



DIVERSIFIED SPECIES TECHNICAL NOTE

Number: DSTN-014

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TANE'S TREE TRUST 10TH ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOP

Summary

Tane's Tree Trust held a Ten Year Anniversary Conference and Workshop at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, on 18-20 November 2009. The conference theme was: *Managing Native trees: Towards a National Strategy*. The conference celebrated some of the milestones achieved in those 10 years. Workshops and invited papers highlighted the current problems and paved the way for a national strategy on native forest management.

One of the four workshops held during the conference was on **Research – What do we know, don't know, should know and how can we get there?** The focus of the workshop was to highlight knowledge gaps relating to the establishment and management of native trees; developing a coordinated research strategy in order to fill those gaps; deciding who should be responsible for developing a strategy; and discussing how it could be funded.

A plenary session was used to identify strategic directions for advancing the productive use of native trees in New Zealand. Participants were encouraged to reflect on what was shared at the conference, so it could inform their thinking for the future. Presentations and outcomes from the workshops will be published in the Tane's Tree Trust Conference Proceedings in late 2010.

Authors: Compiled by David Bergin

Conference

Tane's Tree Trust (TTT) held its Ten Year Anniversary Conference and Workshop at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, in November, 2009. The conference theme was "Managing Native trees: Towards a National Strategy".

It had been 10 years since the inaugural conference "Native Trees for the Future" (Silvester & McGowan 1999). The inaugural conference, attended by over 100 delegates, touched a nerve and spawned the formation of Tane's Tree Trust. This Trust has grown to over 300 members, and amongst other activities, it has held 23 workshops and published six books on New Zealand native forest establishment and management.

The conference workshops and invited papers celebrated the milestones achieved in those ten years, highlighted the current problems, and led the way to the elaboration of a National Strategy on native forest management.

TTT Research workshop

One of the four workshops was on **Research – What do we know, don't know, should know and how can we get there?** The research workshop was facilitated by Dr Andrew McEwen

Objectives for the workshop

The expectation of this workshop session was driven by the following statement:

"The establishment or rehabilitation of natural forest and its subsequent management requires effective and efficient systems and a good understanding of key physiological and ecological processes if we are to get the best from our forests. Owner's expectations will include any one or a combination of objectives for planting and managing native trees including landscape and aesthetic enhancement, improved biodiversity, other environmental services such as carbon sequestration and improved water quality, and high quality wood production, with an overall goal of



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contributing more broadly to sustainable land use.

This workshop will examine past and current work on these matters, and highlight those areas where with more focused investment greater progress can be made."

The focus of the workshop was:

- identifying knowledge gaps relating to the establishment and management of native trees;
- developing a coordinated research strategy in order to fill those gaps; and
- determining who should be responsible for managing a coordinated strategy and how it will be funded.

While there was generally an emphasis on planted forests using native tree species with the potential for timber production, there are also opportunities with managing naturally-regenerating native forests for timber production.

Research Workshop contributors

Three speakers addressed the workshop to provide different perspectives of indigenous forestry research, namely:

- Dr Tom Richardson, Chief Executive of Scion, addressed what Scion is doing in the area of indigenous forestry research;
- Dr Bruce Burns, lecturer in plant ecology at the University of Auckland discussed his views on the research needs for indigenous forests;
- Diana Whiting, Senior Investment Manager – Primary Sector at FRST – spoke on policies and funding for research into indigenous forests and where this fits into overall government research funding.

Presentations from these three speakers will be published in the TTT Conference Proceedings.

Research workshop session

Delegates were then split into four facilitated breakout groups to address the following:

1. Are there any major omissions from a list of research needs (developed at a previous research meeting held at Christchurch in 2007 and then circulated), and are the priorities identified then still relevant?
2. Is there a need for a group "to assess research needs for indigenous forestry and to produce a more general strategy for indigenous forests"?
3. If there is a need for a group, what would be the structural and funding requirements?
4. Is there any alternative process that could be proposed?

Reports back from each group are currently being drafted for the Conference Proceedings to be published later in 2010. Key points from the plenary session are summarised below.

