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BRaid Climate and Nature Information Hub: ECan contract [2428-20/21]

Report #1: period 01 February – 31 May 2021

| Description of Products | Delivery date | Outputs completed |
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| Secure website domain names: https://climateandnature.org.nz/ | 22 February 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domain names secured and operational; replacing domain name climatesolutions.org.nz |
| Develop a website that identifies both the risks of climate change and climate change responses on biodiversity and the opportunity to promote the dual values of biodiversity conservation/ restoration to the development of climate resiliency | Completed 31 May 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website transferred to new hosting service Godaddy under existing BRaid credentials Site safety certificate (SSL) and daily backup software (Jetpack) installed Most pages can be seen via the site map: https://climateandnature.org.nz/site-map/ Section 1 'Nuts & Bolts' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes – 15 pages Evidence – 12 pages Impacts – 12 pages + 3 links to external pages/documents Govt and global response – 12 page + direct link to Climate Commission Section 2 'solving problems' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems – 8 pages (2 or 3 more to be completed) Our places – 6 pages + 8 links to other pages (mostly ECan 'stories') Impacts – 12 pages Innovation – 5 pages + varying external links; a catch-all for possibly useful tech and projects. Surprisingly, feedback on this is that it is useful and has saved people time. |

| | | Total published pages including home page and site map: 83 |
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| Technical advisory group for review and oversight of scientific information, and approval of monthly reports required for payment of contractor invoices. | Completed 31 May 2021 | It took some time to facilitate the website transfer and to update multiple incomplete pages, a process that was delayed to focus on making a submission to the Climate Commission. Aside from that report, this is the first project report since February. No invoice will be submitted to BRaid until and unless this report has been approved. |
| Participate in focus group meetings to gathering intelligence on how the community would use the site and implement findings/ suggestions where possible. | Ongoing | <p>The focus group was unable to proceed, however feedback on the site has led to a reconfiguration of some of the structure and title names used in menus. Several more changes will be made based on ongoing feedback following presentations to groups, for example, using icons at the end of each page to link to pages related the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 03: BRaid presentation to Birds NZ extended about an hour to discuss climate impacts and the role of the website. • April 30: Met with Greg Bennet and Sophie Allen Waimakariri District Council re best strategy to present the website to the Council drainage group, community board members, and elected officials • May 13: presented to same. See below the site stats (page 5) in the days around the website link being sent to participants and the days following. (Note that site stats are unique visitors, not total number of visits). The breakdown of external links under 'clicks' (page 6), while still just a few, underscores the value of including verifiable evidence /resources in each page. • Generic invitation to speak to the Tuesday club accepted (no time set) <p>Adapting the website will be an ongoing process, especially once more 'our places' pages come online, eventually coming under upper level menu titles such as 'Banks Peninsula', 'Waimakariri District' etc.</p> |

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| Maintain website services, website content and update all pages as appropriate. | Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages (particularly 'the nuts and bolts') are constantly being updated as new research, reports, and videos explaining new knowledge and impacts come to hand • Maintain daily backups on remote server (Jetpack); mostly automated but verified regularly; monthly, a copy of the website is downloaded and stored on BRaid's Google drive |
| Promote exemplars and resources through mainstream and social media | Underway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fully underway as the primary focus to date has been on research and getting core material on the website • A Facebook page has been set up and will be used primarily to promote local actions whereby ecological protection and restoration aims to mitigate climate risk. I anticipate this will be more of the focus by September, once more 'our places' pages are completed and published. |
| Additional outputs | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to the Climate Commission: https://braideddrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Climate-Commission-response.pdf |
| Comments | | <p>As the topic of climate change covers all sectors, feedback and suggestions about the content of this site veer into other topics including general environmental degradation, plastics, energy transition, and in particular, the role of restorative agriculture and the financial benefits of non-native plantation forestry. While each have varying roles to play, they also have strong representation and influence, with plenty of capability and capacity to represent their agendas. The role of protecting and restoring ecosystems to mitigate impacts has less representation and is generally side-lined in favour of technology and economic drivers. The value of ecosystem services is best exemplified in the extracts from the UN Convention on Biological Diversity on this page: https://climateandnature.org.nz/solutions/ecosystems/</p> <p><i>“Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) should be integrated into broader adaptation and development strategies to maintain and increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of ecosystems and people to adverse effects of climate change.</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>EbA is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. EbA aims to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and the ecosystems they rely upon in the face of the adverse effects of climate change. There are various interpretations of EbA, but all share the rationale of working with nature, and most converge on the principle of sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction include restoring coastal vegetated areas such as mangroves to protect shorelines from storm surges; managing invasive alien species linked to land degradation and that threaten food security and water supplies; and managing ecosystems to complement, protect and extend the longevity of investments in hard infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>In many cases, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction activities are the same as EbA activities implemented to reduce disaster risk. For example, maintaining and improving the functionality of protection forests is also a key activity within some countries' climate protection programmes. Because of the important role of forests in mitigating the risks posed by natural hazards, these programme aim to improve the stability and functionality of forest stand structures, foster adapted species mixtures, promote natural regeneration, prevent forest fires and/or control pests and diseases.”</i></p> |
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