5th SanctuariesNZ Workshop

Riverbend, Hawkes Bay
5-7 August 2009

http://www.sanctuariesnz.org/
<table>
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OBI:  Sustaining and restoring biodiversity (2005-13; Dr W. Lee)

IO3: Increased effectiveness of conservation flagships (J. Innes)
Iconic species

Flagship sanctuaries

Pest-proof fence at Maungatautari, Waikato
Flagship sanctuaries

• Want iconic species AND ecosystems
• Increasing public involvement in mainland species and sanctuary management

We:
• Research social sustainability (Phipps, Campbell-Hunt)
• Are monitoring draft success measures, with sanctuaries
• Undertake research that helps sanctuary management, that managers want
• Maintain sanctuariesnz.org website and run this workshop
Aims of Workshop/Hui

• Foster exchange of information between projects
• Present current and relevant research, technology and practice
• Identify possible cooperative actions between projects
• Identify and plan ways to address common research and policy needs
DOC “Mainland Islands”

- Established in 1995 - 97
- Ecosystem-focused restoration goals
  - intensive control of multiple pest species
  - results and conservation outcomes closely monitored
  - translocation of locally extinct species

Locations:
- Trounson Kauri Park
- Northern Te Urewera
- Boundary Stream
- Paengaroa
- Rotoiti
- Hurunui
8 Principles applicable to Mainland Islands

I. Site-based natural heritage management with a primary focus on learning how to carry out ecological restoration. This is achieved by addressing management questions through rigorous trials and experiments, combined with intensive monitoring and evaluation, that follows standardised systems and processes.
8 Principles applicable to Mainland Islands cont...

II. Results and outcomes are communicated.

III. Sites where research and learning outcomes take precedence over biodiversity outcomes.

IV. Sites that contain a number of specific projects, as a secondary objective, aimed at restoring biodiversity through intensive management.
V. Sites where boundaries are identified and can be protected.

VI. Systems required to manage these sites are sustainable.

VII. Sites that provide opportunities for community involvement and inspire people to support biodiversity recovery and ecological restoration.

VIII. Sites that inspire people to initiate and develop additional restoration projects elsewhere.
MIs have led to:

- Many documented species recoveries
- DOC ‘best practice’ guidelines and SOPs
- New poisons and traps
- 50+ written-up studies
- Refined annual reporting requirements
- DOC Kiwi Zones
- Operation Ark sites
Behind the Highlights

• Some failed translocations
• Predator control not successful every year
• Mouse control never achieved
• Unexpected threats/changes
  – toxin residues in threatened spp. and game animals
  – increased rabbit abundance at Trounson & Boundary Stream
  – rat irruptions in the Hurunui
  – adult kiwi killed by dogs in Northern Te Urewera
Fenced sanctuaries

- Target more pest species
- Aim to eradicate
- New. Know more about bucks than bangs.
- Close to or in urban centres
- Promise low-toxin future
- Run by Trusts, individuals, TLAs (cf DoC)
- Have leveraged new conservation $$
- Less outcome monitoring, experimentation
- No coordinated policy
What are ‘biodiversity sanctuaries’?

• Sites that are experimentally restoring New Zealand ecosystems to indigenous dominance and full species complement

• ‘New’, inspiring and innovative initiatives that have galvanised communities to local conservation.

• Projects that aim to:
  – Control or eradicate a broad suite of pests
  – Reintroduce missing species
  – Manage a permanent and substantial risk of reinvasion by pests
  – Involve local communities

• We identified a network of 41 such projects on the mainland (but undoubtedly others)
Sanctuary area

- Total current area – 63,638 ha
- cf. pest-free islands – 36,482 ha (Parkes & Murphy 2003)

- Public land – 56,270 ha (88%)
- Private (including Maori) land – 7368 ha (12%)

Total sanctuary area is 0.24% NZ land area
Management method (2008)

- Predator-proof fenced (eradication and surveillance) – 6,729 ha (15%)
- Fence planned – 3,512 ha (8%)
- Not PP fenced (sustained control) – 33,364 (77%)
National prioritisation?

National vs community objectives?

Sanctuaries

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‘Vital sites’
Jake Overton
Landcare Research
Hamilton

NHMS
DoC

Waters of National Importance
John Leathwick
NIWA/DoC
Hamilton

Species prioritisation
Richard Maloney
DoC, Christchurch
Future of fenced & unfenced sanctuaries?

- Are the best restoration effort on NZ mainland (key Acts)
- Cannot achieve Biodiversity Strategy without vast scale increase. OTHERWISE = HUGE TRIAGE
- Currently lack logical national context
- Both need $$ forever
- Both face uncertain sustainability (are experiments)
- Share some challenges, and have unique ones

- What opportunities for coordination?
- When/how can outcome monitoring decline?

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Diane Campbell-Hunt; Colin Campbell-Hunt pers. comm.
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