



The Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-25



bio**diversity**
Hawke's Bay

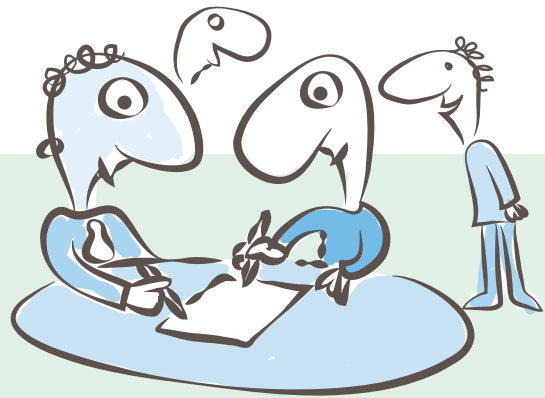
Taiao Ora, Tangata Ora
Working Together for Better Biodiversity

Introduction

In November 2017, a three-year Action Plan was agreed upon for “putting our (Hawke’s Bay Biodiversity) Strategy into action”. That period is now passed and, with a new Strategy Stewardship Group (SSG) invested in July 2021, it is now time to develop an updated Action Plan that describes the next steps to achieving the vision of the Hawke’s Bay Biodiversity Strategy (the Strategy).

It is important to note that this Action Plan is a plan for the Hawke’s Bay community to collectively achieve the Hawke’s Bay Biodiversity Strategy and must reflect the aspirations of our region’s communities. It is not an operational plan for the Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay organisation. However, Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay has a key role in facilitating and bringing together the many organisations, groups and individuals that are doing good work to ensure our regional biodiversity is enhanced, healthy and functioning.

This updated Action Plan (2021-25) continues activities from the previous Action Plan where further activity is required and where continuation makes sense. It also describes new activities or ways of working, recognising the need for more action through greater engagement, collaboration, and support. Lastly, it seeks to provide a cohesive set of interdependent actions, in that they mutually support achievement of the impact we seek.

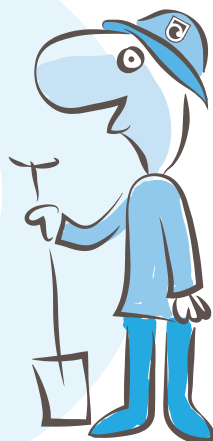


To inform the Action Plan 2021-25, feedback received during the review process can be summarised into four key areas:

- **Hub of information / networks / forums / coordination / collaboration / success**
- **Strong partnerships, engagement across all audiences, particularly Māori**
- **Corridors of biodiversity**
- **Documentation, assessment and management of land use and priority sites.**

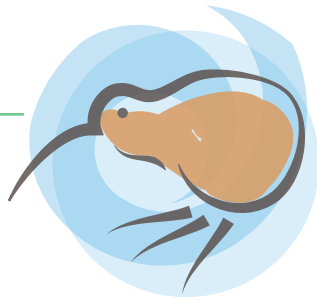
Our Vision

Working together, Hawke’s Bay’s biodiversity is enhanced, healthy and functioning.



Who inhabit Hawke's Bay's fast flowing rivers but are vulnerable to predators

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Objectives 1 and 2: Native habitats and species

- We will sustain, protect, and improve native habitats and the ecosystem services they provide
- We will sustain, protect, and improve populations of native species

These actions seek to sustain, protect, and improve native habitats and species by identifying key ecosystems, targeting species for protection and restoration and specifying an associated programme of work to achieve this. In 2021-2025, we will continue the work outlined from last Action Plan – ecosystem mapping and prioritisation.

- **Action 1.1** Ground-truth ecosystem prioritisation sites, identified by Zonation, to confirm they are sites of high biodiversity value.
- **Action 1.2** Make the ecosystem prioritisation layer publicly available to help facilitate and encourage partnerships to protect and enhance key habitat.

2025 vision: At least 25 ecosystem prioritisation sites are under active management. A wide diversity of people and organisations are leading the majority of the implementation actions. Achievement of goals and impact is clear because the management plans developed for each site describe clearly what is required.



Objective 3: Integrating Māori values

- We will recognise indigenous biodiversity as a taonga to be protected for future generations

To enhance mauri and restore mana we need active partnerships between iwi/hapu and other organisations and community members that increase the impact of biodiversity actions, initiatives, and projects.

