

# NELSON CITY BIODIVERSITY TERRESTRIAL ACTION PLAN 2013

This Action Plan is one of three that set out the priority actions of the Partners in the Nelson Biodiversity Forum. The Action Plan functions under the umbrella of the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy and provides more detail on the coastal and marine environment. The numbering and cross referencing in the Action Plan reflects that in the Strategy.

**Links**

Delivers run off, nutrients sediment and recharge, contaminants and shade to freshwater environment.

Upstream catchment of marine ecosystems.

Shares upland hill country ecosystems with Marlborough and both hill and lowland hill country, alluvial and riparian, and coastal ecosystems with Tasman.

**VISION for next 50 Years**

Native terrestrial vegetation cover and fauna are restored to at least 10% of their pre-human extent in the lowlands, and the extent and condition of native cover is improved in the upland hill country. The ecological health of existing remnants is sustained or enhanced, and functioning examples of the full range of natural ecosystems are restored. Exotic biodiversity that contributes positively to the character and heritage of Nelson, is important for its economic or cultural contribution, or helps sustain native biodiversity is fostered. The ecosystem services provided by land based ecosystems are sustained, wisely used and valued.

The community protects and enhances terrestrial habitat to eliminate degradation and modification harmful to native biodiversity. Ecological corridors of vegetation linking the hills with the coast are restored and/or reinstated. Community participation and education is encouraged and professional/industry best practice is followed and applauded. The biodiversity valued by tangata whenua iwi is restored and enhanced. Access to native plant and animal resources is improved by acting on management and kaitiaki roles defined in the *Nga Taonga Tuku Iho Ki Whakatu* Iwi Management Plan. Nationally and regionally threatened species are sustained or enhanced in the terrestrial environment, including through reintroductions into the predator-free Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Pest animals and weeds are eradicated or managed. Significant biodiversity resources in the terrestrial environment are legally protected from activities, uses and developments that threaten species and habitats. Ongoing monitoring occurs to assess progress and regular information is provided on this data to the community.

**In setting priorities for action the Partners take into account:**

1. **Biodiversity value** of assets.
2. **Capacity of actions** to halt decline or restore biodiversity value.
3. **Cost.**
4. **Risk** that the action might fail, or might produce unintended adverse consequences.
5. **Synergies** between the work of partners.
6. **Contribution** to other ecosystems.
7. **Capacity to create community awareness and commitment.**
8. **Bottleneck resolving actions** where one action opens up opportunity for many parties.
9. **Existing community action** where institutional support can build on what is already happening.

These principles also apply to establishing priorities between actions in the three Biodiversity Action Plans.

**Priority Joint Action on Terrestrial Ecosystems & Habitat**

16. Protect and restore existing alluvial, riparian and coastal ecosystems of the Maitai Valley and the urban area of the city<sup>1</sup>. (Lead: Nelson City Council). Links to 10, 12, 14, 20, 22, 23, 31, 32, 34.

17. Protect and restore existing alluvial, riparian and coastal ecosystems of Whakapuaka Valley and Delaware Bay including Paremata Flats<sup>2</sup>. (Lead: Forest and Bird). Links to 14, 20, 31, 32, 34.

18. Supporting the flagship Brook Waimarama Sanctuary restoration. (Lead: Brook Waimarama Sanctuary). Links to 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34.

19. Protect and restore existing alluvial, riparian and coastal ecosystems of Whangamoia Valley including the Kokorua dune complex<sup>3</sup>. (Lead: Department of Conservation). Links to 14, 20, 23, 31, 32, 34.

20. Implement high value, low risk opportunities for restoration, particularly on land where the results will be legally protected and where public land is gained as part of land-use intensification. (Lead: Nelson City Council). Links to 10, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 32, 34.

21. Integrated upland pest and weed management programmes for the publicly owned uplands with predominantly native cover including the nationally rare mineral belt ecosystem integrated between NCC and DOC with links to forestry company programmes to ensure overall natural character of these areas is sustained. (Lead: Department of Conservation). Links to 21, 32, 34.

**Priority Joint Action on Terrestrial Species**

22. Increase the range and security of the umbrella species of the locally rare and iconic lowland totara and fernbird. (Lead: Forest and Bird). Links to 20, 23, 31, 32, 34.

**Priority Joint Action on Terrestrial Leadership, Community Knowledge and Activity**

23. Develop and implement plans to enhance the City with continuous strips of vegetation (biodiversity corridors) across the urban environment linking the hills to the coast. (Lead: Nelson City Council). Links to 7, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 32, 34.

**Priority Joint Action on Terrestrial Research & Monitoring**

The Partners have agreed to report annually about biodiversity on all remnants existing alluvial, riparian and coastal forest on:

- a) The state of the site including the state of its surroundings.
- b) Work done over the year.
- c) Issues at the site including those arising from its surroundings.
- d) Opportunities at the site. (Lead: Nelson City Council).

<sup>1</sup> Haven and Maitai Catchments - Integrating restoration of indigenous biodiversity in Nelson's largest, most populated catchment focusing on creating linking strips of vegetation along waterways both for indigenous biodiversity value and for reducing peak temperatures in waterways, remedial action on culverts and other action to restore fish passage including targeted restoration of the lower Brook Stream, predator control for eventual re-introduction of blue duck, and threatened species programmes focusing on lowland totara and kereru.

<sup>2</sup> Whakapuaka Catchment Restoration - Capitalise on highest restoration opportunities in Nelson associated with remnant vegetation and active community through replanting, restoration and predator control, riparian margins restoration and land use controls and threatened species programmes focusing on long-tailed bats and green gecko.

<sup>3</sup> Whangamoia Maintenance and Improvement - Maintain and enhance these catchments as the least modified sequence and range of indigenous ecosystems in Nelson through improved landowner assistance and outreach assisting community action, possible land purchases and land use controls and threatened species programmes focusing on long-tailed bats and green gecko.