (blue duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*). The whole forest provides essential ecosystem services for the wider region. These services include helping to maintain water quality in the Whanganui and associated rivers, regulating flood events and erosion and storing large amounts of carbon.

The Park was established within a complex, living cultural landscape of pā, kāinga, urupā and other landscape elements connected to the Whanganui River and its main tributaries, which remain a vital part of the living culture of Whanganui iwi. The Park landscape also tells the story of early contact between Māori and European settlers, the “river boat era” of tourism and trade and the ultimately doomed attempts of the settlers to farm its rugged hills.

Source: Whanganui National Park Management Plan 2012–2022 (Department of Conservation, July 2012).

Back cover photo: New Zealand wood pigeon/ kererū/kūkū/kūkupa, 2008.

Photographer: Herb Christophers

New Zealand's native wood pigeon, also known as kererū, kūkū and kūkupa, is the only disperser of fruits with large seeds, such as those of karaka and taraire trees, that we have left. The disappearance of the kererū would be a disaster for the regeneration of our native forests.

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8 October 2012

Hon Kate Wilkinson
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I submit, in terms of section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. The Act requires that the Authority shall in each year report to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

This report covers a year of change for the Authority. Eight new members and a new chairperson were appointed in late August. This resulted in a change in the focus and conduct of our meetings. The Authority sought a roundtable discussion at each of its meetings with the Director-General and senior managers to discuss the challenges facing conservation in New Zealand and the strategies being developed by the Department in pursuit of its desired outcomes.

The year was also notable for the approval of amendments to four national park management plans and the imminent approval of the Whanganui National Park Management Plan; the receipt of the Director-General's report into his investigation of the suitability of certain forests in Northland centred on the giant kauri Tane Mahuta for national park status; the release of the Authority's *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* discussion paper; submissions on the Game Animal Council Bill and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan; and advice to the Director-General relating to long-term aerially assisted trophy hunting concession applications.

I appreciated the opportunities I have had to meet with you during the year and discuss matters of importance to the Authority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Booth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Kay Booth
Chairperson
New Zealand Conservation Authority

Mission Statement

To ensure for the people of New Zealand that the richness of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage is valued, restored, maintained, and cared for by all, in order to enhance our environment and quality of life.

The New Zealand Conservation Authority members



Left to right: Waana Davis, Hally Toia, Yvonne Sharp, John Thorburn, Judy Hellstrom, Gerry McSweeney, Kay Booth, Jo Breese, Warren Parker, Al Morrison (Director-General of Conservation), Mick Clout, Ian Buchanan, Brian Stephenson.

Absent: Sandra Cook.

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1. OVERVIEW OF THE 2011–2012 YEAR

In October, eight new members joined the Authority bringing their skills, expertise and perspectives to the table. Kay Booth was appointed as chairperson and a revised meeting structure was adopted with a greater emphasis on direct engagement with the Director-General of Conservation in order to discuss the strategic direction of the Department and the fiscal constraints it faces, and the strategic priorities of the Authority. Those strategic priorities are its statutory decision-making functions; providing advice to the Minister and Director-General in the areas of conservation in today's economy; protection for rivers; and plant and animal pests.

The Authority met on six occasions during the year: in August, October and December 2011, and in February, April and June 2012. The February meeting was held in Wellington for the first day and Paraweka Marae, Pipiriki for the second day. All other meetings were held in Wellington.

The Authority issued a discussion paper *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* in December 2011. The purpose of the paper is to stimulate discussion about the values of rivers and contribute towards the achievement of comprehensive protection for a fully representative range of rivers in their natural state.

The Authority prepared a briefing to the incoming Minister. In the event, the Hon Kate Wilkinson remained the Minister of Conservation in the new Government.

The Authority made a submission on the Game Animal Council Bill and appeared before the Local Government and Select Committee, which considered the Bill.

Heli-hunting, also known as aerially assisted trophy hunting, was again the subject of advice from the Authority in relation to the granting of long-term concessions for the activity and the inclusion of wilderness areas within these concessions.

The Department of Conservation started the review of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and consulted the Authority as it developed policy approaches to a range of topics, ensuring a nationally consistent approach.

The Authority approved amendments to the Aoraki/Mount Cook, Arthur's Pass, Rakiura and Tongariro National Park Management Plans and was close to approving the revised Whanganui National Park Management Plan at the end of the reporting period.

