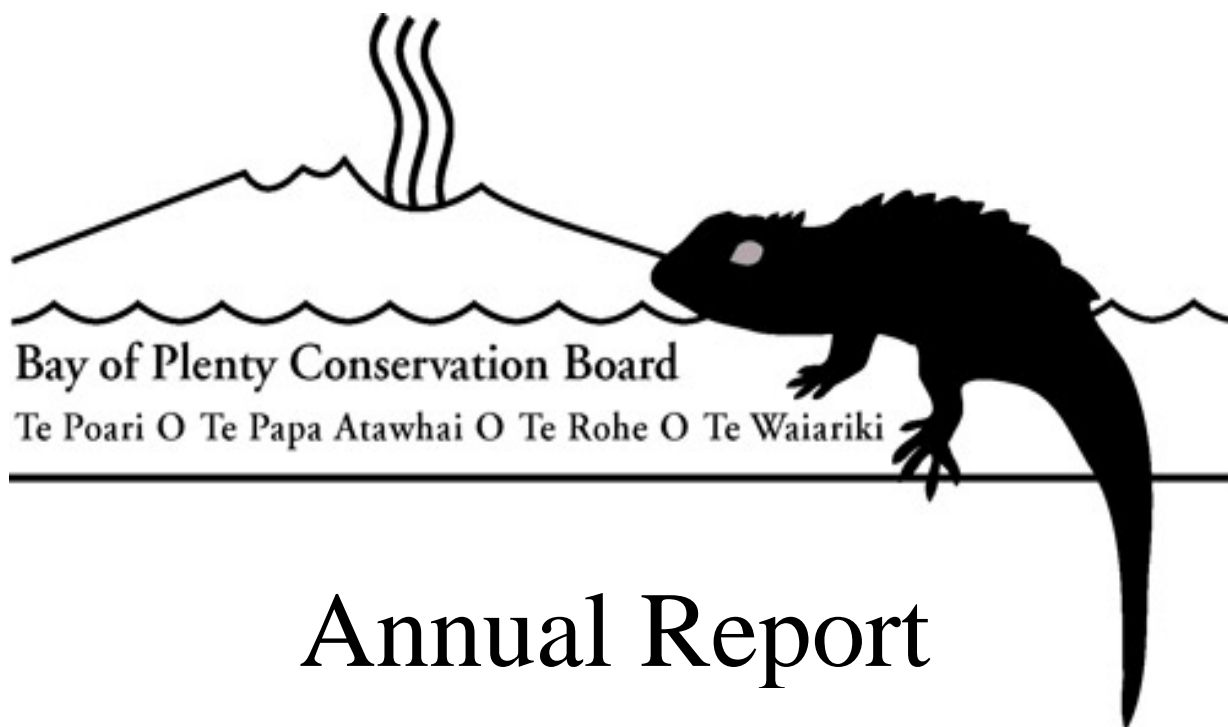


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Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Te Poari O Te Papa Atawhai O Te Rohe O Te Waiariki

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# Annual Report

To the New Zealand Conservation  
Authority

1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

# **Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Annual Report**

**1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006**



*(Hamurana river, Rotorua. Photo: DOC)*

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
Pursuant to Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987**

**Serviced by the Department of Conservation  
Bay of Plenty Conservancy  
PO Box 1146  
99 Sala Street  
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*(Front cover: Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Official Logo)*

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## *Chairperson's Report*

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Tena koutou katoa.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's Annual Report for 2005-2006.

This has been an interesting and productive year for the Board. As in previous years, the Board looked to continue and enhance the traditions that have been established over the years, particularly its close working relationship with the Bay of Plenty Conservancy and its role of providing constructive support for the work of the Department in the Bay of Plenty.



*(Lake Tarawera with Mount Tarawera in the background, Rotorua. Photo: DOC)*

The regular CMS monitoring process is a key aspect of the Board's relationship and ensures that the Board remains focused and in touch with the relevant operational issues of the Conservancy. Our role as advocates of conservation has certainly been enhanced by the knowledge we have gained during CMS monitoring throughout the year.

One of the key characteristics of the Board has been the team spirit with which it works so it is with regret that we farewelled Ruth Lee, a past Chairperson. Ruth contributed with enthusiasm and dedication and it was a pleasure working with her.

On a brighter note, the Board welcomed four new members in September 2005 - Anthony Olsen from Matata, Neil Clarke from Mount Maunganui, Alice Anderson from Paeroa and Margriet Theron from Rotorua.

We once again acknowledge the excellent support and service we have had from the Conservator, Henry Weston and the Conservancy staff. Particular thanks must go to Mark Davies, Community Relations and Technical Support Manager, for his support and guidance and finally a special thanks to Leilani Fraser, the Board's Support Officer for the excellent work she has done servicing the Board.

As with the previous years, the Board appreciates the involvement and insights from the NZCA. Linda Conning, as liaison person, continues to attend our meetings whenever possible and provides valuable input. Linda attended the Board's August 2005 and April 2006 meetings.

In closing, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my fellow Board members for their tireless dedication and commitment because I believe the compensation they receive in no way truly reflects the hours of dedicated service that each of them makes.

Heio ano,  
Laurence Tamati

## ***1.0 Introduction***

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The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is one of the fourteen bodies appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section P of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions and powers of the Board are outlined in Section 6M and 6N respectively. The role of the Board as laid out in the Act is as follows:

- To recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies;
- To approve Conservation Management Plans;
- To advise on how Conservation Management Strategies and Plan are being put into practice;
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- To advise on proposals for new walkways;
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters;
- To carry out the other powers delegated to them by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act;
- To advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process.

These functions and powers, where exercised, are reported on separately within this report.



*(Steaming Cliffs at Waimangu Thermal Valley near Rotorua. Photo: DOC)*

## 2.0 Board Membership

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Members of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board are appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Board members represent a wide variety of interests and geographic spread across the Bay of Plenty Conservancy.

*(Heather McKechnie, former Board member and Rotorua Historian, Don Stafford at the Board's field trip to the Kaituna River, Rotorua, October 2005. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

Appointed Members	Location	Number of Meetings Attended
Laurence Tamati (Chair)	Rotorua	6
James Carlson	Murupara	4
Gil George	Tauranga	4
Alf McCausland	Tauranga	4
Rosemary Michie	Rotorua	6
Stephen Parr	Tauranga	5
Ruth Lee #	Rotorua	1
Megan Harris ^	Rotorua	1
Heather McKechnie ^	Rotorua	5
Anthony Olsen *	Matata	5
Alice Anderson *	Paeroa	1
Neil Clarke *	Mt Maunganui	4
Margriet Theron *	Rotorua	4

Six Board meetings were held during the course of the year.

\* Anthony Olsen, Alice Anderson, Neil Clarke and Margriet Theron were appointed to the Board in September 2005, so were not able to attend all six Board meetings.

# Ruth Lee's term on the Board expired in August 2005.

^ Megan Harris resigned from the Board in August 2005. Heather McKechnie resigned from the Board in April 2006.

### 3.0 The Board's Area

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The Board's area of responsibility is the same as the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. The Department administers 178,000 hectares of land owned by the Crown in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy which is split between three offices: Tauranga, Rotorua Lakes and Rangitaiki.

Tauranga Area encompasses the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and includes the long coastal strip running from Waihi to Otamarakau and Tuhua Marine Reserve.

Rangitaiki Area includes the Whirinaki Forest Park and the Whakatane coastline from Otamarakau to Ohiwa and Te Paepae Aotea-Volkner Rocks Marine Reserve.

