



Investing in Education for a Sustainable & Prosperous Future *Tai Ao – Tai Awatea*

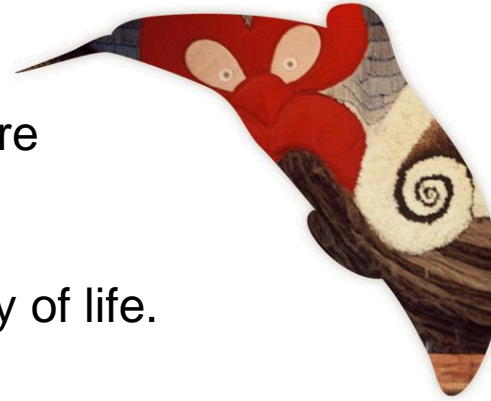
DOC National Education Strategy 2010–2030



Our ambition for education

Our education goal

young people are connecting with nature and restoring NZ's natural and historic heritage because they understand and value its contribution to their quality of life.



Our target

One Million Conservation Kids

Kia kotahi miriona nga tamariki tiaki i te taiao

Our approach

is aligned with and supports the Ministry of Education's mission: "building a world leading education system that equips all NZ'ers with the knowledge, skills and values to be successful citizens in the 21st century."





“The development of ecological literacy and conservation capability is critical for New Zealanders’ well-being and prosperity. Our young people, along with other New Zealanders and visitors need to understand the value of our conservation inheritance and the benefits it provides to our social and economic well-being.”

Al Morrison, Director General, Department of Conservation



Focused on young people

- Early contact with nature plays an important role in developing pro-environmental values and behaviours.
- Frequent, positive early childhood experiences with the natural world have a major impact on the development of a child's mind, body and spirit.
- Young people have a wide span of outreach and influence in the community – across generations, cultures & sectors.



The outreach of young people



More of New Zealand's special places and species are protected and restored.

There are more ecosystem services and social and economic benefits from healthy, functioning ecosystems and a clean, green New Zealand.

Will influence the next generation
(kids in 20 years)

Influence parents **now**

Will be our leaders and decision makers in
20 years

One million conservation kids

Cut across and reach all sectors **now**
(Business, farmers, issue groups and ethnic groups)

Influence schools, communities and community leaders **now**

Influence their wider families and whānau **now**
(Including grandparents, preschoolers and teenagers)

Influence peers **now**

New Zealanders highly value, and want to help look after, their natural, historic and cultural inheritance.

New Zealanders have the knowledge and skills to make New Zealand the greatest living space on Earth.

The ripple effect

More people are outdoors enjoying and learning about conservation, and are equipped with the knowledge, values and skills to make New Zealand the greatest living space on Earth.

Problems

- Young people are increasingly disconnected from the natural world.
- A significant gap in education about ‘*The Big Picture*’ - understanding that the natural world is the foundation of our health, wellbeing, economy, and survival.
- Lack of leadership in developing ecological literacy - fragmented effort, missed opportunities, competition for funding





The Big Picture

Earth. It is all we have.



Why the Big Picture?

- Lack of eco-literacy, globally and in NZ
- Lack of a “big picture” in NZ conservation education
- Lack of leadership in developing ecological literacy

Opportunities

Build a shared vision for the future - what matters, and why

- Transformative learning - schools, families, communities
- Collaboration, partnerships



Big Ideas and Values

- Essential big ideas and values about the ‘big picture’ of life on Earth - the new “Facts of Life”
- New Zealand’s unique natural environment and the life sustaining ecosystems we all depend on





Big Ideas

- Everything is connected
- The planet's diversity is critical to our survival
- People are part of the natural world and what we do DOES make a difference
- Aotearoa-New Zealand is a special place with many unique species and ecosystems

