

**Our vision is:**

**Waikato - a place for our living taonga - where the community values and works collaboratively to protect, enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity.**

### **What's special about Waikato plants and animals?**

The Waikato region contains a range of native plants and animals, including:

- more than 900 native plants
- 124 native bird species
- 19 reptiles (including geckos, skinks and tuatara)
- two species of native bats
- two species of native frogs.

However, over 75 per cent of natural areas on land in the Waikato region have been lost. As a result, more than 200 species of plants, insects and animals are threatened with extinction, including all bats and frogs and 30 per cent of birds.

The Forum is working with management agencies and community groups to protect and restore a representative range of these ecosystems in the Waikato region<sup>1</sup>:

- native forest and scrub
- swamps and bogs
- streams, rivers and lakes
- beaches and dunes
- marine and estuarine ecosystems
- coastal islands
- geothermal ecosystems
- karst (limestone) ecosystems
- mountain ecosystems.

<sup>1</sup>The Waikato region encompasses the Bombay Hills to Ruapehu, including the Coromandel Peninsula and the Kaimai Ranges to the West Coast.

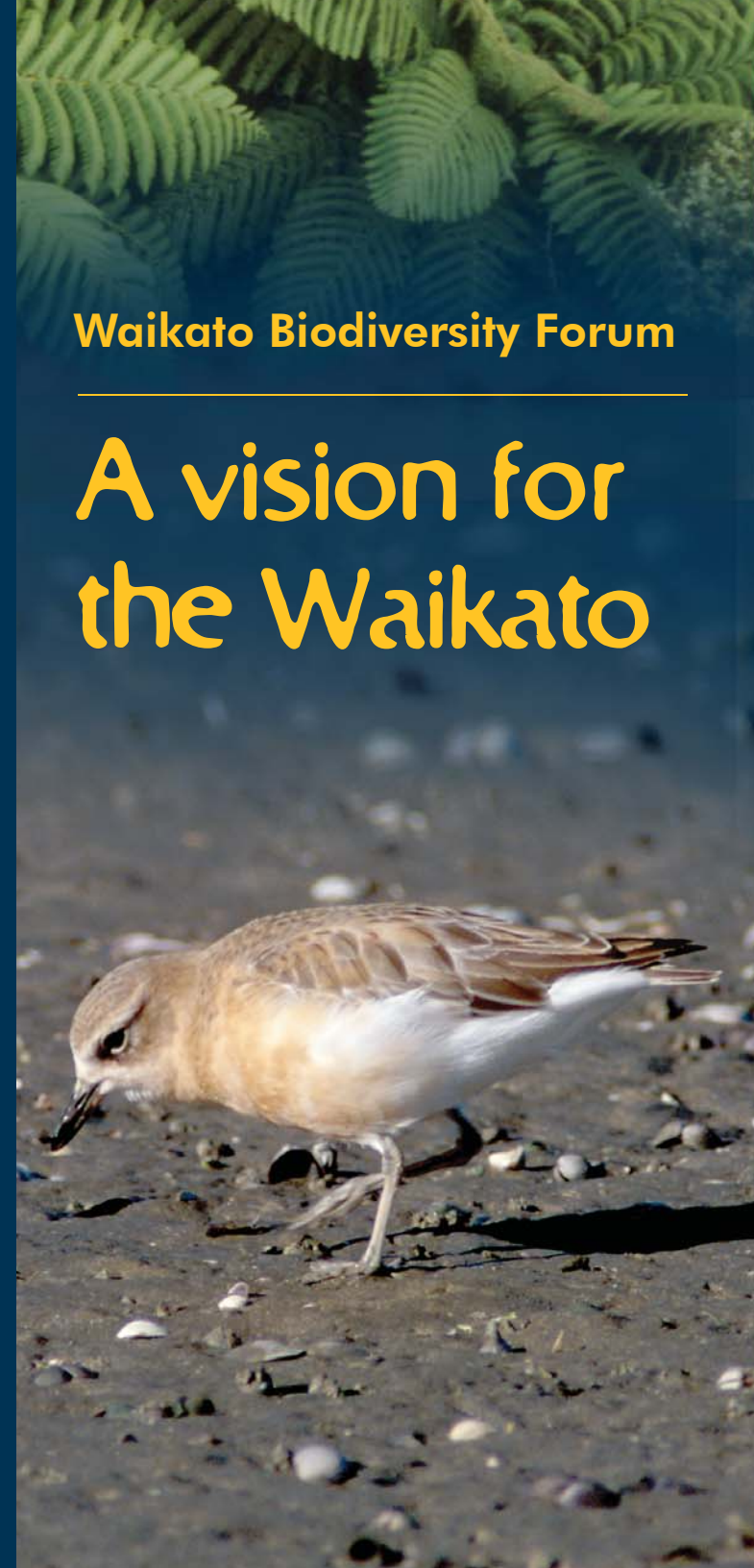


**Contact details**  
**Biodiversity Advice Waikato**  
**0800 BIODIV (246348)**

March 2006

## **Waikato Biodiversity Forum**

# **A vision for the Waikato**



## Imagine...

Healthy biodiversity\* providing clean water, fresh air, replenished food sources and stable land that sustains all life through production and nature protection.

The full range of habitats, ecosystems and species representative of the Waikato are in a safe and healthy state, and indigenous biodiversity is being restored and reconstructed in modified environments.

Iwi, hapu and whanau, as kaitiaki are active partners in managing biodiversity.

The Waikato as a focal point for biodiversity networking, research, knowledge and policy, generating innovative ways of benefiting both people and nature.

Communities embracing a holistic approach to biodiversity, recognising its importance for their cultural, spiritual and social well-being.

Businesses creating wealth and employment in a way that maintains and improves biodiversity and supports sustainable development.

