

Working together

DOC PROSPECTUS



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

< Cover image: A fairy tern pair working together: one keeps watch while the other turns the egg. Photo © Malcolm Pullman

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Working together

Become a conservation partner

For more than 80 million years New Zealand evolved in isolation. It was a land of birds, thriving in a landscape that had no natural predators. Our iconic plants and animals, unspoiled natural landscapes and beautiful wild places are tāonga/treasures that have been handed down for future generations.

From the first people to set foot on our shores around 800 years ago, to all those who enjoy our national parks and beaches today, our wild and untamed nature has shaped who we are as New Zealanders. It's essential to our way of life and national identity, and underpins our economy.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the government agency responsible for managing New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. We oversee 8.7 million ha of public conservation land and 40,000 km² of marine reserves and marine mammal sanctuary. We protect more than 13,000 archaeological and historical places that tell the story of our past. We lead the conservation of plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth, including our iconic species like kiwi and kākāpō. And, in partnership with many others, we manage projects to protect and restore habitats on conservation land.

The conservation of New Zealand's precious natural and historic treasures is a job that's much bigger than DOC alone - and we know there are many others who are keen to play their part.

We work with whānau, hapū, iwi, community groups, businesses, philanthropists, regional and local councils, volunteers, and across government to grow conservation in New Zealand.

This document provides a snapshot of the conservation projects in which you could become one of our valued partners - from community-based initiatives and education programmes to marine, habitat and species protection, and pest control projects.

Protecting our nature is a job for all of us, and the rewards of doing so are as diverse as the habitats and species we manage. We welcome partners to work with us to protect this country's unique nature.



Lou Sanson
Director-General

*Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta,
Toitū te marae a Tangaroa,
Toitū te tangata.*

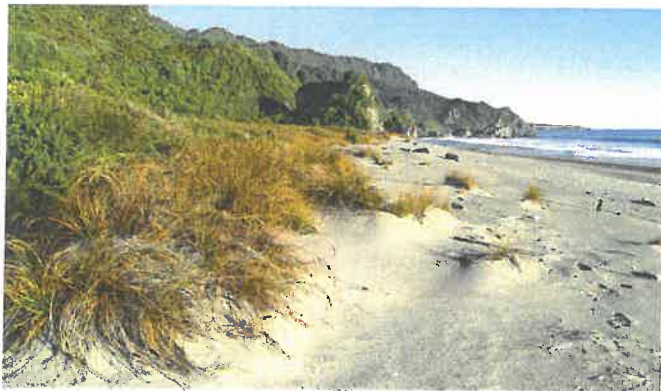
*If the land is well and the sea is well,
the people will thrive.*

Regrowing coastal defences

Protecting our dunes, so they can protect us

Sand dunes are buffer zones between wild oceans and terra firma. They improve protection of property, people, and native species from waves, erosion, cyclones and tsunamis. Coastal ecosystems will become increasingly valuable to society during this century as rising sea levels, storm surges and other expected effects of climate change threaten coastal property and communities.

Unfortunately most of our dunes are in poor condition. Less than 12% of New Zealand's original sand dunes remain intact. We need to regenerate these natural coastal defences by replanting native species such as spinifex, pīngao, flax, cabbage trees, mānuka, tōtara, and pōhutukawa; and by working with landowners, industry and coastcare groups to establish healthy dunes. Investing in this now may save valuable coastal assets, including productive land and infrastructure, from erosion and flooding. It will also create habitat for some of our most threatened native species. Rewilding our coast, dune by dune, will benefit us for decades by buffering us from the expected impacts of climate change.



△ Pīngao at Pahautane, West Coast. Photo: © Jess Reedy

Action

Restore and protect New Zealand's sand dune ecosystems, by investing in successful demonstration projects at diverse coastal sites. This will involve:

- ▷ **Working with landowners and coastcare groups** – To protect and regenerate each site.
- ▷ **Replanting whole dune systems** – From foredunes to coastal forest, with native species.
- ▷ **Controlling pests** – To protect plants, insects and birds.
- ▷ **Inspiring thousands of similar projects around New Zealand** – Showcasing what is possible for people to achieve, and sharing knowledge and expertise.

