Appendix 1:

Rebuttal Evidence: Indigenous Ecosystems – recommended amendments to proposed provisions

Chapter introduction

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An ecosystem may be described as a community of plants, animals and micro-organisms interacting with each other and their surrounding environment.

As well as contributing to the region's natural character and having their own intrinsic values, healthy ecosystems provide us with life's essentials – such as plants and animals for food, fibre for clothing, timber for construction. This is true even in an industrialised age, although the connections are less immediately obvious. Healthy ecosystems supply us with 'services' that support life on this planet – such as:

- Processes to purify air and water
- Decomposition and detoxification of wastes
- Creation and *maintenance* of productive soils
- Reduction of the impact of climate extremes
- Capture of carbon and *maintenance* of a functioning atmosphere

Ecosystems are dynamic (constantly changing) and the many diverse natural processes that drive ecosystems are as important as the biodiversity values within them. In addition, all parts of an ecosystem are interconnected. The species that make up an ecosystem, including humans, cannot exist in isolation from the other species and non-living parts of the ecosystem. The primacy of healthy ecosystems is central to Māori cultural values, whereby harm to mauri directly affects the wellbeing of the people. More specifically, degradation of ecosystems threatens mahinga kai (places where food is gathered) and other natural resources used for customary purposes.

The Wellington region has a distinctive range of ecosystems – such as forests, mountains, wetlands, lakes, rivers and coastal and marine ecosystems. Some ecosystems have retained a high degree of indigenous~~ness~~ dominance – such as the Tararua, Re~~i~~mutaka and Aorangi ranges, while others are dominated by exotic species – such as pastoral farmlands.

The area of indigenous ecosystems has been in decline since humans first settled in our region. This loss greatly accelerated from the time of European settlement. Around 70 per cent of the indigenous forest and more than 90 per cent of the wetlands that existed in 1840,

have been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Most of the remaining ~~forest and wetlands and dune~~ ecosystems have been degraded or modified in some way. In addition, many of the processes that ensure ecosystems remain healthy and viable into the future have been compromised, including reproduction, recruitment, dispersal and migration.

Human actions that continue to impact on the remaining indigenous ecosystems include:

- Modification and, in some cases, destruction of ecosystems by pest plants and animals, grazing animals and clearance of indigenous vegetation
- Contamination of aquatic ecosystems by sediment, pollutants and nutrients
- Destruction of ecosystems as a result of development
- Modification of natural waterways, such as d~~D~~raining wetlands and channelling, constraining or piping of ~~natural waterways~~ rivers and streams
- Contamination of coastal ecosystems by stormwater and sewage discharges

Although New Zealand has an extensive network of public conservation land (comprising over a third of the country), this does not adequately represent all types of indigenous ecosystem. With few options to expand the public conservation estate, ~~T~~the *restoration* of ecosystems relies upon the good will and actions of landowners. There are a number of individuals, whānau, hapu, iwi, and community groups and organisations throughout the region that are working to restore indigenous ecosystems. Public support for restoring indigenous ecosystems on public land and landowners retiring farmland has led to the regeneration of indigenous bush in rural gullies, along riparian margins, in regional parks and in urban backyards. This has led to increases in some indigenous habitats, such as in the hills around Wellington City, with sanctuaries such as Zealandia and pest control efforts increasing the number and variety of ~~native~~ indigenous birds and invertebrates around the city. However, there is still much work to be done ~~to improve the conservation status of~~ for many ~~native~~ of the region's indigenous ecosystems and species ~~so that~~ to be in a healthy functioning state, with the resilience to persist in the long-term. The *restoration* of indigenous ecosystems on public, whānau, hapū, iwi and private land provides both public and private benefit.

The *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* recognise that the health and well-being of people and communities depend on the health and well-being of indigenous biodiversity and that, in return, people have a responsibility to care for and nurture it. The principles acknowledge the interconnectedness between indigenous species, ecosystems, the wider environment, and the community, at both a physical and metaphysical level. These principles must inform and be given effect to when managing indigenous biodiversity across the Wellington Region, ensuring that te ao Māori, mātauranga, and tikanga Māori are applied appropriately to protect, *maintain* and restore indigenous biodiversity.

Ecosystem health can be measured in a number of ways, including the composition, richness and indigenous dominance of communities, function of ecosystem processes (e.g., degree to which it is connected or fragmented), or the extent of the ecosystem remaining. ~~loss of individual species, loss of overall diversity of species, loss of an ecosystem's ability to function on an ongoing basis, and loss of complete ecosystems and types of ecosystems~~. While the dramatic collapse of species or whole ecosystems can capture attention, the gradual erosion of ecosystems' sustainability is also a significant issue.

The regionally significant issues and the issues of significance to the Wellington region's iwi authorities for indigenous ecosystems are:

1. The region's indigenous ecosystems are reduced in extent

The region's indigenous ecosystems have been significantly reduced in extent and are being increasingly fragmented. Loss of area, ***ecological integrity*** and ***ecological connectivity*** reduce the **resilience** of ecosystems to respond to ongoing pressures, threatening their persistence and that of the indigenous biodiversity and **mahinga kai** they support. The indigenous ecosystems most reduced in extent are ~~specifically~~:

(a) wetlands

(b) lowland forests

(c) lowland streams

(d) coastal dune~~s~~lands and escarpments

(e) estuaries

(f) eastern 'dry land' forests.

2. The region's remaining indigenous ecosystems are under threat.

   The region's remaining indigenous ecosystems, and the ecosystem processes that support them, continue to be degraded or lost due to ongoing pressure from invasive species, human use and development, and the effects of climate change.

3. Mana whenua /tangata whenua ~~Iwi and landowner~~ values and roles are not adequately recognised and supported.

   Mana whenua /tangata whenua values and roles, including kaitiakitanga, are not adequately recognised and supported by the current approach to managing indigenous biodiversity. ~~The conservation efforts of landowners, as stewards of their land, and local communities could be better recognised and supported.~~

4. Landowner values and roles are not adequately recognised and supported.

The conservation efforts of landowners, as stewards of their land, and local communities could be better recognised and supported.

Objective 16

Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant ~~ecosystem functions and services and/or~~ indigenous biodiversity values, other significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and the ecosystem processes ~~*functions*~~ that support these ecosystems and habitats, are ~~maintained~~ protected and, where appropriate, *enhanced*~~,~~ and *restored* to a healthy functioning state.

Objective 16A

The region's indigenous biodiversity is ~~ecosystems are~~ *maintained* and, where appropriate, *enhanced*~~,~~ and *restored* to a healthy functioning state, improving its ~~their~~ *resilience* to increasing environmental pressures, particularly climate change~~, and giving effect to the *Te Rito o te Harakeke*~~.

Objective 16B

Mana whenua / tangata whenua values relating to indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species, and the important relationship between indigenous ecosystem health and well-being, are given effect to in decision-making, and mana whenua / tangata whenua are supported to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity.

Objective 16C

Landowner and community values in relation to indigenous biodiversity are recognised and provided for and their roles as stewards are supported.

Policy 23: Identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

~~By June 2025,~~ As soon as reasonably practicable and by no later than 4 August 2028~~,~~ ~~Ddistrict and regional plans shall identify and evaluate indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.; eEcosystems and habitats will be considered significant if:~~

1) District plans shall identify and map indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values ~~i~~in the terrestrial environment~~, they meet the criteria in~~ that qualify as significant natural areas~~, and are identified~~ in accordance with Appendix 1B ~~the principles in Clause 3.8, of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~; and

2) Regional plans shall identify and map indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values ~~i~~in the coastal marine area, the beds of lakes and rivers, and natural wetlands~~, they~~ that meet one or more of the following criteria:

(a) Representativeness: the ecosystems or habitats that are typical and characteristic examples of the full range of the original or current natural diversity of ecosystem and habitat types in a district or in the region, and:

(i) are no longer commonplace (less than about 30% remaining); or

(ii) are poorly represented in existing protected areas (less than about 20% legally protected).

(b) Rarity: the ecosystem or habitat has biological or physical features that are scarce or threatened in a local, regional or national context. This can include individual species, rare and distinctive biological communities and physical features that are unusual or rare.

(c) Diversity: the ecosystem or habitat has a natural diversity of ecological units, ecosystems, species and physical features within an area.

(d) Ecological context of an area: the ecosystem or habitat:

(i) enhances *connectivity* or otherwise *buffers* representative, rare or diverse indigenous ecosystems and habitats; or

(ii) provides seasonal or core habitat for protected or threatened indigenous species.

(e) Mana whenua / t~~T~~angata whenua values: the ecosystem or habitat contains characteristics of special spiritual, historical or cultural significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua, identified in accordance with tikanga Māori.

Explanation

Policy 23 sets out the criteria ~~as guidance~~ that must be met for an ~~considered in identifying~~ indigenous ecosystem~~s and~~ or habitat~~s~~ to be considered to have ~~with~~ significant indigenous biodiversity values. This evaluation is to be completed and the ecosystems and habitats identified as having significant indigenous biodiversity values included in a district or regional plan as soon as reasonably practicable and by no later than 4 August 2028~~by 30 June 2025~~.

Wellington Regional Council, and district and city councils are required to assess indigenous ecosystems and habitats against all the criteria but the relevance of each will depend on the individual cases. To be classed as having significant biodiversity values, an indigenous ecosystem or habitat must meet ~~fit~~ one or more of the listed criteria in Policy 23(1) or (2). Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils will need to engage directly with

landowners and work collaboratively with them to identify areas, undertake field evaluation, and assess significance. ~~In the terrestrial environment, significance assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the principles in Clause 3.8 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023. Policy 23 will ensure that significant biodiversity values are identified in district and regional plans in a consistent way.~~

Indigenous ecosystems and habitats can have additional values of significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua. There are a number of indigenous ecosystems and habitats across the region that are significant to tangata whenua for their ecological characteristics. These ecosystems will be considered for significance under this policy if they still exhibit the ecosystem functions which are considered significant by mana whenua / tangata whenua. Access and use of any identified areas would be subject to landowner agreement. Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils will need to partner ~~engage directly~~ with mana whenua / tangata whenua and work collaboratively with ~~them and other~~ stakeholders, including landowners, to identify areas under this criterion.

