

Biodiversity – Regional Council Perspective



Who we are

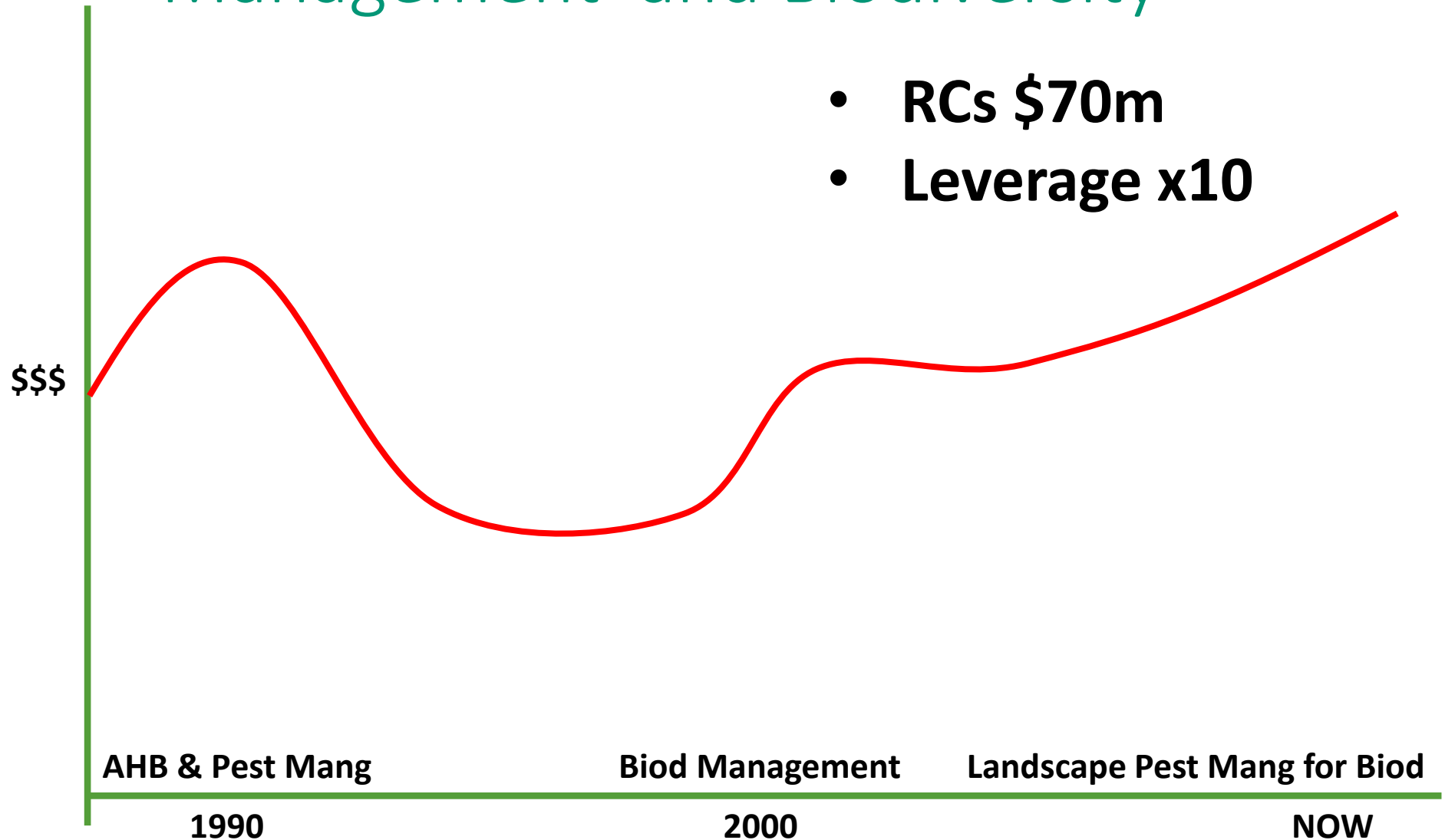
- > Regional Councils are part of local government and have responsibilities for the sustainable use, development and protection of the regions' natural and physical resources.
- > There are 16 Regional/Unitary Councils in New Zealand.

