

1 NZPCN STRATEGY 2010-2015

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2 VISION

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) is New Zealand's only non government organisation solely devoted to protecting NZ indigenous plant life. Our membership is open to anyone and includes botanists, horticulturists, botanic gardens, universities, local authorities, central government, community groups and many individuals. NZPCN was established in 2003 with the vision that 'no indigenous species of plant will become extinct nor be placed at risk of extinction as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich, diverse and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored'.

In 2002 the convention of Biological Diversity adopted the Global Plant Conservation Strategy (GSPC¹) to promote a common effort towards halting the loss of plant biodiversity worldwide. It invited relevant international and national organizations to endorse the GSPC and contribute to its implementation, including adopting its targets. NZPCN has accepted this challenge and commits to achieving its targets. The targets have been adopted as a flexible framework in this strategy.

¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2002) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (http://www.bgci.org.uk/files/7/0/global_strategy.pdf)

3 HOW WE WORK

While NZPCN may not always be the lead agency responsible for each global target our role is to facilitate its implementation by advocating and campaigning for plant conservation at legislative and policy levels as well as providing information and support to plant conservation practitioners, landowners and managers. The network believes by fostering plant identification and conservation skills, providing a one-stop shop for conservation best practice, and emphasising the importance of working together the targets of the GSPC can be achieved. The network will also seek funding to carry out plant conservation projects.

3.1 FUNDING THE NETWORK

The network is primarily funded through membership fees and project grants from government sources. In addition various sponsors have provided financial support for aspects of the networks conservation programme including conferences, publications and project work. The network will continue to explore links to corporate sector to expand its conservation activities. A business plan will be prepared each year following the council meeting. The network will utilise all opportunities to build its brand and increase funding via the website and newsletter.

3.2 WHAT WE DO

Our work is guided by the 16 global targets of the GSPC which has been adopted as a flexible framework. The network has ordered these into 30 national goals. Some GSPC targets are being ignored (e.g. no. 9) for the time being and we have added a target that addresses iwi issues. Two workshops at NZPCN conferences (2003 & 2008) have captured member's views on how we will achieve these targets. These are presented as the NZPCN strategy in this document.

Goal summary

1. Engage Iwi in NZPCN work
2. Provide accessible and accurate list of native and naturalised plants in New Zealand
3. Support threatened plant listing at the national level

4. Advocate production of regional threatened plant lists
5. Influence government to adhere to International obligations
6. Provide evidence based best practice methods of plant conservation
7. Promote and support plant conservation research
8. Establish IPA framework for NZ, identify IPA's and maintain database of identified IPA's
9. Advocate protection (legal and/or physical) for all listed IPA's
10. Support landowners, land managers and agencies working on private land to protect plants and their habitats.
11. Seek legal protection for threatened plants
12. Advocate land acquisition for threatened plants and their habitats
13. Communicate threats to plants and advocate methods of physical
14. Ensure ex-situ collections are accessible for research & conservation
15. Set standards for effective ex-situ management for plant conservation including sustainable seed collection
16. Promote accessible plant collections for public education/awareness
17. Promote seed banking as a long-term conservation strategy
18. Provide best-practice for restoring plant communities and threatened plants
19. Communicate threat to native plants & their habitats posed by invasive plants & animal pests
20. Advocate for management of invasive plants & animal pests at all levels
21. Engage nursery industry and work together to ensure invasive plants are not sold.
22. Assess threat to NZ flora from trade
23. Promote the sustainable use of native plants where they are used in commercial activities

- 24. Communicate scientific and technical information on plants and their conservation in an accessible way
- 25. Integrate plant conservation into formal education and curricula
- 26. Raise public awareness of the importance of plants, their habitats and conservation
- 27. Establish training programmes for plant conservation/plant ID
- 28. Share resources and skills by working together across agencies and disciplines
- 29. Advocate & support regional networks
- 30. Maintain network for plant conservation to achieve the targets for this strategy.

3.3 MEASURING WHAT WE DO

Measuring NZPCN’s progress towards and achievement of these 30 targets is essential to communicate and celebrate success, and identify areas which need more work. A progress report will be published 5 years after this strategy is published.

3.4 WORKING WITH IWI

Working with iwi is recognised as a critical aspect of the networks plant conservation programme. Engaging, collaborating and forming partnerships with iwi will be a core part of our work. We have made a start by developing the marae-based training scheme.