~~Regional plans will identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values in the coastal marine area, wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers. District plans will identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment for all land, except for the coastal marine area, and the beds of lakes and rivers wetlands.~~

Policy 24: Protecting indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable and by no later than 4 August 2028~~By 30 June 2025~~, ~~D~~district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, including by applying:

(a) Policy 24B ~~Clause 3.10 and Clause 3.11 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~ to manage adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment;

(b) Policy 24C ~~11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010~~ to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment; and

(c) Policy 24D to manage the adverse effects of *REG activities* and *ET activities* on significant indigenous biodiversity values (these activities are not subject to Policy 24A and Policy 24B). ~~Policies 18A and 18B in this Regional Policy Statement to manage adverse effects on the values and extent of natural inland wetlands and rivers~~.

~~Where the policies and/or rules in district and regional plans enable the use of biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation for an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values, they shall:~~

~~(a) not provide for biodiversity offsetting:~~

~~(i) where there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset; or~~

~~(ii) when an activity is anticipated to causes residual adverse effects on an area after an offset has been implemented if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon;~~

~~(b) not provide for biodiversity compensation where an activity is anticipated to cause residual adverse effects on an area if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon;~~

~~(c) ecosystems and species known to meet any of the criteria in (a) or (b) are listed in Appendix 1A (Limits to biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation);~~

~~(d) require that the outcome sought from the use of biodiversity offsetting is at least a 10 percent net biodiversity gain, or from biodiversity compensation is at least a 10 percent net biodiversity benefit.~~

Explanation

Policy 24 applies to provisions in regional and district plans. This requires the protection of significant indigenous biodiversity values in terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments consistent with section 6(c) of the RMA. It also clarifies that the effects management provisions for significant indigenous biodiversity values ~~in higher order national direction instruments~~ that need to be applied when giving effect to this policy in regional and district plans. Policies 18A and 18B in this Regional Policy Statement include effects management provisions to manage adverse effects on the values and extent of natural inland wetlands and rivers.

~~The policy provides clarity about the limits to, and expected outcomes from, biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation for an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values. Ecosystems and species known to meet the criteria in clauses (a and b) are listed in Appendix 1A (Limits to biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation).~~

~~Calculating a 10 percent net biodiversity gain (offsetting) or a 10 percent net biodiversity benefit (compensation) employs the same or a similar calculation methodology used to determine 'no net loss or preferably net gain' under a standard offsetting approach. The distinction between 'net gain' and 'net benefit' is to recognise that the outcomes achievable through the use of offsetting and compensation are different. An offsetting 'net biodiversity~~

~~gain' outcome is expected to achieve an objectively verifiable increase in biodiversity values while a compensation 'net biodiversity benefit' outcome is more subjective and less preferable.~~

Table 16 in Appendix 1 identifies rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values by applying criteria taken from policy 23 of rarity (habitat for threatened indigenous fish species) and diversity (high macroinvertebrate community health, habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species).

Policy 47 will need to be considered alongside policy 24 when changing, varying or reviewing a regional or district plan.

Policy 24 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the biodiversity values identified in policy 23.

Policy 24A: Principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation

(a) Where district and regional plans provide for *biodiversity offsetting* or *aquatic offsetting* or *biodiversity compensation* or *aquatic compensation* as part of an effects management hierarchy for indigenous biodiversity and/or for aquatic values and extent, they shall include policies and methods to:

  (i) ensure this meets the requirements of the full suite of principles for *biodiversity offsetting* and/or *biodiversity compensation* set out in Appendix 1C ~~Appendix 3 and 4 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~ or for *aquatic offsetting* and/or *aquatic compensation* set out in Appendix 1D ~~6 and 7 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020~~;

  (ii) provide further direction on where *biodiversity offsetting, aquatic offsetting, biodiversity compensation,* and *aquatic compensation* are ~~not~~ inappropriate, in accordance with clauses (b) to (d) ~~and (c)~~ below;

  (iii) provide further direction on required outcomes from *biodiversity offsetting, aquatic offsetting, biodiversity compensation,* and *aquatic compensation*, in accordance with clauses (~~d~~e) and (~~e~~f) below; and

(b) In evaluating whether *biodiversity offsetting* or *aquatic offsetting* is inappropriate because of irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values affected, the feasibility to offset residual adverse effects on any *threatened* or *naturally uncommon ecosystem* or *threatened species* must be considered, including those listed in Appendix 1A ~~must be considered~~ as a minimum; and

(c) In evaluating whether *biodiversity compensation* or *aquatic compensation* is inappropriate because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values affected, recognise that it is inappropriate to use *biodiversity compensation* or *aquatic compensation* where residual adverse effects

affect ~~an ecosystem or species that is listed in Appendix 1A as~~ a *threatened* or *naturally uncommon ecosystem* or *threatened species,* including those listed in Appendix 1A as a minimum; and

(d) In evaluating whether *biodiversity offsetting* or *aquatic offsetting* is inappropriate because there are no technically feasible methods to secure gains in acceptable timeframes, recognise that this is likely to be inappropriate for those species and ecosystems listed in column Policy 24A(d) in Appendix 1A; and

(e) District and regional plans shall include policies and methods that require *biodiversity offsetting* or *aquatic offsetting* to achieve at least a net gain, and preferably a 10% net gain or greater, in indigenous biodiversity outcomes to address residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values. This requires demonstrating, and then achieving, net gains in the type, amount, and condition of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values impacted. Calculating net gain requires a like-for-like quantitative loss/ gain calculation of the indigenous biodiversity values (type, amount, and condition) affected by the proposed activity; and

(f) District and regional plans shall include policies and method to require *biodiversity compensation* or *aquatic compensation* to achieve positive effects in indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values that outweigh residual adverse effects on affected indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values.

Explanation:

Policy 24A recognises that the outcomes achievable through the use of biodiversity or aquatic offsetting and compensation are different. A 'net gain' outcome from offsetting is expected to achieve an objectively verifiable increase in the target values, while a compensation outcome is more subjective and less preferable. This policy applies to the use of biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation to address the residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial and coastal environments and aquatic offsetting and compensation to address the loss of extent or values of natural inland wetlands and rivers.

Policy 24A is to be read with Policy 24C(1) which sets out adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment that need to be avoided, meaning that applications for *biodiversity offsetting* or *biodiversity compensation* cannot be considered. These ecosystems and species are also listed in Table 17 and Appendix 1A.

Policy 24B: Managing adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district plans shall include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment by:

1) Except as provided for by clause (2) and (3), avoiding the following adverse effects:

   (a) loss of ecosystem representation and extent;

   (b) disruption to sequences, mosaics, or *ecosystem function*;

   (c) fragmentation of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values or the loss of buffers or connections within these ecosystems and habitats;

   (d) a reduction in the function of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as a *buffer* or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems;

   (e) a reduction in the population size or occupancy of *Threatened or At Risk* species that use a habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values for any part of their life.

2) Applying the *effects management hierarchy* to adverse effects not referred to in clause (1) and to the following new activities, which are exempt from clause (1):

   (a) the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of *specified infrastructure* (excluding *REG activities* and *ET activities*) if;

      (i) it provides significant national or regional public benefit; and

      (ii) there is a functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and

      (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.

   (b) the development, operation and maintenance of mineral extraction activities if:

      (i) it provides a significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; and

      (ii) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and

      (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.

   (c) The development, operation and maintenance of aggregate extraction activities if:

      (i) it provides a significant national or regional public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; and

      (ii) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and

      (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.

(d) The operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before August 2023 (except that, after 31 December 2030, this exception applies only to such coal mines that extract coking coal) if;

(i) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and

(ii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.

(e) Activities to develop a single residential dwelling on an allotment that was created before 4 August 2023 and where there is no practicable location within the allotment where a single residential dwelling and essential associated on-site infrastructure can be constructed without avoiding the adverse effects referred to in clause (1).

(f) Activities that are for the purpose of maintaining or restoring ecosystems and habitats provided it does not involve the permanent destruction of significant habitat of indigenous biodiversity (or an alternative management approach established to restore indigenous biodiversity).

(g) Activities in an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna (other than an area managed under the Forests Act 1949) that was established and is managed primarily for a purpose other than the maintenance or restoration of that indigenous biodiversity and the loss of indigenous biodiversity values is necessary to meet that purpose.

(h) Activities associated with the harvest of indigenous tree species, such as track clearance or timber storage (but not the harvest itself managed under clause (3)(d)), from within an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values that is carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949.

3) Allowing the following activities without being subject to clause (1) and (2):

(a) Activities required to address a high risk to public health or safety;

(b) The sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity conducted in accordance with tikanga;

(c) Work or activity of the Crown within the boundaries of any area of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes), provided that the work or activity:

(i) Is undertaken in a way that is consistent with any applicable conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or management plan established under the Conservation Act 1987, or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act; and

(ii) Does not have a significant adverse effect beyond the boundary of the land.

(d) The harvest of indigenous tree species that is carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949.

Explanation

Policy 24B applies to indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment. Clause (1) sets out a list of adverse effects that need to be avoided to ensure the protection of these ecosystems and habitats, their *ecosystem function* and values. Clause (2) sets out a list of activities that are exempt from clause (1) and instead adverse effects are to be managed in accordance with the *effects management hierarchy* and other relevant requirements are met (e.g. there is an operational need or functional need for the activity to be in that particular location). Clause (3) sets out a list of essential activities, customary activities, or activities undertaken in accordance with conservation management plan or forest management plan that are exempt from clause (1) and (2).