The Rotorua Lakes Area includes 13 major lakes, scenic reserves and several geothermal areas of international and national importance



### 3.0 *The Board's Area (continued)*

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*(Steaming cliffs at Waikite Geyser Valley. Photo: DOC)*

The most dominant characteristic of the Bay of Plenty is its volcanic and geothermal history and landscapes including active volcanism.

There are 182 significant landform and geological sites within the region of which 35 are internationally important and 66 are of national importance.

The region also includes four internationally ranked geothermal fields: Rotorua, Waiotapu, Waimangu and Whakaari

(White Island); 11 geothermal features of international importance and 8 of national importance. Adjoining the coastal line are large alluvial plains near Whakatane, Te Puke and Little Waihi with a narrow strip of dunes between. The area is steeped in Maori history and tradition with many historic sites and waahi tapu and is the landing site of three waka during the great migration from Hawaiki to Aotearoa. The Bay of Plenty hosts 36 iwi organisations and over 200 marae committee. Two large, natural harbours, Tauranga and Ohiwa, have important ecological values and are also within the Bay of Plenty region.



*(Whale Island-Moutohora from the Matata Coast. Photo: DOC)*



## 4.0 Board Meetings & Fieldtrips

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*(Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve, near Tauranga. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

Meetings of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board are usually held on the first Friday of every second month in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Board meetings are advertised in Bay of Plenty newspapers and members of the public are encouraged to attend. District and Regional Council staff along with Eastern Region Fish and Game and Forest & Bird representatives, are also invited to attend meetings.

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Meeting Venue</b>	<b>Location</b>
5 August 2005	Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office	Rotorua
14 October 2005	Rangitaiki Area Office	Murupara
2 December 2005	Four Canoes Hotel	Rotorua
3 February 2006	Umutahi Marae	Matata
7 April 2006	Cedarwood Lakeside Resort	Rotorua
15 June 2006	St Joseph Catholic Parish, Te Puna	Tauranga

### **The Board had the following field trips:**

#### **Matata Wildlife Refuge and Lagoon - Saturday 10 September 2005**

The Board visited Matata to view the aftermath of the flood that devastated the township in May 2005. The Board was hosted by Area Manager Rangitaiki, John Sutton and shown the causeway between the two lagoons. John also explained the future rehabilitation & restoration proposal for the area.

#### **Upper and Lower Kaituna River - Thursday 6 October 2005**

A rafting trip on the Upper Kaituna River was organised for the Board but due to unfavourable weather conditions, the rafting was cancelled. The Board received a briefing on the BOP Electricity Hydro Proposal and field inspection hosted by Area Manager Rotorua Lakes, Phil Alley and Community Relations Officer Concessions, Clint Savage. In the afternoon the Board travelled to the Lower Kaituna River to take a walk around the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve and discuss management of the site, hosted by Area Manager Tauranga, Andrew Baucke.

### **Tuhua (Mayor Island) Marine Reserve - Thursday 2 February 2006**

The Board met at the Tauranga Harbour Bridge Marina and boarded the Dolphin Seafaris charter vessel. Dolphin Seafaris are a concessionaire of the Department of Conservation in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. The plan for the day was to cruise around Tuhua Marine Reserve, taking in points of interest and to discuss:

- Marine reserve monitoring programme
- Compliance at Tuhua
- Marine Protected Areas network
- Review of the National Coastal Policy Statement
- Future directions for coastal and marine protection in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy
- Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) as they relate to the Bay of Plenty Conservancy

Unfortunately, due to rising sea swells, the Board could not travel to Tuhua and were instead ferried around Karewa Island and the Tauranga Harbour where staff made verbal presentations to the Board on the above topics.

### **Northern Kaimai Proposed Heritage Trail Project - Friday 16 June 2006**

The Board travelled to Katikati, Tuahu Kauri, Waikino Railway Station, Karangahake Gorge and the Te Aroha Field Centre and were briefed on the proposed Northern Kaimai Heritage Project, an initiative which the Board fully support.



*(Board members, Margriet Theron and Rosemary Michie at the Board's field trip to the Kaituna River, Rotorua, October 2005. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

## ***4.1 Board Sub-Committee Meetings***

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### **Strategic Planning Sub-Committee meeting - 1 July 2005**

This Sub-Committee met to discuss and progress the Board's draft strategic plan. Board member, Margriet Theron accepted the task of reformatting and revising the plan. The Recommendations and actions from that meeting will be discussed later in this report (see Appendix 1 for the Board's Strategic Plan)



### **Kaituna Issues Sub-Committee meeting - 21 October 2005**

The Kaituna Issues Sub-committee met to discuss "Project Footsteps", the Bay of Plenty Electricity Kaituna River hydro proposal. The sub-committee met to give their views on whether the concession application from Bay of Plenty Electricity is consistent with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy.



### **Strategic Planning Sub-Committee meeting - 8 March 2006**

The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee met to discuss the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's Strategic Plan, the Board's priorities and what the Board could achieve in the coming financial year. The Department's actions were also discussed.

### **Bay of Plenty CMS Review Sub-Committee meeting - 15 June 2006**

At the Board's 15 June 2006 meeting, Mark Davies (Community Relations & Technical Support Manager) Recommended to the Board that a Sub-Committee be formed consisting of 3 or 4 members with a keen interest in the CMS and review process. These Board members would be the key contacts for staff and be available over the next 24 months to attend workshops, hui and hearings. It is important to have continuity of Board members over this period. The Board decided that the Sub-Committee be made up of the whole Board in order to spread the work load and for all Board members to be up to play with the review of the CMS. The Board agreed that Margriet Theron would be the Board's convener of the CMS Review Sub-Committee.

*(Board members and DOC staff at the Board's field trip to the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve, October 2005. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

## 4.2 Other Meetings and Activities

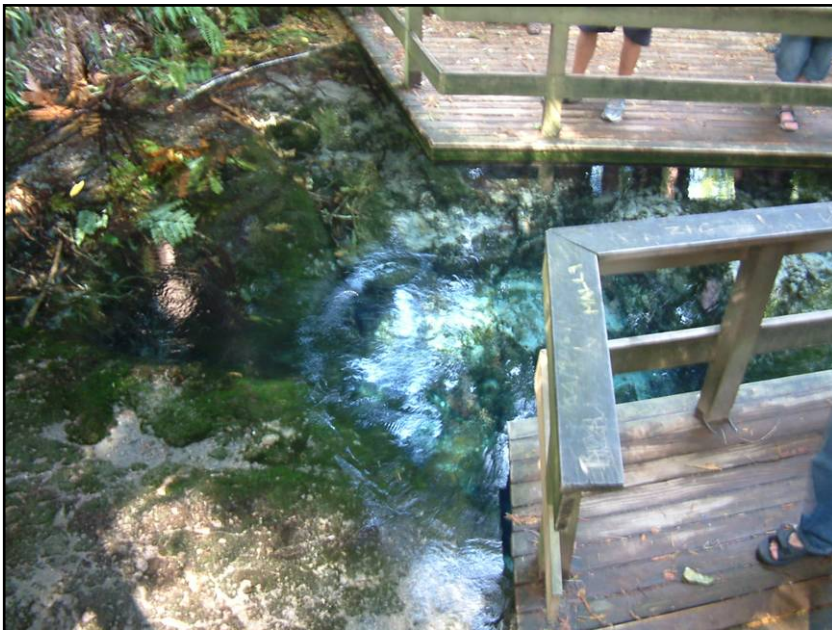
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### **Tuhua Marine Reserve Monitoring Workshop - July 2005**

Gil George was invited to attend a workshop regarding Tuhua Marine Reserve monitoring to discuss responses to protection, implications of monitoring and context for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks.

