



How to use this Handbook

Coastal dunelands are amongst the most modified and degraded of the major ecosystems in New Zealand. While substantial historical modification of our dunes has occurred, coastal communities around New Zealand have expanded significantly over the last four to five decades with much of this development poorly planned and located resulting in further loss of natural dune form and function. In particular, the native vegetation cover and associated fauna on our dunes has been severely impacted with virtually no intact natural dune systems remaining in most regions of the country.

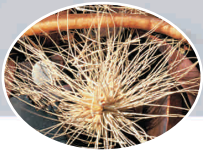
Coastal dunes provide protection from coastal erosion and flooding, while maintaining and enhancing the natural, cultural and amenity values of our beaches. To protect communities from coastal hazards including the expected impacts

of climate change, we need to restore and maintain a protective dune buffer to accommodate normal shoreline changes and to manage human use so that natural dune form and function is maintained.

The Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand (Dunes Trust) has initiated the development of this Technical Handbook as part of a project entitled:

*Empowering Coastal Communities
to Adapt to Climate Change.*

The project is largely funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund with support and input from coastal managing agencies and local coastal communities throughout the country.



'Easy-to-read guide'

This Technical Handbook has been produced as an essential 'easy-to-read guide' for coastal communities, landowners, agencies and interest groups involved in restoration and management of the coastline. Relevant throughout New Zealand, this handbook is aimed at practitioners, experienced or new, keen to improve their knowledge and adopt latest techniques in restoring and managing our coastal sand dunes with emphasis on using local native plants and enhancing associated native fauna.

Sections covering key aspects of coastal form and function, restoration and management are covered in separate stand-alone publications in the form of colour-coded peer-reviewed articles. Sources of information are stated wherever possible to allow users of the Handbook to access original work and to seek further details directly. Publications are written by a wide range of practitioners, specialists, managers, consultants and policy makers.

The Handbook has been produced as a 'living manual' that can be added to and updated as new information and resources permit. It is therefore in ring-binder format with dividers for each section. Each section and related topics are easily located following the Table of Contents.

Handbook articles

The publications within the Handbook are in the form of 2-12 page articles that are grouped into

separate sections based on themes. These themes comprise a comprehensive range of aspects relevant to coastal sand dunes in New Zealand including:

- The challenges posed by accentuation of coastal hazards by climate change;
- Importance of dunes in mitigation of coastal hazards;
- Fact sheets on the characteristics, importance and status of our native plant and animal species in coastal dunelands;
- 'How to' articles that provide the latest practical guidelines on a wide variety of subjects necessary to undertake dune restoration;
- The role of community-based partnerships in facilitating effective dune restoration and management;
- Regional case studies of successful community-based restoration programmes; and
- Sources of local and national information and key community and agency contacts on coastal restoration and management.

Updating the Handbook

The Handbook will be available on-line through the Dunes Trust website www.dunestrust.org.nz where new sections and articles will be posted as they are developed. Updated articles will also be available as these are produced. Full hard copy versions of the Handbook and updates are available directly from the Dunes Trust.



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Sustainable Management Fund

The Ministry for the Environment does not necessarily endorse or support the content of the publication in any way.

The mission of the Dunes Trust is:

'To see the majority of New Zealand dunes restored and sustainably managed using indigenous species by 2050'