



# The Environmental Landscape

## Threats and Opportunities

Raewyn Peart  
Policy Director



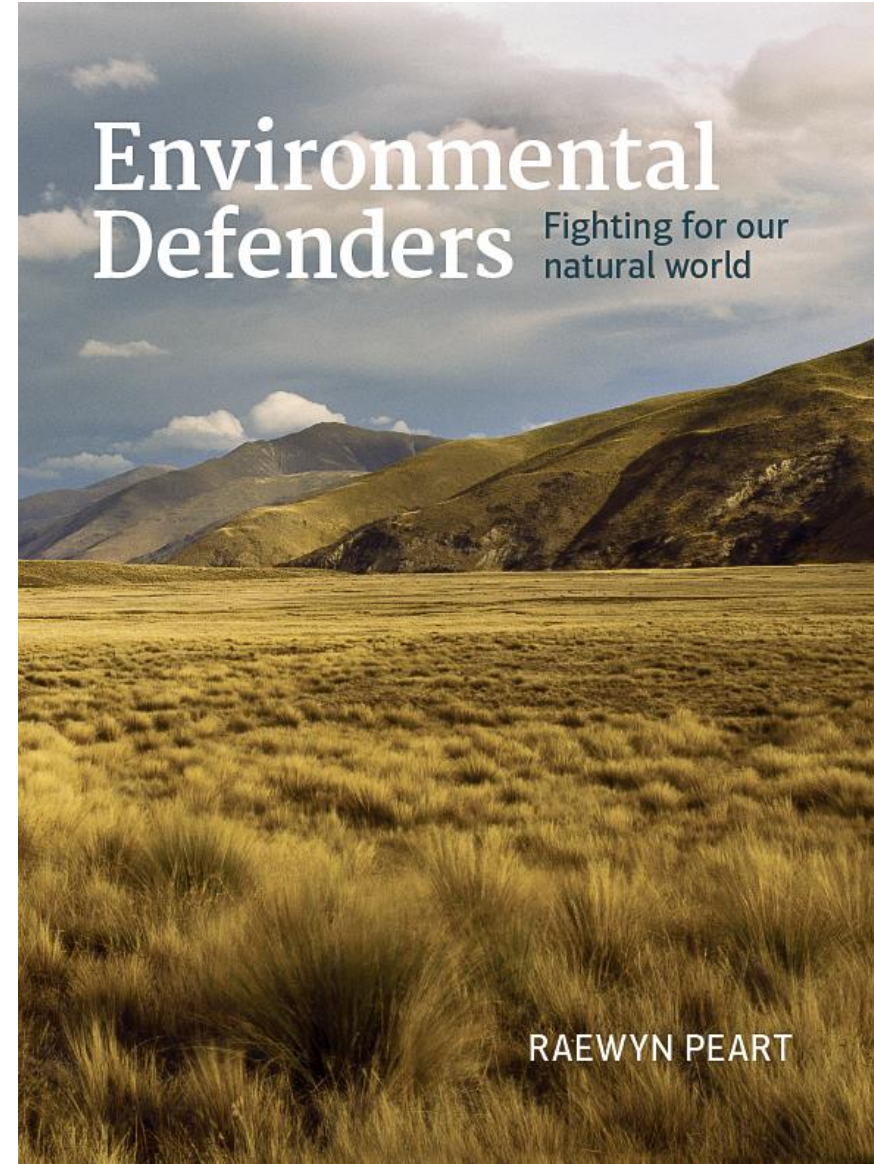
# Introduction to EDS

- Established in 1971
- Professionally based ENGO
- Litigator and Think Tank
- Work within the system and with people