### **Tauranga Harbour Integrated Management Review/Coastal Occupation Charges Public Meeting - 14 December 2005**

Gil George attended the above meeting to hear about the integrated management review and coastal occupation charges regarding the Tauranga Harbour.



*(Hamurana Springs, Rotorua. Photo: DOC)*

### **Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Rotorua Branch Meeting - 16 March 2006**

Margriet Theron attended a lecture by the Rotorua Botanical Society and Forest and Bird regarding threatened plants. Peter DeLange, one of the country's foremost threatened plant botanists (DOC), presented a 15 year review of successes and failures in threatened plant management in New Zealand.

### **Outdoor Walking Access Public Meeting at Tauranga - 14 June 2006**

Stephen Parr attended the public meeting regarding Outdoor Walking Access and noted that there is a wide range of views around the country concerning this issue.



*(A giant podocarp at Whirinaki Forest Park. Photo: DOC)*

## ***5.0 Board Functions under Section 6M (1) of the Conservation Act***

### ***5.1 Section 6M 1(a): To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments***

Further to the 1 July 2005 Strategic Planning Sub-Committee workshop, the board discussed and agreed on the need to review the CMS audit process it had been using to assist the Board and Department to prepare for the pending CMS Review. It was decided to amend the process to:

- Have a more forward focus as opposed to looking back;
- Change the Board’s CMS “audit” role to a “monitoring” and “reviewing” role;
- Ensure DOC staff point out any anomalies in the CMS to the Board;
- Ensure DOC staff make comments in their CMS reports regarding their adherence to Section 4 principles;
- Extend the reporting periods and presentations to one report every two Board meetings. This allows a more realistic timeframe for the staff work required with the preparation of the reports and also allows the Board and meeting timeframe to be more balanced.

Mark Davies (Community Relations & Technical Support Manager) reviewed the previous audit template and presented a revised monitoring template and process to the Board for discussion at its 5 August 2005 meeting. The Board agreed with the process and template set out by Mark and that it will provide an opportunity for the Board and Department to prepare for the full CMS review process and to have a clear and complete understand of the key issues and places.

**The Board monitored the following areas of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy in the 2005/2006 year:**

<b>Monitoring Report #</b>	<b>CMS Section</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Report Author</b>
46	4.3.1	Natural Resources - Landscapes, Landforms, Geological Features and Soils	14 October 2005	Jason Ward (Planner, Canmap Hawley Ltd, Tauranga)
47	4.3.3	Marine Mammals	3 February 2006	Jason Ward (Planner, Canmap Hawley Ltd, Tauranga)
48	4.3.10	Established Marine Protected Areas		
49	4.3.5	Fire	15 June 2006	Richard Balm (Independent Consultant)
50	4.3.9	Ecosystem Rehabilitation and Restoration		
51	4.3.2	Ecosystems		



*(Lake Okareka near Rotorua. Photo: DOC)*

The Board found that most of the reports were informative, concise and covered the respective sections of the CMS effectively. Some reports however, were found to be lacking in information pertaining to Section 4 of the Conservation Act. This information was subsequently provided to the Board at the next meeting and satisfied all questions asked by Board members.

From the information provided, all of the monitoring reports showed that appropriate progress on CMS implementation as being made and that the CMS objectives were being achieved.

Several issues were noted for consideration in the CMS reviews:

- While the workload of the Department is increasing, the funding is not doing so proportionately. It is a concern that established projects may not be able to be maintained with all the new work that is required of the staff. The commitment of staff is to be applauded especially considering the financial constraints;
- Geodiversity and biodiversity linkages need to be strengthened. The uniqueness of the geothermal features in the Bay of Plenty also needs to be emphasised;
- The Board is aware of the special relationship and importance of marine life to tangata whenua and consultation is carried out in order to achieve conservation outcomes. It is necessary to increase Maori understanding that mammals come within DOC jurisdiction not Ministry of Fisheries (eg. Maori perspectives hold dolphins to be fish);



These considerations, as outlined in the monitoring reports, will be kept on Record in anticipation of the preparation of the second generation CMS. They will be collated and summarised during dialogue with the Department.

*(Apanui Saltmarsh at Whakatane. Photo: DOC)*

## ***5.0 Board Functions under Section 6M (1) of the Conservation Act (continued)***

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### ***5.2 Section 6M 1(b): To approve conservation management plans and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments***

In June 2005, the Department raised concerns about the Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. The current Conservation Management Strategy does not identify the requirement for the reserve and given this, the Department raised whether in fact the Department had the legal authority to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the reserve.

The Board on the other hand were most concerned that the plan had not been completed and continued to push for its completion so that joint management issues between the Department, Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Fish & Game, could be resolved.

The Conservator Bay of Plenty, Henry Weston advised that a Conservation Management Plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve was not the best way to get integration of joint management between the three agencies.

A resolution (suggested by Ruth Lee) was passed by the Board at its 5 August 2005 meeting:

**1. Resolved: That the Department of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office produces an Action Plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve with allocated funding and a firm timeframe specifying:**

- **key management issues for Ratification;**
- **land Recreation classifications;**
- **water reticulation and pest management;**
- **integration with Environment Bay of Plenty and Fish & Game Council;**
- **and to include affected parties such as hunters and other relevant community groups; by the next Board Meeting**

**2. Resolved: That once an Action Plan is presented to the Board the Board resolves to develop their strategy for integrated management in the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.**

**Moved: Ruth Lee  
Seconded: Megan Harris  
Carried**

Laurence Tamati (Chairperson) concluded that the resolution had given the Department and the Board a clearer focus about where to go and thanked Ruth for her input.

At the Board's 14 October 2005 meeting, Mark Davies (Community Relations and Technical Support Manager) advised that representatives from Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Eastern Region Fish and Game Council and the Department met to discuss the draft management action plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.



*(Wetland at the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.  
Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

The three agencies worked together cooperatively and developed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve as well as an Operational Management Action Plan. Information from the Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve was used as the basis for the Operational Management Action Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding was finally signed off on 30 August 2006 by representatives from the Department, Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council.



*(The Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*



## ***5.0 Board Functions under Section 6M (1) of the Conservation Act (continued)***

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### ***5.3 Section 6M 1(d) (ii): To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on any other conservation matter***

The areas in which the Board has been involved in providing advice are as follows:

#### **Bay of Plenty Electricity Kaituna Hydro Project Application- August 2005**

The role of the Board with regard to this application was:

- To ensure that the concession application was consistent with the Conservation Management Strategy; and
- To provide advice to the Department

The Conservator Bay of Plenty requested that the Board consider and advise the Department on the concession application made by Bay of Plenty Electricity (BOPE) for the siting of a part weir structure and part inundation of a section of the Kaituna Scenic Reserve for a period of sixty years for the purposes of the development of a hydro power scheme.

The Conservator requested that the Board assess the application and its consistency with the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and advise the Department of their assessment of the application and proposal.

In its assessment and consideration, the Board was briefed on the application, the proposal and the concession process by both Department staff and officers of BOPE and their technical staff. The Board were also briefed by BOPE consultants, Sigma Consultants of Rotorua who prepared the application. The Board completed a field inspection of the proposed hydro site accompanied by Department staff on 6 October 2005.

The Board decided at its 5 August 2005 meeting to convene a sub committee comprising of Heather McKechnie, Stephen Parr, Anthony Olsen and Laurence Tamati. It was agreed that Stephen Parr would coordinate the sub committee. The sub committee met to consider the Board's response.