Notes on strategic direction for productive native forestry

A plenary workshop was used to identify strategic directions for advancing the productive use of native trees in New Zealand. Participants were encouraged to reflect on what was shared at the conference to influence future thinking. This session was facilitated and written up by Helen Ritchie.

Participants were asked: "What are some specific actions that groups or sectors can take that would make a difference to the productive use of native trees in New Zealand?" The responses were:

Establishing effective models

- Get two species to work, e.g., focus on totara and beech. From establishment → marketing → product, etc...
- Population genetics of key indigenous species
- Establish trial plots for:
 - Planted monocultures, e.g., totara
 - Planted mixed species culture for continuous cover forestry
 - Existing forests managed for selective extraction using modern techniques, e.g., John Wardle's management of black



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beech forest (Tāne's Tree Trust Strategy to be based on these three areas)

Making a business case

- Develop a business case for indigenous forestry.
- Develop the case for using NZ native timber instead of imported wood. Development of a range of models that predict pre-harvest returns, such as
 - Carbon
 - Nitrogen
 - Natural extracts
 - Mulch production
 - Biofuel.
- Multi-value calculator
 - Free
 - Expandable
 - Wood/ non-wood.
- Wall-to-wall mapping of all resource
 - Lidar
 - Spatial
 - Temporal.
- Work towards net-based log/timber market – the “Timber Trade Me”.

Communicating / getting it out there

- Workshops
- Demonstration areas
- Face-to-face communication
- TTT participation at Ag. Field Days
- Put successful projects onto YouTube
- Raise perception of value of trees in teaching young children – so it lasts their lifetime (and sites will be looked after)
- Establishment of regional demonstration stands of key native species, and running field days
- Produce a brochure promoting benefits of indigenous forestry as a viable land use
- Collate and condense existing information (including the new Manual), e.g., for farmers
- Public re-education on selective sustainable logging
- Send all Regional Councils a summary from this conference so that they can pass the information on to the public.

Making the most of opportunities on farms/ in the landscape

- Facilitate forestry cooperative groups among landowners in an area:
 - Share skills
 - Expertise
 - Planting
 - Fencing
 - Maintenance
- Promote use of native trees for shelter belts
- Encourage Transit NZ to grow podocarps on road reserves (for ease of access for harvesting) including motorways.

Working inclusively, taking a holistic approach

- TTT and NZFFA Indigenous Section need to work together.
- Restore the mauri of the forest – the whole forest.
- Use iwi resource/knowledge in partnership with Māori.

Setting targets

- Set specific targets for the indigenous forestry industry to work towards, e.g., 10% of the total value of NZ forestry from indigenous forestry by 2100.
- National target: Plant a million native trees by 2020.

Enhancing incentives

- Put in place practical mechanisms to make plantings happen, e.g., workshops, subsidies.
- Complete research on carbon sequestration rates by natives, then lobby government to increase the value of carbon credits for native forests. Subsidise if necessary to incentivise planting (recognise ecosystem services, biodiversity values in line with Biodiversity Strategy commitments).

Lobbying for better national and local policy and regulations

- Territorial authorities – encourage use of MAF certificates for native plantings.
- Lobby Government for development of a National Policy Statement on indigenous forestry.



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- TTT coordinated letter-writing campaign to change government policy on support for consuming export timber locally.
- Lobby Government to remove barriers, e.g., rules, research bias in favour of realistic guidelines.
- Lobby to remove disincentives to, and disparities in, planting natives vs exotics, e.g., ETS, Council rules, etc...

Securing funding

- Funding required to implement strategy
- Possible funding options:
 - AGMARDT
 - Primary Growth Partnership
 - New Zealand Landcare Trust
 - MAF Sustainable Farming Fund
 - Transpower community fund
 - DOC Biodiversity Advice.

Reference

Silvester, W.; McGowan, R. (Eds.) 1999: *Native trees for the future, potential, possibilities, problems of planting and managing New Zealand forest trees*. Proceedings of Native Tree Forum, held at the University of Waikato 8-10 October 1999. 96p.