High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
Thematic Session: Cities and Biodiversity

Integrating Biodiversity into Urban Planning
A Case Study of Waitakere City

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Content

- Introducing Waitakere
- City vision and target for biodiversity
- Planning context
- Tools for integrating biodiversity
  - Retrofitting
  - Greenfield concept planning
  - Awareness and information

New Zealand

Metropolitan Auckland
- Waitemata Harbour
- Waitakere
- Manukau Harbour
- Tasman Sea
Waitakere City

Population: 200,000
Land area: 360 square km
Climate: warm temperate
Rainfall: 90 mm - summer
        140 mm - winter

Auckland region

Population: 1,400,000
Land area: 6,000 square km
Waitakere City Vision

A network of resilient, productive and prosperous communities, living in compact towns and neighbourhoods, nurturing the environment and celebrating diverse and creative lifestyles.

Green Network (Biodiversity) Target

Complete an ecologically continuous network which links the Waitakere Ranges along the stream and open space networks to the coastal areas by 2025.

Planning context

- Convention on Biological Diversity 1992
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008
- Waitakere City District Plan 2002
- Natural Area Rules
- Protected Natural Areas
- Riparian Margin
Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act

Retrofitting

• Restoring streams through the urban area
Project Twin Stream Progress

- **43% of the streams** in the catchment revegetated with more than
- **500,000 plants** by more than
- **34,000 volunteer** visits, and
- **9 km cycle and walkways** developed
Greenfield concept planning
Waitakere has a rich biodiversity resource in the Waitakere Ranges. The biodiversity vision and target is to encourage more biodiversity into the urban area. The planning framework provides a mandate, and tools employed include:

- Retrofitting stream habitats in the urban area
- Greenfield concept planning to incorporate biodiversity
- Raising awareness and providing information for individual action

Summary