Te mauri o te taiao, he taiao mauri ora

Biodiversity in the Waikato region: thriving, connected, resilient

Outcome 1

Ecosystems across the region flourish and expand, ki uta ki tai (from mountains to sea).

Outcome 2

Populations of indigenous/taonga species, their habitats and ecological connections are resilient and improving.

Outcome 3

Communities are informed, supported and motivated to restore and champion the Waikato region's biodiversity.

Outcome 4

Māori leadership, mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga guide biodiversity restoration through enduring partnerships.

Outcome 5

People and nature prosper together in the Waikato region.

Pou 1

Protecting and restoring what matters

Protecting and restoring native species, habitats and the ecological functioning of ecosystems by addressing climate, biosecurity and other threats, while preserving the values that connect people to the environment.

Strategic focus areas

1. Prioritise restoration of the region's most threatened, rare and vulnerable ecosystems while maintaining and enhancing biodiversity across the landscape.
2. Reconnect ecosystems through ecological corridors, linkages and buffers – ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea).
3. Protect and restore wetlands, peatlands, floodplains, riparian margins and coastal systems as frontline nature-based solutions for climate and ecosystem resilience.
4. Support species recovery and ecosystem restoration through invasive species management.

Pou 2

Empowering landowners and communities

Supporting landowners and local communities with the knowledge, skills, resources and connections they need to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity.

5. Maintain and strengthen regional biodiversity support networks for community groups, landowners and local iwi/hapū.
6. Facilitate long-term investment and incentives for biodiversity restoration and management.
7. Grow public awareness, participation and understanding about biodiversity across the region.
8. Build the skills, knowledge and support for locally-led action.

Pou 3

Partnering with tangata whenua

Working alongside tangata whenua to integrate mātauranga Māori and guide engagement, leadership and delivery in biodiversity management.

9. Integrate iwi, hapū and whānau aspirations, place-based knowledge and mātauranga Māori into biodiversity planning and delivery.
10. Strengthen education and investment pathways to support iwi, hapū and whānau-led biodiversity action.
11. Integrate mātauranga Māori into environmental monitoring and reporting processes.
12. Implement collaborative partnership models/projects for ecosystem restoration throughout the Waikato region.
13. Restore culturally significant biodiversity sites to enhance continued customary practices.

Pou 4

Strengthening data, policy, and investment

Building the data, information, policy and investment needed to prioritise the right places for biodiversity restoration, measure progress and support restoration across the Waikato region.

14. Improve alignment and coordination of biodiversity policy across councils and central government.
15. Develop and maintain a regional biodiversity mapping and spatial planning framework.
16. Prevent further biodiversity loss while supporting measurable biodiversity recovery and gain.
17. Develop and implement targeted incentives to reverse ongoing ecosystem degradation and drive biodiversity gains.
18. Build shared understanding and improve biodiversity knowledge through targeted research, consistent biodiversity monitoring and clear accessible reporting.