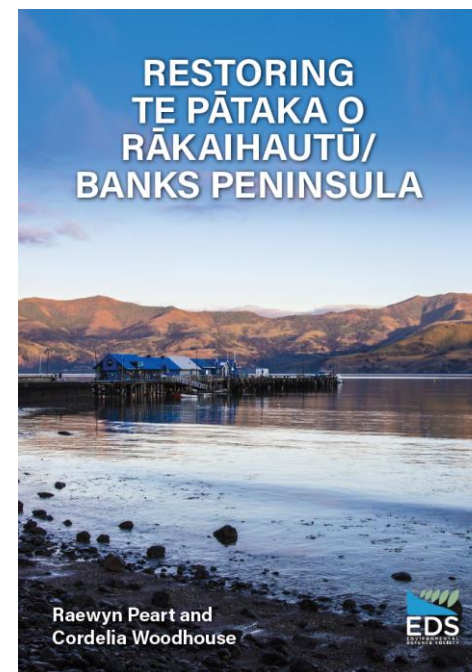
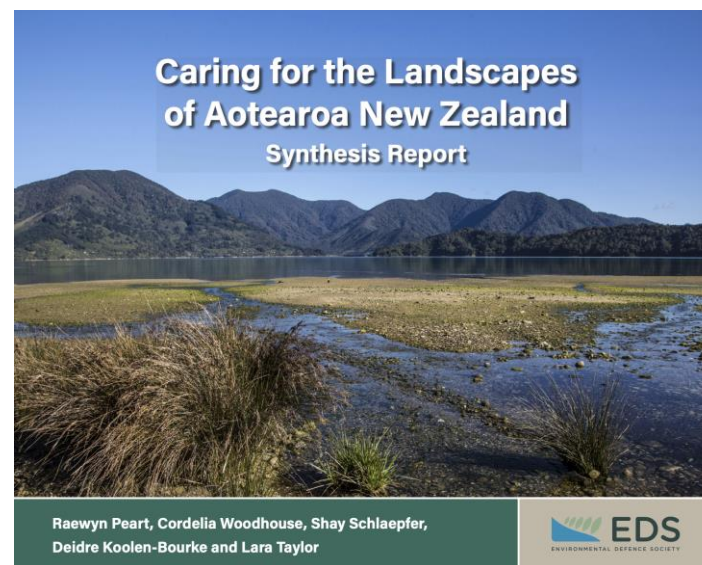
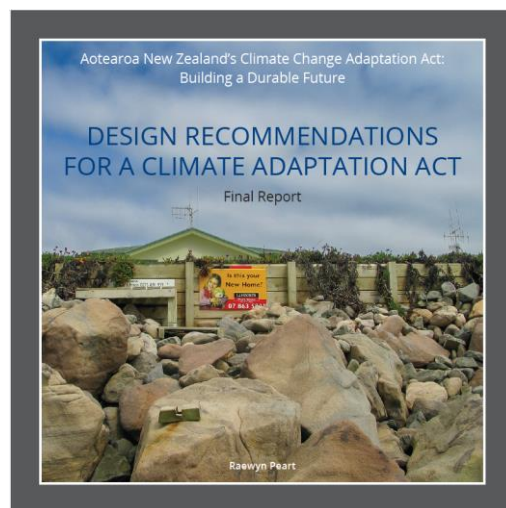
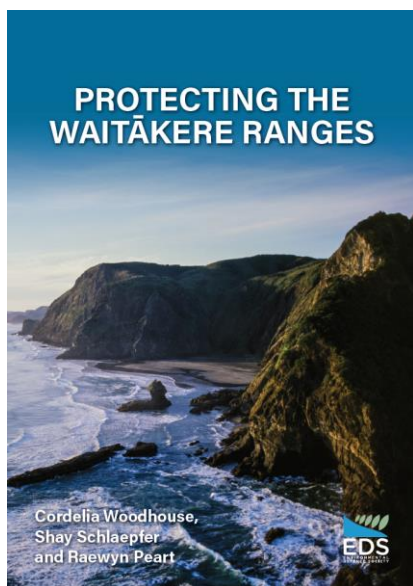
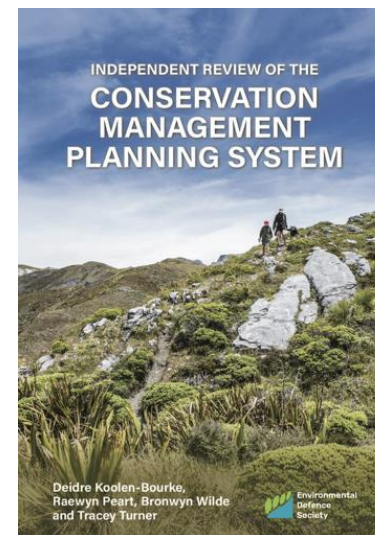
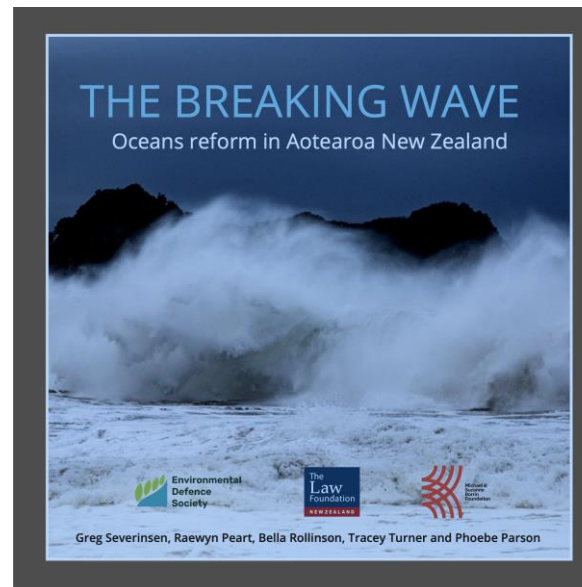
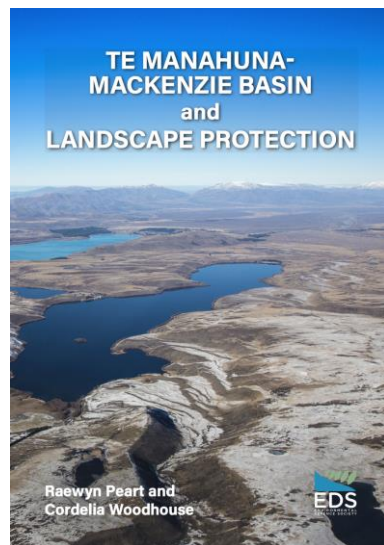


