

Regional Biodiversity Strategy Symposium



A huge thank you from us here at Toi Moana.

To the guest speakers, thanks for sharing your knowledge and providing great inspiration.

To the diverse range of attendees (iwi, hapū, community and environmental groups and organisations) who ensured the workshops provided us with a wide range of views.

Of note was the positive, collaborative attitude of everyone, collating ideas and providing direction for us to be able to further the work on the Strategy.

Strategic Anchors

At the symposium, shared strategic anchors became clear. We think these are useful guiding principles to shape how we partner to develop and deliver the Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

- 1 Partnership – strengthening partnerships and leaning on each other’s strengths
- 2 Interconnectedness – recognising the interconnectedness of people and place
- 3 Collective knowledge – integrating different world views
- 4 Intergenerational stewardship – being mindful of the world we are leaving for future generations

Vision

After sharing the draft vision, everyone had the opportunity to develop their own then as a table create one preferred vision. After discussions, the room then indicated their top choices, and we now have a new vision proposed.

Draft Vision	New Vision
Nature is thriving in the Bay of Plenty, and people are inspired and supported to protect it	Ki uta, ki tai Whakapuāwai te taiao Whakamana te tangata <i>From the maunga to the moana, the taiao is flourishing, the people are empowered</i>

Some gems offered that captured the mood of the room and that may be useful to paint a picture around the vision include:

- Birdsong is deafening from the mountains to the sea.
- We demand action for nature
- What does Papatuanuku (mother earth) need us to do?
- People and nature are connected, thriving and resilient

Strategy Pou (Pou as a pillar or marker of intent) wording

As groups we workshoped and made suggestions on the Pou then took the time to look at the outcomes, leaving actions for the next stage.

The three pou in the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (restoring and protecting, empowering action and getting the system right) were used as a starting point to group our outcomes. Changes have been made to reflect what we heard (see strikeout and underlined new wording in table below) including the addition of a fourth pou (building understanding).

Pou	Summary of themes
Protecting, Restoring <u>and</u> <u>Recreating</u>	• Prioritisation and strategic enhancement • Ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea), corridors • Landscape scale pest management
Empowering ~~action~~ <u>communities</u> <u>as kaitiaki</u>	• Acknowledgment of current effort • Partnerships/alignment • Simple and accessible processes
Getting the system right	• Biodiversity central consideration in resource management • Resourcing/building capability • Right information/Matauranga
<u>Building understanding</u>	• Sharing success stories as a call for action • Value of nature (co-benefits and wellbeing) • The next generation

What we heard on Outcomes (including suggested changes and things to consider for action planning)

An observation: After listening to the discussions and conversations, it is apparent that biodiversity kaitiaki are generally practical and pragmatic, undertaking mahi across the region. This is reflected in the way the outcomes are framed - focusing on the mahi required to get us where we want to be, and how we work together to achieve it, rather than describing what the environment will look like in the future.

Draft Pou/Outcome	Amended based on symposium feedback	Comment/Seeds to inform action planning
Pou: Protecting and Restoring	Protecting, Restoring and Recreating	- Protecting and restoring is not ambitious enough - Not enough recognition of current loss - Restore the Mauri of te Taiao/bring back some of what we have lost
Outcome: A full range of ecosystems, especially our most vulnerable and regionally iconic habitats, are prioritised and actively managed.	Ecosystems inclusive of our most vulnerable and regionally iconic taonga species and habitats are surveyed, understood and prioritised for action.	- Need definitions and/or interpretation. e.g. what do we mean by iconic? Should we use indigenous? - Who prioritises? Be mindful of community/local priorities. - Assumes good knowledge - Need to look forward for threats (e.g. climate change) and be able to adapt - Does regulation have a role here?
Outcome: Other biodiversity sites, species and values are identified for proactive and strategic enhancement.	We know which biodiversity corridors need to be created to support ki uta ki tai (mountains to the sea)	- Species can move between habitats and are able to complete their life cycle - Ecosystems need to be connected - Focus on unique biodiversity ecosystems - Identify other susceptible Mātauranga ecosystems for future proactive strategic enhancement.
Outcome: There is connectivity between ecosystems.	<i>Deleted as not required</i>	- Do we need this outcome? Is interconnectedness covered by other outcomes? If we achieve the other outcomes this will naturally follow. - Connections between people and people and nature might fit under other pou or as guiding principle