Policy 24C: Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment to:

(1) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the following ecosystems, habitats and species with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

(a) indigenous taxa that are listed as *Threatened or At-Risk species* in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists;

(b) taxa that are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as threatened;

(c) *threatened indigenous ecosystems* and vegetation types that are threatened in the coastal environment, or are *naturally rare*;

(d) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are *naturally rare*;

(e) areas containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types; and

(f) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation; and

(2) Avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the following indigenous ecosystems and habitats:

(a) areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation in the coastal environment;

(b) habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;

(c) indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are only found in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;

(d) habitats of indigenous species in the coastal environment that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes;

(e) habitats, including areas and routes, important to migratory species; and

(f) ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining biological values.

Explanation:

This policy applies to provisions in district and regional plans. This requires district and regional plans to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment by applying a hierarchy approach based on the values of the indigenous species, ecosystem or habitat. Policy 24C is to be read together with Policy 24B in relation to the coastal environment above mean high water springs, with Policy 24C to prevail where there is conflict between these policies that cannot be resolved.

Policy 24D: Managing the effects of *REG activities* and *ET activities* on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to manage the effects of *REG activities* and *ET activities* on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values to:

1) Allow *REG activities* or *ET activities* to locate in areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values if:

(a) there is an operational need or functional need for the *REG activities* or *ET activities* to be located in that area; and

(b) the *REG activities* or *ET activities* are nationally or regionally significant; and

(c) clause (2) is applied to manage adverse effects.

2) Manage adverse effects by applying the following hierarchy:

   (a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then

   (b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then

   (c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then

   (d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, *biodiversity offsetting* is provided where practicable; then

   (e) if *biodiversity offsetting* of more than minor adverse effects is not practicable, *biodiversity compensation* is provided; then

   (f) if *biodiversity compensation* is not appropriate to address any residual adverse effects:

      i. the *REG activities* or *ET activities* must be avoided if the residual adverse effects are significant; but

      ii. if the residual adverse effects are not significant, the *REG activities* or *ET activities* must be enabled if the national significance and benefits of the activities outweigh the residual adverse effects.

3) When considering *biodiversity offsetting* and *biodiversity compensation*, have regard to the principles set out in Appendix 1C and Appendix 1D.

Explanation

Policy 24D applies to REG activties and ET activities and applies a specific pathway and effects managemnt framework for these activities to ensure adverse effects of these activities on indiegnous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are appropriately managed.

Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and in determining whether the proposed activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

(a) maintaining connections within, or corridors between, habitats of indigenous flora and fauna, and/or enhancing the connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats;

(b) providing adequate *buffering* around areas of significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats from other land uses;

(c) managing natural wetlands for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem health, recognising the wider benefits, such as for indigenous biodiversity, water quality and holding water in the landscape;

(d) avoiding the cumulative adverse effects of the incremental loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;

(e) providing seasonal or core habitat for indigenous species;

(f) protecting the life supporting capacity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;

(g) ~~remedying or mitigating~~ minimising or remedying adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity values where avoiding adverse effects is not practicably achievable; ~~and~~

(h) the need for a precautionary approach to be adopted when assessing and managing the potential for adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats, where;

(i) the effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood; and

(ii) those effects could cause significant or irreversible damage to indigenous biodiversity;

(i) ~~the limits for *biodiversity offsetting* and *biodiversity compensation* set out in Appendix 1A~~ the provisions to protect significant biodiversity values in Policy 24, Policy 24B, and Policy 24C and the principles for *biodiversity offsetting* and *biodiversity compensation* in Policy 24A;

(ii) the provisions to manage the adverse effects of REG and ET activities on significant biodiversity values in Policy 24D;

(j) protecting indigenous biodiversity values of significance to mana whenua/tangata whenua, particularly those associated with a significant site for mana whenua/tangata whenua identified in a regional or district plan;

(k) enabling established activities affecting significant biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment to continue, provided that the effects of the activities:

(i) are no greater in intensity, scale and character; and

(ii) do not result in loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity, of any significant biodiversity values; and

(l) ensuring that the adverse effects of plantation forestry activities on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment are managed in a way that:

(i) maintains significant indigenous biodiversity values as far as practicable, while enabling plantation forestry activities to continue; and

(ii) where significant biodiversity values are within an existing plantation forest, maintains the long-term populations of any *Threatened* or *At Risk (declining) species* present in the area over the course of consecutive rotations of production.

Explanation

Policy 47 provides an interim assessment framework for councils, resource consent applicants and other interested parties, prior to the identification of ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with ~~p~~Policy 23, and the adoption of plan provisions for protection in accordance with ~~p~~Policy 24. ~~Remedying and mitigating effects can include offsetting, where appropriate~~. Policy 47 makes it clear that the provisions in Policy 24 and Policy 24A to protect significant indigenous biodiversity values must be considered until those policies are given effect to in regional and district plans. Policy 47 also provides for established activities and plantation forestry activities affecting significant indigenous biodiversity values to continue, provided certain tests are met~~, consistent with the requirements in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~.

In determining whether an activity may affect significant indigenous biodiversity values, the criteria in ~~p~~Policy 23 should be used.

This policy shall cease to have effect once policies 23 and 24 are ~~in place~~ given effect to in an operative district or regional plan, including all of the matters listed in (a) to (l) above.

Policy 61: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for indigenous biodiversity

Regional and district plans shall recognise and provide for the responsibilities below, when developing objectives, policies and methods, including rules, to *maintain* indigenous biodiversity:

(a) Wellington Regional Council shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, and methods in the regional policy statement for the control of the use of land to maintain indigenous ~~biological~~ biodiversity;

(b) Wellington Regional Council shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and/or methods in regional plans for the control of the use of land to *maintain* and *enhance* ecosystems in water bodies and coastal water. This includes land within the coastal marine area, wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers; and

(c) city and district councils shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and/or methods in district plans for the control of the use of land for the *maintenance* of indigenous ~~biological~~ biodiversity, including to manage associated adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in freshwater and coastal water in liaison with the Wellington Regional Council. This excludes controlling the use of land within the *coastal marine area*, ~~and~~ the *beds* of lakes and rivers, and wetlands.

Explanation

In accordance with section 62 of the Resource Management Act 1991, ~~p~~Policy 61 sets out the local authorities in the Wellington region responsible for specifying the objectives, policies and methods for the control of the use of land to maintain indigenous biological diversity.

District and city councils in the Wellington region have primary responsibility for controlling the use of land ~~to maintain indigenous biological diversity~~ (other than within the coastal marine area, ~~and~~ the beds of lakes and rivers, and wetlands) to maintain indigenous biodiversity, including to manage associated adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in freshwater and coastal water in liaison with the Wellington Regional Council, through the creation of objectives, policies and rules in their district plans.

Wellington Regional Council has the primary responsibility for the control of the use of land to maintain and enhance indigenous ecosystems in water bodies (including wetlands) and coastal water.

Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils shall work together to develop plan provisions and operational arrangements to provide for the coordinated management and control of subdivision, use and development to maintain indigenous biodiversity in receiving water bodies. This includes working collaboratively, such as during structure planning, rezoning, subdivision, and site development, so that the location, layout and design of development is *environmentally-responsive*.

Policy IE.1: Giving effect to mana whenua roles and values when managing indigenous biodiversity – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include objectives, policies, methods and/or rules to partner with mana whenua/tangata whenua when managing indigenous biodiversity, including to:

(a) apply mātauranga Māori frameworks, and support mana whenua/tangata whenua to exercise their kaitiakitanga, in managing and monitoring indigenous biodiversity;

(b) identify and protect acknowledged and identified taonga species, populations, and ecosystems;

(c) support mana whenua/tangata whenua to access and exercise sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity, including for mahinga kai and taonga, in accordance with tikanga;

(d) maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity on Māori land to the extent practicable, while enabling new occupation, use and development of that land to support the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of mana whenua/tangata whenua.

Explanation

Policy IE.1 directs regional and district plans to include provisions to partner with mana whenua/tangata whenua to recognise and provide for Māori values for indigenous biodiversity, and for the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki in the region~~. It also directs regional and district plans to include provisions to maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity on Māori land, while enabling appropriate use and development of that land to support the wellbeing of tangata whenua.~~

Policy IE.2: Giving effect to mana whenua/tangata whenua roles and values when managing indigenous biodiversity – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan for subdivision, use or development that may impact on indigenous biodiversity, recognise and provide for mana whenua/tangata whenua values and relationships associated with indigenous biodiversity~~ particular regard shall be given to enabling mana whenua/tangata whenua to exercise their roles as kaitiaki~~, including by, but not restricted to:

(a) ~~providing for mana whenua/tangata whenua values associated with indigenous biodiversity, including~~ giving ~~local~~ effect to ~~*Te Rito o te Harakeke*~~ the *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* and, once they are established, the local expressions of the decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity developed through Method IE.1; and

(b) enabling mana whenua/tangata whenua to exercise their roles as kaitiaki; and

(c) incorporating the use of mātauranga Māori in the management and monitoring of indigenous biodiversity; and

(d) supporting mana whenua/tangata whenua to access and exercise sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity, including for mahinga kai and taonga, in accordance with tikanga.

Explanation

Policy IE.2 requires consideration of enabling mana whenua / tangata whenua to exercise their kaitiakitanga in the region.

Policy IE.2A: Maintaining indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan or regional plan, indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment that does not have significant indigenous biodiversity values as identified under Policy 23 and is not on Māori land, shall be maintained by:

~~(a) recognising and providing for the importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant biodiversity values under Policy 23;~~

(a) managing any significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity from any proposed activity by applying the *effects management hierarchy* ~~in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~; and

(b) managing all other adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity ~~from any proposed activity~~ to achieve at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity within the region or district as applicable; and

(c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of *REG activities* and *ET activities* on indigenous biodiversity to the extent practicable.

