Biodiversity in OTAGO







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Deputy Chairperson ORC Chair Policy Committee

- Water Quality Scientist Wellington, Otago Regional Councils 2000-2002
- NZ Landcare Trust Project Coordinator 2002-12
 - ➤ TAIERI Trust
 - Upper Taieri Water Resource Management Group
 - Aorere Catchment Group
 - > Aorere/Rai Project
- Otago Regional Councillor 2004-today
- Resource Management Panels: Commissioner and Chair





What's going on?



- 13 ecological regions
- 39 ecological districts (17 unique to Otago)
- At least 65 active organisations

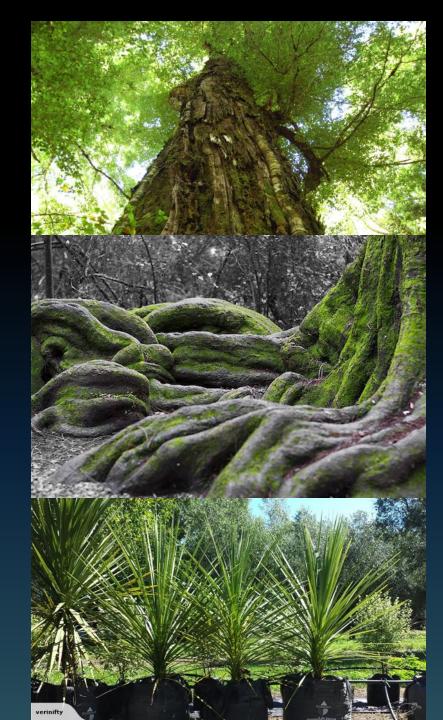
4 Govt Dept, 5 TA's ORC, Approx 50



Growth

Opportunities Otago is Grasping

- Lots of volunteer action
- Widespread societal support
- Willingness to share lessons, skills
- Upskilling
- Paid coordination emerging
- Involvement of experts
- Predator control
- Wilding trees
- Low cost models
- Collaboration
- Action happening now
- Successful large scale models



Pesky Pests

Challenges for Biodiversity Action

- Death by 1000 projects
- Sick of 'strategies'
- 'Oasis' building
- 'Empire' building
- Competition for resources, skills, funding etc
- Reporting/reviewing
- Volunteers and the national treasure chest
- Coordination
 - Collaboration, sharing, learning, gap identification
- Keeping it fun!
- Availability of technical data
 - What have we got and how well are we doing?









ORC's Role

- RMA, RPS, NPS Indigenous Biodiversity
- Community voice



Our Living Treasure | Nga Toaka

- A living document
- Desired outcomes and actions we will take





GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Several principles underpin ORC's biodiversity strategy. These will guide decision making as the strategy is implemented, and will help to ensure it is successful.



CO-LED BY COMMUNITIES

Biodiversity projects are led or co-led by local communities with support from councils and organisations



FOCUS ON ECOSYSTEMS

A holistic ecosystems-based approach is taken to effectively manage biodiversity



PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE

People are conscious of and enjoy biodiversity in their everyday lives



COORDINATED & COLLABORATIVE

Key stakeholders take a coordinated and collaborative approach



VISION AND OUTCOMES FOR BIODIVERSITY





Draft Plan of Action

Leadership and Callaboration

WHAT DOES ORC PROPOSE TO DO?

This is a high-level plan and will be expanded on and added to as the strategy is implemented.



| Leadership and Collaboration 1ASKS | TIME |
|---|------------------|
| Hold a regional biodiversity forum to discuss activities and opportunities and celebrate success | Every two years |
| Partner with city and district councils, Kāi Tahu, DOC, and other organisations on key projects | Project basis |
| Establish regional biodiversity liaison group and Technical Working Party to align and co-ordinate biodiversity projects | Within two years |
| Administer the Environmental Enhancement Fund - an ORC fund that supports groups working to achieve good environmental outcomes | Ongoing |
| Support community groups by promoting their work and providing expert advice and connections | Ongoing |
| Employ a biodiversity coordinator to act as a central point of contact and drive strategy implementation | Within one year |

TACKS TIME





Education and Information Sharing

TASKS TIME

Provide information on biodiversity management, including good management practices for indigenous biodiversity and the importance of ecosystem services.

Ongoing

Support region-wide education programmes, including Enviroschools

Ongoing

Ongoing

Develop and maintain an online portal to:

· Share information and resources on biodiversity

· Provide a forum for discussions within and between communities



Monitoring and Research

TASKS

TIME

Undertake research on key biodiversity matters, including:

· Issues with a high biodiversity risk and insufficient information

· Regional pest management opportunities

· Potential climate change effects and responses

Develop a spatial plan showing biodiversity outcomes sought, values, protected areas, and planned initiatives

Within three years

Undertake residents' surveys on biodiversity outcomes, perceptions and practices

Every five years

Project basis



Regulatory TIME TASKS

Administer and review the Regional Pest Management Plan Ongoing Ensure regional and district plans give effect to the biodiversity outcomes sought in the Regional Policy Ongoing Statement for Otago Manage effects of activities on coastal and freshwater biodiversity through resource consent processes Ongoing Develop indicators to assess the effectiveness of ORC's actions relating to biodiversity and report on these Every five years on a regular basis



What Will We Create?

What does Biodiversity Otago look like?





