

# Sustainable Land Management Policy and Programmes

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MAF POLICY

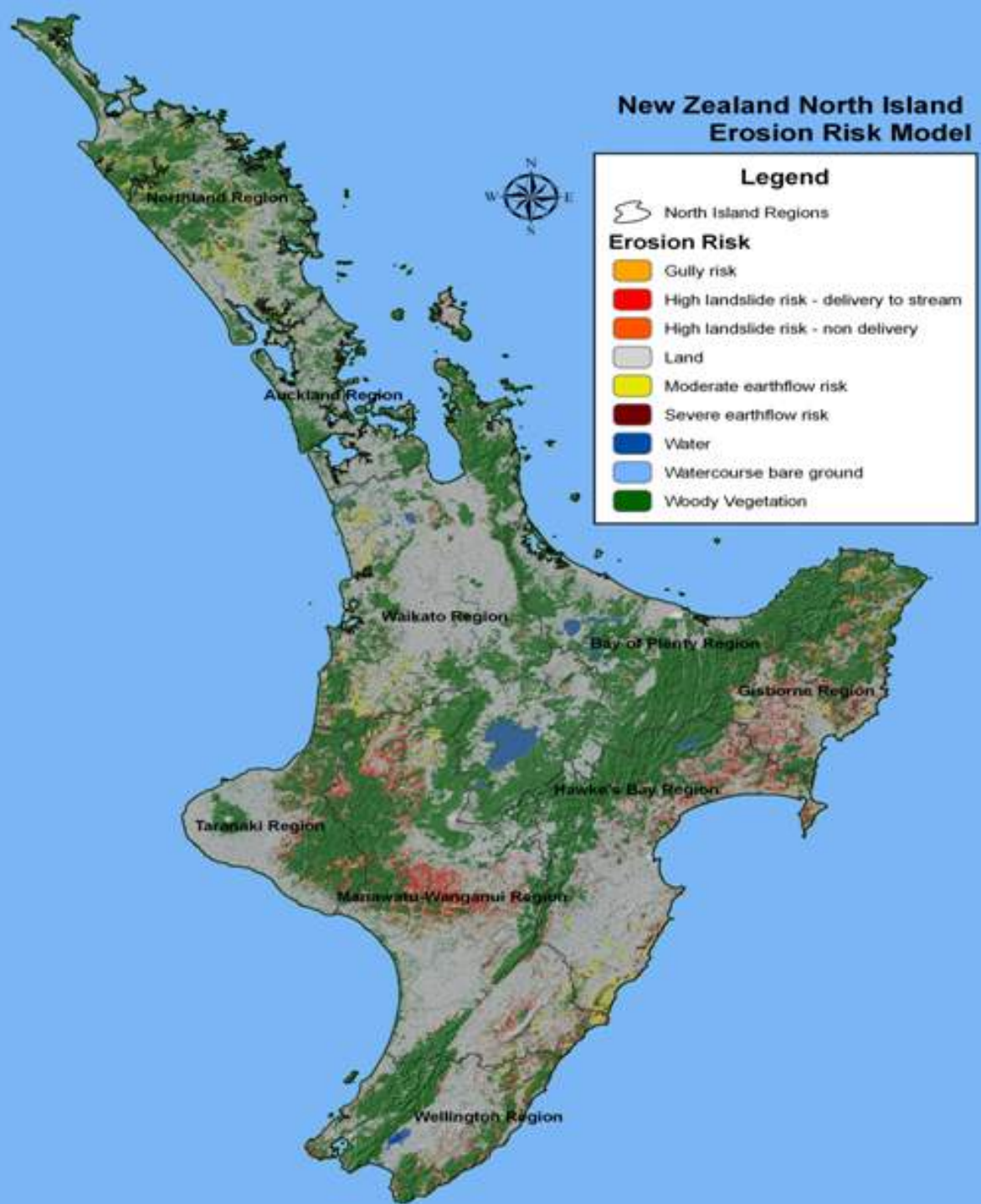


Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Te Manatū Ahuwhenua, Ngāherehere





# The Policy Context







Gisborne Hill country – with grass, with regenerating scrub, with trees, and... after the trees



# SLM Programmes



- Hill Country Erosion (MAF)
- East Coast Forestry project (MAF)
- Afforestation Grant Scheme (MAF)
- Permanent Forestry Sink Initiative (MAF)

## Others with links to SLM

- Climate change plan of action (MAF)
- Sustainable Farming Fund (MAF)
- Sustainable Management Fund (MfE)
- NZ Landcare Trust (MfE and contestable)
- Envirolink (FRST)
- Ngā Whenua Rāhui
- Queen Elizabeth II Trust
- Biodiversity fund (DOC)
- Natural heritage fund (DOC)



