

Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand Strategy 2021 – 2026

1 VISION

To see the majority of New Zealand's coast restored and sustainably managed using indigenous species

2 OBJECTIVES

1. Facilitate applied research across all coastal ecosystems
2. Communicate best practice for coastal management
3. Advocate on sustainable long term coastal management
4. Increase and strengthen networks and partnerships

3 WHAT WE DO

The Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand works with community groups, iwi, councils & government departments, research agencies, industry, and educational institutions to share information and carry out projects that support and improve the restoration of coastal environments around New Zealand. Our role is to lead research, facilitate and advocate for coastal restoration at legislative and policy levels as well as providing information and support to coastal restoration practitioners, landowners and managers.

3.1 OUR STRENGTHS:

- Annual conference
- Applied research
- Handbook and other outputs
- National coverage
- Good grassroots networks linkages with community group

4 FUNDING THE NETWORK

The Trust is funded through membership fees, project and research grants from government sources, and various sponsors who have provided financial support for aspects of the Trust's activities, including the website, conferences, publications, and project work. The Trust will continue to explore links in the private and public sectors

to expand its restoration activities. The Trust will utilise all opportunities to build its brand and increase funding.

5 MEASURING SUCESS

Measuring the Trust's progress towards and achievement of these four objectives is essential to communicate and celebrate success, then identify areas which need more work. Progress will be evaluated five years after this strategy is completed and will be reported on our website.

The strategy will be reviewed annually to check fit for purpose.

6 DETAILED OBJECTIVES

6.1 FACILITATE APPLIED RESEARCH ACROSS ALL COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Anticipated outcomes	<p>Completed and active research projects on a range of coastal restoration topics.</p> <p>People & organisations in the coastal ecosystem space seek technical expertise from Coastal Restoration Trust.</p>
Tasks	<p>Identify the gaps in research that need addressing.</p> <p>Scope research projects and look for funding opportunities.</p> <p>Build capacity within the Trust to undertake research projects and secure funding.</p> <p>Continue study award to promote independent research.</p>
Challenges	<p>Funding challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing long-term, substantial funding is a continual challenge, particularly for projects that are research driven rather than output driven. <p>Landscape challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands – mostly private landowners as opposed to dunes, which are mostly on public land. • Estuaries complicated legislative issues (CMA). Need different approach. • Links to catchment issues (e.g. sedimentation) which are outside of our scope.

6.2 COMMUNICATE BEST PRACTICE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Anticipated Outcomes	<p>Technical Handbook is updated to include other coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>Completed coastal restoration video series.</p>
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	Communications Strategy finalised, implemented and reviewed regularly.
Tasks	Update, implement and review communications strategy Update and promote database Distribute information on recent trials and demonstrations Ensure information is easily and freely accessible to a wide audience, including using a range of formats
Challenges	Reliance on contestable funding making it harder to plan strategically. Limited communications skills and capacity (time) in house.

6.3 ADVOCATE ON SUSTAINABLE LONG TERM COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Anticipated outcomes	We promote public awareness of proven methods for protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable management of coastal environments. We have a public presence in regard to coastal matters. Our opinion is sought by decision-makers and media when coastal issues arise (e.g. climate change related coastal events).
Tasks	Develop a protocol for providing information when an event occurs with a high public profile (e.g. a storm, erosion event or coastal development). This could include templates for media articles and links to further information. Ensure information we provide to the public is well backed by research. Advocate for best practise in situations where best practise is not being followed.
Challenges	Presenting to media and the public on an issue, even with good information backing our stance, is socially challenging. Fear of mis-stepping is preventing us from advocating for the coastal environment, which limits our influence and public presence.

6.4 INCREASE AND STRENGTHEN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Anticipated outcomes	Continued collaboration with key partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups • Iwi • Coastal landowners
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils & government departments • Research agencies & educational institutions • Industry
Tasks	<p>We frequently send out project updates to these key partners on projects underway and recently completed (via the newsletter)</p> <p>Develop a list of potential upcoming projects and seek collaboration (or funding) from these groups on these projects</p> <p>Ask these groups what their research questions/needs/gaps are and develop projects to meet those gaps</p> <p>Develop a list of contacts for each of these groups so that we can reliably contact them (and vice versa).</p>
Challenges	<p>Relationship are usually between individuals and take time to develop. Ensure relationships are prioritised (valued).</p> <p>Staff changes within departments and sometimes key community contacts moving away leads to loss of contact with that group. Create back-up contacts where possible.</p>