The Board assessed the relevant sections of the CMS in regard to the application. In the Board's view, it considered that the application was *not inconsistent* with the CMS.

In the development of this view the Board noted, that a proposal and an application of this type, scale and in this location were not envisaged and considered when the CMS was developed in the late 1990's hence, the CMS is silent on such matters.

The Board advised the Department:

- that it would consider further its position on the resource consent process and possible engagement in that process when appropriate;

- that it considered the application to be 'large scale and high impact'. As noted, in the development of the CMS, such a proposal was not taken into consideration, hence the CMS provisions had not addressed this sort of proposal in any detail and is silent;
- the proposal would have a high interest from the general public.

### **Conservation Board Legal Contingency Fund Advocacy - September 2005**

On 19 September 2005, the Board wrote to the Chairperson of the NZCA, supporting the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board's request that the NZCA put a proposal forward to the Minister of Conservation for the establishment of a Legal Contingency Fund. The Board believed that there could be a number of occasions in future years where such a fund would add significantly to the quality of conservation advocacy.



*(Left to right: Keith Owen, DOC staff member & Board members, Stephen Parr & Heather McKechnie Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

Such a fund would add to the ability of Conservation Boards to act independently of the Department and its budgetary constraints and would increase the Board's ability to fulfil its statutory obligations.

### **Request for Legislative Amendment - Prohibiting vehicle use, including bicycles from walking tracks within the Whirinaki Forest Park unless authorised - February 2006**

At the Board's 3 February 2006 meeting the Conservancy Solicitor, Mike Bodie advised that the Department has a role in implementing statutory regulations for Forest Parks. National Parks are different in that the National Parks Act prohibits vehicles within the Park. The Conservation Act does not prohibit vehicles within Forest Parks like Whirinaki unless an amendment is requested. The Board's advice was requested at its 7 April 2006 meeting and the Board did support the drafting of a bylaw for the Whirinaki Forest Park.

### **Improved Protection from Mining - Proposed Additions to the Fourth Schedule of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 - April 2006**

Gil George drafted a letter on behalf of the Board stating that the Board fully supported having the two Marine Reserves in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy, Tuhua (Mayor Island) and Te Paepae Aotea (Volkner Rocks), given full protection under the Fourth Schedule of the Crown Minerals Act.

## ***5.0 Board Functions under Section 6M (1) of the Conservation Act (continued)***

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### ***5.4 Section 6M 1(f): To liaise with any Fish and game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board***



*(Matthew McDougall of Eastern Region Fish & Game Council, accompanying the Board around the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. Photo: Leilani Fraser)*

Matthew McDougall, officer from the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, accompanied the Board around the reserve and answered questions from the Board. *(Photo: Kaituna River)*

As discussed in Section 5.2, the Board passed a resolution at its 5 August 2005 meeting that the Department produce an action plan for the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

The action plan would involve three agencies working together, namely Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, the Department and Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

The agencies have had a number of meetings since August 2005 and an action plan and memorandum of understanding has been produced to allow integrated management at the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

At the Board's field inspection to the Reserve on 6 October 2005,



## ***6.0 Powers of Board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act***

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### ***6.1 Section 6N 2(a): Each Board may advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process***



*(Tarawera Falls near Kawerau. Photo: DOC)*

#### **Landcare Research Survey - August 2005**

Margriet Theron completed a survey on behalf of the Board in August 2005. The survey was undertaken by Trent Bell of Landcare Research. He proposed to construct a Landcare Research database which would enable an online electronic encyclopaedia and annotated bibliography of NZ lizards. Trent wanted to seek funding from the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) Programme and required information from people involved in the field of herpetology or conservation management on their information needs, his access and understanding. Trent was also identifying the level of demand there may be for this database.

#### **Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Aquaculture Management Areas - January 2006**

Gil George, on behalf of the Board, completed a submission/questionnaire on the Aquaculture Management Areas document and highlighted that a number of offshore features on the aquaculture maps needed to be identified and named.

#### **Ministry for the Environment - Water Programme of Action Initial Consultation Round - February 2006**

The Board wrote to the Ministry for the Environment on 13 February 2006 regarding its late submission on the Water Programme of Action, sent to the Ministry in April 2005. Because the submission was late, the Board understood that it would not be considered in that round of consultation, but would be retained and considered in future actions deriving from the discussion document.

The Board continues to support the further development of a national freshwater strategy, incorporating the elements identified in the Board's submission and requested any updates or actions that have been made since the Board's submission in April 2005. As at the time of printing, no information has been received by the Board from the Ministry for the Environment regarding the Water Programme of Action.

## 7.0 Liaison

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### 7.1 New Zealand Conservation Authority



The Board welcomes its liaison with NZCA member Linda Conning and her attendance at meetings. Linda was able to attend the Board's August 2005 and April 2006 meetings, both held in Rotorua. This link with the NZCA has proven very useful in keeping up-to-date with national issues and informing the NZCA of issues important to the Board.

*(Conservation Board Support Officers [above] and Conservation Board Chairs [below] at the National Conservation Board Chairperson's Conference held in Porirua on 18-19 May 2006. Photos: Des Williams)*

Regular correspondence from NZCA Chairperson Kerry Marshall is also greatly appreciated as a means of keeping the Board updated on NZCA meetings and activities.

#### **National Conservation Board Chairperson's Conference - Porirua**

On 18-19 May 2006, the National Conservation Board Chairpersons Conference was held in Porirua. Laurence Tamati (Chairperson for the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board) and the Board's Support Officer, Leilani Fraser, attended the conference. NZCA representatives also attended the meeting.



#### **Maori Conservation Leadership Hui - Te Herenga Waka Marae, Victoria University**

On 31 May-1 June 2006, the NZCA hosted the Maori Conservation Leadership Hui held in Wellington. The Board's Maori members, Alf McCausland, Alice Anderson, James Carlson, Anthony Olsen and Laurence Tamati attended the hui. The attendees found the networking aspect very valuable.

## 7.0 *Liaison (continued)*

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### 7.2 *Other Conservation Boards*

Several Board members act as liaison points with neighbouring Boards and take extra note of meeting minutes for summarising at Board meetings.

- **Heather McKechnie/Anthony Olsen - Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board**
- **James Carlson - East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board**
- **Stephen Parr - Waikato Conservation Board**



*(Moutohora/Whale Island's Boulder Beach. Photo: DOC)*

Support for and communication between various Boards throughout the country occurred during the year, particularly during the National Conservation Board Chairperson's Conference and Maori Leadership in Conservation Hui.

Board members who attended these meetings noted that networking with other Boards was particularly valuable.

## 7.0 Liaison (continued)

### 7.3 Iwi Authorities and Tangata Whenua



(Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve near Rotorua. Photo: DOC)

Tangata Whenua interests continue to remain at the forefront of the Board's work particularly with the number of Treaty settlements in the pipeline for a number of Bay of Plenty iwi and hapu.

At the Board's 14 October 2005 meeting, former DOC Head Office Solicitor Donna Llewellyn provided an overview on the Ngati Awa and Ngati

Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Treaty claims settlements and implications for the Department of Conservation.

Donna, who previously worked in the treaty settlement and legislation area in Head Office, was contracted to Bay of Plenty Conservancy to work on the Ngati Awa and Ngati Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Treaty settlements.

Donna distributed to the Board, the Deed of Settlement documents for both Ngati Awa and Ngati Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) and presented the Board with a general overview and summary of the settlements and implications for the Department.

