



From Seed to Success

Ruia te Kākano, Kohia te Kai Rangatira

Guidelines for Community
Conservation Partnerships

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Foreword

The demands on communities today are great and ever increasing. Despite this, more and more people are taking time to help conserve New Zealand's biodiversity, historic and cultural heritage and develop recreational opportunities.

The task of community conservation is not simple. Native plants and animals face a multitude of threats, ranging from introduced pests and disease to the effects of land use change and other human activities. Often, scientific and technical knowledge is incomplete, requiring experimentation and ongoing learning in practical conservation projects. And, of course, there are the endless challenges of working together with others to achieve conservation outcomes.

These guidelines and the Community Partnerships training are part of a wider effort to implement the Department's Conservation with Communities Strategy. The strategy aims to bring about a major cultural shift within the Department to institutionalise working with the community to achieve the best possible conservation success. There are great examples of community involvement and awareness-raising all around the country. These guidelines aim to help us build on these. These include a range of practical ideas and advice for establishing and running community projects, maintaining momentum in the long term, and working constructively with others. The information in the guidelines draws on the knowledge and experience of people in DOC and communities across New Zealand, highlighting 'good practice' from a range of projects.

My hope is not only that these ideas and techniques will be useful to DOC staff and community members, but that this material will provide a catalyst for further new ideas and techniques to help community conservation projects. We can then look to all community conservation projects achieving the success that they and their projects so rightly deserve.

I would like to acknowledge in particular staff of the Northland and Waikato conservancies and all others who were involved in bringing together the material in this guide.



Hugh Logan
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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