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**ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT
PLANNING IN NEW ZEALAND**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Applied Science
in Natural Resource Management
at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand**



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“This responsibility, caring for the environment, has less to do with the question of right or wrong than with the question of survival. The natural world is our home. It is not necessarily sacred or holy. It is simply where we live. It is therefore in our interest to look after it. This is common sense.”

Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso (Ancient Wisdom, Modern World: Ethics for the New Millenium, 2000)

ABSTRACT

The conservation and management of biodiversity has become increasingly sophisticated and this has led to the development of new tools and methods, such as computer programmes to analyse data and modelling approaches to compare different management scenarios and evaluate their potential effectiveness (Kareiva & Levin, 2003). Conservation efforts depend on knowledge, availability of resources, management planning and a willingness of the government and community to commit to long-term recovery actions (National Biodiversity Strategy Review Task Group (NBSRTG), 2009).

Currently, New Zealand legislation that specifically addresses threatened species at a national level in New Zealand, such as the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Conservation Act 1987 are outdated in managing the threats our endangered species face. Adopting more robust legislation, such as that found in Australia (the Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999), or in the United States of America (the U.S. Endangered Species Act 1973) could help the Department of Conservation reduce the numbers of endemic species being added to the threatened species list and aid in recovery planning for the future.

This research assesses New Zealand's threatened species recovery plans and compares them with national threatened species recovery plans in Australia. New Zealand has recovery plans for only 50 species despite the fact that there are some 2800 species classified as threatened and facing potential extinction (Department of Conservation (DOC), 2010a). Analysing what currently exists in management plans is one way in which to determine what planning has taken place and how an organisation is planning for the future (Sattler & Creighton, 2002b). The lack of review of existing plans is in itself an impediment to improving future plans (Clark, Reading, Clarke, 1994; Clark, Hoekstra, Boersma, Kareiva, 2002).

A review of New Zealand's endangered species recovery plan programme indicates that if threatened species recovery efforts are to be successful in the future, there needs to be a review of existing recovery plans; increased advocacy in the community; and legislation at the national level should be revised and enforced.

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ACRONYMS

ACNT	Australian Council of National Trusts
ALRC	Australian Law Reform Commission
ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
ASEAC	Australian State of the Environment Advisory Committee
ASEC	Australian State of the Environment Committee
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDEST	Australian government, Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
DEWHA	Australian government, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DLNR	Hawaiian government, Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOC	New Zealand government, Department of Conservation. Also referred to as the Department
DOFAW	United States government, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
DSEWPC	Australian government, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities
EPBC1999	Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
ESA1973	United States Endangered Species Act 1973
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
IPA	Australian Indigenous Protected Areas
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MfE	New Zealand government, Ministry for the Environment
NBSRTG	Australian, National Biodiversity Strategy Review Task Group
NHT	Australian, National Heritage Trust
NSW	New South Wales, Australia
NPW	New South Wales, Australia, National Parks and Wildlife
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Project Prioritisation Protocol
RMA1991	New Zealand Resource Management Act 1991
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
TSC1995	New South Wales, Australia, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
WA1953	New Zealand Wildlife Act 1953

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