Explanation

Policy IE.2A recognises that it is important to maintain indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant indigenous biodiversity values to meet the requirements in section 30(1)(ga) and section 31(b)(iii) of the RMA. This policy applies to indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant values in the terrestrial environment as identified under Policy 23 and requires a more robust approach to managing any significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity ~~from a proposed activity~~ and to maintain indigenous biodiversity more generally.

Policy IE.3: Maintaining, enhancing, and restoring indigenous ecosystem health – non-regulatory

To *maintain, enhance* and *restore* the *ecosystem health*, *ecological integrity* and *ecological connectivity* of the region's indigenous ecosystems, and the ecological processes that support them, giving effect to the *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* ~~*Te Rito o te Harakeke*~~, the Regional Policy Statement shall, as soon as practicable:

(a) identify the characteristics required for the region's indigenous ecosystems to be in a healthy functioning state, including the processes that enable them to persist over the long-term~~,~~; ~~and~~

(b) identify strategic targets and priorities to ensure that management and *restoration* of indigenous ecosystems and habitats (including pest management) are directed at areas where the greatest gains can be made for indigenous biodiversity. Where possible, priorities should also deliver benefits for *climate change mitigation* and/or *adaptation*, and freshwater; ~~and~~

(ba) in relation to the terrestrial environment, and other environments as appropriate, the priorities identified in clause (b) above must include:

(i) areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values with degraded ecological integrity;
(ii) *threatened* and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems;
(iii) areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions;
(iv) natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna;
(v) areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners; and
(vi) any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration;

(c) focus *restoration* efforts on achieving the strategic targets and priorities identified in (b)~~,~~; and

(d) identify opportunities to promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change, including by:

(i) allowing and supporting natural adjustments of habitats and ecosystems to climate change;
(ii) maintaining and promoting the enhancement of the connectivity between ecosystems, and between existing and potential habitats, to enable migrations so that species can continue to find viable niches in response to climate change.

Explanation

Policy IE.3 will be implemented by the Wellington Regional Council in partnership with mana whenua/tangata whenua and in collaboration with landowners, territorial authorities, communities, and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Policy IE.3 gives effect to Objective 16A, identifying the characteristics required for the region's indigenous ecosystems to be in a healthy functioning state, providing *resilience* to the impacts of increasing environmental pressures, and identifying strategic priorities and targets for *restoration* to ensure that regional conservation actions are applied efficiently, prioritising protection of the ecosystems and habitats of most pressing concern. Policy IE.3 also identifies national priorities for restoration consistent with those identified in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 and provides direction on how to promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change.

Policy IE.4: Recognising the roles and values of landowners and communities in the management of indigenous biodiversity – non-regulatory

Recognise and provide for the values of landowners and communities as stewards of the indigenous biodiversity of the Wellington Region, by:

(a) involving communities in the identification of targets and priorities for *protecting, enhancing* and *restoring* indigenous biodiversity; and
(b) supporting landowner and community *restoration* of indigenous ecosystems.

Explanation
Policy IE.4 recognises and provides for the important role that landowners and the community have as environmental stewards.

Method IE.1: Partnering with mana whenua/tangata whenua to give local effect to the *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* ~~Te Rito o te Harakeke~~

Partner with mana whenua/tangata whenua to identify the local approach to give effect to the *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* ~~Te Rito o te Harakeke~~ and develop guidance on how to implement this.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council

Method IE.2: Inventory of biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation opportunities - Non-regulatory

Partner with mana whenua/tangata whenua, and interested parties to develop a regional inventory of opportunities for offsetting or compensating for any residual adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council, city and district councils, and iwi authorities*

Method IE.3: Regional biodiversity strategy

Develop and implement, in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua and in collaboration with territorial authorities, communities and other key stakeholders, a regional biodiversity strategy to ~~*maintain* and restore~~ promote the landscape-scale

restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity ~~at a landscape scale~~, incorporating both Mātauranga Māori and systematic conservation planning and meeting the requirements in Appendix ~~5~~1E (regional biodiversity strategies) ~~in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council

Method IE.4: Kaitiaki indigenous biodiversity monitoring programme

Work in partnership with mana whenua/tangata whenua to establish and resource kaitiaki programmes to:

(a) monitor and evaluate the ecosystem health and trends of the region's indigenous biodiversity and the extent to which the *decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity* are ~~*Te Rito o te Harakeke* is~~ being given effect to, and

(b) develop action plans to respond to the monitoring results, including informing the identification of targets and priorities through Method IE.3.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council

Method 21: ~~Information to assist with the identification~~ Identification and protection of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

The regional council will liaise with the region's territorial authorities to ensure that all district plans include, ~~by 30 June 2025 at the latest,~~ as soon as reasonably practicable and by no later than 4 August 2028, a schedule of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment and plan provisions to protect them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Where a district-wide indigenous biodiversity assessment has not been initiated by 30 June 2024, the regional council will liaise with the territorial authority to agree on a programme of works and an understanding as to whether:

(a) the territorial authority shall continue to have sole responsibility; or

~~(b) the regional council shall take full responsibility; or~~

(b~~c~~) the territorial authority and the regional council shall share responsibilities.

~~Prepare and disseminate information to assist with the interpretation of the criteria set out in policies 23 and 24, which require the identification and protection of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.~~

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

Method 32: Partnering ~~Engagement~~ with mana whenua/tangata whenua~~,~~ and partnering where appropriate and engaging with stakeholders, landowners and the community in the identification and protection of significant values

1. Partner with iwi, hapū, marae and/or whānau to identify and protect areas and sites of significance to mana whenua/tangata whenua; and

2. ~~Involve~~ Partner with iwi, hapū, marae and/or whānau, and partner where appropriate and engage with stakeholders, landowners, and the community ~~in the~~ to:

(a) identify~~ication~~ and protect~~ion of~~ significant places, sites and areas with ~~significant cultural heritage values and~~ significant historic heritage values;

(b) identify~~ication~~ and protect~~ion of~~ outstanding natural features and landscapes, and identify and manage~~ing~~ the values of special amenity landscapes, ~~including those with significant cultural values~~;

(c) identify~~ication~~ and protect~~ion of~~ indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values~~, including those of significance to mana whenua/tangata whenua~~;

(ca) develop and implement a regional biodiversity strategy described in Method IE.3; ~~and~~

(d) protect~~ion of~~ the values~~, including mana whenua/tangata whenua values,~~ associated with the rivers and lakes identified in Appendix 1~~.~~; ~~and~~

(e) identify *nature-based solutions* to climate change as described in Method CC.6~~.~~; and

(f) identify and protect highly productive land.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council (all clauses) and city and district councils (clauses 2(a), (b),(c) and (f)

Method 53: Support mana whenua and community restoration initiatives for ~~the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and wetlands~~ indigenous ecosystems

Provide practical support for mana whenua and community *restoration* initiatives for ~~the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and wetlands~~ indigenous ecosystems, with a focus on achieving the targets and priorities identified by Methods IE.~~2~~3, CC.4 and CC.~~7~~6.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils

Method 54: Assist landowners to maintain, enhance and restore indigenous ecosystems

Assist landowners to maintain, enhance and/or restore indigenous ecosystems, with a focus on achieving the targets and priorities identified by Methods IE.~~2~~3, CC.4 and CC.~~7~~6, including by, but not limited to:

(a) assisting with the costs of legally protecting indigenous ecosystems by way of open space covenants with Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust (QEII);

(b) considering opportunities for partnerships (e.g., through Ngā Whenua Rāhui), advice, education, support and incentives, such as rates rebates;

(c) assisting with the costs of controlling pest plants and animals; and

(d) supporting landowners to *restore* significant indigenous ecosystems by fencing and planting.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils

Anticipated Environmental Results (AER)

Indigenous ecosystems	**Objective 16** Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant ~~ecosystem functions and services and/or~~ indigenous biodiversity values, other significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and the ecosystem processes ~~*functions*~~ of these ecosystems and habitats, are ~~maintained~~ protected, *enhanced*, and *restored* to a healthy functioning state. **Objective 16A** The region's indigenous biodiversity is ~~ecosystems are~~ *maintained*, enhanced, and restored to a healthy functioning state, improving its ~~their~~	FW 1. District and regional plans have identified indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values and other significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
		FW 2. District and regional plans contain policies, rules and/or methods to protect indigenous biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
		FW 3. In the Wellington Region ~~T~~there is ~~no loss~~ an overall increase in the ~~of~~ extent and ~~or~~ condition of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values and other significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and in the health of their ecosystem processes ~~functions~~.

	resilience to increasing environmental pressures, particularly climate change.~~, and giving effect to the *Te Rito o te Harakeke*~~. **Objective 16B** Mana whenua / tangata whenua values relating to indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species, and the important relationship between indigenous *ecosystem health* and well-being, are given effect to in decision-making, and mana whenua / tangata whenua are supported to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity. **Objective 16C** Landowner and community values in relation to indigenous biodiversity are recognised and provided for and their roles as stewards are supported.	4. Indigenous biodiversity across the Wellington Region is maintained and biodiversity indicators are improving across the region. ~~identified in a district or regional plan.~~ FW ~~4.~~5. ~~There is at least a 20 percent increase in the area of indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are legally protected.~~ 5. A regional biodiversity strategy has been prepared, and progress to meet defined 10-year targets is demonstrated 6. Mana whenua/tangata whenua are satisfied that their values associated with indigenous biodiversity, particular taonga species, are appropriately provided for in resource management decision-making, including through the application of Mātauranga Māori. 7. Mana whenua/tangata whenua are satisfied with the level of support to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity. 8. Landowners and communities are satisfied with the level of support provided to enable their roles as stewards of indigenous biodiversity.