Investment required

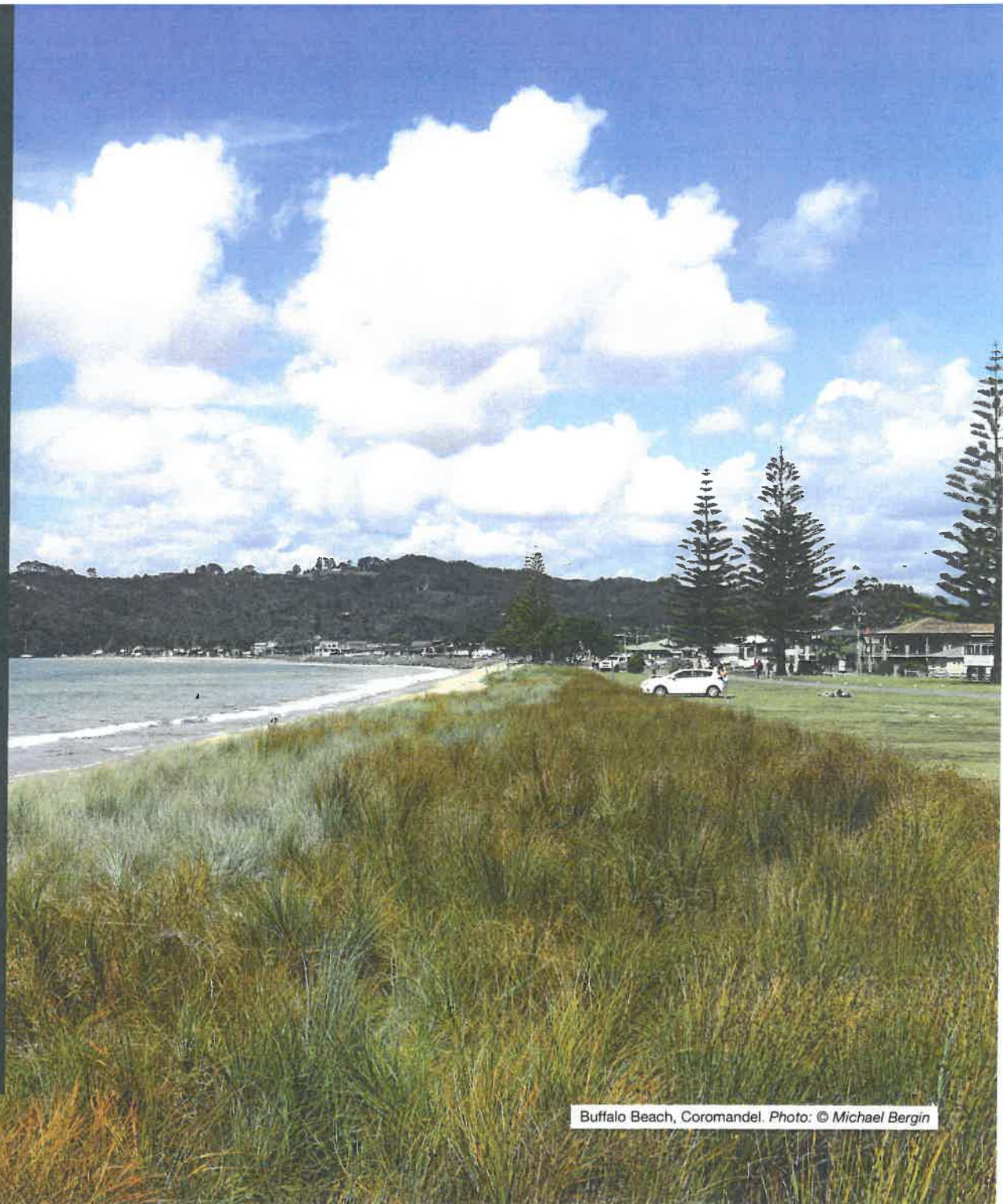
Per site, per year

Site preparation	\$50,000
Pest control	\$50,000
Planting	\$200,000
Local maintenance, monitoring and management	\$200,000
Central co-ordination, expertise, and advice	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$800,000

Fast facts

- ▷ Sea levels around New Zealand increased 10–15 cm last century, and are predicted to rise 50–80 cm by 2100.
- ▷ Sand dune ecosystems cover about 1,100 km of New Zealand's coast.
- ▷ Only 21,300 ha of dunes remain (11.6% of original extent).
- ▷ Coastal dunes are among the most modified and degraded ecosystems in New Zealand.
- ▷ Coastal dunes are harmed by vehicles, animals, farming, coastal developments and weeds, which contribute to degraded ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.
- ▷ A naturally functioning foredune, backdune and coastal forest sequence is needed to provide a strong and resilient buffer to sea level rises and storm surges; some excellent foredune restoration projects exist but none through to coastal forests.

Potential locations



Buffalo Beach, Coromandel. Photo: © Michael Bergin