# Lessons from the past 50 years

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# EDS Publications



# The (Policy) Threats

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# Repeal of Natural and Built Environment Act

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- Stronger purpose “to uphold te Oranga o te Taiao” (health of the natural environment)
- Environmental limits
- Positive environmental outcomes: **protect** or, if degraded, **restore** “the ecological integrity, mana, and mauri of **indigenous biodiversity**” amongst other things
- Fewer, clearer and stronger plans



# Fast-track Approvals Bill

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- Purpose “the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits”
- Development Ministers have unfettered powers to determine consents
- No opportunity for public submissions
- Will initially apply to list of projects not yet made public, 70+ in contention
- Consent can override district/regional plans, Wildlife Act, Reserves Act, conservation covenants etc



# Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

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- Will likely see **further decline** in freshwater quality
- Already 45% of rivers unsuitable for swimming and 51 indigenous freshwater species threatened
- Councils will not be able to apply **Te Mana o te Wai** when considering applications
- Te Mana o te Wai puts the health and well-being of water bodies first





# Resource Management ... Amendment Bill (Significant Natural Areas)

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- Suspend the requirement for councils to identify SNAs in NPS-IB for 3 years
- Extend deadline to notify plans mapping SNAs to 2030
- SNAs included in plans during next 3 years not treated as SNAs



# Climate Change Response (Emissions trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill

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- Excludes agricultural emissions from emissions trading scheme
- Agricultural emissions make up half NZ's greenhouse gas emissions
- Other climate policies weakened



# Resource Management 3

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National-ACT Coalition agreement:

Replace the RMA with “new resource management laws premised on the **enjoyment of property rights** as a guiding principle”



