

Conservation Action Plans

OCTOBER 2010

Purpose

The Department of Conservation's Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy is divided into four administrative Areas: Chatham Islands, Hawke's Bay, Kapiti Wellington¹, and Wairarapa. Each Area has prepared a five-year Conservation Action Plan (CAP) that defines aspirational goals ("In five years time...") and describes objectives and actions for the period. Whilst they are primarily internal documents developed by staff of the Areas to assist their work planning, it is recognised that there may be wider interest in the CAPs.

The plans are ambitious and it is not expected that all objectives would be met within the five year period. Instead the CAPs will assist Area staff to prioritise and maximise conservation benefits using available resources. The CAPs, in PDF format, can be downloaded from our website: www.doc.govt.nz/publications/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/conservation-action-plans-wellington-hawkes-bay/



Development of Conservation Action Plans

The plans were formulated by DOC staff using their knowledge of the region, biodiversity, recreation, community and historic work, and their knowledge of other interest group's aspirations in these areas.

SCORING SYSTEM

A scoring system was created by a group of staff to provide a method of comparing actions across the wide range of work areas undertaken. The scoring system has been affectionately called "comparing apples with oranges" for that reason.

Four different but equitable scoring systems are used to cover biodiversity, community/communication, recreation and historic work. For each of those work areas, the system gives a significance score (how significant

¹ Kapiti Area and Poneke Area merged into a single unit in July 2010 after a CAP had been prepared for each Area. The two CAPs will be used as one and will be combined when they are next formally reviewed.



is the asset), potential loss score (what will be lost if no action is taken) and potential gain score (what outcome would we expect if work was done). Other aspects such as urgency, timeframe for investment and benefit, achievability, synergy and value to the public are also included. The system provides for a maximum aggregate score of 100. For the purpose of the printed CAP document, each action was rated high (H), medium (M) or low (L) based on the score it received.

Finally, an overriding criterion takes into account actions that have a statutory requirement, or high level directive (DOC's Director General or higher). These actions are undertaken as a priority even if they scored low on the scoring system.

ACTION "CODE NUMBERS"

The numbering and lettering used next to each action in the CAP document is a code that identifies individual actions by Area, Zone/Theme and objectives. The purpose of the code numbers is to provide unique identifiers to enable easy identification and comparison of actions across several internal documents (including Area business planning documents). In some internal documents, only the code numbers might be referred to instead of full descriptions of actions.

Review of the Conservation Action Plans

Early during the process it was recognised that the need for new actions may arise after the CAPs have been prepared. Each Area has a process to annually review its CAP to ensure any new actions have been added, and to celebrate the completion of actions. New actions will be incorporated into the prioritisation, and ultimately the annual Area business plan if they are high priority.