

2 Management Philosophy

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The management philosophy includes a vision (see beginning of document) and the following set of goals. The vision is a prediction of what the park could be like in the future as a result of effective management and community support. The accompanying set of goals, expand upon and give detail to the vision.

The philosophy guides the public and the Department in determining conservation priorities within the park, and guides the relationships the Department has with Tangata Whenua, park user groups and associates. The philosophy also identifies what is 'unique' about Egmont National Park and what broad natural and historic values it encompasses and seeks to protect. The range of spiritual and cultural values people place on the mountain is acknowledged in the management of the park and its recreation activities and visitor opportunities.

The management philosophy is a broad statement of intent and direction for Egmont National Park which provides guidance, along with the Wanganui Conservancy CMS, where there is a lack of clear direction on a specific issue. This philosophy articulates the reasoning behind the management objectives and policies in the plan - and will guide decision making on a day-to-day basis.

2.2 GOALS

2.2.1 Ecological Management

Goal:

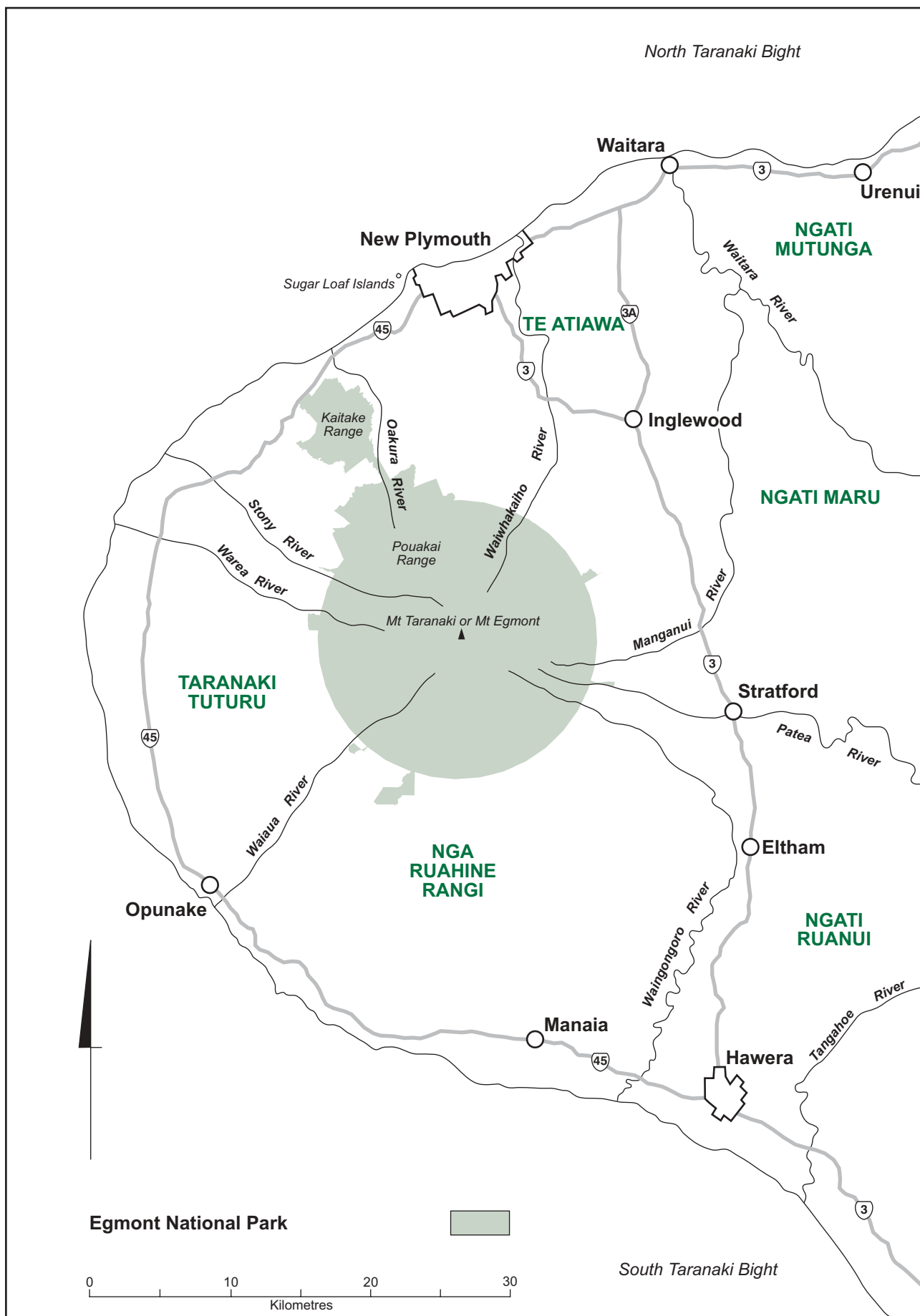
To manage the park from an ecological perspective to ensure that its indigenous biological diversity and health are sustained and improved.