At its June meeting, the Authority received the Director-General's report on his investigation of several parcels of public conservation land in Northland, centred on Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, for national park status.

The Authority continues to advocate for a transparent and principled approach by the Department to the management of New Zealand's conservation assets.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Authority is a statutory advisor to the Minister of Conservation and to the Director-General of the Department of Conservation on conservation issues of national importance. It was established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions of the Authority are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. It also has specified responsibilities, set out in Treaty claims settlement legislation, with regard to consultation with tangata whenua.

The Authority has the important function of approving the 10-year conservation management strategies and national park management plans that guide the management of public conservation resources by the Department.

The Authority is committed to the partnership model for the management of public conservation resources between New Zealanders and the Department. This is embodied in the long history of formal citizen engagement in New Zealand conservation management and the diverse make-up of members; likewise the conservation boards. The conservation boards and the Authority are part of the “conservation with communities” ethic of the Department.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Minister appoints the 13 Authority members including the Chairperson.

The members are selected in consultation with the Minister of Tourism (two appointments), the Minister of Māori Affairs (two appointments), and the Minister of Local Government (one appointment); on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (one appointment); and on the recommendation of the Royal Society of New Zealand (one appointment), Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (one appointment), and Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (one appointment). In addition, four members are appointed after receipt of nominations from the public. This process ensures that a wide range of perspectives, life experiences and geographical knowledge contribute to the advice provided, and decisions made, by the Authority.

Members of the Authority are appointed for three-year terms. During the reporting period eight new members were appointed to the Authority. Their first meeting was in October 2011. See also section 4.1.

4. MEETINGS

The Authority met for five two-day meetings and one one-day meeting during the year. Five meetings were held entirely in Wellington and one was split between Wellington and Pipiriki.

In addition, the Authority took a trip on the Whanganui River, staying at Tieke Marae and visiting the Bridge to Nowhere in support of its consideration of the Whanganui National Park Management Plan. See also section 7.2.

The August meeting was the last for the out-going Authority. The first meeting for new members was in October 2011.

4.1 Attendance record of members at meetings of the Authority

Member	Number of meetings out of a total of 1 (members to 18 August 2011)	Number of meetings out of a total of 5 (members after 18 August 2011)
Kay Booth	1	5
Jo Breese	-	5
Mike Browne	0	-
Ian Buchanan	-	5
Mick Clout	-	5
Linda Conning	1	-
Sandra Cook	-	5*
Charles Crofts	0	-
Waana Davis	1	4
Judy Hellstrom	-	5
Gerry McSweeney	-	3
Basil Morrison	1	-
John Nankervis	0	-
Warren Parker	-	5
Don Ross	0	-
Louise Savage	1	-
Yvonne Sharp	1	5
Brian Stephenson	1	5
John Thorburn	-	5
Hally Toia	1	5

*Three meetings in part.

5. BUDGET, FEES AND ALLOWANCES

The Authority's budget for 2011–2012 was \$145,000. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$290, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$215. Members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Authority business.

6. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states: "This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi." As a body established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

6.2 Functions of the Authority

(a) Advise the Minister on Statements of General Policy

General Policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes. No changes were proposed or made to General Policy in the reporting period.

(b) Approve Conservation Management Strategies

A conservation management strategy (CMS) is a 10-year statutory document. Its purpose is to implement General Policy and to establish objectives for the discharge of the Department's functions in the area covered by the strategy, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. The CMSs are developed by departmental planning staff in partnership with local conservation boards, and there are opportunities for input from the public, tangata whenua and other interested parties. While most CMSs are now older than 10 years, their review was put on hold in December 2009 while a national framework was developed (completed November 2010). Restructuring of the Department delayed work on the reviews.

The revision of six CMSs – Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Otago, Southland/West Otago including subantarctic islands, and Canterbury – continued during the reporting period.

The Authority was consulted about a range of topics for which national consistency is desired in all CMSs. The topics were aircraft landings, motorised vehicles, mountain biking, filming, wild animal recovery operations, aerially assisted trophy hunting (also known as heli-hunting), private accommodation, and wilderness areas.

(c) Approve Conservation Management Plans

Conservation management plans are generally approved by conservation boards; the only conservation management plan approved in the reporting period was the Pukekura Reserves (Taioaroa Heads) Management Plan approved by the Otago Conservation Board.