#### **Joint Advisory Committee (Ngati Tuwharetoa/Ngati Awa/Department of Conservation)**

This is a new statutory committee and appointments were made in June 2006.

The new committee structure has advisory and consultative roles pertaining to:

- Whakapaukorero (within the Matata Scenic Reserve)
- Matata Scenic Reserve
- Te Awa a te Atua (Matata Wildlife Refuge Reserve)

The Department still carries out the day to day work in the affected areas. Funding for the committee is split 3 ways between the Department, Ngati Awa and Ngati Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty).

## 7.0 *Liaison (continued)*

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### 7.3 *Iwi Authorities and Tangata Whenua*

#### **Joint Management Committee (Ngati Awa/DOC/Bay of Plenty Conservation Board)**

This committee has delegated powers from the Minister and is a first of its kind. The Joint Management Committee is a role model for future treaty settlement options as well as other arrangements between the Crown and Iwi. A member of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is required to be appointed to this committee.

The new committee structure has a strategic management role with express delegated powers under the Reserves Act 1977 pertaining to:

- Moutohora (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve
- Ohope Scenic Reserve
- Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve



*(Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve. Photo: DOC)*

There is a 5 year term of appointment and funding has come from the Crown which reflects the importance of this committee's statutory role.

Conservation Management Plans will continue to be completed by the Department however the Joint Management Committee now has the role of approving Conservation Management Plans, concerning the 3 affected areas.

Anthony Olsen nominated himself to the Joint Management Committee. All Board members present at the meeting, voted in favour of Anthony's nomination to the Joint Management Committee and a resolution was passed.

The Board remains in contact with its former Maori members and these individuals remain important liaison points for the Board.



## 7.0 *Liaison (continued)*

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### 7.4 *Other Organisations*

Various members are also able to promote the work of the Board through their own involvement in groups such as the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society, Tauranga Harbour Watch, the Mount Ngongotaha Bush Restoration Trust, Rotary Club, Landcare groups and various Iwi Trusts.

Members from the Forest and Bird Rotorua Branch made a presentation to the Board at its 7 April 2006 Board meeting regarding the Rotorua Lakes Walkway Project.

At the Board's 15 June 2006 meeting, three Landcare groups provided updates on community action on the ground in the Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty region.

The Te Awa o Waitao Stream Restoration Group, Te Puna Estuary Management Group and Waikaraka Estuary Managers Incorporated, presented the work their groups are involved in, their successes and the challenges they face.

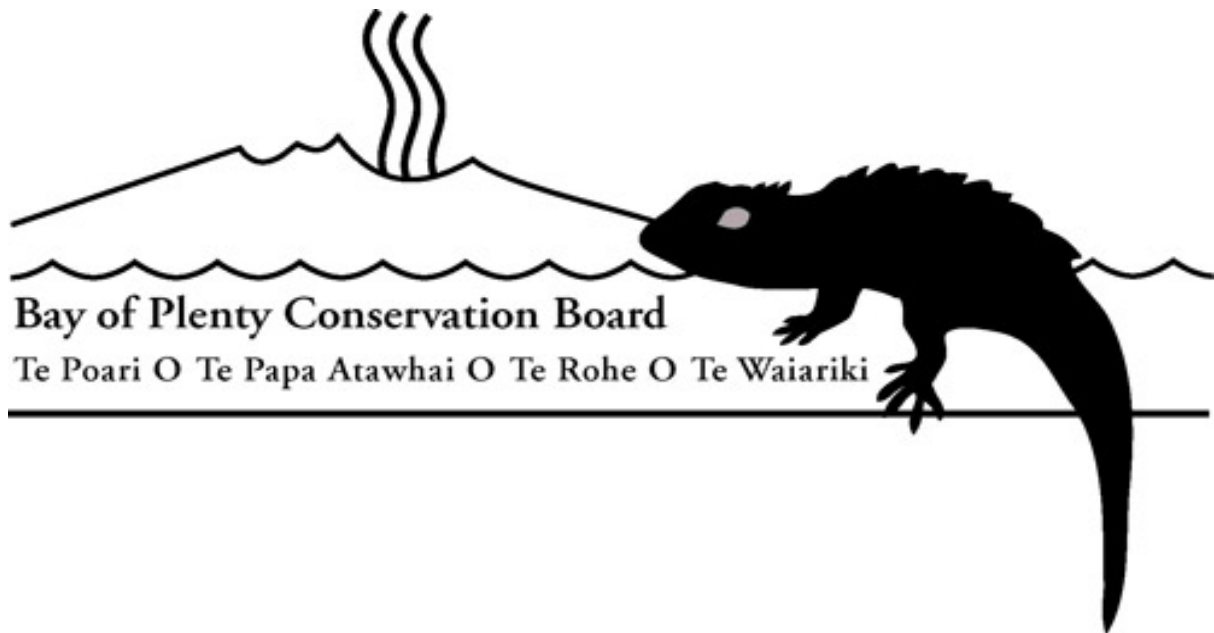
The Board encourages members of the public and community groups to provide presentations to the Board at its meetings to assist in increasing public awareness of the Board and its role in the Bay of Plenty.



*(Kokako. Photo: DOC)*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Tamati', written in a cursive style.

**Laurence Tamati**  
**Chairperson**  
**Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**



# **Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**

## **Strategic Plan**

**2006 to 2009  
and  
Actions for 2006/2007**

**August 2006**

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## 1 Purpose of the Strategic Plan

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The purpose of this strategic plan is to assist and guide the Bay Of Plenty Conservation Board to manage the performance of its statutory functions and powers including its advocacy role.

**This will enable the Board to:**

- Plan its approach for meeting its statutory responsibilities, including identification of specific tasks and their timeframes;
- Set priorities and focus for its advocacy activities;
- Be effective and use the best tools and practices available to produce the desired outcomes it wants.

## 2 Vision Statement

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The vision statement of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is:

***The Board is an effective catalyst and promoter for the enduring conservation of natural, cultural and historical heritage in the Bay of Plenty region.***

## 3 Nga Puia Ariki Matakirea

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Nga Puia Ariki Matakirea is the ten-year strategic direction and plan of the Bay of Plenty Conservancy that articulates how the Department's Statement of Intent will be interpreted and given effect in the Bay of Plenty.

It provides overarching guidance for the Conservancy's functional strategies, tactical plans and annual business plan to ensure that the business of the Conservancy will achieve the Department's goal of integrated, sustainable conservation management at places.

The framework and architecture of the Board's Strategic Plan is based on the framework and architecture of Nga Puia Ariki Matakirea to assist with cross reference.

Matching the Board's Strategic Plan to the format of the Conservancy's strategic direction does not mean that the Board is endorsing all that the Conservancy is doing, or plans to do, or that the Conservancy and the Board have the same priorities. It just assists with consistency of approach.

Monitoring and reports provided by the Department on its progress towards achieving its outcomes and outputs will match the headings in the strategic plan of the Board, thereby reducing the effort involved in reporting to the Board, and aiding in the development of a common language between the Board and Departmental staff.

### **3.1 Coastal, Marine and Offshore Islands**

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#### **The Conservancy's view**

The high level of historical loss and fragmentation of coastal ecosystems is redressed by giving particular attention to their protection and restoration, including the establishment of further marine protected areas to complement the existing Tuhua and Te Paepae Aotea Marine Reserves.

Islands including Moutohora, Tuhua, and Mokoia (within Lake Rotorua) are restored in partnership with tangata whenua to as close to an original state as possible. Predator-free status allows them to be used as sanctuaries for a range of threatened flora and fauna.

