

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

and

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

Background:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. (RFBPS) and The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. (OSNZ) (hereafter referred to as “the Societies”) was agreed to on 22nd June 2002. The Societies have common constitutional interests concerning New Zealand’s birds.

The RFBPS has capacity to promote the preservation and protection of the indigenous flora and fauna and the natural features of New Zealand, whereas OSNZ is recognised as an independent, trusted, science-based organisation on birds and their habitats in New Zealand and the South Pacific having a reputation for impartiality that can contribute to the conservation of birds through enhancing knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of them.

The objectives of the Societies could be enhanced through maintaining a close working relationship, particularly in the exchange of information and for purposes that are complementary to the interests of both Societies. From discussions between representatives since 2014 it has been agreed that both Societies wish to continue to maintain a close working relationship, in particular for fostering and supporting the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds and habitats in New Zealand and South Pacific regions and their conservation.

Common Constitutional Obligations:

The Societies have the following common constitutional obligations:

OSNZ:

1. Encourage, organise and promote the study of birds and their habitat use within New Zealand and South Pacific regions and to encourage the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds.
2. Promote bird surveys and other studies and the publication of a journal recording the results of scientific research, and to produce other publications containing matters of ornithological interest.
3. Promote co-operation and exchange of information with other organisations having similar aims and objects.
4. Encourage and support the conservation of birds by providing scientifically sound information for making wise management decisions.

RFBPS:

1. To take all reasonable steps to achieve the preservation and protection of the indigenous flora and fauna and the natural features of New Zealand.

Collaboration for the Provision and Use of Information:

The objectives of the Societies could be better achieved through collaboration and maintaining a close working relationship generally and the provision and use of information that is complementary to the interests of both Societies.

This MoU covers the sharing and use of information between the Societies.

It is agreed between the Societies that:


1. **OSNZ** undertakes to provide technical information, including summaries of data, images, charts and tables, to RFBPS upon request and without charge where this information will contribute towards making sound decisions for the conservation and management of birds. Upon request, OSNZ members will be available to explain the results of scientific studies and to recommend management arrangements and actions based on such studies. The intellectual property in information provided to RFBPS shall remain with OSNZ and with the members who collected it.
2. **RFBPS** undertakes to use technical information provided by OSNZ only for purposes agreed by the Societies and shall acknowledge OSNZ for information so provided. RFBPS may publish information provided by OSNZ when the owners of that information agree with its publication. Furthermore, RFBPS shall provide information without charge to OSNZ about birds and their habitats that encourages the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds and will promote co-operation between the Societies.
3. **The Societies** may collaborate on activities that are of mutual interest and where information sharing and technical cooperation will allow the comparative strengths of both societies to be applied. Examples are (a) cooperation with implementation of the New Zealand Bird Atlas Scheme, notably with field surveys, and (b) cooperation regarding implementation of the Pacific Islands Bird Conservation and Research Fund through the J S Watson Trust.
4. **The Societies** undertake to meet at regular intervals (regionally and nationally) and to collaborate on surveys to collect, analyse and report technical information for purposes that will encourage the wider knowledge, conservation, management and enjoyment of birds.

Review of this Memorandum of Understanding:

The Societies agree that this MoU should be reviewed and where necessary revised at not more than five-yearly intervals.

Signed at Dunedin on 1 October 2020.

President 
The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

President 
The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.