

THE FOREST BRIDGE TRUST STRATEGY: 2018-2020

Vision

A connected landscape with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast

Mission

Through practical landowner-centred support, enable the protection, enhancement and connection of forest remnants and wetlands.

Values

Respect. Integrity. Empathy

Steps to vision

Each wetland and forest remnant over one hectare fenced and trapped → Each remnant supported by a predator-controlled halo → Each halo connected by a predator-free corridor → Entire bridge in sustainable good health.

2018-2020 we will prioritise the first two steps.

Framework for decision-making

Landowners require knowledge, time, energy, funding and long term commitment in order to take action.

We support these elements through:

- 1) building landowner knowledge of the science, financial advantage and best practice for fencing and trapping;
- 2) providing practical support to enable fencing and trapping; and
- 3) building a community open to change by managing the bigger picture, demonstrating and communicating results and connecting each single initiative to a compelling whole.

Theme 1: Building the bridge		Theme 2: Building the community			Theme 3: TFBT capacity and learning
<p><i>Goal:</i> 10 priority wetland and/or forest remnants will be fenced, trapped and monitored. A further 10 already protected areas will be trapped and monitored.</p>		<p><i>Goal:</i> A community open to change is built in targeted areas to support landowners' commitment to engage.</p>			<p><i>Goal:</i> TFBT improves it's practice and contributes to the wider good by targeted engagement in other landscape-scale ecological connectivity initiatives.</p>
Landowner led	Community supported	CatchIT Schools	CatchIT Communities	CatchIT Hubs	Sharing and learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 areas selected, • funding secured for fencing and trapping, • landowners engaged and supported, • projects managed and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 already protected areas selected, • landowners engaged and funding secured, • community support organised for trapping initiatives, • projects managed and maintained. 	<p>16 primary schools will have been engaged in trapping through the CatchIT programme, followed by CatchIT workshops for parents..</p> <p><i>These initiatives are for the purposes of: initiating contact with landowners; building landowner commitment; recruiting support for community supported trapping; ecological outcomes through halo predator control.</i></p>	<p>36 community pest control workshops will be held to engage landowners outside of the school community, followed by one on one specific landowner engagement.</p> <p><i>These initiatives are for the purposes of: initiating contact with landowners; building landowner commitment; recruiting support for community supported trapping; ecological outcomes through halo predator control.</i></p>	<p>Communities will be engaged to undertake intensive pest control on public or covenanted land. This will provide ecological centres around which CatchIT Schools and Communities will provide the halo. Landowners commitment will be enhanced by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 community pest control workshops, a connectivity map that illustrates each initiative, • data and results that demonstrate impact <p><i>Progress will be monitored by means of the connectivity map as well as trap catch data collection.</i></p>	<p>TFBT contributes to other like-minded projects to build its own capacity and share knowledge and skills.</p>

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: THE FOREST BRIDGE TRUST LANDSCAPE

Factors that influence the priorities and choices of our strategy:

Farmers:

- Are asset rich but cash poor and often are without the resources to implement sound environmental management decisions for their farms
- Sometimes fear environmental regulation (for both water quality and pest control) because of the costs
- Are concerned about negative publicity regarding environmental issues and withdraw from public engagement as a result
- Are receiving mixed messages about farming management and practice

Lifestyle blocks:

- Have a high turn-over of owners
- May have a low understanding of issues if they don't have a rural background
- Find land management capital intensive and don't always have high budgets for land management
- Face increasing development pressures

Forestry

- Face negative publicity about their business
- Face pest control issues including wilding pines
- Sediment off logging areas is a significant issue

Pest eradication technology

- A fast moving field with a lot of active research
- Animal rights issues are expected to become more prominent

Funding

- Highly competitive
- Difficult to get operational funding
- Takes effort to be successful
- Sustainability of funding always an issue
- Funding success is dependent on having 'street cred'
- With a new government there will be new policies and priorities that may affect funding

Partners

- Face restructuring resulting in new and inexperienced staff

How Communities Open to Change are built:

Informing and inspiring children will bring our message into the home of landowners → landowners are motivated by their children to take action → deeper commitment from landowners

Practical information and knowledge will inspire individual landowners to take action → the increased awareness and provision of resources will increase the likelihood of action → the knowledge of being 'one of many' and 'making a difference' will deepen landowner commitment → sharing of quantitative and qualitative successes will encourage ongoing participation