Values

Mana Mauri Tapu
Wairua Manaaki Aroha



Connecting through education



Some key principles for nature based learning

- Young people need frequent, informal contact with the natural world to develop emotional connections to places.
- Local focus – schools, neighbourhood, familiar places
- Relevant to their lives
- Involvement in planning, designing, making decisions, taking action
- Open-ended, inquiry-based learning
- Age-appropriate





Use age-appropriate approaches

Young children (up to 6 years old)

- Nature-based play in the immediate environment
- Involve family / whanau

Middle years (6–12 years old)

- Nurture a sense of competence
- Take their participation seriously

Young people (13 years and older)

- Collective approaches and critical thinking
- Participatory and action oriented programmes
- Genuine participation in decision making with adults



Participation with nature before the age of 11 is particularly potent in shaping environmental attitudes & behaviours in adulthood.



Connecting through the arts

- **Creative arts education** (e.g. drama, visual arts, story-telling) is a key tool that can be used to deepen the emotional and imaginative connections between children and nature
- **Story-telling** can enhance children's connection to the environment, inform and inspire, and elicit an emotional response to the local environment.

'Oral story-telling can be an effective tool to capture children's imagination and actively involve them in developing their connections to nature and their own 'sense of place'



Island Dreams – a musical adventure

How NZ's endangered species found sanctuary on pest-free islands

Whangamata School used conservation as a school-wide theme. Throughout the term, curriculum objectives were linked to conservation themes. Students role-played DOC workers, threatened species and predators. They created 3-D models, posters and murals. The messages came from their own awakened experience and understanding.....

“The best primary level production I’ve seen in my thirty years of teaching.” (School Principal, Ross Preece)



Connecting online - 'Big Picture' planning tool



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `http://www.myplanet.doc.govt.nz`. The page title is "My Planet". The main heading is "My Planet" in a large, bold font. Below the heading is a paragraph: "My Planet provides engaging learning experiences, organised in pathways that link social action with conservation 'Big Ideas' and the Curriculum. You are encouraged to tailor our suggestions to meet your student's needs."

Under the heading "Browse the My Planet resource", there is a search box on the left titled "Search for Pathways". It contains three dropdown menus: "Curriculum level", "Type of Action", and "Themes". Below these is a text input field for "Keyword" and a "Search" button.

To the right of the search box are six placeholder icons, each consisting of a square with an 'X' inside. Below each icon is a label: "Explore the Big Ideas and Values", "Explore Themes", "Take Action", "Ask an Expert", "View all Events", and "How to use My Planet".



My Planet

[View Personal Pathway](#)

[Start](#)

[Events](#)

Conservation education events

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Events by Region

- [Auckland Region](#)
- [Bay of Plenty Region](#)
- [Canterbury Region](#)
- [Chatham Islands County](#)
- [Gisborne Region](#)
- [Hawke's Bay Region](#)
- [Manawatu-Wanganui Region](#)
- [Marlborough Region](#)
- [Nelson Region](#)
- [Northland Region](#)
- [Otago Region](#)
- [Southland Region](#)
- [Taranaki Region](#)
- [Tasman Region](#)
- [Waikato Region](#)
- [Wellington Region](#)

Events in New Zealand



All Events

[DoC Open Day](#)

When: June 16 2011
Location: Manners St, Wellington
Region: Wellington

[Feed the Lions](#)

When: June 20 2011
Location: Auckland Zoo, Manakau
Regions: Auckland

[Worlds largest lolly scramble attempt](#)

When: 5th Jun 2011 1:30pm - 5th Jun 20
Location: Botanic Gardens, Upper Hutt
Region: Wellington

[Start](#)

[Explore the Big Ideas and Values](#)

[Explore Themes](#)

[Take Action](#)

[Ask an Expert](#)

[View all Events](#)



Working with others to implement the strategy

- Volunteers
- Families, whanau
- Environmental and outdoor educators
- Schools
- Business partners
- Young leaders
- Sanctuaries.....



DOC and Sanctuaries

What would you find useful?

What help would you need from DOC to assist in your education work?



Contact

Pam Crisp

Education Advisor

Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai