What is a Regional Biodiversity Hub?

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What’s the problem?
- Ecological degradation throughout the Hawke’s Bay region resulting in the loss of native species.
- Lack of strategic support offered to community conservation groups.

What’s the solution?
- To implement a regional biodiversity hub to support conservation groups such as Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay to be able to undertake large scale conservation projects.
- Ecosystem Prioritisation (EP) of the top 30% Terrestrial sites.

What was done?
- Developed a concept for a regional biodiversity hub after conducting a literature review, direct correspondence & face-to-face interviews.
- Identified common barriers for community conservation groups.
- Re-delineated spatial data & updated polygons on ESRI ArcGIS for HBRC’s EP layer.
- Ground truthing of sites to confirm the presence of native species.

Definition of a Hub
“A community-based entity that holds a conservation vision for a defined geographic extent, whose purpose is to drive and support a multitude of groups to help deliver this vision”.
- Department of Conservation

Conclusion
- A hub should have a physical presence in a central location, such as a regional council office to be able to:
  - Support the operation of a hub & management of conservation projects.
  - Accommodate gatherings/meet-ups
- It should have a good interactive online interface that can facilitate both the needs of the general public & active conservation members.
- Work closely with DOC to establish a hub, standardise monitoring methods & acquire funding.
- Network with main stakeholders like tangata whenua, regional & district councils, local businesses and major conservation project entities such as PF2050 & QEII National Trust.
- Improved resolution of spatial information before the EP layer is released to the public will make it more reliable for use in the real world.

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