

New Zealand:

Status, trends & priorities in soil management

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Knowledge and Information on the use of New Zealand's Greatest Asset



STATUS

A taste of NZ (1)

- NZ geologically young, tectonically active
- Highly variable common soils brown & pumice soils
- Erosion rates are on average 10 times global rates
- Maori assets and role



A taste of NZ (2)

- 55% of land in NZ under agriculture, forestry & horticulture (supporting >25% GDP)
- Soil managers therefore often farmers
- Agriculture not subsidized, but regulated key drivers of change -market access & social license to operate



A taste of NZ (3)



hill country soil loss through erosion



Taste of NZ (4)

- Science-based evidence valued to drive best practice & policy
- But endemic issues with underpinning science:
 - Capability
 - Investment
 - Evidence base -gaps
 - Data deluge
 - Uncertainty& provenance
 - Technology transfer



TRENDS

Getting 'more from less'

Precision:

- Irrigation
- Effluent
- Nutrient application

Precision







'Smart use'

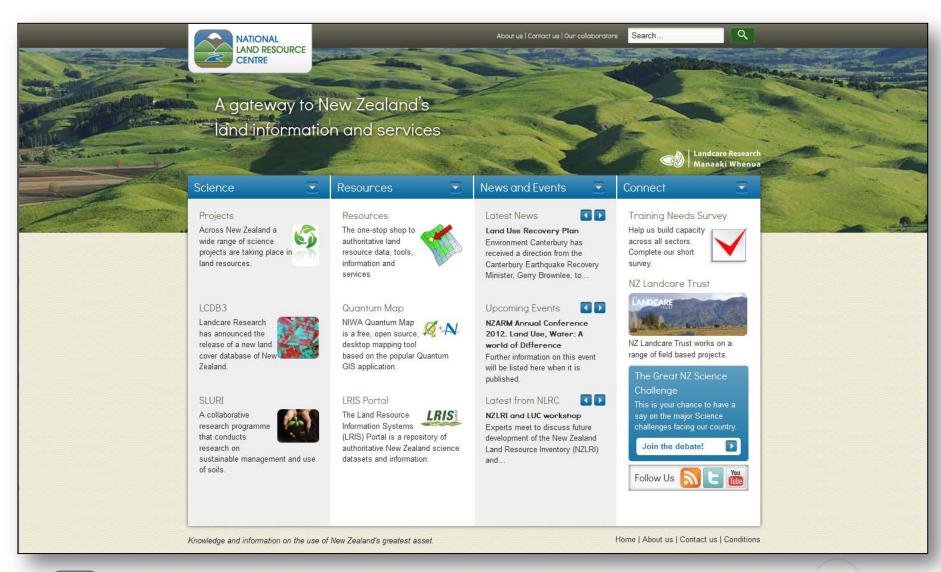
- 'Multi-functional landscapes' (ES)
- Diversification resilience to threats (natural & economic)
- Waste as a resource e.g. metal waste to fortify crops
- New socio-economic collaborative management systems
 - high value activities on elite and versatile soils fragmented across multiple enterprises
 - 'terroir' with shared capital infrastructure and co-governance



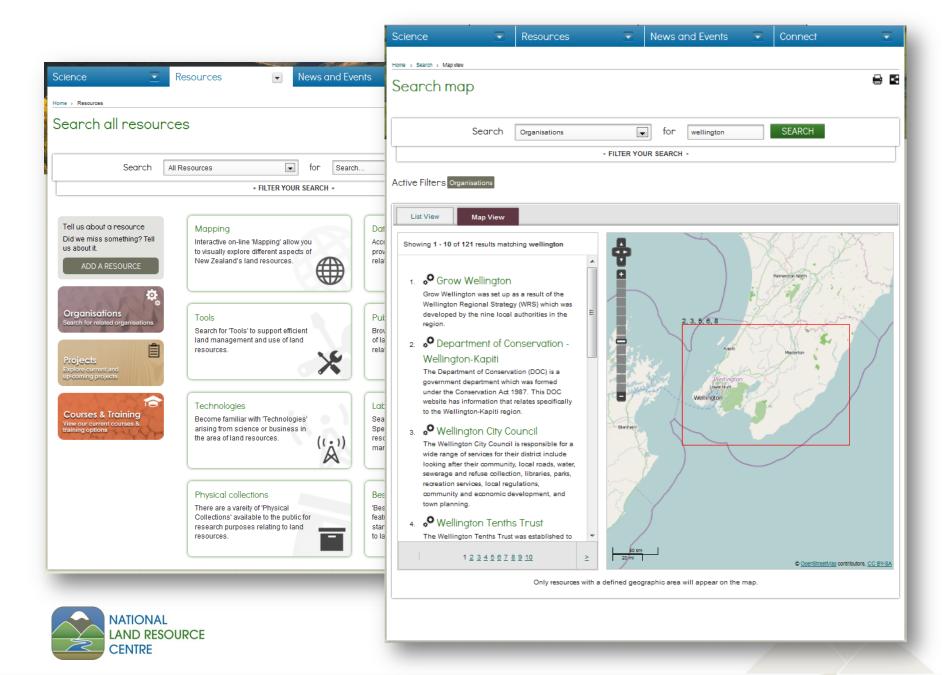
Partnership & consolidation

- Moving towards working collectively across science, business and government
- Established Land & Water Forum working towards collaborative, participatory decision-making model
- Established National Land Resource Centre









Capability development

Erosion of knowledge – approaching 'Peak knowledge?'

- Codify
- Training



How much do you agree with the following statement. There is a need to build capacity in soil and land resource science and/or management in my organization?

	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	34.0%
Agree	45.3%
No Opinion	17.0%
Disagree	3.8%
Strongly Disagree	0.0%



Communication

- 'Soil literacy' big issue public engagement
- Technology transfer barriers to uptake
 - better access to science information
 - customised delivery





PRIORITIES

Priorities for NZ

- Biggest priority find ways to manage soil to allow both economic growth and environmental protection
- 2. Increase 'soil literacy' in public and stakeholders (NZSSS)
- 3. Build evidence base through increased investment into science national science challenges
- 4. Learn from, harmonise with, international initiatives
- 5. Work towards a national policy statement on soil/land
- 6. Embed soil protection into business/primary industry best practice