# Departmental funding cuts

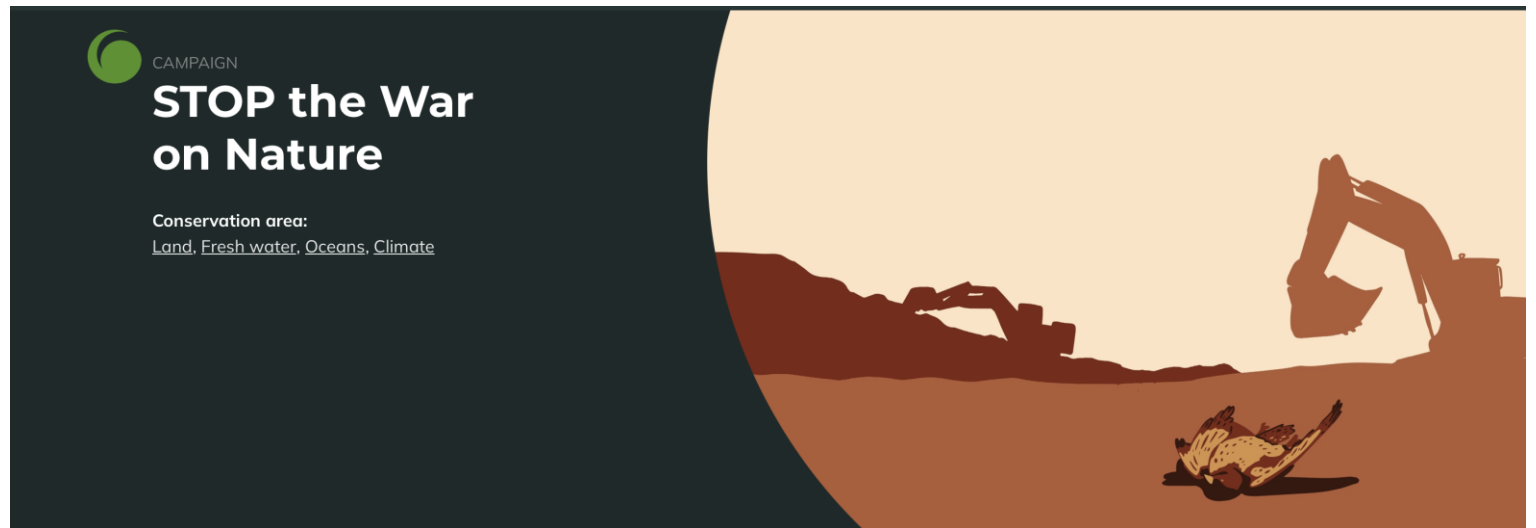
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- MFE loses 30% of staff (303) and \$316 million in funding
- DOC loses 130 staff (5%) and \$152 million in funding (end of Jobs for Nature and other short-term funded programmes)



Overall,  
unprecedented  
attack on nature

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# The opportunities

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# National Party election policies

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- Empower regional councils to define catchment-level limits for freshwater
- Re-commit to Predator Free 2050
- Support continuing work reduce the spread of wildling pines
- Investigate biodiversity credits to reward the creation of new wetlands
- Expand marine reserves
- Integrate oceans policy



# International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy increase

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# Public Inquiry into Climate Adaptation

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- Cross party policy development
- Develop high-level objectives and principles
- Support the development of policy and legislation
- Important that nature is included in the response



# Working towards political opportunities

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- Work out what positive change looks like
- Develop the evidence base for that change
- Build broad support for change
- Be ready to grab political windows of opportunity when they open



# Working with the willing

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Central government doesn't control all the levers

- District councils
- Regional councils
- Iwi/hapū
- Business
- Philanthropic sector



# Collaborate

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We often all want the same thing