**This is what the Waikato could be like by the year 2025 if the vision of the Waikato Biodiversity Forum is achieved.**

*\*Biodiversity is the variety of all forms of life - the wide diversity of plants, animals, and micro-organisms and the ecosystems or habitats in which they live. Healthy ecosystems are necessary to provide clean water and air and productive soil.*

## What is the Waikato Biodiversity Forum?

The Waikato Biodiversity Forum is a partnership between research and management agencies, iwi groups, local authorities, private landowners and communities - anyone with an interest in native biodiversity in the Waikato region. The forum believes that no one agency, sector or element of society has all the answers to the biodiversity issues we face nationally and in the region.

Some of the actions the forum is taking include:

- Encouraging agencies to network, share ideas and enter into partnerships for research, education, monitoring and reporting, policy development and management actions to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Liaising with iwi, hapu and whanau to achieve shared outcomes and support the kaitiaki role of tangata whenua.
- Advocating the development of sound policy and objectives to enhance biodiversity protection at the national, regional and local levels.
- Pursuing opportunities to obtain funds to run forum projects, which contribute to the protection, maintenance and restoration of biodiversity in the region.

Forum initiatives include:

- Published guidelines for prioritising biodiversity restoration activities and projects across the region.
- Community events and workshops.
- Resources for local councils addressing biodiversity issues.
- Database of community biodiversity projects in the Waikato region.
- A comprehensive website.

### What does this mean for you?

The forum offers a way for you to find out more about what is happening with biodiversity in the Waikato, how your project fits in to the overall picture and what support might be available to assist you to achieve your goals. It is an opportunity to network and be up with the play on the latest ideas and restoration efforts.

### Biodiversity Advice Waikato

Waikato Biodiversity Advice Waikato is a Waikato Biodiversity Forum service, providing free information about New Zealand's native plants and animals and the region's natural environment.

**Anyone can join the Forum and get advice and assistance. Phone 0800 BIODIV (246348) or go to [www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz](http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz) for more information.**

