



STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY 2020 – 2022

INTRODUCTION

Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa is a national collective of people working towards positive change in the way we care for our earth and all our treasured flora and fauna.

Humans have the potential to be a force for good on the planet. We have the knowledge and the wisdom to take our place as the true caretakers, *kaitiaki*, guardians of all life. Currently, we are experiencing an incredible amount of destruction, pollution and loss of life in the natural world at the hands of humans. Under the current system, we are blindly and systematically destroying our only home. The environmental protections we thought were in place to protect people, wildlife and our environment are failing us. Many of the well-known non-government organisations we thought were champions of the natural world are sadly advocating more toxic practices in place of sustainable ecologically sound solutions. Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa is opposed to the use of toxic practices disguised as solutions. We can and we must do better! We advocate **The Precautionary Principle** in all cases where there is risk of harm.

It's time to change this toxic story and to do it together. We believe we all need to take up our role as *kaitiaki* and commit to creating a future where we and the natural world thrive together, as one. We need to care for all creatures, great and small and to recognise the intrinsic rights of nature, including the life supporting elements of water, air and soil. We need brave new voices to speak this truth and realise this vision.

Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa is one brave new voice that is taking a stand. This is a brief summary of our very first Strategic Plan, including our vision, mission, working principles, goals and core areas of interest. Over the next year we will be embarking on a number of important projects, including collaborating on The New Zealand People's Inquiry 2020, an inquiry into the impacts and harm caused by chemical exposure on people, wildlife and our environment, and the generation of non-toxic sustainable solutions for the future. This will be a huge undertaking that will without question shed light on some of our most toxic practices and the very real harm they are causing. We must be able to fully acknowledge the extent of the problems if we are to create genuine and sustainable solutions.

If you are passionate about caring for our planet - we want to support you and we need you to support us, to work with us, to share your views and to help us create positive change.

Join as a member, [volunteer](#) your skills, or just show your support for our work [here](#).

Take our Environmental Values Survey [Short Version](#) (10 Q) / [Long Version](#) (32 Q)

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VISION AND MISSION

VISION Living in harmony with nature. Sustainable living and environmental responsibility through *kaitiakitanga*, are our primary values. We recognise ourselves as an integral part of the natural world and as *kaitiaki* of all life.

MISSION Caring for our flora, fauna, people and earth in a holistic manner that ensures we all thrive now and in the future.

The Maori word **Kaitiakitanga** means *guardianship, care-taking, stewardship of the natural world*.

PRINCIPLES

GROUND WORK A focus on practical outcomes and supporting people to make their own contributions, i.e. bottom up working with people to repair our environment and create a culture of *kaitiakitanga*. Assist in the development of innovative sustainable solutions with people on the ground, including creative new ways of thinking and adaptation where necessary.

THINK TANK A focus on surveys, studies and data collection for analysis, information and publication, information transfer and the development of innovative solutions that can be shared freely as open source.

VALUES We believe in the principle of **doing no harm**. That means we take a **precautionary approach** to risks until proven safe. This covers the use of harmful chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and so on. Genetic Engineering GE, 5G Wireless technology etc.

We place a strong emphasis on sharing knowledge, wisdom and working together. Integrity, collaboration and inspiration all focused on **positive outcomes for our planet**.

At the foundation of our existence is the understanding that our planet's systems revolve around nature and our environment.

LONG TERM GOALS

OUR NATURAL WORLD is managed sustainably and responsibly to improve the health of our planet and the health of our people, wildlife and environment.

BIODIVERSITY is thriving in abundant habitat, including newly created habitat planted and managed by Kaitiaki. Private and shared sanctuaries increase in number, giving species protection from negative human impacts as well as over predation.

OCEAN AND MARINE HABITATS coastlines are well protected from all forms of pollution, over harvesting and other abuse. Fish species, shell fish such as pipi, toheroa and other species are given space and time to recover.

PEOPLE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY increasing the number of people, companies, community groups and other organisations that focus on how they can live a sustainably and environmentally friendly life.

CONNECTING TO NATURE our natural environment including water is safe, clean and can be appreciated by everyone. Communities of people work together to restore, revive and enjoy nature. Flora and Fauna groups and branches throughout New Zealand help people learn about and connect with the natural world.



