



8. Roles of Agencies in Managing Biodiversity

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Ministry for the Environment advises the Government on New Zealand's environmental laws, policies, standards and guidelines, monitors how they are working in practice, and takes any action needed to improve them. This includes making sure that the Treaty of Waitangi is taken into account in environmental management.

The Ministry works closely with local government, which is responsible for day to day environmental management,

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The Department of Conservation is the central government organisation charged with conserving the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future New Zealanders.

Its mission is "to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future".

The Department manages or administers on behalf of New Zealanders:

- national parks and conservation parks (formerly called forest parks)
- reserves and conservation areas
- protected indigenous forests
- protected inland waters and wild and scenic rivers
- indigenous/native wildlife
- non-commercial freshwater fisheries

- historic places on conservation land
- marine reserves and protecting marine mammals offshore islands set aside for conservation

AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) is responsible for the region's coasts, beaches and natural environment. The role of the ARC is to protect the region's air, soil and water resources from pollution and to ensure their sustainable use as Auckland develops and its population grows.

The ARC is also a major land owner with responsibility for the management of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL

Waitakere City Council is a regulator under the Resource Management Act with responsibility for developing and administering their district plan which must give effect to the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and the Regional Plans for Auckland or any national policy statements (National Coastal Policy Statement).

The Council's regulatory functions in regards to biodiversity are encompassed in the District Plan, and through the management of stormwater infrastructure. Waitakere City Council is also land owner with responsibility for management of a number of reserves under the Reserves Act.



CONSERVATION GROUPS

There are a number of conservation groups that work co-operatively with ARC and Waitakere City Council on park land and private land to maintain ecological systems and biodiversity.

LAND OWNERS

Land owners have responsibility for managing their own land and its resources according to the Waitakere City District Plan.

Iwi

Iwi are kaitiaki with responsibilities to protect the mauri or life force of all things in a way which ensures that the quality of tribal taonga passed on to future generations is protected and enhanced. The role of kaitiaki is based upon manawhenua and rangitiratanga. The traditional owners of an area are the iwi or hapu who hold manawhenua in that area. These people retain kaitiaki responsibilities whether or not land has been sold.