Definitions *(*terms as defined in the NPS-IB)*

Defined term	**RPS Definition**
Biodiversity compensation	A measurable positive ~~environmental~~ conservation outcome resulting from actions that are designed to compensate for more than minor residual adverse ~~biodiversity~~ effects on indigenous biodiversity ~~that cannot be otherwise managed~~ after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, remediation, and biodiversity offsetting measures have been sequentially applied. This includes biodiversity compensation in the terrestrial environment and aquatic compensation for the extent and values of rivers and natural inland wetlands.
Biodiversity offsetting	A measurable positive ~~environmental~~ conservation outcome resulting from actions designed to redress for ~~the~~ more than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity ~~arising from activities~~ after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, and remediation measures have been sequentially applied. The goal of biodiversity offsetting is to achieve ~~no net loss, and preferably~~ a net gain ~~, of~~ in type, amount, and condition of indigenous biodiversity ~~values~~ compared to that lost. This includes biodiversity offsetting in the terrestrial environment and aquatic offsetting for the extent and values of rivers and natural inland wetlands.
Buffer/buffering*	A defined space between core areas of ecological value and the wider landscape that helps to reduce external pressures.
Decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity*	The following decision-making principles must inform the management of indigenous biodiversity: (a) prioritise the mauri, intrinsic value and well-being of indigenous biodiversity, (b) take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), (c) recognise the bond between mana whenua/tangata whenua and indigenous biodiversity based on whakapapa relationships,

	(d) recognise the obligation and responsibility of care that mana whenua/tangata whenua have as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity, (e) recognise the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity, (f) enable the application of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori, and (g) form strong and effective partnerships with mana whenua /tangata whenua. The decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity include any local expressions developed through Method IE.1.
Ecological connectivity*	~~Refers to the degree of connection that provides for the movement of genetic alleles and species and the maintenance of ecosystem processes within and between populations and ecosystems~~ The structural or functional links or connections between habitats and ecosystems that provide for the movement of species and processes among and between the habitats or ecosystems.
Ecological integrity*	~~The full potential of indigenous biotic and abiotic features and natural processes, functioning in sustainable communities, habitats, and landscapes.~~ The extent to which an ecosystem is able to support and maintain its: (a) composition (being its natural diversity of indigenous species, habitats, and communities); and (b) structure (being its biotic and abiotic physical features); and (c) functions (being its ecological and physical processes).
Ecosystem function*	The abiotic (physical) and biotic (ecological and biological) flows that are properties of an ecosystem.

Ecosystem health	The degree to which an ecosystem is able to sustain its ecological structure, processes, functions, and resilience within its range of natural variability.
~~Ecological integrity*~~	~~The full potential of indigenous biotic and abiotic features and natural processes, functioning in sustainable communities, habitats, and landscapes.~~ ~~The extent to which an ecosystem is able to support and maintain its:~~ ~~(a) composition (being its natural diversity of indigenous species, habitats, and communities); and~~ ~~(b) structure (being its biotic and abiotic physical features); and~~ ~~(c) functions (being its ecological and physical processes).~~
Effects management hierarchy	An approach to manage the adverse effects of an activity on significant indigenous biodiversity values that requires that: (a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then (b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then (c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then (d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, *biodiversity offsetting* is provided where possible; then (e) where *biodiversity offsetting* of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, *biodiversity compensation* is provided; then (f) if *biodiversity compensation* is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.
Electricity transmission network	The electricity transmission network that: (a) comprises the network of transmission lines, cables, stations, substations and works used to connect grid injection points and grid exit points used to convey electricity in New Zealand; and (b) is owned by Transpower New Zealand Limited; and (c) is commonly known as the National Grid.

Enhancement (in relation to indigenous biodiversity)	The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to reinstate indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes, and cultural and visual qualities. The aim of enhancement actions is to improve the condition of the environment, but not to return it to a former state.
Established activities	In relation to Policy 47, means an activity (including maintenance, operation and upgrade) that is in, or affects, an indigenous ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values and is not a new activity.
ET activities	Any activity required for the operation, maintenance, upgrade, or development of the electricity transmission network, along with all access roads and tracks required to operate and maintain that network.
Indigenous biodiversity	The living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous flora, fauna, and fungi, and their habitats.
~~Indigenous ecosystem~~	~~An ecosystem with a dominant or significant indigenous natural character.~~
Maintain/maintained/ maintenance (in relation to indigenous biodiversity)*	~~At least no reduction in the following:~~ ~~(a) the size of populations of indigenous species~~ ~~(b) indigenous species occupancy across their natural range~~ ~~(c) the properties and function of ecosystems and habitats~~ ~~(d) the full range and extent of ecosystems and habitats~~ ~~(e) connectivity between and buffering around, ecosystems~~ ~~(f) the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems.~~ ~~The maintenance of indigenous biodiversity may also require the restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and habitats.~~ Maintaining indigenous biodiversity requires: (a) the maintenance and at least no overall reduction of all the following: (i) the size of populations of indigenous species: (ii) indigenous species occupancy across their natural range:

	(iii) the properties and function of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity: (iv) the full range and extent of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity: (v) *connectivity* between, and *buffering* around, ecosystems used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity: (vi) the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems; and (b)where necessary, the restoration and enhancement of ecosystems and habitats.
Naturally rare	Rare before the arrival of humans in New Zealand
Naturally uncommon ecosystems	Ecosystems with an estimated maximum total area of <0.5% (i.e., <134,000ha) of New Zealand's land area (268,680 km^2) before human colonization. The 72 naturally uncommon ecosystems in New Zealand are described in Wiser, Susan K et al "New Zealand's Naturally Uncommon Ecosystems" 2013 available at https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/uploads/public/researchpubs/uncommon-ecosystems-book-section.pdf
~~Protect (in relation to indigenous biodiversity):~~	~~Looking after biodiversity and the ecosystem processes that create and maintain it in the long term. This involves managing all threats to secure species from extinction and ensuring that their populations are buffered from the impacts of the loss of genetic diversity and longer-term environmental events such as climate change. This includes, but is not restricted to, legal protection.~~
REG activities	An activity required for the development, operation, maintenance, or upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets.
Renewable electricity generation assets	The physical components required for renewable electricity generation, along with the assets and infrastructure (such as cabling, access roads, and tracks) required to generate and store the generated electricity and connect it to transmission or distribution networks or direct to end users.
Resilience (in relation to an ecosystem)*	The ability of an ecosystem to absorb and recover from disturbances and its capacity to reorganise into similar ecosystems.

Restoration (in relation to indigenous biodiversity)*	~~In relation to indigenous biodiversity, means t~~The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to maintain or reinstate indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes, and cultural and visual qualities, and may include enhancement activities.
Restoration (in relation to a natural inland wetland)**	Active intervention and management, appropriate to the type and location of the wetland, aimed at restoring its ecosystem health, indigenous biodiversity, or hydrological functioning.
Specified infrastructure	(a) infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002); (b) regionally significant infrastructure defined in this Regional Policy Statement and any nationally significant infrastructure identified as such in a National Policy Statement; (c) infrastructure that is necessary to support housing development, that is included in a proposed or operative plan or identified for development in any relevant strategy document (including a future development strategy or spatial strategy) adopted by a local authority, in an urban environment (as defined in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020): (d) any public flood control, flood protection, or drainage works carried out: (i) by or on behalf of a local authority, including works carried out for the purposes set out in section 133 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941; or (ii) for the purpose of drainage, by drainage districts under the Land Drainage Act 1908: (e) defence facilities operated by the New Zealand Defence Force to meet its obligations under the Defence Act 1990.
Systematic Conservation Planning	A spatially explicit, objective-based and quantitative approach for identifying priority areas for biodiversity conservation.

~~Te Rito o te Harakeke~~	~~Te Rito o te Harakeke is a concept that refers to the need to maintain the integrity of indigenous biodiversity. It recognises the intrinsic value and mauri of indigenous biodiversity as well as people's connections and relationships with it.~~ ~~It recognises that our health and wellbeing are dependent on the health and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity and that in return we have a responsibility to care for it. It acknowledges the web of interconnectedness between indigenous species, ecosystems, the wider environment, and the community.~~ ~~Te Rito o te Harakeke comprises six essential elements to guide tangata whenua and local authorities in managing indigenous biodiversity and developing objectives, policies, and methods for giving effect to Te Rito o te Harakeke:~~ ~~(a) the intrinsic value and mauri of indigenous biodiversity:~~ ~~(b) the bond between people and indigenous biodiversity through whakapapa (familial) relationships and mutual interdependence:~~ ~~(c) the responsibility of care that tangata whenua have as kaitiaki, and that other New Zealanders have as stewards, of indigenous biodiversity:~~ ~~(d) the connectivity between indigenous biodiversity and the wider environment:~~ ~~(e) the incorporation of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori:~~ ~~(f) the requirement to partner with tangata whenua.~~
Threatened ecosystems ~~or Threatened or At Risk species~~	~~These~~ Threatened ecosystems are described by the IUCN Red List categories, Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable.
Threatened or At Risk species *	Threatened or At Risk and Threatened or At Risk (declining) species have, at any time, the meanings given in the New Zealand Threat Classification System Manual (Andrew J Townsend, Peter J de Lange, Clinton A J Duffy, Colin Miskelly, Janice Molloy and David A Norton, 2008. Science & Technical Publishing, Department of Conservation,

	Wellington), available at: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-andtechnical/sap244.pdf, or its current successor publication

Appendix 1A: Limits to biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation[1]

This appendix identifies the ecosystems and species that either meet or exceed the limits to the use of biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation in the Wellington Region[2]. The setting of limits to the use of offsetting is one of the ten internationally accepted principles of biodiversity offsetting recognised by the Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme.[3] Policy 24A gives effect to this direction in the Wellington Region.

