

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NATURE



Nature is our greatest treasure.

Introduction

Nature is our greatest treasure. Every day New Zealanders are physically, emotionally and economically enriched by the natural environment in which we live. Protecting and restoring this taonga is a profoundly important responsibility for us all. We love our natural environment for its intrinsic value. We believe we must leave a healthier more resilient natural world as the foundation for our society, our children and future generations.

Since 1923 Forest & Bird has been New Zealand's independent voice for nature. Over generations we've helped make New Zealand a better place to live by standing with communities to protect forests, lakes and rivers from destruction, campaigning to create marine reserves and eco-sanctuaries and working to save threatened species.

Developed with input from members, supporters and experts, this Strategic Plan looks ahead five, ten and twenty five years and identifies conservation goals that will protect and restore nature in New Zealand. Working with individuals and communities we will achieve our vision of a future where ecological resilience is at the heart of everything we do.

We are over 70,000 New Zealand members and supporters. We stand up for nature and we are honoured to hold and nurture this legacy now and for the future.

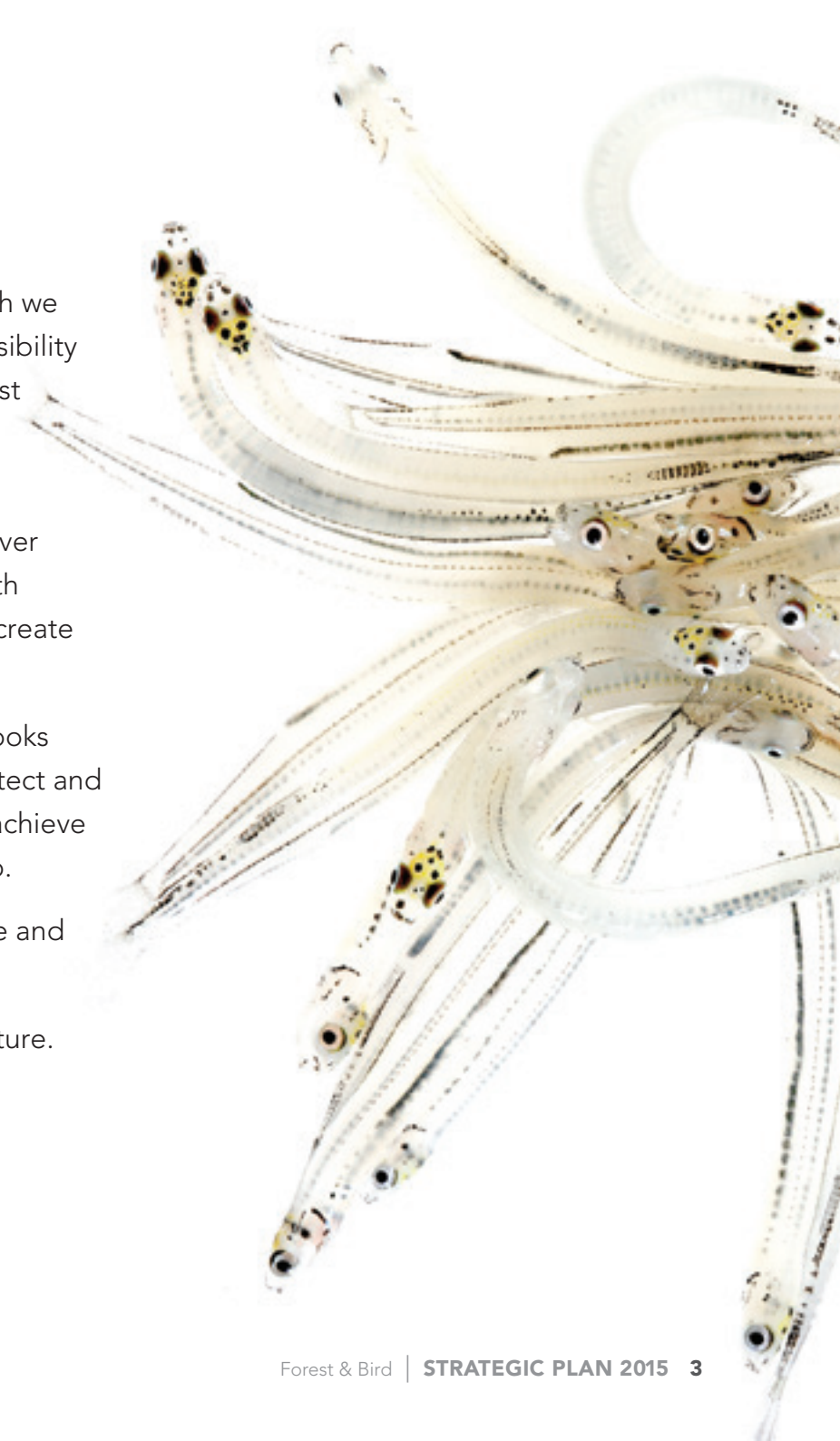
Thank you for helping us to achieve our goals and deliver this Strategic Plan for nature.