The Authority submitted on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan and spoke to its submission. Its interest was to have the scenic reserve managed so as to complement and support Abel Tasman National Park. Most people wrongly assume that the sandy beaches of the scenic reserve are in the Park. The Authority's submission was largely unsuccessful in achieving its desired outcomes. See also section 8.1.

(d) Review the Effectiveness of the Department's Administration of Statements of General Policy

The Authority did not review the effectiveness of the Department's administration of Statements of General Policy during the reporting period. In the process of approving statutory planning documents, the Authority seeks to satisfy itself that they give effect to the two Statements of General Policy appropriately.

(e) Investigate or Advise on Conservation Matters of National Importance

At its December meeting, the Authority identified the priorities for its advisory role for the three-year term as being:

- Conservation in today's economy
- Rivers
- Plant and animal pests

In pursuit of its first priority it had discussions with the Director-General and senior managers about a number of topics. These included:

- The Department's strategic direction
- The development of a system for identifying and prioritising natural heritage management
- The development of a destination framework for recreation and tourism support
- The development of policy approaches to a range of specific management issues
- Governance in a post-Treaty settlement environment

These discussions were not conclusive but rather iterative and are on-going as more information is received, and understanding and thinking evolves.

The Deputy Director-General Policy kept the Authority informed of policy and legislative initiatives across the whole range of the Department's interests.

The chair met with the Minister of Conservation and the Minister for the Environment to discuss the Authority's *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* discussion paper. As a consequence of its release the Authority was invited to join the plenary of the Land and Water Forum. Late in the period the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment released her report *Hydro-electricity or wild rivers? Climate change versus natural heritage*, referencing the Authority's paper. The decision of Meridian Energy to abandon its proposal to dam the Mokihinui River, a wild river highly rated both for its natural and biodiversity values and for recreation, was welcomed.

With respect to the general topic of plant and animal pests, it was agreed to concentrate first on predators. In order to determine what contribution the Authority could make, it sought a briefing from the Department on strategic initiatives, the Department's priorities for predator control and their rationale, and how the Department interacts with private landowners and other agencies (for example, regional councils, the Animal Health Board, MPI Biosecurity). The briefing is scheduled for the August 2012 meeting.

Other matters of national importance for conservation that the Authority provided advice on during the year are outlined below.

Aerially assisted trophy hunting (also known as heli-hunting)

During the reporting period, the Department processed requests for commercial aerially assisted trophy hunting for the 2012 season. The Associate Minister's decisions were broadly in line with the Authority's advice. However, six operators have challenged the Associate Minister's decision to the High Court. Meanwhile they continue to operate under the terms of their 2011 permits, which have been rolled over.

Rivers

The Authority released its *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* discussion paper in December 2011. The purpose of the paper is to stimulate discussion about the values of rivers and contribute towards the achievement of comprehensive protection for a fully representative range of rivers in their natural state. Responses were sought from the Minister and Director-General of Conservation but they had not been received by the end of the reporting period.

Himalayan tahr

A condition of the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan is that the Department report annually to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its implementation of the Plan. The annual report from 2010–2011 was received at the December 2011 meeting.

Members noted that the key objective of the Plan – that the population be kept below 10,000 animals – was not stated in the annual report, there was no reporting on whether this objective was being attained and there was no statistical comparison with previous years. It asked that this information be provided in future.

The report raised no concerns about tahr damage in the Adams and Hooker-Landsborough Wilderness Areas and reported that “most areas are in reasonable condition”. However, the Authority noted that at the end of the period the damage being caused to indigenous vegetation in these wilderness areas was such that the Department recommended that the Associate Minister approve aerially assisted trophy hunting within these areas, owing to the need to use all available means to reduce tahr numbers.

(f) Change of Status

In June 2012 the Authority received the report of the Director-General into the proposal to change the status of a number of areas on the west coast of Northland, centred on the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, to national park. The current land statuses are sanctuary area, conservation area, scenic reserve, scientific reserve and marginal strip. See also section 7.4.

(g) Walkways (repealed)

(h) Education and Publicity

Copies of minutes and agendas and other information regarding the Authority's functions and activities (including its meetings, which are open to the public) can be found on its website: www.conservationauthority.org.nz.

The Authority released its *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* discussion paper as an electronic document in December 2011. It received generally supportive media coverage and comments from a range of interests.