It's a matter of how we get there

If all parties are on board government will often follow



Find  
solutions  
where  
everyone has  
a win

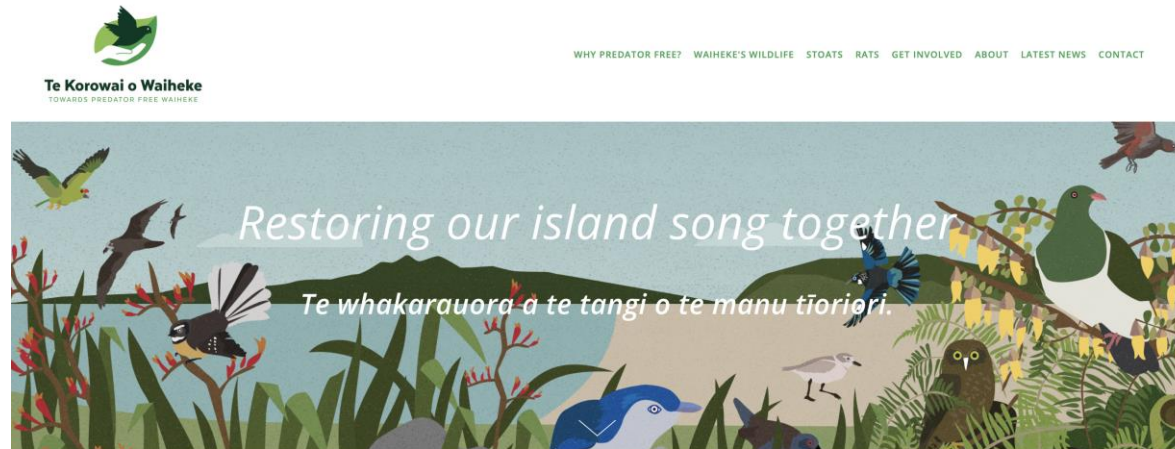
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Tai Timu Tai Pari  
**Sea Change**

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan



# If you have a good plan money often follows



Making Waiheke Island the world's first predator-free urban island



Thanks to our funders:



# Bring management back to place

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## Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

August 2023



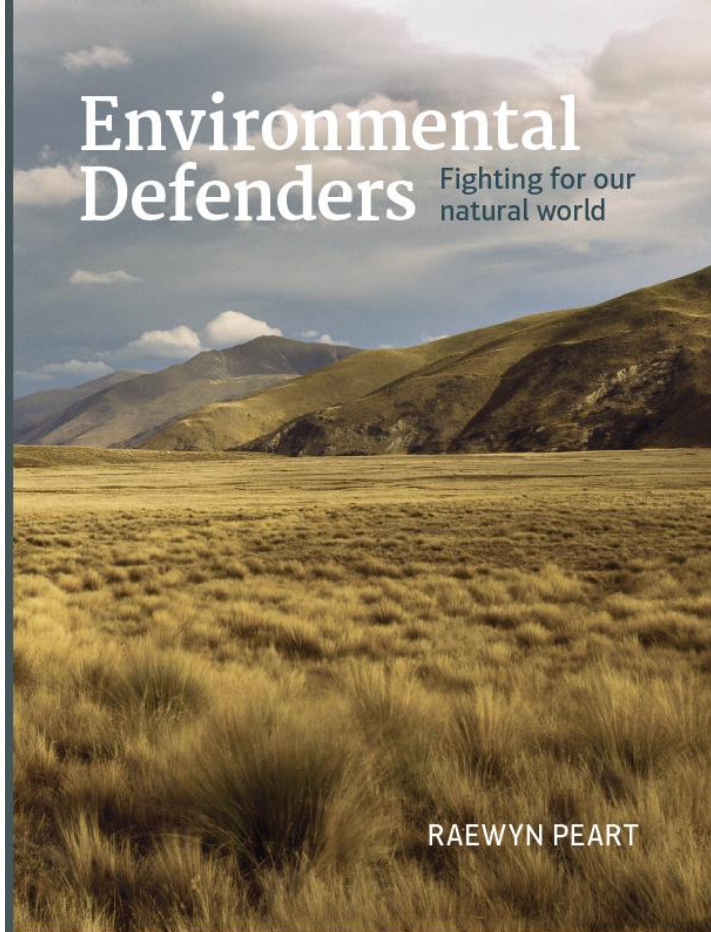
Ta Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

## Could an Ahu Moana approach help to save the Hauraki Gulf?

Publish Date : 28 Jul 2020 HAVE YOUR SAY WAITEMATĀ & GULF WARD



Photo credit: Chris Williams.