Hōne McGregor
Chief Executive, Forest & Bird



Andrew Cutler
President, Forest & Bird



VISION

Aotearoa/New Zealand – where ecological resilience is at the heart of everything we do.

MISSION

To protect and restore nature in Aotearoa/New Zealand.



Principles – how we work

- We are committed to making a positive difference.
- We are active volunteers, doing conservation in our communities.
- We are advocates for indigenous biodiversity.
- We are raising awareness and educating for the future.
- We are financially and politically independent.
- We work in partnership with tangata whenua.
- We work in partnership with others nationally and internationally.
- We work to protect indigenous migratory species, in New Zealand and beyond.
- We are committed to continuously improving our work.
- We combine the best of volunteers and professionals.

Our priorities

Conservation – our priorities include:

- Acting on the defining issue of climate disruption and building resilience in our ecosystems.
- Restoring our oceans to health and growing populations of all indigenous marine life.
- Restoring nature in towns and cities in partnership with communities.
- Securing large-scale landscapes to build resilience to climate disruption, remove plant and animal pests, and provide habitat for threatened species.
- Building a strong government commitment to conservation.
- Achieving large-scale pest and weed control, eradicating key predators from New Zealand.
- Protecting and restoring rivers and freshwater ecosystems.
- Integrating local, regional and national campaigns.
- Nurturing tomorrow's conservationists.

Organisation – our priorities include:

- Building an intergenerational and inclusive Society.
- Providing leadership and vision for conservation.
- Being collaborative in how we work.
- Having effective communications, training, systems and support for members and branches.
- Building on our strengths and valuing our diversity
- Being financially strong.
- Being an independent voice.



CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

1 Safe climate and resilient economy

1.1 Climate policy and climate disruption

In coming years, the effects of climate disruption will be a critical threat to New Zealand's indigenous species and ecosystems. Forest & Bird is committed to policies and actions that will reduce climate-damaging emissions and build resilience in ecosystems and economy.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, New Zealand has reduced gross greenhouse gas emissions by 70% or more from the 1990 baseline, is carbon neutral, and has measures in place that increase biodiversity resilience and ensure against climate disruption.

1.1.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. New Zealand has introduced measures to reduce emissions, including a strong mechanism for pricing carbon that is independently overseen and linked to a national carbon budget.
- II. Forest & Bird is leading work on practical methods for providing biodiversity resilience to climate disruption.
- III. Climate response and resilience measures have been strengthened in both terrestrial and marine resource management legislation.
- IV. Carbon sequestration through the maintenance of healthy indigenous ecosystems and pest control is integral to New Zealand's climate change response.

1.1.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. New Zealand gross greenhouse gas emissions are declining year on year.



1.2 An ecologically resilient and sustainable economy

→ Long-term outcome:

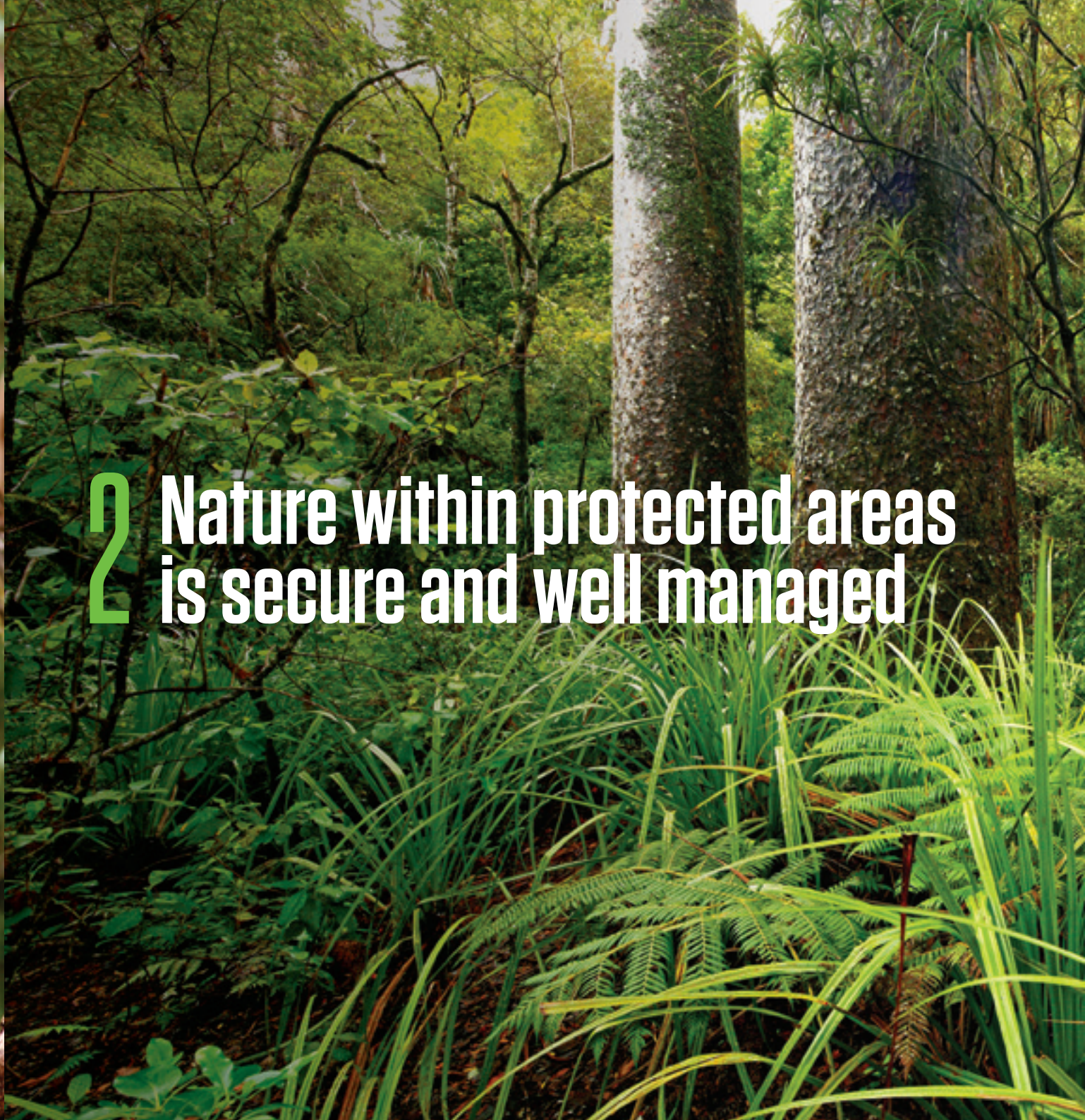
By 2040, New Zealand primary industries are protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

1.2.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Forest & Bird is a champion of ecologically sustainable practices in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other primary industries.
- II. Fisheries bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals is significantly reduced so that threatened species declines are either reversed or halted. Forest & Bird successfully advocates for independent, regular, robust reporting on the state of our environment that accurately measures progress.

1.2.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. Fisheries bycatch is negligible, and ocean protection is secured by establishing a comprehensive marine protected area network, including reserves, around New Zealand.
- II. The "social licence" to pollute or destroy nature is removed.
- III. Environmental costs are taken into account in all decision-making on resource use.



 **Nature within protected areas
is secure and well managed**



Significant achievements have been made in creating and expanding publicly protected areas on land and at sea. To ensure that our protected areas are resilient and healthy, we must extend pest and weed control, increase protection in the marine environment and in areas of high conservation value on land, prevent exploitation, prevent encroachment and poor management of protected areas and ensure that management of threatened species and their habitats is effective.

2.1 A Predator-free New Zealand

Introduced predators and weeds are an immediate threat to New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. Improving technology and knowledge is creating the opportunity to substantially reduce or eliminate this threat across large-scale landscapes. Forest & Bird will advocate to extend effective pest control and work towards the goal of a (introduced) predator-free New Zealand.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, introduced rodents, mustelids and possums have been eradicated from all of New Zealand, and conservation land is secure from all significant pest and weed threats.