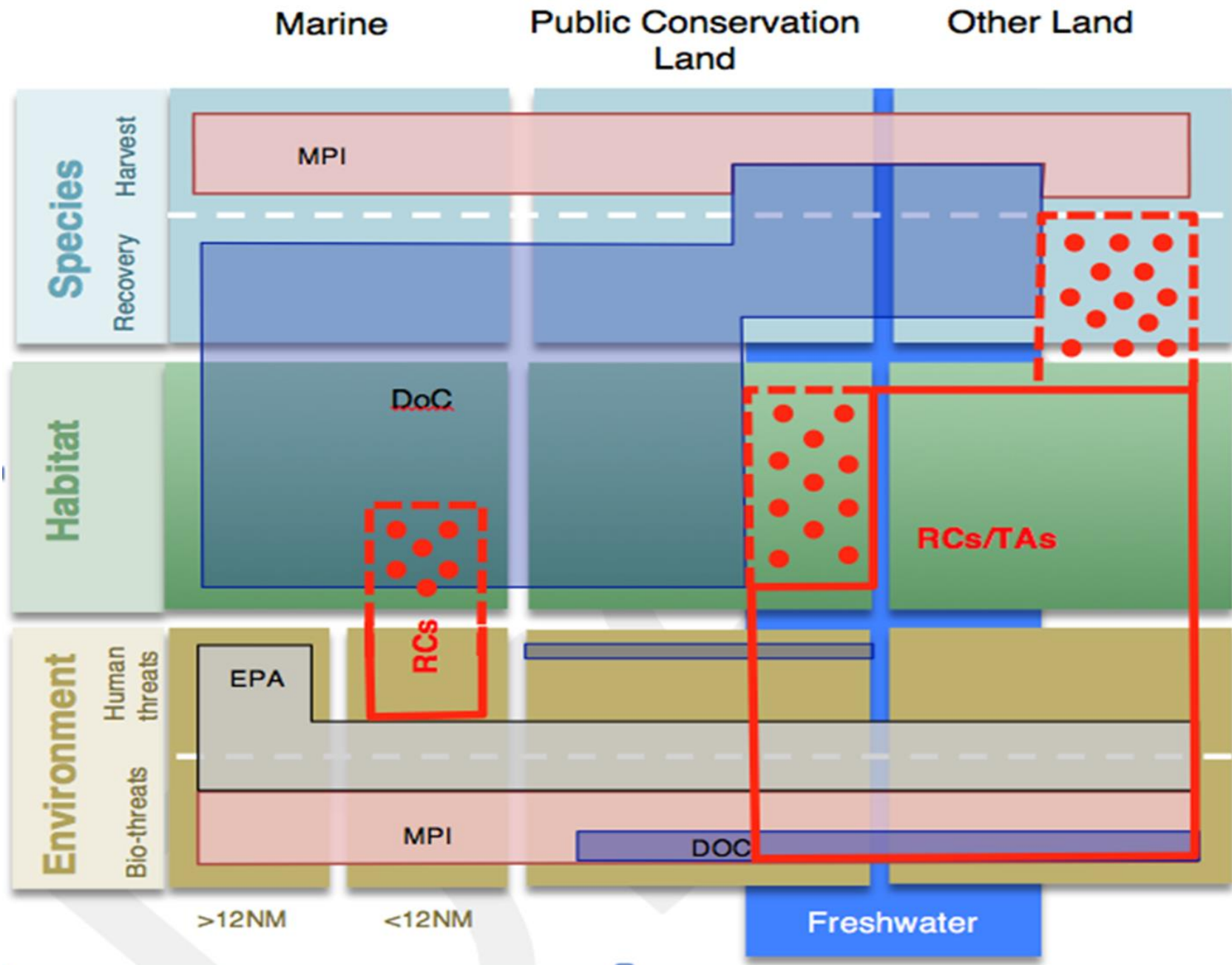


Biodiversity and Biodiversity: an integrated challenge

- > Regional councils and TAs have responsibilities for the sustainable use, development and protection of the regions' natural and physical resources
- > Regional Councils' RMA biodiversity function = **maintain indigenous biodiversity values on private land**
- > Active management is key (pest control, fencing, planting) through work with iwi, communities, landowners
- > Collective spend approx. \$70m per year for RCs

Regional Councils – Pest Management and Biodiversity





NZ's Biodiversity Challenge

The Challenge

Lots good and lots of stuff happening BUT = decline still



What's the problem – multi factorial and multi agency + community



Addressing the Challenge – Key elements

- > Complex and challenging despite good progress in some areas
- > B A U won't reverse decline
- > More active management - more work particularly predator control, but not only intervention (habitat)
- > Needs coordination and prioritisation
 - tenure neutral, much better planned, coordinated and executed – RCs have key role in respect to private land

Regional Councils leading—

Addressing New Zealand's Biodiversity Challenge

A Regional Council thinkpiece on the future of biodiversity management in New Zealand

Thinkpiece



The opportunity – Regional Council Think Piece

Five shifts required:

1. Clear leadership – particularly off public conservation land
2. Leverage regional councils' role to achieve “on the ground action”
3. Better information on the state of NZ's biodiversity
4. Prioritise and direct effort across key players
5. Rethink the legislative framework to achieve coherency

The Challenge – converting ideas into practice

Thinking differently means delivering differently if it is to be real.