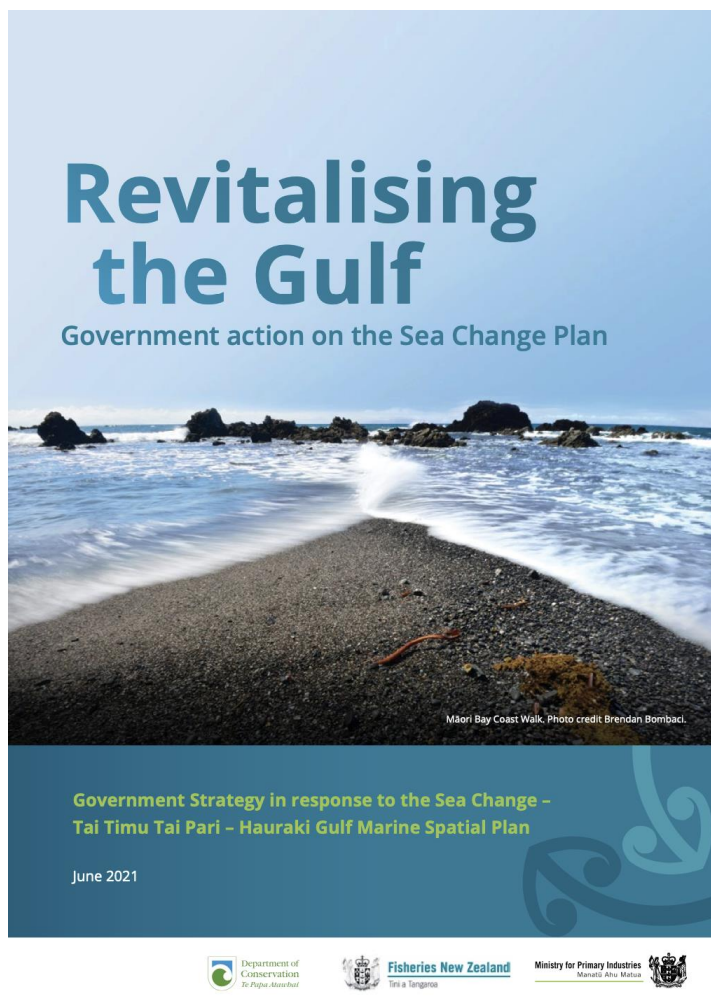


# Use the courts

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- We've been here before
- Current government proposals redolent of the 1970s and 80s
- Courts very effective in holding government to account
- Legal action can also slow things down





# Change takes time: Don't give up!

- 2011 Hauraki Gulf SOE Report
- 2013 Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari starts
- 2016 Sea Change plan completed
- 2019 Ministerial Advisory Panel established
- 2021 Revitalising the Gulf released
- 2023 Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan approved
- 2024 Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill
- 2030? Hauraki Gulf Marine Restoration Plan?

# New release

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## RESTORING NATURE

Reform of the conservation  
management system



Deidre Koolen-Bourke, Raewyn Peart, Billy van Uitregt and Claire Dowsett

# Key threads of Restoring Nature

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- Clearer purpose for the conservation system
- Better provision for Māori
- Strengthening role of NZCA and Conservation Boards
- Stronger DOC management at place

## RESTORING NATURE

Reform of the conservation management system



Deidre Koolen-Bourke, Raewyn Peart, Billy van Uitregt and Claire Dowsett

# Key threads of Restoring Nature

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- Streamline the conservation management planning system
- Stronger and clearer policy and plans
- Reform the Wildlife Act – cover all species and prioritise indigenous and threatened
- Sourcing additional funding

## RESTORING NATURE

Reform of the conservation management system



Deidre Koolen-Bourke, Raewyn Peart, Billy van Uitregt and Claire Dowsett



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