

# NELSON CITY BIODIVERSITY TERRESTRIAL ACTION PLAN 2009

## Links

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

Upstream catchment of marine ecosystems.

Shares hill country ecosystems with Marlborough and both hill and lowland ecosystems with Tasman.

## VISION for next 50 Years

Nelson's terrestrial ecosystems have native cover and animal species restored to 10% of the environment in the lowlands and extent of native cover is enhanced in the hill country. The ecological health of existing remnants is sustained 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 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. Threatened species are sustained in the terrestrial environment. Pest animals and weeds are eradicated and/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 of the Biodiversity Partners on the Terrestrial Ecosystems & Habitat

The Partners have agreed to give priority to protecting and restoring existing alluvial, riparian and coastal ecosystems and to do this through focus on three action areas: Whangamoia Valley<sup>1</sup>, Whakapuaka Valley and Delaware Bay<sup>2</sup>, the Maitai Valley and the urban area of the city<sup>3</sup>.

The Partners have agreed to **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.

The Partners have agreed to developing the infrastructure and systems to enable **reliable eco-sourcing** of indigenous plants for restoration planting.

## Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Terrestrial Species

The Partners have agreed that action will focus on increasing range and security of the umbrella species of the locally rare and iconic lowland totara and kereru and the indicator species of green gecko and long tailed bats.

## Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Terrestrial Leadership, Community Knowledge and Activity

The Partners have agreed to 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.

The Partners have agreed to develop and implement plans to enhance the City with continuous strips of native and appropriate exotic vegetation across the urban environment linking the hills to the coast.

## Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Terrestrial Research & Monitoring

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

1. The state of the site including the state of its surroundings.
2. Work done over the year.
3. Issues at the site including those arising from its surroundings.
4. Opportunities at the site.

<sup>1</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.

<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> **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 totara and kereru.