(i) Priorities for Expenditure by the Department of Conservation

The Authority's priorities for the 2012–2015 period were:

- The protection of indigenous biodiversity at priority places with an emphasis on animal and plant pests and wild animal control
- The protection of freshwater habitats and biodiversity
- Statutory management planning

In June the Department advised that its Statement of Intent is now a five-year document, i.e. no longer reviewed each year. The Authority sought advice from the Department as to how it can most usefully discharge this statutory function in future.

(j) New Zealand Fish and Game Council Liaison

Section 6B(1)(i) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZF&GC). The Authority and NZF&GC provided each other with copies of agendas and meeting papers during the reporting period. Kay Booth presented to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting in February 2012 and the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council meeting in March 2012.

(k) Ministerial Delegations

The Minister did not delegate any ministerial powers or functions to the Authority during the reporting period.

6.3 Powers of the Authority

(a) Establishment of Committees

The Conservation Act enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Authority.

The committees that were active during the reporting period were:

- Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan
- Game Animal Council
- Kauri National Park Investigation
- Rivers
- Grass Carp
- Tongariro National Park Management Plan Partial Review
- Whanganui National Park Management Plan

(b) Advocacy

The Authority made formal submissions on the Game Animal Council Bill and the Abel Tasman Scenic Reserve Foreshore Management Plan. See also section 8.1.

The Game Animal Council Bill was introduced to the House in October 2011 in fulfilment of the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the National Party and the United Future Party. The Authority had advised the Minister since the establishment of the Council was first mooted of the reasons it considered the proposal to be against the national conservation interest. It considers the Bill to be fundamentally flawed, but accepting that the Council will be established in order to deliver on the Agreement, its submission was designed to improve the workability of the Bill.

At its hearing before the Committee, and having met with United Future Member of Parliament Peter Dunne the previous week and heard his perspective, the Authority proposed amendments to the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 as an alternative to the passage of the Bill. The Authority considers that the Bill as introduced will, among other things, increase conflicts, escalate costs, undermine the statutory objective of integrated management of public conservation land and have a range of other consequences, many of which are presumed to be unintended.

The *Protecting New Zealand's Rivers* discussion paper is also advocacy. See also section 6.2(e).

7. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

7.1 General Policy for National Parks

The Authority did not review, or make any changes to, the General Policy for National Parks during the reporting period.

7.2 National Park Management Plans

Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan Partial Review

The Authority received a proposed amendment to the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan at its April 2012 meeting. The amendment was to provide for on-going use of the Poulter Valley by mountain bikes and departmental vehicles following a three-year trial. The amendment was approved on 13 June 2012.

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Partial Review

The Authority received proposed amendments to the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan at its April 2012 meeting. The amendments related to access to the Tasman Valley, specifically a realignment of part of the Valley road, the establishment of car parks, and the establishment of a mountain biking track. The amendments were approved on 13 June 2012. The Authority noted that a comprehensive review of vehicle movements and car parking within the Park will be undertaken when a full review of the Plan is undertaken. This will take place after the current review of the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy is completed.

Rakiura National Park Management Plan amendment

The Authority approved the Rakiura National Park Management Plan in the previous reporting period. Since that approval an inconsistency was detected between the Plan and the Stewart Island/Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy. The Authority approved an amendment to the Plan on 15 December 2011 to remove the inconsistency.

Tongariro National Park Management Plan Partial Review

In the previous reporting period, the Authority received a partial review of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan proposing the approval of over-snow vehicles for passenger conveyance on the three skifields, the approval of commercial use of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (walking) and the Old Coach Road (mountain biking), and changes to commercial transport arrangements within the Park. The reviewed sections of the Plan were approved on 13 October 2011.

Whanganui National Park Management Plan

The Authority received the Whanganui National Park Management Plan from Darryn Ratana, Chair of the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board, at its February 2012 meeting held in Pipiriki on the Whanganui River. The chair of the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board, the Mayor of Wanganui, the Deputy Mayor of Ruapehu District and representatives of tangata whenua and the Department of Conservation were also present. The evening was spent at Tieke Marae and the next day a fieldtrip along the Whanganui River was undertaken. At the end of the reporting period the Plan was with the Minister of Conservation for her views; the penultimate step in the national park management planning process.

Fiordland National Park Management Plan

The concept of a cap on aircraft landings at Milford Sound airstrip was introduced under the Fiordland National Park Management Plan in 2007 as a means of managing the cumulative adverse effects of aircraft activity.