Global Target	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
N/a	1. Engage iwi in NZPCN work	Continue to deliver marae-based plant conservation training courses Engage iwi in plant conservation Review implications of WAI262 treaty claim	

4 GLOBAL TARGETS AND NATIONAL GOALS

4.1.1 KNOWING WHAT WE'VE GOT

Documenting the diversity of plants, communities, associated habitats and ecosystems in New Zealand is crucial in order to plan, promote and ensure their protection. NZPCN has completed lists of NZ's native and naturalised flora.

Global Target #1	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
A widely accessible working list of known plant species as a step towards a complete world flora is produced	2. Provide accessible and accurate list of native and naturalised plants ² in New Zealand	Maintain lists of all native and naturalised plants, including non-vascular plants and fungi, on the website.	

4.1.2 KNOWING WHAT'S UNDER THREAT

Assessing the threat status of plants allows resources for plant conservation to be prioritised. In addition communicating their degree of threat is essential as a resource management tool to ensure sustainable development. The NZ threatened plants list is produced by a committee of national experts led by DOC (Threatened Plant Committee) and published in a peer reviewed journal. NZPCN plays a role in gathering information about plants by identifying them and by facilitating submissions to the Threatened Plant Committee on their distribution and abundance. There is currently no system for evaluating the conservation status of plant communities. To date factsheets have been completed for the most highly threatened vascular plants.

Global Target #2	National Goals	NZPCN Actions (5 year)	Priority
A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant	3. Support threatened plant listing at the national level	Complete factsheets for all naturalised and native plants on the website Advocate resources are available, and contribute to assessing conservation status of all plant species e.g. by soliciting submissions using web-based tools (e.g. forms).	

² Whenever the word "plants" is used in this document it includes vascular plants as well as non-vascular plants and fungi

species, at national, regional ³ and international levels		Continue to provide accurate information on threatened plants, plant communities and their status using factsheets on the website to support threat listing. Advocate for and assist in the development of a system for documenting the status of plant communities. Promote, develop & publish regional threatened species lists	
	4. Advocate production of regional threatened plant lists	Investigate the role for NZPCN in conservation of the plant diversity of the Pacific region Maintain links with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation	
	5. Influence government to adhere to International obligations	Further investigate potential for NZPCN to act as liaison with IUCN over international listing process. Advocate for the NZ government to become a signatory to the Global strategy	

4.1.3 ENSURING THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Evidence-based best practice, in the form of case-study, tools and or protocols will be communicated in an accessible format on the website and/or by publication. Where gaps exist in best practice NZPCN will campaign or seek funds for research and assist with communicating results.

Global Target #3	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research	6. Provide evidence based best practice methods of plant conservation	Continue to publish reviews of existing best practice tools and protocols for plant conservation ⁴ Provide and maintain a database of NZ-relevant plant-conservation literature e.g. with abstract and keywords.	

³ In terms of the Global Strategy regional is a wider spatial scale than national. In terms of NZPCN this most logically applies to the Pacific and Australia.

⁴ Some ideas suggested by members include: eco-sourcing guide and system, roadside threatened plant management, monitoring, recreation planning, maintenance of genetic diversity

and practical experience	7. Promote and support plant conservation research	<p>Continue to increase David Given Scholarship fund to foster research and continue to sponsor research</p> <p>Actively disseminate new research to members</p> <p>Apply to funding agencies to fund a summary of the state of plant research for NZ. Identify deficient areas & develop an NZPCN research strategy. Lobby for funding to meet needs.</p> <p>Provide a directory of plant researchers, their research interests, and current research projects, with links to relevant websites.</p> <p>Summarise research needs identified at NZPCN conferences and communicate research needs annually to funding providers. Maintain a database of research needs</p>	
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4.1.4 CONSERVING IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS

Habitat destruction is the major threat to indigenous plants. Designing an objective classification system to and identifying areas as “Important Plant Areas” (IPA’s) which are deemed significant for plant conservation will be a priority for the network. NZPCN will facilitate, promote and advocate for their protection (both legally and physically).