2.1.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Initial planning for how New Zealand will become predator free is completed.
- II. Forest & Bird supports best practice pest & weed control.
- III. Forest & Bird has successfully advocated for increasing the area of DOC aerial pest and predator control by 100,000 ha every year.

2.1.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. Rakiura/Stewart Island is predator free.
- II. Planning is well advanced for a major mainland peninsula to be predator free.



2.2 Conservation land is secure and well managed

➔ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, existing conservation land is secure and well managed against threats.

2.2.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Forest & Bird has successfully advocated for Conservation Management Strategies and National Park Management Plans that have rigorous protections of native flora and fauna, and their habitats and natural features.

2.2.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. All conservation land has effective ecological management.
- II. Consistent application of conservation legislation and management strategies and plans has stopped inappropriate activities or developments on conservation land.

2.3 Greater protection of high conservation value terrestrial habitats

Many areas of high conservation value remain outside of public conservation land. Forest & Bird will advocate for areas of high conservation value to be included as public conservation land and for the appropriate reclassification of areas currently in the stewardship category.

➔ Long-term outcome:

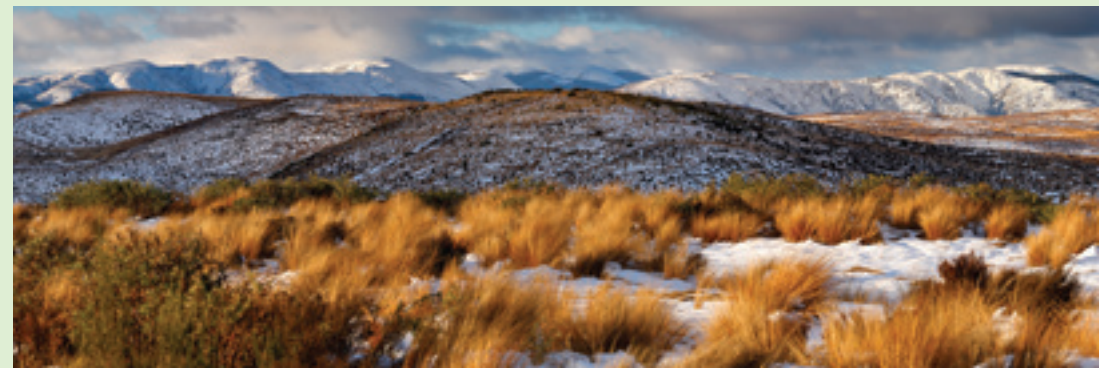
By 2040, protected areas on land have been expanded to ensure that the full range of New Zealand's natural heritage is secure and well managed.

2.3.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Three large areas of South Island stewardship land have been identified and reclassified into a higher protective status.
- II. Significant under-represented terrestrial ecosystems are identified and priority areas protected.
- III. Important Bird Areas for New Zealand have been identified to assist with identifying priority areas for highest protective status.

2.3.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. All high-value conservation lands in the stewardship land category have been reviewed and appropriately reclassified.
- II. Significant under-represented terrestrial areas have been protected.
- III. Important Bird Areas on stewardship land have been reclassified and sites upgraded to a more appropriate conservation status.



2.4 Greater protection of high conservation value marine habitats

New Zealand's marine environment is under significant pressure from economic and recreational use, pollution and bycatch. Forest & Bird will work to create a meaningful network of marine protected areas and reduce the harm from unsustainable use.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, our oceans are healthy and marine biodiversity is recovering.

2.4.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Comprehensive legislation for Marine Protected Areas, establishing adequate processes and protection, has been passed.
- II. Forest & Bird has successfully advocated for a networked approach to marine protection.
- III. Important Bird Areas for Seabirds are used as a tool to advocate within national, regional and local planning processes.

2.4.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. A comprehensive and representative network of marine protected areas with ecological integrity has been established over at least 30% of New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone.
- II. All economic activity in the marine environment is sustainable and does not compromise marine protection.
- III. All marine protected areas are well managed and protected against threats.



2.5 Effective management of threatened species

Many species, on land and at sea, remain threatened with extinction. Forest & Bird will work to move beyond 'triage' conservation to meaningful protection of habitats and recovery of threatened species.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, all species loss has been halted, threatened species are recovering and their habitats are protected.