Draft Pou/Outcome	Amended based on symposium feedback	Comment/Seeds to inform action planning
Outcome: Indigenous biodiversity is safeguarded through landscape scale pest management and formal protection agreements.	There is landscape-scale pest management supported by working relationships with landholders.	• Replace indigenous biodiversity with Papatūānuku • Pest management is key • Safeguarding isn't enough • Agreements can be threatening • Formal agreements need to be flexible agreements
Pou: Empowering Action	Empowering communities as Kaitiaki	
Outcome: Community, iwi and agencies have shared goals and opportunities for combined effort are identified	Communities are collaborating and complementary and opportunities for aligned effort are identified	• Recognise different groups will have different goals. And that is ok. • Define communities e.g. iwi, agencies, schools, industry etc • We need the community (and various groups within) talking to each other e.g. regular Biodiversity Forum
Outcome: Community-led and landowner action to protect indigenous biodiversity is celebrated, enabled, supported and encouraged.	Community-led and landholder action to protect biodiversity is enabled, supported and encouraged.	• Need regionally/locally reported tracking system to show how to contribute • Question use of landowner. Will they be made to do things? • Incentive for land being used to its best use • See new pou for celebration of success stories
	New Outcome: Communities can easily get involved in biodiversity initiatives through clear, supportive processes that make participation accessible	• Access to resources • Huge focus on education required (see new pou) • Need a lead agency helping and supporting • Remove red tape
Outcome: People are proud of nature in our region and are committed to contributing to its health <i>Moved to new Pou – Building understanding</i>		

Draft Pou/Outcome	Amended based on symposium feedback	Comment/Seeds to inform action planning
Pou: Getting the system right		Some felt this is not a pou while others said it was a priority pou
Outcome: The health of indigenous biodiversity is at the forefront of resource management decisions	Biodiversity is at the forefront of resource management decisions	- Needs a regulation, compliance and enforcement component - Careful with terminology – indigenous biodiversity
Outcome: We have the right information and it is accessible to inform indigenous biodiversity action and management	We have the right information and it is accessible to inform indigenous biodiversity action and management. <i>No change</i>	- Right information includes Mātauranga Māori which is guiding biodiversity management and restoration. - Need information sharing platforms. e.g. online portal - Many don't realise the state of the environment or its threats and pressures. And they might not fully appreciate the interconnectedness of the environment e.g. what happens upstream affect estuarine and coastal ecosystems - Citizen science - Need past, present and future desired state data
Outcome: Strong partnerships and collaboration with those undertaking and leading biodiversity action	Strong partnerships and collaboration with those undertaking and leading biodiversity action <i>No change</i>	- Better communication and co-ordination within and across agencies. - How do we get everyone talking to each other?
Outcome: Funding is secured and prioritised to support and accelerate impactful and long lasting biodiversity outcomes	Sustainable, diversified and prioritised funding, is secured to accelerate impactful and enduring biodiversity outcomes	- Long term funding required - Need diversified funding - Funding to include incentives and innovative co-investment models - Businesses need to invest

Draft Pou/Outcome	Amended based on symposium feedback	Comment/Seeds to inform action planning
	Pou: Building understanding	
Outcome: People are proud of nature in our region and are committed to contributing to its health <i>Moved from Empowering Action pou</i>	People feel part of nature and they understand the health of te taiao underpins community wellbeing <i>Ko au te taiao, ko te taiao ko au (I am the environment and the environment is me)</i>	• Need to understand a healthy environment and access to nature is essential to the wellbeing of people • Biodiversity contributes to our resilience e.g. climate change • Interacting with nature as a part of everyday life
	New Outcome: We celebrate the success of biodiversity action.	• Acknowledge current effort • Branding opportunities • Education campaign to show case exemplar success stories • Sharing platforms
	New Outcome: Participation in biodiversity restoration is growing across the region, with increasing involvement from the next generation	• People do more if they know others are involved. • Must educate all ages • Succession planning

An emerging idea that landed with attendees – Te Whare Tapa Wha

Te Whare Tapa Whā is a model / concept originally used in health and wellbeing. In this instance, the concept was used to describe a whare (house) with four pou (the pillars or markers of intent) supporting the roof (vision statement) and built on the foundation of Te Taiao. Symposium attendees thought this could be an impactful way of illustrating how everything holds together and works together.

[Awaiting Graphic]

Next Steps

We will continue to refine the guiding principles, vision, pou (pillars of intent) and Te Whare Tapa Wha concept. Please feel free to send any feedback on these notes to biodiversity@boprc.govt.nz

Our focus now shifts to actions to deliver what we collectively want to achieve. We will be seeking your input on action planning so please watch this space for how to be involved.