The natural character of the coastal environment, significant coastal habitats and ecosystems are protected through both legal protection and advocacy so that people are able to enjoy the natural features of the Bay of Plenty coastline.

Harbours such as Tauranga and Ohiwa are of international importance as wader habitat and we will work in partnership with various councils and community groups to maintain the health of these environments.

#### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) Marine Protected Areas: Ensure that the Board has input into the options and gap analysis exercise and selection of suitable options for further coastal marine protected areas in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy
- (b) Ensure the Board actively encourages community groups to make submissions.
- (c) Ensure that the Board is actively engaged in discussions about the coastal systems through its representative on the Ngati Awa/Department of Conservation Joint Management Committee.
- (d) Clarify the role of the Board in relation to the management of Mokoia Island, as there will be more examples of the type of governance provided by the Mokoia Island Trust Board.
- (e) Invite the Mokoia Island Trust Board to make a presentation to the BOPCB, so that we can express our support for the work being done, and discuss cooperation.
- (f) Marine farms: keep a watching brief on Environment Bay of Plenty zoning and mapping processes and make submissions on proposed variations on coastal plans.
- (g) Mangroves: develop an agreed Board view on estuary management and mangroves.
- (h) Vehicle access to dunes: make contact with groups who are protecting local dunes, and express support for their work.
- (i) Proposed coastal property developments: Maintain a watching brief for RMA applications and plan changes, and make suitable submissions.

## **3.2 Kaimai-Mamaku Forest**

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### **The Conservancy's view**

Being located close to the upper North Island population base, our vision is for the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest to be a showcase for recreation and historic heritage.

New tracks will be constructed and others upgraded to offer visitors a range of walking opportunities including the Kaimai Historic Heritage Trail from Waiorongomai to Karangahake as well as a range of short walks.

To increase public awareness of the area's significance, recreation developments and interpretation will feature evidence of human interaction with the landscape and tell stories of timber logging and gold mining.

We will work towards better integration of our work programmes at individual sites to minimise fragmentation. In time, we will expand our biodiversity efforts to restore ecological health and achieve a Kaimai-Mamaku range resonating with birdsong. This will be achieved by improved linkages with communities, cooperative agreements with neighbours, and joint venture projects with other agencies.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- a) The Board is briefed by DOC staff on the range of developments (biodiversity, recreation and historic) in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park.

## **3.3 Volcanic and geothermal landforms, lakes and associated forests**

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### **The Conservancy's view**

We will assist with effective management and protection of the lakes and geothermal features of the Rotorua district. We recognise the role we perform and we will ensure enhanced protection of the significant geothermal features and associated biodiversity values that are already under our management.

We will encourage consideration of special status for this area i.e. World Heritage, by close cooperation and discussion with local government, Iwi, communities, business and the tourism sector. With this in mind, we support the goal of a world-class multi-day track network encompassing the Rotorua Lakes.

Our vision is for active pest control and biodiversity management on public and private land to provide integrated protection of a contiguous remnant of the podocarp/hardwood forest that once stretched from Mamaku to Manawahe and through to the coast at Matata. We will assist establishment of partnerships where possible to expand this work.

We work with communities to help protect the iconic kokako and its recovery through active management in these forests.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07;**

- (a) International recognition of geothermal resources in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy is sought.
- (b) Actively advocate for protection of geothermal resources in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy and keep informed on the health status of the lakes.
- (c) Pest control and biodiversity management. The Board receives regular updates from Departmental staff regarding pest control and biodiversity management.
- (d) Kokako. The Board investigates how corridors could be set up to link kokako populations.
- (e) The Board shows active encouragement and support to the Mount Ngongotaha Bush Restoration Trust.

## **3.4 Whirinaki Forest**

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### **The Conservancy's view**

The great podocarp forests of Whirinaki are internationally recognised for their ancient character and scientific interest. Particular attention is also paid to protection of the dense northern rata forests of the Minginui Faces and Tūwatawata Ecological Area.

Biodiversity restoration and recreation opportunities are enhanced with integrated protection work, the development of short walks in the Whirinaki Ecological Management Zone (WEMZ) and a longer high quality multi-day track network. Improvements to the visitor's experience of Whirinaki will create a better sense of connection with this special place and benefits for the local community.

Our vision is for Whirinaki to be a healthy, restored and thriving ecosystem which contains numerous recreation opportunities.

Tangata whenua, communities and the department will continue to feel a sense of pride and respect for Whirinaki.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) Promoting Whirinaki as a destination and contribute to the balance between biodiversity and tourism.
- (b) The Board visits the Whirinaki Ecological Management Zone and is briefed on the Department's priorities.

## **3.5 Wetlands and Freshwater**

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### **The Conservancy's view**

There are a limited number of wetlands under protected management within the conservancy and the ongoing protection and improvement of these is vital. Our vision is that improved management of remnant wetlands will occur to better protect their

representative and biodiversity values. Some sites require restoration and this will occur to regain lost values.

We will support enhancement of freshwater fish migratory pathways from the coast to headwaters and freshwater aquatic ecosystems will again contain the full range of freshwater fish and wildlife, with headwater catchments, riparian areas and freshwater springs restored as far as possible to a natural state.

#### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) Wetlands: Promote active and integrated management.
- (b) The Board appoints or co-opts one of its members to liaise with the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council.
- (c) At each meeting of the Board, the appointed member reports on discussions held with Fish & Game and brings issues to the attention of the Board.
- (d) The Board invites Fish and Game representatives to provide an update to the Board twice a year.
- (e) Freshwater: The Board makes submissions where water use may have an impact on migratory paths of fish.

## **4 Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity**

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### **The Conservancy's view:**

Maintain or improve the natural character of public conservation lands.

Reduce fragmentation of ecosystems through increased connectivity between protected areas and complimentary sites.

Ensure survival, protection and recovery of threatened flora and fauna at a species and site level.

Improve opportunities for people to connect with protected areas and the value of conservation effort by encouraging access.

Contribute to the prevention and management of all threats to biodiversity, including biosecurity incursions.

Make sound management decisions based on quality research, survey, inventory, monitoring, and community values.

Support biodiversity conservation and protection through raising public awareness and building community commitment and capacity

#### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) Biodiversity: The Board is briefed and visits areas where there is both intensive and extensive pest management occurring to ensure balance and completeness is being achieved over time including areas where no work is being carried out.
- (b) The Board is briefed on the inter agency approach and out year programmes of the Department and other agencies like AHB and Regional Councils.



- (c) Resource Management Act and biodiversity issues: The Board scans the environment for relevant forums and RMA applications and ensures the Board is represented at public forums and takes the opportunity to make submissions.

## **5 Protection and Enhancement of the Coastal and Marine Environment**

---

### **The Conservancy's directions:**

Contribute to securing, and assist in, management of a network of marine protected areas that encompass the full range of coastal and marine environments representative of the Bay of Plenty in the context of North East New Zealand.

Support recovery of marine and coastal species including marine mammals, seabirds and shorebird populations, and important biotic communities at priority sites.

Base management decisions on sound information and knowledge provided by an active research and monitoring program.

Determine status and trends of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Bay of Plenty region and within the proposed protected areas network.

Contribute to the prevention and management of unwanted organisms in coastal and marine environments.

Educate and advocate for the maintenance of the natural character of coastal and marine environments.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- a) Establish the role of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board in the North-Eastern Biodiversity Group by attending meetings on the work of the Group and receiving briefings from the Department.
- b) Organise a field trip with East Coast Hawke's Bay and Waikato Conservation Boards once a year to network and discuss associated projects and matters of mutual interest.