The isolation of Egmont National Park from other natural areas has advantages and disadvantages. It will be easier for example to control many common animal and weed pests, but on the other hand wildlife corridors connecting to the lowlands outside the park are few and far between.

Many of the ecological resources within the park represent what Taranaki was like before people arrived. Removing exotic animal and plant threats is crucial for preserving the ecological integrity of native ecosystems within the park. A full understanding of how the different components within the park interact is vital for effective management of the park. Therefore, an increasing component of the Department's work will be concentrated on research and monitoring. The impact of human activity must also be managed carefully to ensure it does not compromise the park's natural values.

Sustaining the indigenous biological diversity for its own worth and for the enjoyment and appreciation by future generations will be the basis for management of the park.

FIGURE 5: GENERAL LOCATION OF IWI



2.2.2 Spiritual and Cultural Values

Goal:

To recognise the range of spiritual and cultural values that people place on the park.

The mountain and the park hold special significance for the people of Taranaki. It is a familiar landmark and a source of inspiration. Egmont National Park and Mount Taranaki hold many values for all New Zealanders.

To Tangata Whenua, the maunga (mountain) is a source of spiritual nourishment and a physical and cultural haven. Tangata Whenua have a particularly strong spiritual relationship with the mountain because of their long association and identification with it. The mana of the maunga and the benefits that it endowed to the Tangata Whenua gave Taranaki Maunga rangatira status. It is quite common in Taranaki to hear within whaikorero (speeches) on the marae, at hui, in the kura (school), and in the homes of Tangata Whenua, personal homage being expressed to Maunga Taranaki as rangatira. This acknowledgment reflects people's depth of respect. This relationship must be acknowledged and respected by the Department and must be an essential element of the philosophy behind park management. Rohe are shown in figure 5.

This management plan does not provide detail on the full range of spiritual or cultural values that different cultures place on the park. Recognition that these values exist, often with common elements across cultures, indicates that park management will take these values into account.

Recognition and acceptance of different cultural and spiritual values must be an integral part of strategic as well as day-to-day management.

2.2.3 Community Involvement in Management

Goal:

To work co-operatively with Tangata Whenua, the public of New Zealand and in particular the Taranaki community in the management of the park.

The Department, on behalf of the New Zealand public has the legal responsibility for managing the park. Effective management can however only occur with the support and involvement of Tangata Whenua, the national and Taranaki community.

Involvement of Tangata Whenua is crucial. They have a vast store of knowledge and experience to contribute and they are the appropriate people to advise and be involved in the protection and conservation of Wāhi Tapu and other taonga. Co-operative relationships will be developed which will assist in the ongoing preservation of the mountain, the park, and the values associated with both. The special kaitiaki role of Tangata Whenua and their ability to enhance management will be recognised and provided for.

People of Taranaki have been involved in the management of the park, always with the best interests of the park at heart. As the need for projects, like ecological restoration, becomes apparent, community support may increase. Community relationships will be developed with the specific aim of protecting or enhancing the ecosystems of the park.

Developing these relationships is important as there are advantages in greater active involvement of Tangata Whenua and community groups in the protection of natural and historic resources. Conservation will benefit from an increased depth of local and traditional knowledge. The development of these relationships will also enhance the awareness of recreational and tourism users of the park and its values.

As Egmont National Park is an important national feature, the involvement of the wider New Zealand community in its management will also be welcomed.

2.2.4 Surrounding Environment

Goal:

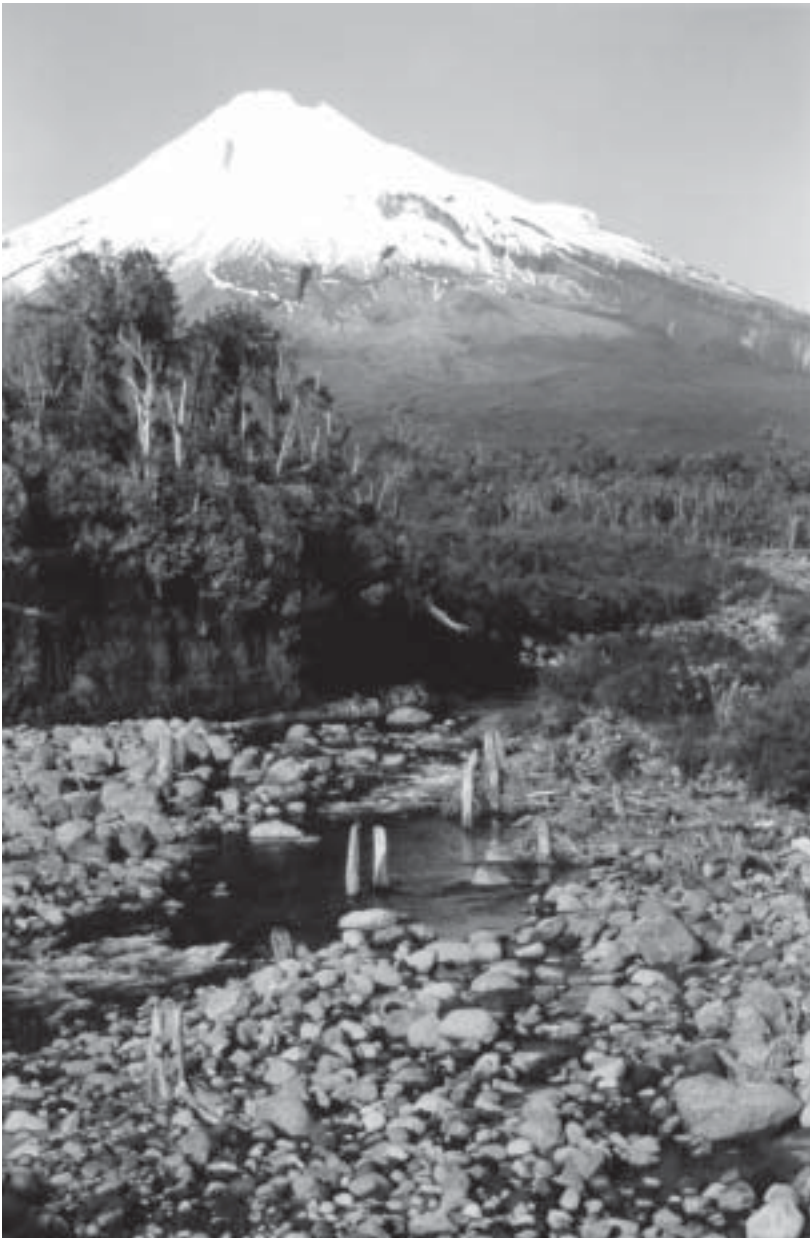
To recognise the park's importance for sustaining natural systems for the people of Taranaki.

The park and its mountain are an icon to the people of Taranaki. It also sustains and supports the natural systems of the region and influences the climate. The high rainfall on the mountain ensures a constant supply of water crucial for agriculture or

horticulture, many industries and human consumption in the region.

The beauty and diversity of the rainforests has been largely lost outside the park. Forested margins, which run along watercourses, provide some representative forest types in the lowlands. These forest corridors have positive ecological and economic outcomes, as crucial habitat and water quality is more likely to be guaranteed. Restoring and extending these corridors down the ringplain from the park boundary could create a landscape which would not only enhance the park but also help ensure that management of the surrounding farmed land is undertaken sustainably.

While the surrounding landscape is not part of the Egmont National Park, sympathetic management of this can help protect and enhance many of the park's values.



View of Mt Taranaki from Stony River.

2.2.5 Public Use

Goal:

To foster a variety of appropriate park uses to provide inspiration, enjoyment and other benefits. Provision of educative, interpretation information will be used to promote the conservation, cultural and historic park values.

Use of the natural and historic resources of the park for recreation will be fostered, and tourism allowed to the extent where this is not inconsistent with conservation and protection of national park values. Public use must remain conditional on preservation.

Freedom of entry to national parks is a fundamental principle embodied in Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980. Egmont National Park is well used by nearby population centres at New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera, as well as attracting many domestic and overseas visitors.

Recreation is a major activity in the park. The recreation activities need to respect and acknowledge the various aspirations of park visitors, for adventure, quiet enjoyment and spiritual solace.

It is important that interpretive displays, information and education material are provided to enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of the environment and recognition of the natural, cultural and historic values. Educating visitors can provide long-term benefits to conservation in the park and in New Zealand generally and may encourage people to become more actively involved in conservation issues. The Department will use this opportunity to provide conservation messages about the importance of ecosystems and biological diversity and information about the relationship Tangata Whenua have with the mountain.

The Department will facilitate relationships with users of the park to maximise the opportunity for the conservation message to be spread.

Facilities and services provided will meet with national, legal and service standards to ensure all users enjoy the park in safety.