In July 2011 the Minister removed the cap and directed the Department to work with the tourism and local aviation industry on alternative ways to reduce noise levels and ensure the values that make Milford Sound special are protected, including developing a code of management and monitoring regime.

7.3 Additions To, and Deletions From, National Parks

Deletion of land – Westland Tai Poutini National Park

The Authority supported the exclusion from Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park of approximately 6107 m² of national park at Waiho River Bridge for state highway purposes.

7.4 National Park Investigations

Proposal for a Kauri National Park in Northland

In June 2012 the Authority received the Director-General of Conservation's report on the suitability of several parcels of public conservation land in Northland, centred on Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, for national park status. A Committee of the Authority will consider the proposal in detail. At the end of the period the Committee was waiting for a reply to its letter to Te Roroa Manuwhenua Trust seeking a first meeting and on-site inspection.

7.5 National Park Determinations

The draft Whanganui National Park Management Plan contained provisions for the preservation of exotic vegetation associated with past settlements within what is now the Whanganui National Park. The General Policy for National Parks 2005 guides the Authority in determining whether or not exotic vegetation should be preserved. Policy 5(h) reads:

“Non-invasive introduced trees or other plants of historic or scientific significance should be identified in the national park management plan and may be retained where determined by the Authority as having no significant adverse effects on natural or historical and cultural heritage.”

The mature pine trees planted by early settlers were identified as having seedlings. The Authority required that priority be given in the Plan to the removal of seeding trees and their seedlings.

8. RESERVES ACT 1977

8.1 Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan

The Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan prepared by the Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council was released for public submissions with a closing date of 8 August 2011. The scenic reserve fringes the Abel Tasman National Park and is the primary means of access to it. Its management has a considerable impact on the Park. The Authority's submission sought to ensure that the Foreshore Management Plan complemented and did not conflict with the Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan, which the Authority

approved in October 2008. The Foreshore Management Plan was approved on 25 June 2012 by the Management Plan Approval Committee. It runs until October 2018 so as to coincide with the life of the National Park Management Plan; with the intention of reviewing the two together at that time.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

9.1 JD Stout Trust

The Authority is a trustee of the JD Stout Trust. The Trust makes donations or interest-free loans for conservation and cultural purposes. The Trust met once during the reporting period. Waana Davis is the Authority's representative on the Trust.

9.2 The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

The Authority is one of 10 members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN. The Committee meets quarterly. Jo Breese is the Authority's representative on the Committee. The Authority sponsored a motion calling for wider distribution of the information of the IUCN to be considered at the World Congress in September 2012.

10. CONSERVATION BOARDS

10.1 Conservation Board Nominations

The Minister is required to consult with the Authority prior to appointing public members to conservation boards. The Authority provided its advice on the public appointments that took place during the 2011–2012 year in the previous reporting period. During this period the Minister advised that she intended to postpone the appointments due on 1 July 2012 to maintain continuity of board membership during the early stages of CMS development, in which the boards have a key role. The Authority supported the Minister's proposal.

10.2 Authority/Conservation Board Liaison

One Authority member acts as liaison with each conservation board. This liaison includes annual attendance at board meetings and informal liaison with the board chairperson, which is reported back to the Authority at each meeting.

10.3 Conference for Conservation Board Chairpersons

A two-day meeting of the chairpersons of all conservation boards, attended also by six Authority members, was held in May 2012. The previous conference had been two years earlier and for most this was their first attendance. Sessions included the Director-General outlining the national conservation context and the Department's strategic initiatives; the Minister identifying her priorities and conservation highlights; the departmental national coordinator of the conservation management strategy review process providing an update on national policy and process issues; the Authority outlining its strategic priorities; and topics identified by individual chairs.

10.4 Annual Reports

The 13 conservation boards reported to the Authority on their activities for the year ended 30 June 2011 in fulfillment of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987. They can be read on www.conservationboards.org.nz by selecting 'Conservation boards by region'.

As at the time this report was printed, annual reports for the year ended 30 June 2012 had been received from the West Coast *Tai Poutini*, Nelson/Marlborough, Northland, and Otago conservation boards.

10.5 Implementation of Conservation Management Strategies

Most conservation boards have adopted a systematic process for monitoring progress of the implementation of the CMS for their region and for providing advice to the Department's conservators in that respect. The boards report on this monitoring in their annual reports.

Under the Conservation General Policy, the Department is required to provide each conservation board with a report (at least annually) on the implementation of the CMS for its region.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks are due to the staff of the Department who have attended our meetings or serviced, supported and briefed the Authority during the reporting period.