Tomtit / Miro miro small forest bird, Northland.

MAIN PROJECTS FOR 2020-2022

People's Inquiry: Harmful Impacts of Poisons and Non-toxic Solutions

In 2020 we will be jointly conducting a New Zealand People's Inquiry into the impacts and effects of toxic chemicals and poisons on our people, wildlife and environment, and the generation of non-toxic solutions.

Nature's Verge - Replacing roadside poisons with natural solutions

Working with councils and communities to replace the toxic practice of poisoning the roadside verge, schools and parks with chemicals, in favour of natural sustainable solutions.

Environmental Values Surveys

We need to know what New Zealanders think about their environment, the natural world, the health of the earth and so much more. It'll help us to build a picture of the real problems, the concerns and what you think we should do about it. The surveys we undertake will allow us to collect and analyse statistical data to share and publish.

Kaitiaki Kids Club

Children are our future and how they connect with the natural world will determine the future of the planet and all its species. Kaitiaki Kids Club is designed to help kids engage with nature, learn about our pressing environmental challenges and positive solutions for the future. The club aims to empower the next generation with knowledge and resources to make a positive impact and to act as stewards for their environment.

Podcast: Our Collective Future

Our Collective Future Podcast is a podcast sharing news and inspiration from the natural world, including those working on its behalf. We will speak with a diverse group of people from across Aotearoa on some of the most interesting and challenging environmental issues of our time. Land, water, biodiversity, ecosystem health, sustainable living and kaitiakitanga: We talk problems, solutions and positive action addressing some of the more difficult issues facing our collective future.

An environment free of pollution and cruel and inhumane poisons



New Zealand's health statistics are alarming when compared on a global scale. New Zealand uses a huge amount of poisons every year, many of them banned overseas and in some cases we use more than any other country in the world. These substances include Brodificoum, Glysophate, Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080), Sodium Metabisulphite, Hi-Cane, 24D and many other toxic chemicals.

What can we do:

collate research into these poisons and chemicals, break it down and provide it in easily understood language freely available to all.

research and development into alternatives to help provide viable options that are available, tested and ready to use.

collaborate on The People's Inquiry 2020, an Inquiry into the harmful impacts of chemical exposure on people, wildlife and our environment.

We recognise that in many situations it is difficult to manage the environment without the use of some poisons, however we endeavour to promote the safest options and methods.

Respecting the rights of nature, water, soil and all flora and fauna



New Zealand's water quality is polluted and toxic and getting worse at an alarming rate. Not only is this unacceptable, *it is a violation of our right to a healthy environment and clean water to drink*. It is not only farmers who are responsible; our water sources pick up and carry a multitude of unacceptable pollution generating particles, much of it coming from towns, cities and other industries. We are all responsible for keeping our water sources pure and clean and we all must be part of the solution by **respecting water**.

Many unique species of plants *fauna* are under threat from over-development and completely inappropriate development by humans. We use practices that are toxic to land and water which kills the micro-organisms in the soil which are the very foundations of our ecosystem. We need to stop over development and misuse and instead dedicate more **land to return to nature and re-wild**.

Many of our wildlife are treated inhumanely and not accorded the respect that all sentient beings deserve. Despite recognising all animals as sentient feeling beings, some are accorded a higher care because of their beauty or country of origin, yet all creatures are equal in their ability to suffer. Diversity is a strength that needs to be appreciated and empathy for all living beings established. When carefully considered research indicates that some fauna must be controlled then it must be done in accordance with animal welfare laws and in the most humane way possible. **We have a duty to care for and ethically manage all creatures great and small**.

Sustainable and Regenerative Land Management



The land, along with water, is one of our most important resources. We have destroyed much of the health giving attributes of the soil with our destructive practices and heavy use of chemicals. The land must be bought back to a natural and viably healthy state with a move to sustainable and regenerative land management practices. This will increase enrich soils, improve watersheds, increase biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem. It will assist in capturing carbon in soil and above ground in biomass, reversing current global trends of atmospheric accumulation.

This requires a change in thinking and a **focus on looking after the soils** which will in turn provide for a healthier lifestyle for our fauna and our people.

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