Global Target #4&5	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
<p>At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved</p> <p>Protection of 50% of the most important areas of plant diversity assured</p>	<p>8. Assess the applicability of an IPA framework for NZ considering how to identify IPA's and how an IPA system would be managed</p> <p>9. Advocate protection (legal and/or physical) for all listed IPA's</p>	<p>Run a forum for discussion on the IPA project at an NZPCN conference and produce a discussion paper as a result to assess synergies with other systems to determine conservation value, methods of identifying IPA's in a consistent national way and other issues.</p> <p>Develop factsheets on website on rare ecosystems, threatened ecosystems or areas of high botanical diversity</p> <p>ID gaps in protection of rare plant ecosystems, and threatened plant habitats</p>	

4.1.5 CONSERVING PLANTS IN AN AGRICULTURAL & URBAN LANDSCAPES

Ensuring the persistence of threatened plants and plant associations on private and land managed for other (usually productive) purposes is critical for NZ plant conservation as at least half NZ's threatened plants do not grow on reserves and thus have no formal legal protection. NZPCN believes working cooperatively with landowners and managers is critical for achieving NZPCN's vision. NZPCN may not be the most appropriate contact for landowners but we will seek professional relationships with agencies who work directly with landowners (e.g. council staff, QEII trust, Landcare Trust etc) to empower staff in these agencies to work on private land for the protection of indigenous plants.

Global Target #6	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
At least 30% of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity	10. Support landowners, land managers and agencies working on private land to protect plants and their habitats.	<p>Promote the economic benefits of native flora on productive land</p> <p>Develop resources for landowners to identify land management consistent with plant conservation</p> <p>Encourage land owners/managers to join network</p> <p>Provide a landowners forum at NZPCN conference</p> <p>Develop and promote a minimum care code for forest habitats on private land</p>	

4.1.6 LOOKING AFTER PLANTS IN THE WILD

Understanding what threatens plants in the wild, managing those threats, and monitoring both the threats as well as plants response to management are the basics of conserving plants in their natural habitats. Communicating that most threatened plants do not grow in reserves but can persist in modified and/or urban environments is crucial to counter widespread beliefs that plants grow only on conservation land.

Global Target #7	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority

60% of the world's threatened species conserved in situ ⁵	11. Seek legal protection for threatened plants	<p>Build relationships with organisations affected by process of legal protection of plants e.g. DOC & advocate for changes to policy and legislation to legally protect plants</p> <p>Develop materials that explain the legal issues when protecting plants on the website.</p> <p>Advocate improving district plan rules and educating council staff and councillors about the needs and protection mechanisms of New Zealand' threatened flora.</p>	
	12. Advocate land acquisition for threatened plants and their habitats	<p>Develop materials to advise how to restore threatened plants and to help landowners with identification</p> <p>Advocate to councils that they ensure AEE⁶s from developers include at a minimum a herbarium and literature search for past threatened plants records, a search if national databases and a specialist threatened plants survey by an experience botanist to identify current values.</p>	
	13. Communicate threats to plants and advocate methods of physical protection.	<p>Provide a comprehensive list of threats to plants on website including natural threats e.g. succession and disturbance; and less well-known threats e.g. animal pest management or fencing using examples</p> <p>Provide information/raise awareness on the value of non-forest ecosystems c.f. mature forests where most people perceive there are more values.</p> <p>Provide information on the possible impacts of climate change on habitats and indigenous plants</p>	

4.1.7 GROWING PLANTS OFF SITE

Growing plants offsite and/or storing seed complements protection of plants in their wild by creating insurance populations in case of catastrophic or unexpected disturbance to populations in the wild. These collections also provide the public an opportunity to appreciate and learn about threatened plants which are sometimes inaccessible in wild locations; as well as to provide material for research.

⁵ NZ's goal is to have 100% of all threatened species conserved in situ

⁶ Assessment of Ecological Effects, usually submitted with proposals for development to consider the impacts on local ecology of their project.