Policy 24 A ~~(a)~~ directs that where policies and/or rules in district and regional plans enable the use of biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation they shall not provide for biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation: where there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset (clause (~~i~~b)); or when an activity is anticipated to causes residual adverse effects on an area after an offset or compensate has been implemented if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon (clause (~~ii~~c)). This appendix identifies the species and ecosystems that meet these criteria in the Wellington Region.

~~Policy 24(b) directs that where policies and/or rules in district and regional plans enable the use of biodiversity compensation they shall not provide for biodiversity compensation where an activity is anticipated to cause residual adverse effects on an area if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon.~~

This appendix also identifies the ecosystems and species in the Wellington Region meeting the criteria for Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) ~~2020~~, and for which adverse effects must be avoided. Consideration of biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation for these ecosystems or species is therefore not provided for.

~~To avoid doubt, ecosystems and species that meet the criteria for:~~

~~• Policy 24(a)(i) exceed the limits of biodiversity offsetting meaning that applications for biodiversity offsetting cannot be considered.~~

~~• Policy 24(a)(ii) meet the limits of biodiversity offsetting. Applications for offsetting can be considered only if the anticipated offset plans to redress all residual adverse effects.~~

~~• Policy 24A(c)(b) exceed the limits of biodiversity compensation meaning that applications for compensation cannot be considered.~~

To avoid doubt:

[1] Appendix 1A added 18/12/23

[2] As identified in Crisp P and Oliver M. 2022. Limits to offsetting – Thresholds of concern for biodiversity. Greater Wellington Regional Council, Publication No. GW/ESCI-G-22/11, Wellington.

[3] Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (2018). The BBOP principles on biodiversity offsets, https://www.forest-trends.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/10/The-BBOP-Principles_20181023.pdf

- Applications for offsetting adverse effects on ecosystems and species that meet the criteria in Policy 24A(b) can only be considered if at least a net gain, and preferably a 10% net gain or greater, in the indigenous biodiversity values affected can be reasonably demonstrated.
- Policy 24A(c) describes the situations when *biodiversity compensation* is not appropriate, meaning that where Policy 24A(c) applies applications for *biodiversity compensation* cannot be considered.
- Policy 24(d) describes the situations where biodiversity compensation is likely to be inappropriate because there are no technically feasible methods to secure gains in an acceptable timeframe.
- ~~NZCPS Policy 11(a) exceed the limits of~~ Policy 24C(1) sets out adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment that need to be avoided ~~biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation~~ meaning that applications for biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation cannot be considered.

The species listed in Table 17 are the nationally Threatened species and ecosystems and naturally uncommon ecosystems that are found within the Wellington Region, as detailed in the relevant publications listed on the Department of Conservation's New Zealand Threat Classification web page. These ecosystems and species are assessed as being "vulnerable" or "irreplaceable" in accordance with the principles as to when biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation is inappropriate. Note that the species list will change over time as national threat lists are updated or more knowledge is gained about the presence or absence of a species in the Wellington Region. The most up-to-date threat classification should be used at the time of making an assessment under Policy 24A or Policy 47 (h) and (i).

Table 17: Ecosystems and species that either meet or exceed the limits to the use of *biodiversity offsetting* and *biodiversity compensation* in the Wellington Region (there are some duplicates of ecosystems and species as some habitats relate to more than one ecosystem type).

Wetland ecosystems FW

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~bd~~) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**[4]	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**

[4] This column shows situations where it is not feasible to offset for residual adverse effects because there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise, or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset.

Coastal turfs	~~Yes~~ Critically Endangered	Yes	Yes
Dune slacks	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Domed bogs	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	
Seepages and flushes	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	
Sinkholes	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	
Ephemeral wetlands	~~Yes~~ Critically Endangered		Yes
Lagoons	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Lake margins	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Tarns	~~Yes~~ Naturally Uncommon		

Wetland plant species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24~~A~~(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24~~A~~(~~bd~~) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Crassula peduncularis	~~Yes~~ Critical		
~~*Epilobium hirtigerum*~~	~~Yes Critical~~		
Juncus holoschoenus var *holoschoenus*	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Sebaea ovata	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Simplicia felix	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Utricularia australis	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Centipeda minima subsp *minima*	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
~~*Isolepis basilaris*~~	~~Yes Endangered~~		
Mazus novaezeelandiae	~~Yes~~ Endangered		

subsp. *impolitus* f. impolitus			
~~*Myosurus minimus subsp. Novae zelandiae*~~	~~Yes~~		
Pterostylis irwinni	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Pterostylis micromega	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Amphibromus fluitans	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Carex cirrhosa	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Gratiola concinna	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Libertia peregrinans	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
~~*Spiranthes novae zelandiae*~~	~~Yes~~		
Juncus pauciflorus	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Wetland bird species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Anas superciliosa ~~*superciliosa*~~ (grey duck)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Botaurus poiciloptilus (matuku, bittern)	~~Yes~~ Critical		
~~*Calidris canutus rogersi* (lesser knot)~~	~~Yes~~		

Wetland invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Lepidurus apus viridis (tadpole shrimp)	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Echyridella aucklandica (kākahi)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Riverine ecosystems

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Braided riverbeds	~~Yes~~ Endangered		

Riverine plant species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
~~*Myosotis pottsiana*~~	~~Yes~~	-	
Rorippa divaricata	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Fissidens berteroi	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Riverine bird species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)

	uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	
~~*Larus bulleri* (black billed gull)~~	~~Yes~~		~~Yes~~
~~*Charadruis bicinctus bicinctus* (banded dotterel)~~	~~Yes~~		~~Yes~~
Chlidonias albostriatus	Endangered		

Riverine invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Omanuperla hollowayae	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Potamopyrgus oppidanus	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Hydrochorema n. sp. W	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Cryptobiosella furcata	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Cryptobiosella spinosa	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Echyridella aucklandica (kākahi)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes
Xenobiosella motueka	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Riverine fish species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)

	uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)		
Galaxias postvectis (shortjaw kōkopu)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Geotria australis (lamprey)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Lacustrine ecosystem

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Inland sand dunes	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Shingle beaches	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Stony beach ridges	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Ephemeral wetlands	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered		Yes
Lagoons	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Lake margins	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Estuaries	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Lacustrine plant species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Althenia bilocularis [5]	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable	-	
Pterostylis micromega	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Amphibromus fluitans	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

[5] previously listed as a riverine plant specie

~~*Ricciocarpos natans*~~	~~Yes~~		
~~*Isolepis basilaris*~~	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Carex cirrhosa	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Fissidens berteroi	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Lacustrine bird species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Anas chlorotis	Increasing		
Anas superciliosa ~~*superciliosa*~~ (grey duck)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
~~*Egretta alba modesta*~~*Ardea alba modesta* (white heron)	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Botaurus poiciloptilus (matuku, bittern)	~~Yes~~ Critical		
~~*Larus bulleri* (black billed gull)~~	~~Yes~~		~~Yes~~
~~*Charadruis bicinctus bicinctus* (banded dotterel)~~	~~Yes~~		~~Yes~~
Anarhynchus frontalis (wrybill)	~~Yes~~ Increasing		
~~*Calidris canutus rogersi* (lesser knot)~~	~~Yes~~		
Hydroprogne caspia (Caspian tern)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes
Poliocephalus rufopectus	~~Yes~~ Increasing		

(New Zealand dabchick)			

Lacustrine fish species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Geotria australis (lamprey)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Lacustrine invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
~~*Orthoclydon pseudostinaria*~~	~~Yes~~		
Lepidurus apus viridis (tadpole shrimp)	~~Yes~~ Endangered		
Echyridella aucklandica (kākahi)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Marine habitat or ecosystem

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Bull kelp forests (*Durvillaea* spp.)		Yes	Yes

Cook Strait shelf-edge canyon habitats		Yes	Yes
Matikona reef habitats		Yes	Yes
Opouawe Bank methane seeps		Yes	Yes
Adamsiella algal beds		Yes	Yes
Deepsea woodfall habitat		Yes	Yes
Rhodolith beds		Yes	Yes
Hydroid tree communities		Yes	
Beds of large bivalve molluscs (horse mussels, scallops, oysters, *Dosinia* spp.)		Yes	Yes
Mixed high current assemblages (e.g., sponge gardens)		Yes	Yes
Tubeworm (polychaete) fields and mounds		Yes	
Sea anemone meadows		Yes	Yes
Seagrass meadows		Yes	Yes
Brachiopod beds		Yes	
Bryozoan thickets		Yes	
Black coral colonies		Yes	Yes
Giant kelp (*Macrocystis* spp.) forests		Yes	Yes
Mixed kelp assemblages		Yes	Yes
Seamounts		Yes	Yes
Estuaries		Yes	Yes

Marine algae species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Dione arcuata	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Gelidium johnstonii	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Gigartina dilatata	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Prasionema heeschiae	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Gigartina sp. C	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Prasiola sp. A	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Prasiola novaezelandiae	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes

Marine invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Smeagol climoi	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Boccardiella magniovata	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Spio aequalis	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Paragorgia alisonae	Vulnerable		Yes

Marine mammal species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~

	Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	Policy 24C(1)
Orcinus orca	Critical		Yes

Marine shark species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Carcharodon carcharias	Endangered		Yes
Cetorhinus maximus	Vulnerable		Yes

Coastal margin habitat or ecosystem

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Coastal turfs	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	Yes
Marine mammal haul-outs	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	Yes
Seabird burrowed soils	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	Yes
Shingle beaches	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Stony beach ridges	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Calcareous coastal cliffs	~~Yes~~ Endangered	Yes	Yes
Coastal cliffs on acidic rock stacks	~~Yes~~ Least concern	Yes	Yes
Coastal rock stacks	~~Yes~~ Least concern	Yes	Yes

