

Abstract:

A Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Department of Conservation

By Paul Phifer

New Zealand's climate is changing, affecting almost every aspect of the Department of Conservation's (DOC) work. Direct effects include damage to infrastructure or habitat caused by rising seas and more frequent flood events. Indirect effects, such as changing temperature and precipitation patterns, are already shifting habitats and species distribution, including potentially of invasive species that are climate restricted.

Working across all of DOC, an adaptation plan will outline the management, research, and monitoring actions DOC will take to reduce risks posed by our changing climate. Such efforts also help DOC inform national climate change efforts, such as those associated with the pending Zero Carbon Bill.

Paul is being hosted on her Axford Fellowship by the Department of Conservation.