# Hill Country Erosion programme

## Objective

- To produce a long-term shift in management practices on erosion prone hill country

## The objective will be achieved

- Through partnerships with, and funding of, local government initiatives - targeting most at risk land
- By providing assistance and incentives to implement erosion protection, including farm business planning, planting and retirement
- By developing capability and leadership amongst COI

## Funding

- Total of \$2.4 million per year





# Hill Country Erosion programme

## Activities and outcomes

- \$5.8m - SLUI targets farms on highly erodable land (Horizons)
- \$1m – South Taranaki Regional Erosion Support Scheme (TRC)
- \$675k – Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (GWRC)
- \$650k Poplar and Willow Breeding Programme – new varieties and extension (all)
- \$600k Wairoa Sediment Reduction Initiative (HBRC)
- 7 regional LUC awareness workshops attended by over 200 participants
- Erosion risk modelling contract to Landcare Research
- 3 Regional forums planned for Hawkes Bay
- Multiple capability building activities planned for 2010



# East Coast Forestry Project



## The Project

- Initiated in 1992 in response to Cyclone Bola
- 60 000 ha identified as target land

## Scale of the problem

- 26 percent of Gisborne district susceptible to severe erosion - compared to only 8 percent across the rest of New Zealand





# East Coast Forestry Project



## Objective

- Establish effective tree cover on at risk target land in the Gisborne district to mitigate the possibility of another 'Bola'

## The objective will be achieved

- Through grants to land users to achieve desired changes
  - Afforestation
  - Wide-spaced pole planting
  - Indigenous reversion

## Funding

- Total \$35 million allocated over 16 years







# East Coast Forestry Project



## **Actions and outcomes**

- 33,000ha protected to date
- Current uptake is between 2000-2,500 ha per year
- Recent rule changes by Gisborne District Council will hopefully encourage greater uptake of this scheme



# Afforestation Grant Scheme



## Objective

- To encourage the establishment of new forests

## The objective will be achieved

- Two funding pools – council pool and public tender pool
- Government grants for establishing new forests on Kyoto compliant land
- Crown retains carbon credits (and liabilities) for 1<sup>st</sup> 10 years
- Priority given to areas with erosion, water or biodiversity, climate change co-benefits

## Funding

- \$7 million per year until 2013



# Afforestation Grant Scheme



## Actions and Outcomes

- Since establishment in June last year over \$6.9 million has been allocated to projects totalling over 4,495 hectares
- \$4m granted for 2009/10 and 2010/11 at an average price of \$1789ha in the high sequestration pool and \$650ha in the low sequestration pool
- Very successful so far and over-subscribed at present







# Permanent Forestry Sink Initiative

## Objective

- Encourage the establishment of permanent forest carbon sinks on previously unforested land.

## The objective will be achieved

- Through Land owners earning Kyoto Protocol compliant AAU's for carbon sequestered in permanent forests established after 1 January 1990.
- The forest must be "direct human induced .... through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources".
- Covenant registered against title for a minimum of 50 years.
- Limited harvesting is allowed
- Application fee of \$500+GST + additional hourly rate above 4 hours base processing time



# Permanent Forestry Sink Initiative

## Funding

- No funding assistance provided to landowners

## Actions and outcomes

- Started in 2007
- 27 applications received
- Covering 7,000 ha
- 10 covenants approved and registered to date
- 32,000 AAUs transferred to land owners to date
- Approximate value of AAUs \$640,000
- Particularly suited to indigenous forest reversion on farmland post 1989.



# Some issues that still need confronting



- Most sediment in streams comes from farms with a significant area of highly erodible land (15-50%) – 80% of the problem can be attributed to 20% of properties but...
- Farmers are reluctant to retire land, treatment is both expensive and hard physical work, and the economic benefits of treatment, are at best, marginal
- Ensuring the right treatment is applied at the right time
- Programme awareness and integration





The sheep were hungry



# Summary



- We are very grateful to our friends and partners in the Councils
- Also to those farmers out there leading the way
- We'd like to make more rapid progress in protecting erosion prone land
- That means farmers planting more trees on the farms with high erosion risk/sediment yield
- Government is providing incentives through a range of programmes
- But...how do we get more farmers, and their stakeholder organisations, on board?
- What are the barriers? What more could we/should we be doing?



A lot of hard work that will,  
hopefully, pay off for all



HOW ABOUT YOU COOCH, MATE - ANYTHING SERIOUS?



OH YEH - HAD A BIT OF LANDSHIFT MESELF, WAH!



A common understanding and acceptance of the problem is critical to the rate of progress we can make!