## **6 The Protection and Restoration of Historic Heritage**

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### **The Conservancy's directions:**

Review the very significant historic heritage we manage and identify the highest priority sites for protection.

Prevent the loss of historic values from high priority sites through monitoring and active management, in consultation with local communities, Iwi and other agencies.

Raise the profile of historic heritage by informing and involving more people in its conservation and encouraging access to sites wherever possible.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- a) Northern Kaimai Heritage Plan: The Board supports the plan and keeps a watching brief on progress.

## **7 Appreciation**

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### **The Conservancy's directions:**

Improve the quality of recreation opportunities we provide, by developing very high standards of planning, design, construction, maintenance and public information, and by monitoring visitor satisfaction, impacts and trends.

Ensure the recreation opportunities provided reflect public aspirations by consulting with communities of interest, Iwi and other agencies.

Promote Whirinaki Forest by working with Iwi and local communities to upgrade visitor facilities, improve the interpretation of biodiversity work and increase visitor numbers to the park.

Showcase the historic heritage in Kaimai-Mamaku Forest by developing a nationally significant historic heritage trail in partnership with local communities.  
Develop a high class network of linked tracks around Rotorua Lakes in partnership with local communities and adjacent landowners.

Work cooperatively with businesses and concessionaires to provide a range of opportunities that enable operators to sustain their livelihood from those places.

Actively manage and support concession activities to ensure they enhance the experience of visitors and contribute to the promotion of conservation.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) Concessions process: The Board has input into major and high impact concessions via Board meetings, field trips and feedback and advice to the Conservancy.
- (b) The Board takes an active interest in concession applications for Mount Ngongotaha.
- (c) Tracks and visitor facilities: Make contact with other stakeholders regarding the Rotorua Lakes Walkway concept.

## **8 Community Relations and Public Awareness**

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### **The Conservancy's directions:**

As conservation leaders, increase awareness of and commitment to conservation through a range of mediums.

Provide targeted opportunities for hands-on conservation education to build community involvement in and support for conservation.  
Identify, build and maintain key relationships and partnerships to share conservation work and develop conservation understanding and commitment.  
Encourage communities and individuals to contribute to conservation by building their capability to do so.

### **The Board's priorities and action plans for 2006/07:**

- (a) The Board encourages the communities it represents to take a greater interest in conservation management.
- (b) The Board progresses its Public Relations Strategy and actions.
- (c) The Board sponsors a Conservation Award during Conservation Week.
- (d) Members of the Board actively encourage members of the public or conservation-minded groups with a particular interest in upcoming Board discussions to attend Board field visits, meetings and do presentations.

## **9 Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

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The Board has inherited the current CMS 1997 to 2007. The CMS is the primary tool for ensuring integrated conservation management of land and water within the Bay of Plenty. The purpose of the CMS is to both implement general policy and to define a set of objectives for that integrated management to occur.

The role of the Board is to ensure the CMS is being implemented consistently across the conservancy and to prepare for its review in the coming year. The Board carries this responsibility out by ensuring the CMS and its implementation is monitored and reported on to the Board on a regular basis.

### **9.1 Monitoring the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Implementation**

---

The Board has agreed with the Conservancy that the CMS will be monitored on a regular basis to assist it in ensuring that it is being implemented. The monitoring will take place to meet the following criteria:

- **The CMS is fully reported on over a three year period**
- **Three reports will be completed per year (i.e. one every second meeting of the Board)**
- **Gaps that have been left during previous reviews will be covered first.**

Once the previous gaps have been filled, monitoring will be based on the five 'special places' within the Conservancy that have evolved out of the Conservancy's Strategic Directions Exercise Nga Puia and that have been adopted by the Board for its Strategic Plan.

A programme and timetable for the CMS monitoring is attached in the Appendix 3.

This programme will ensure the Board have the confidence they need to report to the authority.

## **9.2 Review of the Conservation Management Strategy**

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The current CMS 1997 to 2007 is scheduled to expire in December 2007. The review of this is a high priority for the Board and the conservancy. The board and the Conservancy have agreed to have this as a focus of their work for the 2006-07 year.

The Conservancy has developed a project team and timeline that the Board has endorsed (refer Appendix 5).

The Board has agreed to utilise the whole board as a sub committee to work in tandem with the Conservancy on this project. The Board have appointed a sub committee coordinator to lead this work with the conservancy

## **10 Meeting the Board's Statutory Requirements**

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### **10.1 Give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi**

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#### **The Board will:**

- (a) Monitor the way in which the Bay of Plenty Conservancy is giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act.
- (b) Actively engage in discussions on Treaty of Waitangi issues through its representative on the Ngati Awa/Department of Conservation Joint Management Committee and other forums with tangata whenua.
- (c) Hold meetings on marae and have field trips and inspections and engage meaningfully with iwi representatives and local hapu.
- (d) Ensure that it has meaningful processes for tangata whenua input to its work.
- (e) Support the Conservancy with settlement implementation where it can.

### **10.2 Provide advice on proposed changes of status or classification of areas of national or international importance**

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The Department administers a number of land units and water bodies with a range of classifications. A number have classifications that do not reflect their natural and historic resources or the current and future management needs.

#### **The Board will:**

- (a) Work with the Department in both the CMS review process and in an ongoing manner to ensure a mechanism for review and reclassification of land and rationalism.

### **10.3 Provide advice on proposals for new walkways**

---

There is a number of existing walkways within the conservancy. These are mainly stand alone. There is some connection and integration with the Departments track network but this can be improved.

**The Board will:**

- (a) Work with the Department within the CMS review process to progress improved connection of current walkways to the broader track network.
- (b) Explore additional walkway opportunities with the assistance of the Department.

### **10.4 Liaison with Key Communities and Stakeholders**

---

This is where key communities and stakeholders have an interest in the Board's advocacy priorities.

**The Board will:**

- (a) Use its Public Relations Strategy (Appendix 4) as a means of engaging appropriately with its stakeholders and communities of interest.
- (b) Identify key communities and stakeholders during its annual work planning and review processes.
- (c) Facilitate community meetings and other forms of consultation where conservation communities cannot agree or where the Department is being perceived to be ineffective in attaining acceptable conservation outcomes.

### **10.5 Submissions**

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**The Board will:**

- (a) Make submissions on broad-based government discussion documents when this is in keeping with its advocacy role and priorities.
- (b) Make submissions on regional plans and where required by statute. An example is the General Policy for National Parks.

### **10.6 Discussion papers**

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**The Board will:**

- (a) Prepare discussion papers where an advocacy priority does not currently have an appropriately high profile within the BOP conservation community.

*The purpose of discussion papers is to draw the attention of the conservation community and key stakeholders to important issues, and to educate them on these issues. An example is geothermal ecosystems.*

## **11 Review of the Strategic Plan**

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The Board's strategic plan has an effective duration of three years. This timeframe coincides with the three year span of the Department's Statement of Intent, which allows the Board to evaluate more clearly the strategic priorities of the Board and the Department. It also synchronises with the term of Board members appointments.

### **The Board will:**

- (a) Review its strategic plan once a year in June.

### **The review will focus on:**

- Outcomes achieved within the past year; and
- Forward-planning based on current information about the Department's business plan and relevant issues driven by other regional agencies.
- Agree on specific actions for the coming year for the Board to focus their work on.

## **Appendix 1: Functions of Conservation Boards**

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### **The Conservation Act 1987 states the functions of a Conservation Board:**

- To recommend the approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments.
- To advise the NZCA and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To advise the NZCA or the Director-General; (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To advise the NZCA and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

Every Board shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act. In undertaking these obligations, Conservation Boards remain independent of the Department of Conservation, advising as an external unbiased entity.