Active sand dunes	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Stable sand dunes	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Estuaries	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Coastal plant species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Leptinella nana	~~Yes~~ Critical		Yes
Muehlenbeckia astonii	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Pimelea aff *villosa*	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
Atriplex buchananii	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes
Myosotis brevis	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes
Lepidium oleraceum	Endangered		Yes
Pimelea aff. *aridula*	Endangered		Yes

Coastal bird species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Egretta sacra sacra (reef heron)	~~Yes~~ Endangered		Yes
~~*Charadruis bicinctus bicinctus* (banded dotterel)~~	~~Yes~~		~~Yes~~
Hydroprogne caspia (Caspian tern)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Charadrius obscurus aquilonius	Increasing		Yes
Chlidonias albostriatus	Endangered		Yes
Stictocarbo punctatus	Vulnerable		Yes

Coastal lizard species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Oligosoma whitakeri (Whitaker's skink)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		Yes

Coastal lichen species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Ramalina pacifica	Vulnerable		Yes

Coastal moth species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Notoreas peronata subsp. "Castlepoint"	Critical		Yes

Forest ecosystem

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Titoki, ngaio	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Totara, matai, ribbonwood	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Tawa, titoki, podocarp	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Totara, matai, broadleaf	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Kahikatea, pukatea	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Totara, titoki	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Kahikatea, totara, matai	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Black beech	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable	Yes	
Cloud forests	~~Yes~~ Least concern	Yes	

Forest plant species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Brachyglottis pentacopa	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Didymodon calycinus	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Gastrodia cooperae	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Korthasella salicornioides	~~Yes~~ Critical		
Olearia gardneri	~~Yes~~ Endangered		

Brachyglottis kirkii var *kirkii*	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Dactylanthus taylorii	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Kunzea serotina	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Pittosporum obcordatum	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Solanum aviculare var *aviculare*	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		

Forest bird species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Notiomystis cincta (Stitchbird)	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable		
Eudynamys taitensis	Vulnerable		
Nestor meridionalis meridionalis	Vulnerable		
Falco novaeseelandiae ferox	Increasing		

Forest lizard species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Oligosoma aff. *infrapunctatum* 'Southern North Island'	~~Yes~~ Critical		

Forest invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Orthoclydon pesudostinaria	~~Yes~~ Critical		

Forest bat species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Chalinolobus tuberculatus (long-tailed bat)	~~Yes~~ Critical		
~~*Mystacina tuberculate rhyacobi* (central lesser short tailed bat)~~	~~Yes~~		

Forest mushroom species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Cortinarius gemmeus	Vulnerable		
Inocybe amygdalina	Vulnerable		
Laccaria paraphysata	Vulnerable		
Russula albolutescens	Vulnerable		
Russula allochroa	Vulnerable		

Russula aucklandica	Vulnerable		
Russula multicystidiata	Vulnerable		
Russula vinaceocuticulata	Vulnerable		

Forest moth species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Orthoclydon pseudostinaria	Critical		
*"*Schiffermuelleria*" orthophanes*	Critical		

Other ecosystem

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Cave entrances	~~Yes~~ Critically endangered	Yes	
Calcareous cliffs, scarps and tors	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable	Yes	
Boulderfields of calcareous rocks	~~Yes~~ Vulnerable	Yes	

Other plant species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally**	**Policy** 24A(~~b~~d) ~~**(a)(i)**~~	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**

	uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	
Simplicia felix	~~Yes~~ Critical Mudstone	Yes	
Anogramma leptophylla	~~Yes~~ Rock faces Vulnerable	Yes	
Cladia blanchonii	~~Yes~~ Basalt Vulnerable outcrops	Yes	
Geranium retrorsum	~~Yes~~ Cliffs Vulnerable	Yes	
Pimelea tomentosa	~~Yes~~ Cliffs Vulnerable	Yes	

Land snail species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Powelliphanta traversi otakia	Critical		

Land orthoptera species

Ecosystem or species name	Policy 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)	Policy 24A(~~b~~d) ~~(a)(i)~~ No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism	~~NZCPS Policy 11(a)~~ Policy 24C(1)
Deinacrida rugosa (Cook Strait weta)	Vulnerable		

Land invertebrate species

Ecosystem or species name	**Policy** 24A(b)&(c) ~~(a)(ii)~~ **Threatened species or ecosystem or naturally uncommon ecosystem (Threat Status)**	**Policy** 24A(~~bd~~) ~~**(a)(i)**~~ **No appropriate site, knowledge, methods, expertise, mechanism**	~~**NZCPS Policy 11(a)**~~ **Policy 24C(1)**
Prasmiola unica	Critical		

Appendix 1B: Criteria for identifying areas that qualify as an area with significant indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment (a significant natural area)

This appendix sets out the criteria for identifying significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in a specific area, so that the area qualifies as a significant natural area in the terrestrial environment. The assessment must be done using the assessment criteria set out below and in accordance with the following principles:

(a) partnership: territorial authorities engage early with mana whenua and landowners and share information about indigenous biodiversity, potential management options, and any support and incentives that may be available:

(b) transparency: territorial authorities clearly inform mana whenua and landowners about how any information gathered will be used and make existing information, draft assessments and other relevant information available to mana whenua and relevant landowners for review:

(c) quality: wherever practicable, the values and extent of natural areas are verified by physical inspection; but if a physical inspection is not practicable (because, for instance, the area is inaccessible, or a landowner does not give access) the local authority uses the best information available to it at the time:

(d) access: if a physical inspection is required, permission of the landowner is first sought and the powers of entry under section 333 of the Act are used only as a last resort:

(e) consistency: the criteria in Appendix 1 are applied consistently, regardless of who owns the land:

(f) boundaries: the boundaries of areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna are determined without regard to artificial margins (such as property boundaries) that would affect the extent or ecological integrity of the area identified.

1. What qualifies as an SNA

(1) An area qualifies as an SNA if it meets any one of the attributes of the following four criteria:

(a) representativeness:

(b) diversity and pattern:

(c) rarity and distinctiveness:

(d) ecological context.

(2) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it provides habitat for a single indigenous fauna species that is At Risk (declining), and that species is widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:

(a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or

(b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.

(3) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it contains one or more indigenous flora species that are Threatened or At Risk (declining), and those species are widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:

(a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or

(b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.

2. Context for assessment

(1) The context for an assessment of an area is:

(a) its ecological district; and

(b) for the rarity assessment only, its ecological district, its region and the national context.

3. Manner and form of assessment

(1) Every assessment must include at least:

(a) a map of the area; and

(b) a general description of its significant attributes, with reference to relevant criteria (as specified below); and

(c) a general description of the indigenous vegetation, indigenous fauna, habitat, and ecosystems present; and

(d) additional information, such as the key threats, pressures, and management requirements; and

(e) for SNAs in areas of Crown-owned land referred to in clause 3.8(8), the conservation management strategy or plan or national park management plan that applies to the area.

(2) An assessment under this appendix must be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist (which, in the case of an assessment of a geothermal ecosystem, requires an ecologist with geothermal expertise).

A Representativeness criterion

(1) Representativeness is the extent to which the indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna in an area is typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of the relevant ecological district.

Key assessment principles

(2) Significant indigenous vegetation has ecological integrity typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district in the present-day environment. It includes seral (regenerating) indigenous vegetation that is recovering following natural or induced disturbance, provided species composition is typical of that type of indigenous vegetation.

(3) Significant indigenous fauna habitat is that which supports the typical suite of indigenous animals that would occur in the present-day environment. Habitat of indigenous fauna may be indigenous or exotic.

(4) Representativeness may include commonplace indigenous vegetation and the habitats of indigenous fauna, which is where most indigenous biodiversity is present. It may also include degraded indigenous vegetation, ecosystems and habitats that are typical of what remains in depleted ecological districts. It is not restricted to the best or most representative examples, and it is not a measure of how well that indigenous vegetation or habitat is protected elsewhere in the ecological district.

(5) When considering the typical character of an ecological district, any highly developed land or built-up areas should be excluded.

(6) The application of this criterion should result in identification of indigenous vegetation and habitats that are representative of the full range and extent of ecological diversity across all environmental gradients in an ecological district, such as climate, altitude, landform, and soil sequences. The ecological character and pattern of the indigenous vegetation in the ecological district should be described by reference to the types of indigenous vegetation and the landforms on which it occurs.

Attributes of representativeness

(7) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

> (a) indigenous vegetation that has ecological integrity that is typical of the character of the ecological district:
>
> (b) habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous fauna that is characteristic of the habitat type in the ecological district and retains at least a moderate range of species expected for that habitat type in the ecological district.

B Diversity and pattern criterion

(1) Diversity and pattern is the extent to which the expected range of diversity and pattern of biological and physical components within the relevant ecological district is present in an area.

Key assessment principles

(2) Diversity of biological components is expressed in the variation of species, communities, and ecosystems. Biological diversity is associated with variation in physical components, such as geology, soils/substrate, aspect/exposure, altitude/depth, temperature, and salinity.

(3) Pattern includes changes along environmental and landform gradients, such as ecotones and sequences.

(4) Natural areas that have a wider range of species, habitats or communities or wider environmental variation due to ecotones, gradients, and sequences in the context of the ecological district, rate more highly under this criterion.

Attributes of diversity and pattern

(5) An area that qualifies as a significant natural area under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

> (a) at least a moderate diversity of indigenous species, vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna or communities in the context of the ecological district:
>
> (b) presence of indigenous ecotones, complete or partial gradients or sequences.

C Rarity and distinctiveness criterion

(1) Rarity and distinctiveness is the presence of rare or distinctive indigenous taxa, habitats of indigenous fauna, indigenous vegetation or ecosystems.

Key assessment principles

(2) Rarity is the scarcity (natural or induced) of indigenous elements: species, habitats, vegetation, or ecosystems. Rarity includes elements that are uncommon or threatened.