2.5.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. The Wildlife Act has been reviewed and strengthened to bring it into line with good international models, including integrating species protection with protection of their habitat.
- II. Key threatened species have recovery plans in place.
- III. Important Bird Areas for New Zealand have been identified to help prioritise areas for protection.

2.5.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. All significant threatened species are covered by a species recovery plan or programme.
- II. All Important Bird Areas for New Zealand have been protected or are being managed to ensure species recovery by 2040.





3 Nature beyond protected areas is secure and well managed



Biodiversity threats are often the most immediate on privately owned land, in the places where we work and live. Increasingly, it's important for our work to design and promote conservation strategies and initiatives for those places.

3.1 Biodiversity protection at the landscape scale

To protect representative and threatened species and habitats, Forest & Bird will seek to create environmental resilience to climate disruption at large landscape scales.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, habitat and species loss has been halted, and biodiversity resilience is enhanced at landscape scales.

3.1.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. There are strong national policies and regional plans for protecting biodiversity.
- II. Work has extended to each region to identify potential landscape-scale opportunities to improve biodiversity resilience and halt biodiversity decline.

3.1.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. At least two major landscape-scale ecological networks have been established in each of the North and South Islands to increase biodiversity resilience and halt biodiversity decline.

3.2 Protecting biodiversity in urban areas

Restoring nature in urban areas benefits biodiversity, communities and people. Forest & Bird will work in, and with, urban communities to restore nature.

→ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, indigenous biodiversity is flourishing in urban areas.

3.2.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Strategic indigenous habitat restoration is under way in at least four major urban communities.

3.2.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. The first mainland urban area is predator free.
- II. At least two urban-scale biodiversity enhancement projects have been established in each island.

3.3 Protecting our freshwater and estuarine habitats

Freshwater and estuarine habitats are among the most threatened ecosystems in New Zealand. Forest & Bird will work with local communities and regional and national groups to protect and restore freshwater and estuarine habitats.

➔ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, all indigenous freshwater and estuarine habitats and species are healthy.

3.3.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. The National Objectives Framework for freshwater quality and quantity is strong enough to protect all freshwater and estuarine habitats.
- II. Forest & Bird has ensured that the revised water quality and quantity standards have been incorporated into regional land and water plans to protect freshwater habitats and species.

3.3.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. The process to protect a comprehensive network of freshwater and estuarine habitats is under way.



3.4 International links

Many of New Zealand's indigenous species migrate through the region and across oceans. Forest & Bird will work with partners in the Pacific and globally to protect and restore the habitats of our indigenous species, wherever they migrate.

➔ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, New Zealand's indigenous species are protected and recovering throughout their migration range.

3.4a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Forest & Bird is establishing international partnerships to strengthen protection for migratory species.
- II. One international project to enhance the protection or habitat of a New Zealand migratory species has been initiated.

3.4.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. Forest & Bird is recognised by international partners as a leading advocate and partner for the protection of New Zealand's migratory species.
- II. Two international projects to enhance the protection or habitat of a New Zealand migratory species are operational.





4 Organisational outcomes

4.1 Effective and united

Forest & Bird will work to build a united and resilient organisation that empowers people and communities to protect nature and build a strong national voice for nature.

➔ Long-term outcome:

By 2040, Forest & Bird is a powerful advocate for protecting our indigenous biodiversity and natural features.

4.1.a Outcomes within five years:

- I. Forest & Bird's membership and supporters are increasing and becoming more representative of New Zealand's population.
- II. Through professional and inspiring KCC and youth programmes, Forest & Bird is connecting more young people with conservation and enabling them to be a voice for nature.
- III. Forest & Bird has developed strong regional networks that enable whole-society campaigns, projects and advocacy.
- IV. Forest & Bird strengthens its capacity to be an effective voice for nature at local, regional and national scales.
- V. Through effective communications, training, systems and support, Forest & Bird is actively developing leaders and empowering branches, members and supporters to achieve conservation outcomes.
- VI. Forest & Bird is financially strong and independent with a broad range of sustainable income sources.
- VII. Forest & Bird is effective and influential in its leadership and collaboration with the community conservation sector.

4.1.b Outcomes within 10 years:

- I. New Zealanders regard Forest & Bird as the leading community-based conservation organisation.
- II. Forest & Bird provides leadership, direction and advice to the conservation community sector.
- III. Forest & Bird's activities are carbon neutral.



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unless otherwise acknowledged.

