

Key themes (notes per theme)

Key Themes – overall: step in the right direction.

- **Accountability vs Greenwashing:** Deep concern that biodiversity credits risk becoming a tool for greenwashing if not properly regulated. “Removes accountability for business.”
- **Need for Strong Governance:** Clear calls for a **centralised, trusted certification body** not third-party contractors to manage and oversee the scheme.
- **Equity & Fairness:** Ensuring small companies aren’t disadvantaged and large companies don’t “buy” a good reputation.
- **Transparency & Public Awareness:** Success of the system depends on public knowledge and active consumer choices (Consumer protection act – recognition). “This is only as strong as the public’s ability to make informed choices.”
- **Government Role: Systemic Solutions vs Surface Fixes:** Credits must not distract from fixing root causes of biodiversity loss or allow companies/government. “It can be perceived as a cop-out for the government—and for companies.”

Key findings - One

A strong regulator is *non-negotiable*.
It must:

1. Prevent greenwashing
2. Ensure fair access Place projects where they’re needed
3. Be electorate-based but work with central gov and local councils

Key findings - Two

There is a significant gap in public understanding.

1. Confusion between carbon and biodiversity credits is widespread.
2. Without education, the system will fail to gain trust or deliver on long-term goals.

Key findings - Three

Success depends on community-based delivery.

1. Projects must reflect local values, involve iwi, and benefit the communities where they're set up.
2. This builds trust, boosts effectiveness, and avoids extractive, colonial-style conservation.

Recommendation One: Regulator

Have a regulator. There is a regulator per electorate. This regulator works with a group at the central government and with a council in their electorate.

A regulator should be set up per electorate, tied to:

1. A central biodiversity governance group
2. Their local council

The regulator must be the one to act out these actions:

1. Their independent but still accountable
2. They are the ones to determine where companies buy their credits from. Where is the nearest investment in nature needed?
3. Respect iwi sovereignty, local biodiversity priorities, and community input

By doing this, we can achieve...

This ensures fairness, stops corporate overreach, and aligns incentives with ecological justice.

Recommendation Two: Education

Launch an education strategy that:

1. Clarifies biodiversity vs carbon credits
2. Uses schools, universities, and community workshops
3. Equips farmers, rangatahi (youth), and small businesses
4. Provides transparent info on how credits work, who gets them, and what they fund

A public that understands, trusts, and contributes to the system reducing misinformation

and building legitimacy

Recommendation Three: Community Consultation

Mandate ongoing, not one-off, consultation:

1. Regulator must report annually on community engagement
2. Local voices including iwi, hapu, schools, farmers, youth, etc must shape what projects are to be done in that community
3. Create advisory committees in each region that review incoming projects