(3) The list of Threatened and At Risk species is regularly updated by the Department of Conservation. Rarity at a regional or ecological district scale is defined by regional or district lists or determined by expert ecological advice. The significance of nationally listed Threatened and At Risk species should not be downgraded just because they are common within a region or ecological district.

(4) Depletion of indigenous vegetation or ecosystems is assessed using ecological districts and land environments.

(5) Distinctiveness includes distribution limits, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, and special ecological or scientific features.

Attributes of rarity and distinctiveness

(6) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

(a) provides habitat for an indigenous species that is listed as Threatened or At Risk (declining) in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists:

(b) an indigenous vegetation type or an indigenous species that is uncommon within the region or ecological district:

(c) an indigenous species or plant community at or near its natural distributional limit:

(d) indigenous vegetation that has been reduced to less than 20 per cent of its prehuman extent in the ecological district, region, or land environment:

(e) indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna occurring on naturally uncommon ecosystems:

(f) the type locality of an indigenous species:

(g) the presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species:

(h) the presence of a special ecological or scientific feature.

D Ecological context criterion

(1) Ecological context is the extent to which the size, shape, and configuration of an area within the wider surrounding landscape contributes to its ability to maintain indigenous biodiversity or affects the ability of the surrounding landscape to maintain its indigenous biodiversity.

Key assessment principles

(2) Ecological context has two main assessment principles:

(a) the characteristics that help maintain indigenous biodiversity (such as size, shape, and configuration) in the area; and

(b) the contribution the area makes to protecting indigenous biodiversity in the wider landscape (such as by linking, connecting to or buffering other natural areas, providing 'stepping stones' of habitat or maintaining ecological integrity).

Attributes of ecological context

(3) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

(a) at least moderate size and a compact shape, in the context of the relevant ecological district:

(b) well-buffered relative to remaining habitats in the relevant ecological district:

(c) provides an important full or partial buffer to, or link between, one or more important habitats of indigenous fauna or significant natural areas:

(d) important for the natural functioning of an ecosystem relative to remaining habitats in the ecological district.

Appendix 1C: Biodiversity offsetting and aquatic offsetting

These principles apply to the use of biodiversity offsets and aquatic offsets for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity. All references to biodiversity offsetting in these principles also applies to aquatic offsetting.

(1) **Adherence to effects management hierarchy:** A biodiversity offset is a commitment to redress more than minor residual adverse effects and should be contemplated only after steps to avoid, minimise, and remedy adverse effects are demonstrated to have been sequentially exhausted.

(2) **When biodiversity offsetting is not appropriate:** Biodiversity offsets are not appropriate in situations where indigenous biodiversity values cannot be offset to achieve a net gain. Examples of an offset not being appropriate include where:

  (a) residual adverse effects cannot be offset because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity affected:

  (b) effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potential effects are significantly adverse or irreversible:

  (c) there are no technically feasible options by which to secure gains within an acceptable timeframe.

(3) **Net gain**: This principle reflects a standard of acceptability for demonstrating, and then achieving, a net gain in indigenous biodiversity values. Net gain is demonstrated by a like-for-like quantitative loss/gain calculation of the following, and is achieved when the indigenous biodiversity values at the offset site are equivalent to or exceed those being lost at the impact site:

  (a) types of indigenous biodiversity, including when indigenous species depend on introduced species for their persistence; and

  (b) amount; and

  (c) condition (structure and quality).

(4) **Additionality:** A biodiversity offset achieves gains in indigenous biodiversity above and beyond gains that would have occurred in the absence of the offset, such as gains that are additional to any minimisation and remediation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.

(5) **Leakage**: Biodiversity offset design and implementation avoids displacing harm to other indigenous biodiversity in the same or any other location.

(6) **Long-term outcomes:** A biodiversity offset is managed to secure outcomes of the activity that last at least as long as the impacts, and preferably in perpetuity. Consideration must be given to long-term issues around funding, location, management and monitoring.

(7) **Landscape context**: Biodiversity offsetting is undertaken where this will result in the best ecological outcome, preferably close to the impact site or within the same ecological district. The action considers the landscape context of both the impact site and the offset site, taking into account interactions between species, habitats and ecosystems, spatial connections, and ecosystem function.

(8) **Time lags**: The delay between loss of, or effects on, indigenous biodiversity values at the impact site and the gain or maturity of indigenous biodiversity at the offset site is minimised so that the calculated gains are achieved within the consent period or, as appropriate, a longer period (but not more than 35 years).

(9) **Science and mātauranga Māori**: The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset is a documented process informed by science and mātauranga Māori.

(10) **Tangata whenua and stakeholder participation:** Opportunity for the effective and early participation of tangata whenua and stakeholders is demonstrated when planning biodiversity offsets, including their evaluation, selection, design, implementation, and monitoring.

(11) **Transparency:** The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset, and communication of its results to the public, is undertaken in a transparent and timely manner.

Appendix 1D: Biodiversity compensation and aquatic compensation

These principles apply to the use of biodiversity compensation and aquatic compensation for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity. All reference to biodiversity compensation in these principles also apply to aquatic compensation.

(1) **Adherence to effects management hierarchy:** Biodiversity compensation is a commitment to redress more than minor residual adverse effects, and should be contemplated only after steps to avoid, minimise, remedy, and offset adverse effects are demonstrated to have been sequentially exhausted.

(2) **When biodiversity compensation is not appropriate:** Biodiversity compensation is not appropriate where indigenous biodiversity values are not able to be compensated for. Examples of biodiversity compensation not being appropriate include where:

  (a) the indigenous biodiversity affected is irreplaceable or vulnerable;

  (b) effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potential effects are significantly adverse or irreversible;

  (c) there are no technically feasible options by which to secure a proposed net gain within acceptable timeframes.

(3) **Scale of biodiversity compensation:** The indigenous biodiversity values lost through the activity to which the biodiversity compensation applies are addressed by positive effects to indigenous biodiversity (including when indigenous species depend on introduced species for their persistence), that outweigh the adverse effects.

(4) **Additionality:** Biodiversity compensation achieves gains in indigenous biodiversity above and beyond gains that would have occurred in the absence of the compensation, such as gains that are additional to any minimisation and remediation or offsetting undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.

(5) **Leakage:** Biodiversity compensation design and implementation avoids displacing harm to other indigenous biodiversity in the same or any other location.

(6) **Long-term outcomes**: Biodiversity compensation is managed to secure outcomes of the activity that last as least as long as the impacts, and preferably in perpetuity. Consideration must be given to long-term issues around funding, location, management, and monitoring.

(7) **Landscape context:** Biodiversity compensation is undertaken where this will result in the best ecological outcome, preferably close to the impact site or within the same ecological district. The action considers the landscape context of both the impact site and the compensation site, taking into account interactions between species, habitats and ecosystems, spatial connections, and ecosystem function.

(8) **Time lags**: The delay between loss of, or effects on, indigenous biodiversity values at the impact site and the gain or maturity of indigenous biodiversity at the compensation site is minimised so that the calculated gains are achieved within the consent period or, as appropriate, a longer period (but not more than 35 years).

(9) **Trading up**: When trading up forms part of biodiversity compensation, the proposal demonstrates that the indigenous biodiversity gains are demonstrably greater or higher than those lost. The proposal also shows the values lost are not to Threatened or At Risk (declining) species or to species considered vulnerable or irreplaceable.

(10) **Financial contributions:** A financial contribution is only considered if:

(a) there is no effective option available for delivering biodiversity gains on the ground; and

(b) it directly funds an intended biodiversity gain or benefit that complies with the rest of these principles.

(11) **Science and mātauranga Māori**: The design and implementation of biodiversity compensation is a documented process informed by science, and mātauranga Māori.

(12) **Tangata whenua and stakeholder participation**: Opportunity for the effective and early participation of tangata whenua and stakeholders is demonstrated when planning for biodiversity compensation, including its evaluation, selection, design, implementation, and monitoring.

(13) **Transparency:** The design and implementation of biodiversity compensation, and communication of its results to the public, is undertaken in a transparent and timely manner.

Appendix 1E: Regional Biodiversity Strategies

(1) The purpose of a regional biodiversity strategy is to promote the landscape-scale restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity.

(2) To achieve its purpose, every regional biodiversity strategy, either alone or when read with related documents, must:

(a) set out a landscape-scale vision for the restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity; and

(b) provide for resilience to biological and environmental changes, including those associated with climate change; and

(c) recognise biological and physical connections within, and between, the terrestrial environment, water bodies, and the coastal marine area; and

(d) support the achievement of any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity protection; and

(e) record:

(i) the actions and methods intended to promote the maintenance and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, and increase in indigenous vegetation cover, in the region; and

(ii) actions that will be undertaken by local or central government; and

(iii) actions that the community, including tangata whenua, will be supported or encouraged to undertake; and

(iv) how those actions will be resourced; and

(f) specify milestones for achieving the strategy's purpose; and

(g) specify how progress on achieving the strategy's purpose is to be monitored and reported on and measures to be taken if milestones are not being met.

(3) A regional biodiversity strategy may also:

(a) include measures that are intended to implement other objectives, such as biosecurity, climate mitigation, amenity, or freshwater outcomes, where those measures also contribute to protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity; and

(b) identify areas intended for restoration in accordance with clause 3.21 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity; and

(c) identify areas in which indigenous vegetation cover is proposed to be increased, in accordance with clause 3.22 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

(4) The following must be taken into account when developing a regional biodiversity strategy:

(a) any National Biodiversity Strategy issued by the Department of Conservation:

(b) opportunities to engage the community, including tangata whenua, in conservation and, in particular, to connect urban people and communities to indigenous biodiversity:

(c) opportunities for partnerships with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and others:

(d) considering incentive opportunities specific to specified Māori land:

(e) co-benefits, including for water quality and freshwater habitats, carbon sequestration and hazard mitigation:

(f) alignment with strategies under other legislation