Global Target #8	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
<p>60% of threatened plant species in assessable ex situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes</p>	<p>14. Ensure ex-situ collections are accessible for research and conservation</p> <p>15. Set standards for effective ex-situ management for plant conservation including sustainable seed collection</p> <p>16. Promote accessible plant collections for public education/awareness</p>	<p>Coordinate stock take of threatened species in public and private collections; indicating those with known provenance and those collections associated with restoration programmes</p> <p>Encourage botanic gardens and private gardens to keep accurate records of propagation techniques of any threatened plants and to share this information with NZPCN for wider distribution.</p> <p>Encourage botanic gardens to work with other agencies (e.g. DOC, local and regional authorities and NGO's) involved in plant conservation that do not have access to facilities or expertise present at botanic gardens</p> <p>Develop resources for managing threatened species ex-situ. Including collecting propagation material, translocation and habitat restoration</p> <p>Encourage greater use of threatened plants in managed amenity situations, especially where they may link wild populations together</p> <p>Establish a regional seed exchange / seed distribution for threatened plants (a web blog or forum may help)</p> <p>Promote use of threatened plants in gardens</p> <p>Provide an on-line forum for ex-situ managers of plants</p> <p>Compile best practice threatened plant collection management (including genetics)</p> <p>Advocate the importance of political continuity (especially local councils) for effective management of <i>ex-situ</i> plant collections.</p> <p>Develop resources that show how to build up a depleted population without harming it.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for community involvement in ex-situ threatened plant management</p> <p>Promote greater use of threatened plants in amenity situations (e.g., traffic islands and in urban plantings).</p>	

	<p>17. Promote seed banking as a long-term conservation strategy</p> <p>18. Provide best-practice for restoring plant communities and threatened plants</p>	<p>Advocate that 100 percent of regional threatened species be in local ex-situ collections or seed banks</p> <p>Set milestones for seed collection for seed bank (i.e., 30% by 2012) for motivation</p> <p>Provide an accessible database of seed bank collection (or link to existing one)</p> <p>Advocate research on managing seed viability</p> <p>Investigate funding to allow regional collectors to collect seed</p> <p>Investigate potential to expand seed bank to Oceania</p> <p>Prepare flyer describing the collection and depositing process; interview seed bank staff for newsletter and website article promoting their work.</p> <p>Develop guidelines/protocols and accreditation system for eco-sourcing</p> <p>Develop resources for plant translocation and habitat restoration.</p>	
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4.1.8 ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Habitat loss caused by competition with naturalised and invasive plants is a threat to indigenous plant life. New Zealand’s indigenous flora is now outnumbered by non-native plants which have naturalised in the wild. Climate change may exacerbate the threats to NZ’s plants from naturalised and invasive plants by facilitating their spread.

Global Target #10	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
<p>Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems</p>	<p>19. Communicate threat to native plants & their habitats posed by invasive plants & animal pests</p> <p>20. Advocate for management of invasive plants & animal pests at all levels</p> <p>21. Engage nursery industry and work together to ensure</p>	<p>Advocate Regional Pest Management Strategies include targets for biosecurity work related to protection of threatened plant populations</p> <p>Use examples to illustrate the impacts of invasive animals and naturalised plants</p> <p>Engage nursery industry about threats to native plants from garden escapes using examples.</p> <p>Investigate a nursery accreditation scheme to assure consumers there are “no weeds here”</p> <p>Ensure botanic gardens “walk the talk” and do not display plants which have known abilities to out-compete native plants in the wild.</p> <p>Approach editors of gardening magazines to promote native plants</p> <p>Ensure NZPCN council member attends & presents paper at annual Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture conference.</p>	

	invasive plants are not sold.		
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4.1.9 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE USE

This global target relates to CITES legislation which protects listed plants from being traded internationally. The threat of international trade to NZ's flora is unknown.

Global Target #11 & 12	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
No species of wild flora endangered by international trade	22. Assess threat to NZ flora from trade	Review legal protection mechanisms for native plants used globally and prepare issues and options paper. Promote research to investigate impact of international trade on wild and threatened plants in NZ.	
30% of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed	23. Promote the sustainable use of native plants where they are used in commercial activities	Review use of native plants in commercial use (including bee-keeping) in NZ – e.g. manuka oil harvest. Prepare policy on sustainable harvest and establish a voluntary code on sustainable harvest.	

4.1.10 EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Plant conservation is seldom discussed in the popular media. Not many people know how close they live to important plant populations and threatened plants with the prevailing idea that threatened plants live “somewhere else”. Communications, education and public awareness underpin the networks business and are crucial to achieve the NZPCN vision. Education is treated here in the broadest sense e.g. communication, formal education and public awareness.

