



DR ELIZABETH PARLATO

SENIOR ECOLOGIST

Liz has a strong background in ecology, with a range of experience that includes developing management plans for protected sites and species, analysing large ecological datasets, quantitative predictions of management outcomes, and structured decision-making to solve complex problems. Liz is also an experienced policy analyst, with a focus on policy review and implementation to meet management objectives.

Liz brings a keen interest in ensuring sustainable use of New Zealand's natural resources, with a wealth of experience providing scientific and policy advice to decision-makers. Liz combines her farming background with her training in sustainable nutrient management and farm environment planning to devise practical approaches to reduce the environmental impacts of farming. Liz's multi-disciplinary background means her work bridges the interface of science, policy and implementation to formulate pragmatic, evidence-based approaches to achieve successful resource management outcomes.

EXPERTISE

- Strong analytical and critical evaluation skills
- A solid foundation in theoretical and applied ecology and conservation
- Strong ability to develop management options that integrate policy, science and practical considerations
- Effective at synthesising large amounts of information to formulate clear, evidence-based perspectives
- Excellent research skills, with experience analysing and interpreting a range of qualitative and quantitative data
- A clear and open communication style with a focus on building constructive relationships

CONTACT

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QUALIFICATIONS

CERTIFICATE IN INTERMEDIATE FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANNING MASSEY UNIVERSITY 2022

Freshwater farm planning

Farm environment planning

CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABLE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT MASSEY UNIVERSITY 2022

Sustainable nutrient management in New Zealand agriculture

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MASSEY UNIVERSITY 2015

Ecology

MASTER OF SCIENCE MASSEY UNIVERSITY 2002

Ecology

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE MASSEY UNIVERSITY 1998

Zoology

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

SENIOR ECOLOGIST
THE CATALYST GROUP LTD
2022–present

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW
MASSEY UNIVERSITY
2018-2022

FARM DAIRY COORDINATOR
PARLATO FARMING LTD
2014-2017

POLICY ANALYST
FISHERIES NZ
2005-2008

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND AIR PROTECTION (BC, CANADA)
2004

CONTRACTOR
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (IRELAND)
2003

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Hihi Recovery Group 2019–present
- Manawatu Estuary Trust 2014–present (committee member 2014-2016)
- IUCN-SCC Reintroduction Specialist Group 2012–present

SAMPLE PROJECTS

STRUCTURED DECISION-MAKING FOR THE THE KARURE | KAKARUIA | CHATHAM ISLAND BLACK ROBIN NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Lead researcher providing modelling expertise for a structured decision-making process to identify preferred management options to meet biological, cultural, social and economic objectives. Co-facilitated development of goals, objectives, management alternatives, consequences (costs-benefits) of alternatives and preferred options. Led data-based and expert-elicitation-based modelling to predict biological outcomes under alternative management strategies to inform decision-making by the working group.

QUANTITATIVE MODELLING OF HIHI | STITCHBIRD POPULATIONS HIHI CONSERVATION CHARITABLE TRUST

Population modelling to estimate and predict the dynamics of six hihi populations reintroduced as part of restoration projects. Provision of scientific advice for decisions about management of extant populations and suitability of candidate reintroduction sites.

PREPARATION OF A THREAT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HECTOR'S AND MAUI'S DOLPHINS FISHERIES NZ

Project lead for development of a Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Maui's dolphins, a joint initiative with the Department of Conservation involving multiple stakeholder groups. Led the collaborative process to identify objectives and threats, assess threats using formal risk assessment, and develop effective mitigation strategies to manage fishing and non-fishing threats to the dolphins. Produced public consultation documents and final advice papers to the Minister on regulatory and non-regulatory measures to manage the impacts of fishing.

ASSESSMENT OF STREAM CHANNEL CHARACTERISTICS IMPORTANT FOR SALMONID PRODUCTIVITY MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND AIR PROTECTION (CANADA)

Co-researcher on a project to identify the effects of habitat and internal prey subsidies on juvenile salmon growth, and the implications for stream productive capacity.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR SITES DESIGNATED UNDER THE BIRDS AND HABITATS DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (IRELAND)

Led ecological site evaluations and revision of plans to reflect policy changes.