



# FOCUS

## A LENZ Project Progress Report

As you may have noticed, we have not sent out a progress report for some time. Our lack of communication does not imply a lack of progress. Instead it reflects the amount of time it has taken us to write two books – it was more than we expected – and also reflects a steep learning curve on our part regarding the book publishing process.

### *Land Environments of New Zealand (formerly LENZ Concept Guide)*

As you can see, we changed our original working title. Although the old title indicated the intent of our main document, it was not very good at alerting a wider readership about the main topic it describes.

In late October, we circulated the draft text for comment to over 40 people, including policy analysts, scientists, resource managers, teachers, and consultants. We received positive and constructive feedback from everyone. Although only a few had the time to work through the entire document, everyone's comments combined gave us very good coverage. The comments took most of December to address but substantially improved the content and clarity of the text.

For the first part of this year, we focussed on contents, design, and layout (see box over page). We are now close

to having a draft set of plates ready for checking and correction. Once we overcome that hurdle, the plates will be sent for printing, which should take four to six weeks to complete.

### *User Technical Guide*

Our other major focus since the beginning of this year has been on production of a more technically-oriented LENZ User Guide. As with the Concept Guide, we decided to change the name. The new name – *LENZ: A*

*Technical Guide* – better reflects both the purpose and content of the guide. While *Land Environments of New Zealand* sets out the concepts and principles that underpin LENZ, the Technical Guide will focus more on the

development, applications and limitations of LENZ.

Its contents include detailed descriptions of how we developed the underlying data layers, the classification methods used, and summaries of the Level II, III, and IV Land Environments. A final chapter focuses on technical guidelines for using LENZ, including detailed explanations of the methods used to develop the case studies presented in *Land Environments of New Zealand*.

The text of the Technical Guide is currently out for review, with comments due back by the end of April.



[www.environment.govt.nz/lenz/](http://www.environment.govt.nz/lenz/)

## *Out and About*

Although largely deskbound for much of the last six months, we have managed to interact with a wide range of potential end users. In December, Gareth Wilson presented a paper and poster on LENZ to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium of the Spatial Information Research Centre in Dunedin. John Leathwick has given various presentations, including ones to the Minister of Economic Development, advisory staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a conference of regional and local government ecologists, and a working group exploring environmental certification of exotic timber products.

## *Preparing for Launch*

As launch time for LENZ approaches (Spring 2002), we have started to think increasingly about the most efficient ways to deliver data to end-users. The two main options we are exploring are via CD and/or the Internet. The Internet is particularly attractive given the ease with which updates and enhancements can be provided when available. Your feedback on these options is welcome.

## *Feedback*

Comments on this newsletter?  
Questions about LENZ? Issues you would like to see addressed? Email us at [lenz@landcare.cri.nz](mailto:lenz@landcare.cri.nz).

# *Land Environments of New Zealand*

## *Section 1: Why LENZ?*

Section One explores the need for an environmental classification of New Zealand. It focuses on the development of ecosystem-oriented conservation and resource management and various approaches to defining land classifications to underpin such management.

## *Section 2: Environmental Drivers of Biological Patterns*

Section Two describes the climate, landform, and soil variables used to define LENZ. It explores their links with plants and outlines their geographic patterns across New Zealand.

## *Section 3: Defining the LENZ Classification*

Section Three describes the techniques used to develop the LENZ classification and the production of the LENZ map layers.

## *Section 4: Level I & II Land Environments of New Zealand*

Section Four provides detailed descriptions of New Zealand's Level I (20-group) environments. It includes thumbnail sketches of the Level II (100-group) environments that occur within each Level I environment.

## *Section 5: LENZ Case Studies*

Section Five contains six case studies that demonstrate the use of LENZ in ecosystem and resource management. The case studies are 1) ranking sites for protection, 2) loss and fragmentation of indigenous ecosystems, 3) restoration of degraded ecosystems, 4) priorities for international biosecurity screening, 5) monitoring pest distributions within New Zealand, and 6) finding sites suitable for crops.

### **More Information:**



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