



## 7. Analysis of current Biodiversity Management

### **CURRENT MECHANISMS**

District Plan - objectives, policies and rules relating to managing bush, streams, coastal margins and habitats.

Draft Park and Open Space Strategy – objectives, policies, priorities and actions to address biodiversity protection and enhancement on public land.

Voluntary Action – through the Green Network Community Assistance programmes, Project Twin Streams and the many volunteer groups that care for their local environment.

Waitakere Ranges Bill – regulatory and non-regulatory methods for protecting the landscape, biodiversity and heritage values of the Waitakere Ranges and foothills.

### **ANALYSIS OF WCC APPROACH**

#### **Strengths**

- Waitakere is an Eco-city
- Existing staff skills
- Approach taken in the District Plan
- Supportive legislation
- Number and quality of volunteer groups
- Political environment
- Natural resources
  - Waitakere Ranges, streams, west coast, wetlands (Te Henga, Whatipu, Harbourview)

#### **Weaknesses**

- Lack of information on the state of biodiversity in the City, as to whether:

- Decline is increasing, slowing or reversing

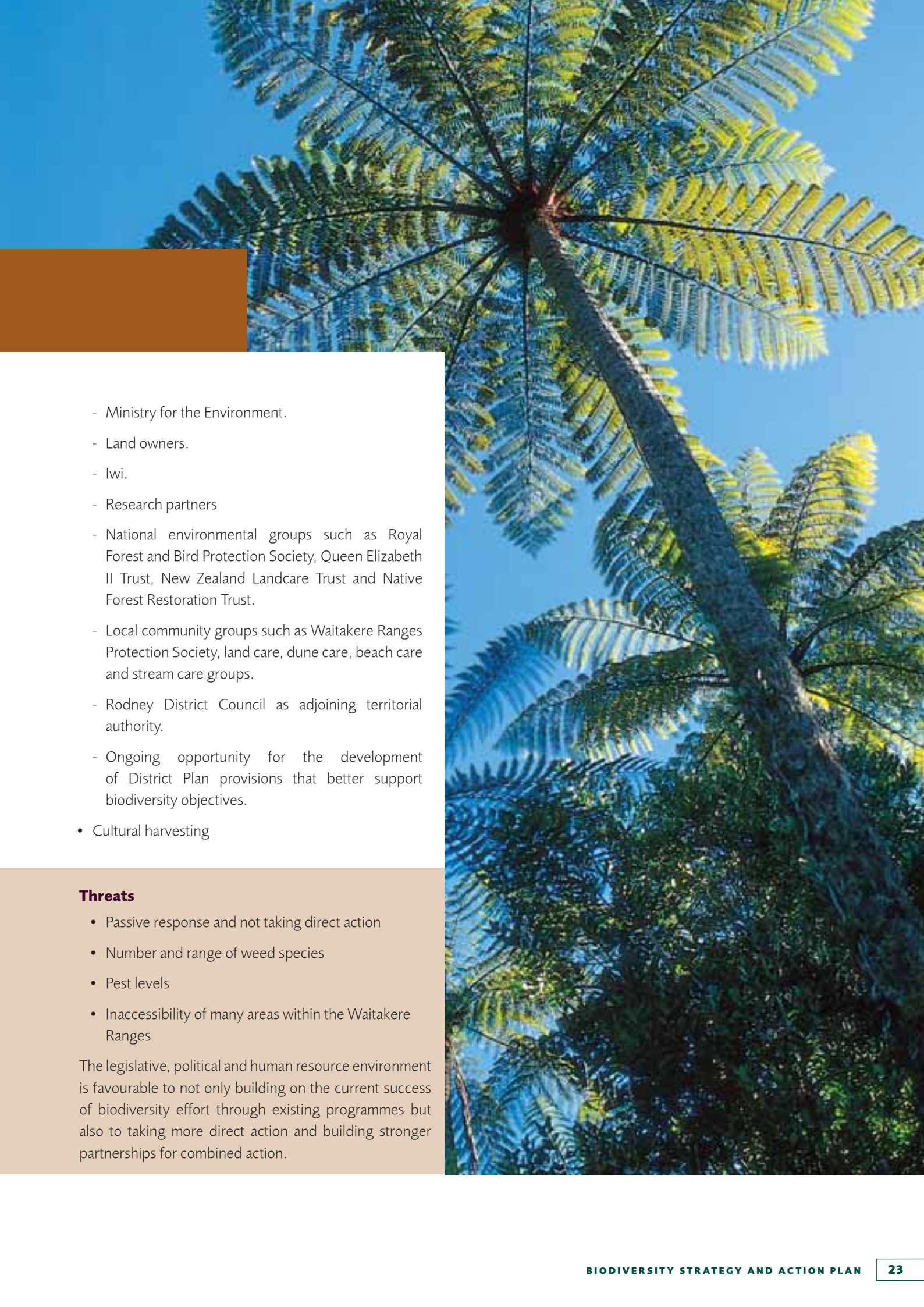
- Lack of knowledge of how successful any programme is, for example:

- Do revegetated sites resemble functioning ecosystems they are intended to reflect?

- Limited resources

#### **Opportunities**

- Forming partnerships with Universities (undergraduate and postgraduate research).
- Forming partnerships with ARC and volunteer groups
- Sharing information
- Co-ordination of biodiversity effort
- Sources of funding for biodiversity management include:
  - Annual Plan projects
  - Green Network Community Assistance
  - ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund
  - Project Bio-Community
  - Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds
- Council's Partners and Potential Partners in Biodiversity Management
  - Auckland Regional Council as land manager for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and regional authority with responsibility for the integrated management of natural and physical resources of the region.
  - Department of Conservation.



- Ministry for the Environment.
  - Land owners.
  - Iwi.
  - Research partners
  - National environmental groups such as Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Queen Elizabeth II Trust, New Zealand Landcare Trust and Native Forest Restoration Trust.
  - Local community groups such as Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, land care, dune care, beach care and stream care groups.
  - Rodney District Council as adjoining territorial authority.
  - Ongoing opportunity for the development of District Plan provisions that better support biodiversity objectives.
- Cultural harvesting

### **Threats**

- Passive response and not taking direct action
- Number and range of weed species
- Pest levels
- Inaccessibility of many areas within the Waitakere Ranges

The legislative, political and human resource environment is favourable to not only building on the current success of biodiversity effort through existing programmes but also to taking more direct action and building stronger partnerships for combined action.