Global Target #14	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
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<p>The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes</p>	<p>24. Communicate scientific and technical information on plants and their conservation in an accessible way</p>	<p>Review website and newsletter content annually and provide systems for public to register feedback. Prioritise new developments at council meetings.</p> <p>Continue to develop resources on the website including plant communications information.</p> <p>Promote the Network to magazine editors and provide stories and articles to them about plants.</p> <p>Provide garden centre labels “threatened in the wild” including Network logo and web address.</p> <p>Promote the network to all conservation, recreation, & outdoor groups.</p> <p>Promote New Zealand flora icons (and regional icons) to the public and tourists and regional tourism.</p> <p>Continue to make our website images available for use with permission of photographer</p> <p>Be proactive and offer articles to outdoor, nature and popular culture magazines as well as other community networks, regional newspapers etc.</p> <p>Use botanic gardens as story tellers for the plant conservation story.</p>	
	<p>25. Integrate plant conservation into formal education and curricula</p>	<p>Build relationships with other networks & organisations involved with plants and environmental education e.g., NZAEE, NZERN.</p> <p>Prepare an education strategy for the network to fill gaps identified by stock-take.</p> <p>An education area should be established on the Network website with links to documents, training booklets and modules and other sources of information.</p>	

	26. Raise public awareness of the importance of plants, their habitats and conservation	<p>Develop an events strategy (e.g. world plant conservation day)</p> <p>Develop promotional materials for the Network (display or banners) that can be used nationwide at events and conferences e.g. a series of posters about plants for everyone to use (schools, libraries etc).</p> <p>Establish a web forum and conservation alerts about issues.</p> <p>Develop posters for lay people and schools e.g. Crazy daisies for New Zealand tree daisies, Beautiful buttercups etc.</p> <p>Run competition for fine arts / graphic design industry for photography, paintings, sketches with themes such as urban spaces, flora in the landscape etc. Art photo comp</p> <p>Deliver and annual favourite plant poll and other promotional events e.g. competitions</p> <p>Hold and attend public events with displays e.g., Ecofest, A&P shows, flower shows</p> <p>Release regular media releases and invite media to attend events</p>	
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4.1.11 LEARNING & WORKING TOGETHER

NZPCN's strength is in its diversity. Membership includes people from those who grow and sell plants, to landowners, landscapers, horticulturalists, scientists, council staff, consultants, community groups, individuals, fieldworkers, rangers and more. Working together, sharing information, mobilising resources and cooperating across agencies is central to the achievement of our vision. Training and mentoring to extend and promote plant conservation best practice is essential. Members are interested and motivated to be involved in on-the ground work and training is essential as a basis for this involvement.

Global Target #15 &16	National Goals	NZPCN Actions	Priority
The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve that targets	27. Establish training programmes for plant conservation/plant ID	<p>Identify the spectrum and level of skills need to effectively manage threatened plants and identify capacity and gaps.</p> <p>Develop plant conservation training programmes including training for native plant propagators and seed collection.</p> <p>Roll out marae training course on propagation of plants and how to run a nursery.</p> <p>Provide training fro members in how to deliver the plant training modules (which could be provided at conference workshops).</p>	

<p>of this Strategy</p>	<p>28. Share resources and skills by working together across agencies and disciplines</p>	<p>Provide accessible list of people with skills, expertise and knowledge.</p> <p>Promote the sharing and transfer of skills, expertise and knowledge between organisations e.g., Department of Conservation, Local Government, Botanic Gardens, CRI, Universities, and active conservation groups etc.</p> <p>Develop Network resource or forum for on-line experts to help amateurs and community (by email or web forum)</p> <p>Identify other groups that members can help e.g. QEII, community groups doing restoration.</p> <p>Develop presentations covering a variety of plant conservation topics available to NZPCN members and develop on-line system for viewing plant conservation talks.</p> <p>Organise a joint conference with The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) and other collaborative opportunities between NZPCN and Botanic Gardens Australia and NZ..</p>	
<p>Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels</p>	<p>29. Advocate & support regional networks</p> <p>30. Maintain network for plant conservation to achieve the targets for this strategy.</p>	<p>Develop and Promote regional Plant conservation networks</p> <p>Better liaison with other conservation organisations including NZ Botanical Society</p> <p>Facilitate better networking of researchers (in NZ and internationally) e.g. provide information about Network and website to 'key contacts' at universities so that students are aware of how to join and what is available on the website.</p> <p>Network meetings with recreation groups e.g. mountain bike clubs, or establish an award for sensitive/ environmental awareness of recreation</p> <p>Use newsletter to increase awareness of the network and promote networking and sharing of knowledge.</p>	