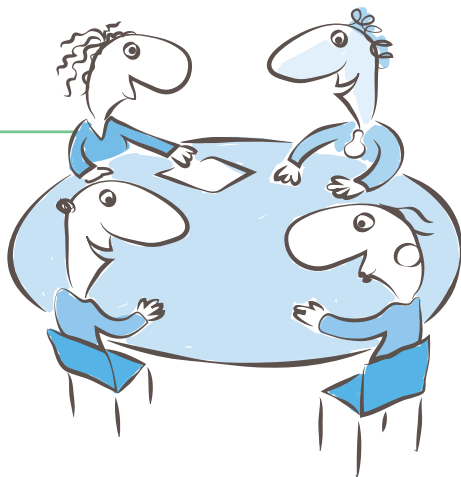
During 2021-25 we will define a way forward for establishing active, valued partnerships, and commence initial, priority projects.

- **Action 3.1** Mana whenua define what the partnerships should involve (reflecting Māori aspirations and perspectives), and what knowledge (e.g. mātauranga and tikanga Māori) is required to establish and work within these partnerships.
- **Action 3.2** Support initial partnerships that address key taonga sites, habitats, or species; develop and implement management plans that cover Māori management practices and success criteria, indigenous statutory protections, and legal obligations.

2025 vision: Mātauranga and tikanga Māori are incorporated into management plans for priority habitats and species. Whānau, hapū and iwi are engaged in delivery of existing programmes to sustain, protect and improve taonga habitats and species, and initiating new projects.

Note: the numbering of Actions in this document aligns with the numbering of the Objectives within the Strategy document; this varies from the previous Action Plan, in which Objectives 1 and 2 were combined to arrive at four objectives and similarly numbered Actions.

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Objective 4: Partnerships

- We will collaborate effectively, align programmes, and share responsibilities to achieve biodiversity outcomes.

This objective seeks to maximise the scale and impact of our actions through effective collaboration, aligned programmes, and shared responsibilities to achieve biodiversity outcomes.

- **Action 4.1** Agree a way of coordinating efforts across Hawke's Bay Regional Council, local territorial authorities (councils), Department of Conservation, and other agencies, and use this as a shared template across all the agency workplans.
- **Action 4.2** Establish sustainable and sustained funding sources for the Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Hub, and for assisting landowners to support their biodiversity and conservation efforts on private land.

2025 vision: We collectively know how our actions are contributing to the big picture. Greater impact is being achieved from the actions, as evidenced by species population surveys and habitat richness measures.



Objective 5: Community

- We will support education, engagement, care for the environment 'kaitiakitanga' and actively connect our community through biodiversity programmes.

The scale of progress envisioned by the Strategy requires much more action from Hawke's Bay community members, who are appropriately engaged, skilled, knowledgeable, and supported to care for the environment.

- **Action 5.1** Grow the Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Hub as a one-stop-shop for information, coordination, networking, and links to expertise and education.
- **Action 5.2** Develop education opportunities that will equip community members and workforce with relevant skills.
- **Action 5.3** Celebrate success as a way of building momentum and commitment to the environment.

2025 vision: Many more people engaged at all levels of the biodiversity activity spectrum (from highly skilled experts to those contributing another willing set of hands). People have appropriate knowledge and skills to protect and enhance biodiversity in Hawke's Bay. Biodiversity protection and enhancement is recognised as being an important aspect of living and doing

Introducing Biodiversity Hawke's Bay

Formally established in 2018, Biodiversity Hawke's Bay is a regional community-led 'for purpose' organisation established to work with, and on behalf of, the community to deliver on the objectives of the collectively owned Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2050 (the Strategy).

Our small team of three is led by a Strategy Stewardship Group, a committed and passionate group of volunteers headed by Bruce Wills ONZM, a well-known and respected conservationist farmer. We work alongside our sibling organisation, the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Trust, who are building an endowment fund to be used to fund biodiversity projects across the Hawke's Bay region in the future.

Enhancing and restoring indigenous biodiversity in Hawke's Bay requires a multi-stakeholder approach, and Biodiversity Hawke's Bay is best placed to

work across the variety of stakeholders, connecting people and projects to enable a coordinated community approach. We are positioned to be able to remove barriers for people and groups wanting to 'do the doing' by taking care of the administration and financial management associated with undertaking projects. We are also able to assist with many project functions, such as scoping a project and applying for funds, and our large network of contacts enables us to connect community groups with the expertise or information they may need.

We help organisations – big and small – across Hawke's Bay working towards improved biodiversity for the region. Our support is intended to help community groups be more effective, more productive and achieve greater impact.

Planting wānanga at Waitangi, led by Te Wai Mauri Trust.