Special thanks to the Director-General, Al Morrison, with whom we have enjoyed some robust debates; Catherine Tudhope, whose knowledge is invaluable to our work; Doris Johnston and Sarah Bagnall for working with us on policy and planning issues; and Katrina Edwards for her efficient servicing of the Authority.

Thanks to my Authority colleagues and all conservation board members. They are generous with their time and willingly apply their knowledge, skills and diverse life experiences to the work of the Authority and conservation boards.

A special thanks to Yvonne Sharp who deputised for me from 16 June to 22 July 2012 while I was overseas.



Dr Kay Booth
Chairperson
New Zealand Conservation Authority

12. SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Conservation management strategies:

Approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2012

Conservation management strategy	Date approved	Situation as at 30 June 2011
Northland	14 April 1999	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Auckland	30 June 1995	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Waikato	24 September 1996	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
East Coast/Bay of Plenty	14 October 1998 (East Coast) and 4 December 1997 (Bay of Plenty)	Review to commence October 2012. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Tongariro/Taupo	30 May 2002	Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review begins in 2014.
Whanganui	9 April 1997	Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review begins in 2014.
Wellington/Hawke's Bay	13 March 1996 (Wellington) and 19 October 1994 (Hawke's Bay)	Review to commence October 2012. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Chatham Islands	12 August 1999	Review to commence October 2012. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.

Conservation management strategy	Date approved	Situation as at 30 June 2011
Nelson/Marlborough	12 September 1996	In early stages of review. Public notification expected mid 2013. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
West Coast <i>Te Tai o Poutini</i>	15 April 2010	Operative. Amendment to be notified in September 2012.
<i>Canterbury</i>	14 June 2000	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Otago	15 August 1998	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Southland/West Otago	10 July 1998	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.
Stewart Island/Rakiura	9 February 2011	Operative.
Subantarctic Islands (to be amalgamated with Southland/West Otago)	16 July 1998	In early stages of review. Term extended by the Minister with the requirement that the review is completed by December 2014.

The Director-General of Conservation put the review of CMSs on hold while a CMS national framework and natural heritage and destination management prioritisation tools were developed. These have been approved and the review of CMSs is under way, with the review of “groups” of CMSs in stages. The statutory expectation is that each CMS will be reviewed at 10-year intervals.

SECOND SCHEDULE

National park management plans: approval dates

National park management plan	Date approved
Abel Tasman	9 October 2008
Aoraki/Mount Cook	12 August 2004
Arthur's Pass	13 December 2007
Egmont	14 February 2002
Fiordland	21 June 2007
Kahurangi	13 June 2001
Mount Aspiring	23 June 2011
Nelson Lakes	10 October 2002
Paparoa	18 November 1992
Rakiura	9 February 2011
Te Urewera	13 February 2003
Tongariro	12 October 2006
Westland <i>Tai Poutini</i>	21 December 2001
Whanganui	9 August 2012

THIRD SCHEDULE

Conservation boards address list

Conservation board	Board address (c/- Department of Conservation)	Board Support Officer
Northland	PO Box 842 Whangarei 0140	Jeannie Hogarth
Auckland	Private Bag 68908 Newton Auckland 1145	Raewyn Bennett
Waikato	Private Bag 3072 Waikato Mail Centre Hamilton 3240	Des Williams
East Coast/Bay of Plenty	PO Box 1146 Rotorua 3040	Leonie Ahipene
Tongariro/Taupo	PO Box 528 Taupo 3351	Dinny Snowdon-Rameka
Taranaki/Whanganui	PO Box 528 Taupo 3351	Louise Davies
Wellington/Hawke's Bay	PO Box 5086 Lambton Quay Wellington 6145	Leigh Romanos
Chatham Islands	PO Box 114 Waitangi Chatham Islands 8942	Alex McKillop
Nelson/Marlborough	Private Bag 5 Nelson Mail Centre Nelson 7042	Sean Magee
West Coast <i>Tai Poutini</i>	Private Bag 701 Hokitika 7842	Mary-Anne Thorpe
Canterbury Aoraki	Private Bag 4715 Christchurch Mail Centre Christchurch 8140	Megan Hieatt
Otago	PO Box 5244 Moray Place Dunedin 9058	Ainslee Hooper
Southland	PO Box 743 Invercargill 9840	Yvonne Service

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