



Talking points: Meeting with WWF New Zealand

Date submitted: 19 February 2024

Tracking number: BRF-4276

Security level: Policy and Privacy

Actions sought from ministers	
<i>Name and position</i>	<i>Action sought</i>
To Hon Andrew HOGGARD Associate Minister for the Environment	None

Actions for Minister's Office staff
Return the signed briefing to the Ministry for the Environment (ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Appendices and attachments
1. Appendix 1: Talking points 2. Appendix 2: Key people

Key contacts at Ministry for the Environment			
<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>First contact</i>
Principal Author	Andrew Marshall		
Responsible Manager	Jo Burton		
General Manager	Hayden Johnston	022 153 0221	✓

Meeting with WWF New Zealand

Purpose

1. This meeting note gives you information for your meeting with Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Chief Executive (CE), WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) New Zealand on 22 February 2024.
2. Talking points are attached at Appendix 1.

Context

3. You are meeting with Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, CE WWF New Zealand at 9:30am on 22 February 2024, in Meeting Room 1.103 – Parliamentary Library.
4. Hayden Johnston, General Manager, Ministry for the Environment (MfE) can attend the meeting if you would like officials to be present.
5. WWF's key focus is on protecting the ocean and accelerating action at the nexus of climate change and biodiversity loss. WWF have indicated they are keen to establish a working relationship with the Government “to enhance action” on:
 - i. *Halting and reversing nature loss*
 - ii. *Ensuring a thriving ocean for future generations*
 - iii. *Putting nature at the heart of climate action.*
6. WWF have specifically expressed an interest in the following areas relevant to your Associate Environment portfolio, the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) including Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), work on a biodiversity credit system, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

NPSIB and SNAs

7. The NPSIB came into force in August 2023 and requires councils to identify SNAs and notify a plan or a plan change that includes them by August 2028.
8. The Government in its 100 day plan has committed to “begin to cease implementation of new SNAs and seek advice on the operation of the areas”.
9. The intention is to address concerns that the SNA identification criteria may be too broad and could capture areas with less significant indigenous biodiversity and overly burden farmers, Māori, landowners, infrastructure providers and developers.

- [REDACTED]
10. You have agreed to an approach that would suspend the NPSIB direction to councils to assess their districts and include new areas qualifying as SNAs in their plans. This suspension would apply for three years from the date of the change taking effect.
 11. This change is intended to be made this year through an RMA amendment bill, ahead of a review of the operation of SNAs under the NPSIB.
 12. WWF strongly support the NPSIB and are opposed to weakening it. Their Briefing to Incoming Ministers, which you have received, states:
 - effective implementation of the NPSIB is *“critical to ensuring improved and more consistent practice in councils’ management of indigenous biodiversity on private land, including through their engagement with tangata whenua and other landowners.”*
 - *“WWF will strongly oppose any move to weaken the provisions of the NPSIB, including revision of the science-based criteria that guide the identification of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). We would welcome enhanced implementation support for this important and much overdue national direction.”*
 13. 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Global Biodiversity Framework

14. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is the biodiversity equivalent of the Paris agreement on climate change. Established in 2022 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, it has been adopted by 196 countries, including New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada.
15. The GBF aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. It sets 4 goals and 23 targets across the direct, indirect and systemic levers that impact on biodiversity, including land/water use, pollution, biosecurity and business.
16. Countries respond to the GBF by revising their National Biodiversity Strategies (NBSAPs) to set national targets in line with the global ones. Approaches vary, for example Australia is focussing on 6 priority targets while Canada and the UK are likely to adopt the 23 global targets in full.
17. National targets are to be reported by October 2024 to the 16th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
18. The Minister of Conservation is lead for New Zealand’s response to the GBF and is receiving advice on New Zealand’s approach.

Biodiversity credits

19. WWF submitted on last year's public consultation on biodiversity credits (jointly with the Environmental Defence Society and Pure Advantage). The submission:
- i. supported the government continuing to investigate a biodiversity credit system, alongside other options to address biodiversity loss
 - ii. notes that carbon can be unitised, but this is more challenging for biodiversity (officials do not consider this is an issue as many markets do not rely on unitisation eg shares and housing markets)
 - iii. supports the creation of incentives to invest in indigenous afforestation to generate carbon credits, and proper management of existing forests is needed to address climate change and biodiversity loss, preferring a 'biodiversity *incentives* scheme' (involving up front Crown funding for private landowners, repaid via carbon credits), rather than a biodiversity credit system (aimed at catalysing private investment)
 - iv. supports *Recloaking Papatuanuku* (developed by Pure Advantage and Tane's Tree Trust) as a mission and model to incentivise action in New Zealand to stem biodiversity loss and climate change. WWF hosted the global release of *Recloaking Papatuanuku* at COP28, which Climate Change Minister Hon Watts spoke at
 - v. opposes use of a biodiversity credit system for development offsetting, due to the challenges in quantifying biodiversity value and properly ascertaining equivalence for offsets, and the view that credits should be 'nature-positive future' rather than an offset for environmentally damaging activities.



Hayden Johnston
General Manager – Natural Environment Policy

19 February 2024

Appendix 1: Talking points

Global Biodiversity Framework

20. The GBF targets cover a range of issues including areas for which I have specific responsibility - protecting biodiversity (review of significant natural areas), increasing investment in biodiversity (potential further work on a biodiversity credit system) and biosecurity. 9(2)(g)(i)

21. 9(2)(g)(i)

22. Regarding climate change: Target 8 requires countries to increase resilience to climate change. 9(2)(g)(i)

NPSIB

23. A commitment to begin to cease implementation of new SNAs and seek advice on the operation of the areas was included in the Government's 100 day plan.

24. The Government wants to address concerns that the SNA identification criteria may be too broad and could capture areas with less significant indigenous biodiversity and overly burden farmers, Māori, landowners, infrastructure providers and developers.

25. The Government is proposing to amend the NPSIB to suspend the direction to councils to assess their districts and include new areas qualifying as SNAs in their plans.

26. It is proposed that this suspension would apply for three years from the date of the change taking effect. This would allow for a review of the operation of SNAs under the NPSIB to be undertaken.

Biodiversity credits

27. I am currently considering advice on MFE's work on biodiversity credits.

28. I understand that WWF submitted on the consultation with the Environmental Defence Society and Pure Advantage – thank you for your submission.

29. I am interested in WWF's views on:

9(2)(g)(i)



9(2)(g)(i)



[REDACTED]

Appendix 2: Key people

Photo



Name and details

Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]