National
SCIENCE
Challenges

NEW ZEALAND'S
BIOLOGICAL
HERITAGE

Nga Kōhira
Tuku Iho



Biodiversity Collaborative Group
New Zealand



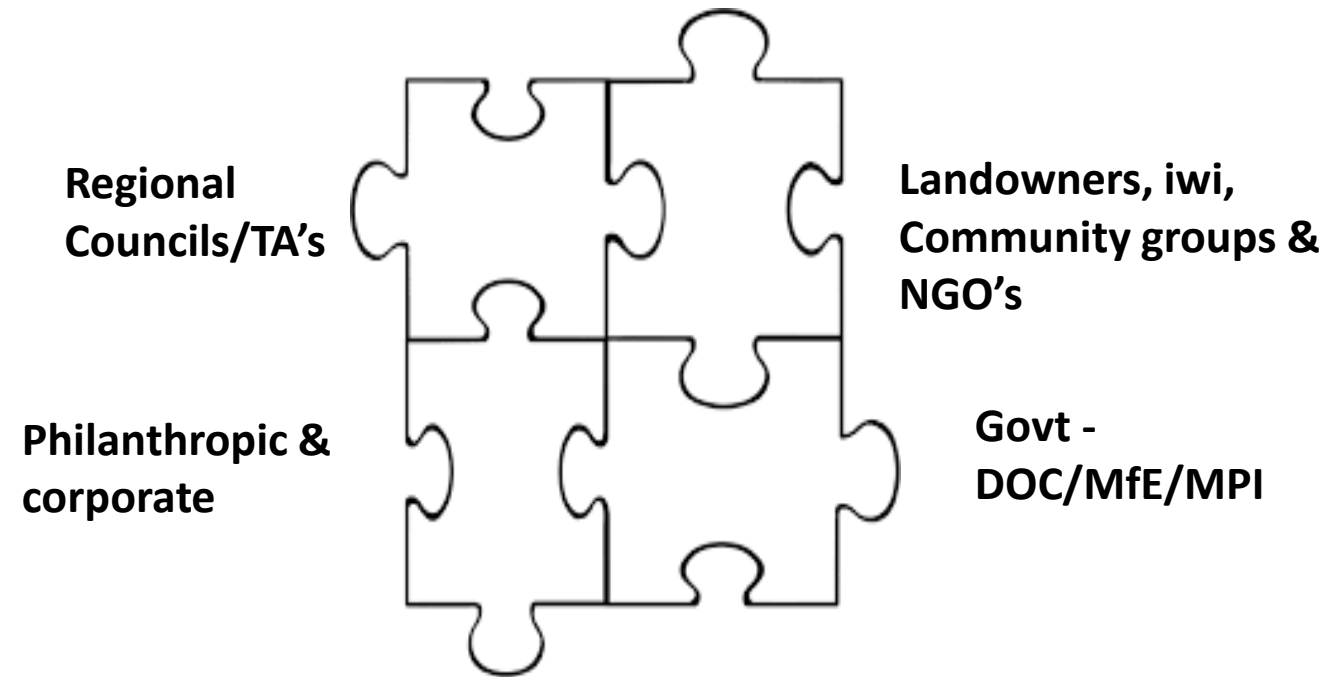
Co-ordination with in a clear framework

Strong alignment with others – PFNZ, Sanctuary NZ:

- > **Leadership** – leadership in conservation need to be clear to avoid confusion and wasted effort.
- > **Strategy** – an overall clear strategy linking the players and making clear what the objectives are and defining everyone's part
- > **Funding** - funding should less messy, more available and aligned with conservation priorities
- > **Outcomes** – the public value of community conservation should be more clearly demonstrable and better linked to extent of ecological contribution made.

Working together

> Lots of talking



The time is right to work together in a smarter way for NZs biodiversity

Conclusions

- > Active management is key to good biodiversity outcomes
- > Need good leadership to direct and prioritise effort and resources
- > Need a plan that covers all players
- > Want to build on the goodwill of the players involved in biodiversity
- > If additional regulation needed to be targeted