

Strengths, issues and opportunities for current biodiversity management

Strengths

- Baseline monitoring for vegetation cover and ecological health of selected reserves
- Bi-annual bird counts in selected reserves
- Good data on forest remnants
- Revegetation systems in place
- Pest Management Plan
- Council supported organisations with strong biodiversity focus (Wellington Zoo and Karori Wildlife Sanctuary)
- Extensive possum control programme in partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Existing community volunteer groups with a keen interest in biodiversity conservation
- Threatened plant conservation being carried out by Otari-Wilton's Bush, Botanic Garden and Berhampore Nursery
- Dedicated weed eradication team and pest officer
- Some protection of ecological links and corridors underway.

Challenges

- Lack of plans and strategies for co-ordinating revegetation and protection
- Lack of awareness of biodiversity issues amongst the wider community
- Few incentives for private landowners to get involved in biodiversity conservation
- Few protection mechanisms for biodiversity on private land
- Potential for a perceived erosion of private property rights
- Data deficient on biodiversity and ecological values other than forest remnants
- Dealing with extended timeframes – biodiversity conservation can take a long time, from pest control to restoration
- The lack of information can mean that by the time we realise we had something it's gone
- Obtaining adequate resources
- The need for ongoing management, particularly pest control.

Opportunities

- City-wide identification of sites of ecological and biodiversity significance
- Co-ordination of biodiversity efforts and capacity creation – eg coordinating revegetation and hazardous tree removal for biodiversity gain
- Improve information gathering and sharing about threatened species
- Strengthen partnerships with Greater Wellington Regional Council, Department of Conservation, research organisations, tangata whenua, and community groups for city-wide biodiversity gains
- Incentives for private landowners to get involved in biodiversity conservation
- Review and update District Plan protection for biodiversity
- Provide regulation, education and incentives for biodiversity protection and enhancement
- Sources of funding for biodiversity management eg Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund (DOC), Sustainable Management Fund (MFE)
- Increase public awareness
- Integrated catchment management
- Further management of water quality and the 'receiving environment'.

