A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO TACKLING CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

New Zealand’s flora and fauna are an integral part of our national identity and must be protected for future generations.

National is working hard to conserve the natural environment that makes New Zealand special, while also supporting a growing economy. Good science is at the core of our policy-making, particularly in the area of conservation.

To be successful, conservation policy needs to actively involve businesses and community groups in partnership with government, both in development and implementation. National has deliberately introduced a more collaborative approach to engage stakeholders in conservation challenges.

National has a very practical approach to conservation and has made real progress in the past six years, ensuring treasured birds like the kiwi are there for future generations, that our ocean management is equal to the best anywhere in the world and that New Zealand can continue to offer a world-class outdoor recreational experience.

New Zealanders put a high value on their access to our unique natural environment, as do millions of international tourists, and we want to protect and maintain it.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Continuing to develop our outward-looking approach for DOC, by establishing partnerships with business, individual benefactors, international groups and volunteers interested in our conservation values.

→ Introducing a new Marine Protected Areas Act to include a range of marine protected areas, from no-take marine reserves, recreational fishing parks, species-specific sanctuaries and seabed reserves. We will ensure decisions about marine protection reflect the views of communities through our Bluegreen collaborative approach model.

→ Recognising the distinctive conservation values of the Waipoua Forest to create the first National Park north of Rotorua, and working with Te Roroa on developing a new visitor centre for this natural treasure.
**NATIONAL IS...**

**FOSTERING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

- Expanding partnerships with business, individual benefactors, international groups and volunteers interested in our conservation values. This approach has seen tens of millions of dollars contributed to improve New Zealand’s conservation outcomes.

- Established a Community Conservation Partnership fund of $26 million to assist community-led conservation groups. Just over 100 local conservation groups were helped this year alone.

- Established collaborative marine planning forums in Auckland and Otago.

**CONSERVING MARINE WILDLIFE**

- Created a record number and area of new marine reserves this year, with five on the West Coast, three in the Sub Antarctic Islands, Akaroa and Kaikoura.

- Doubled the area of set net protection for Maui’s dolphin, introduced a ban on shark finning, introduced compulsory seismic survey regulations for protecting marine mammals, and created new whale and seal sanctuaries at Kaikoura.

**INTRODUCING SAFEGUARDS FOR FLORA AND FAUNA**

- Initiated New Zealand’s largest-ever species protection programme, ‘Battle for our Birds’, to control rats, stoats and possums on over one million hectares of conservation land.

- Tightened laws and toughened penalties for wildlife, conservation and biosecurity offending, and passed new freedom camping laws to prevent New Zealand’s outdoors being abused.

- Committed over $30 million to containing and controlling kauri dieback.

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**A RECORD NUMBER OF NEW MARINE RESERVES THIS YEAR**

**OVER $30 MILLION TO CONTAIN AND CONTROL KAURI DIEBACK**
PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR LANDSCAPE FOR TODAY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

✔ Expanded protected areas by adding 380,000 ha to public conservation land and adding 460,000 ha to Schedule 4 (including marine reserves), and introduced a new Great Barrier Island (Aotea) Conservation Park.

✔ Maintained our balanced approach to environmental protection and economic development when considering tourism projects in conservation areas, resulting in the rejection of the Fiordland Tunnel and Monorail projects.

✔ Created the Game Animal Council, giving hunters an effective voice in their recreation.

✔ Adopted the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and protected 17 nationally significant surf breaks.

✔ Developing a national network of cycle ways, opened the Heaphy Track to winter mountain-biking, and funding a major programme of upgrading New Zealand’s network of campgrounds, huts and tracks.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

1. PASS A NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ACT

→ Provide for a range of marine protected areas, from no-take marine reserves, recreational fishing parks, species-specific sanctuaries and seabed reserves.

The Marine Protected Areas Act 1971 is outdated and needs reform.

National’s new Marine Protected Areas Act will broaden the purpose to include conservation and recreation outcomes and allow for marine protected areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone. It will provide local iwi and communities with a stronger role in decision-making and improve the processes for establishing reserves, parks and sanctuaries.

This reform is part of National’s ambition for New Zealand to be a world leader in the responsible use, management and conservation of our ocean environment. We have established record numbers of new marine reserves this year and passed new laws for managing activities in our Exclusive Economic Zone. A new Marine Protected Areas Act is the next logical step.

→ Create two new recreational fishing parks in the inner Hauraki Gulf and the Marlborough Sounds by excluding commercial finfishing.

National will collaborate with all stakeholders on these new recreational fishing parks, and marine protected areas legislation, to enhance the management of New Zealand’s ocean environment.

2. CREATE A WAIPOUA NATIONAL PARK

→ National believes the distinctive and special conservation values of the Waipoua Forest should be preserved as a National Park, making it the first National Park north of Rotorua.

We will work with Te Roroa to fund a high-quality upgrade of the visitor facilities to help grow tourism in Northland.

This is part of National’s commitment to our regions to help grow stronger regional economies and provide jobs for hardworking New Zealand families, while recognising the special environment in Northland.
DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour and the Greens would:

✗ Reject any private sector involvement in conservation and lose tens of millions of dollars of conservation investment as a result.

✗ Return DOC to an inward-looking approach that excludes consideration of economic impacts, restraints on business and involvement of iwi in policy development.

✗ Undermine special protection programmes by ignoring scientific evidence and allowing objections to 1080 to block effective protection for our most vulnerable iconic species.

✗ Adopt an impractical approach to tourism, mining, farming and forestry that will impact negatively on regional New Zealand and cost jobs. A perfect example was their opposition to harvesting thousands of cubic metres of wind-blown timber on the West Coast.

✗ Reverse National’s collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation and revert to polarising communities in important areas like marine conservation and management resulting in years of conflict and inaction.