## **Appendix 2: The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)**

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The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) is a statutory body established by the Conservation Act 1987. It represents the long-term public interest in conservation and is closely involved in conservation planning and policy development affecting the management of public conservation lands administered by the Department of Conservation.

Conservation Boards have a strong relationship with the NZCA, as indicated by the functions of Conservation Boards given above.

### **Functions of Conservation Authority**

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The functions of the NZCA are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987, and the National Parks Act 1980, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990. It also has specified responsibilities with regard to consultation set out in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

The functions that it exercises most frequently are the consideration and approval of conservation management strategies and national park plans, proposed changes of designation of lands affecting national parks, and the consideration of conservation issues of national importance. It is consulted by the Department of Conservation in the formulation of policies and plans and at the beginning of its annual business planning cycle.

### **The Authority's strategic priorities**

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The current NZCA members have identified strategic priorities on which to focus. These are:

- The establishment of principles for the appropriate use of conservation land with respect to the pressures of recreation, concessions and tourism including issues of natural quiet;
- Conservation of the marine environment;
- Pest and weed control;
- The development of public advocacy to achieve better conservation outcomes, including effective communication via media and with conservation boards;
- The clarification of the relationship between requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987; and the principles of public ownership of conservation land;
- The advancement of the protection of high country tussock lands.

***Note these need to be updated once the authority has finalized their new priorities for 06 and beyond.***



## Appendix 3: Conservation Management Strategy Monitoring Programme

Topics for Monitoring Reports	Sections in Current CMS	Reporting Date	Who
<b>Current Gaps</b>			
Ecosystems, rehabilitation and restoration Fire	4.3.2 4.3.9 4.3.5	June 2006	TSO WAM TSO Flora TSO Weeds
Freshwater Fisheries	4.3.11	October 2006	TSO Freshwater and areas
Rotorua Management Area	3.6 (in total)	February 2007	RLAO with relevant TSO support
<b>Special Places</b>			
1. Coastal, marine and islands	2.3.5 3.2.2 3.2.3 3.2.4 3.2.5 3.3.3 3.3.4 3.3.5 3.5.3 3.5.4 3.5.5 4.3.10	Coastal and Marine covered in February 2006 report  Will report on island only in April 2007	TSO Fauna PM Biodiversity 2 areas
2. Kaimai Mamaku Forest	3.1.2 3.4.3 3.4.4 3.4.5 3.4.6 3.4.7 4.3.1 4.4 4.5 4.6	June 2007	Area Manager Tauranga  Appropriate TSO and CRO Support

Topics for Monitoring Reports	Sections in Current CMS	Reporting Date	Who
3. Volcanic landforms, geothermal systems, lakes and associated forests		Volcanic landforms and geothermal systems covered in Oct. 2005 report  Lakes and forests covered in Rotorua Lakes management area Feb. 2007	
4. Whirinaki Forests	3.1.2 3.8.1 3.8.2 3.8.3 3.8.6 4.3.1 4.4 4.5 4.6	Oct. 2007	Area Manager Rangitaiki  With TSO / CRO support
5. Wetlands and freshwater	2.3.6 3.3.6 3.4.7 3.5.6 3.6.3 3.7.6 3.8.6 4.3.11 4.7.2	February 2008	TSO Freshwater  With area support
<b>The new CMS should be approved at this time, removing the need to reconcile to the current CMS sections.</b>			
<b>Functions / Activities</b>			
6. Protection & enhancement of biodiversity		June 2008	TSO's Biodiversity
7. Protection & enhancement of coastal & marine environment		October 2008	TSO Marine CRO Coastal Planning
8. Protection & restoration of historic heritage		February 2009	TSO Recreation and Historic
9. Community relations: Community involvement & public awareness		June 2009	CRO CR
10. Recreation & concession opportunities		October 2009	TSO Recreation and Historic
11. New programme schedule to be agreed to by Department and Board		February 2010	

## **Appendix 4: Conservation Board Public Relations Strategy**

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### **1 Introduction**

Conservation Boards exist to ensure that communities have an active voice in conservation management. One of the Board's discretionary statutory powers is to “*advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process*”.

Over recent years media attendance at Board meetings has declined and there is little if any general public attendance at meetings unless people are invited. An analysis of media coverage of Board activities shows a very low publicity level unless members or DOC staff have generated press releases on a specific subject. Anecdotal feedback to members demonstrates that public awareness of Conservation Boards is low.

Despite national discussions over how widely the Boards role covers community representation versus its more defined statutory functions, the Bay of Plenty Board believes it is a part of conservation with communities and that this work requires strengthening.

### **2 Goal of the PR Strategy**

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- To ensure the communities that the Board covers understand the role and function of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and its relationship with the Department of Conservation.

### **3 Objectives of the PR Strategy**

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- The Board defines the communities that it represents and the target groups within those communities that it needs to establish working relationships with.
- The Board defines the type and style of relationship with each target group and sets ways to work towards achieving that relationship.
- That Board decisions and actions are communicated to target groups and communities.
- That communities and target group awareness of the Board is increased.
- Board members understand the objectives of target groups and views within communities.
- Demonstrate to communities and target groups that the Board can be effective in its statutory and advocacy roles.

## 4 Key messages

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- The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Recommends that the NZCA approve the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy.
- It monitors the implementation of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Strategy
- Works with the Department of Conservation to establish objectives and priorities for integrated management of natural and historic resources
- Is a formal link between the community and the Department of Conservation
- Advises the Department on behalf of the community.
- Is a community voice on conservation issues.

## 5 Target Groups

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### External:

1. Fish and Game NZ;
2. Rural residents and landowners;
3. Land Care Groups;
4. Coast Care Groups;
5. Federated Farmers;
6. Regional Councillors and staff;
7. District Councillors and staff;
8. Community groups;
9. Iwi and Maori land owners;
10. Federation of Maori Authorities;
11. Forest and Bird;
12. Other not-for-profit societies;
13. Deerstalkers and hunting clubs;
14. Schools, polytechnics, and universities.

### Internal:

1. NZ Conservation Authority;
2. Department of Conservation staff;
3. Neighbouring Conservation Boards.

## 6 Tactics

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### 6.1 Identify target audiences for agenda items

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#### Board members will:

- (a) Identify target groups relevant to each agenda item and invite interested parties to attend Board meetings.

## **6.2 Active involvement of each Board member**

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### **Board members will:**

- (a) Have diverse knowledge and networks.
- (b) Adopt a target group and report on communication with that group.

## **6.3 Alert target groups of relevant Board discussions**

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### **Board members will:**

- (a) Considers a wide range of issues directly relevant to communities.
- (b) Ensure target groups are engaged in relevant discussions.

## **6.4 Board work is consistent nationally**

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### **Board members will:**

- (a) Undertake liaison with neighbouring boards and provide them with the Strategic Plan.

## **6.5 Members' understanding of their roles**

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### **Board members will:**

- (a) Ensure they complete a thorough induction process to understand their role.

## **6.6 Poor public understanding of statutory roles**

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### **Board members will:**

- (a) Be clear about their role and responsibility and how they communicate these to target groups

## 7 Tools and Actions

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Tools	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local conservation awards.</b></li> </ul>	Board to sponsor one conservation award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regular press releases.</b></li> </ul>	Board Chair and Executive Officer to draft and make a media release after every meeting highlighting key matters under consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual Board newsletter.</b></li> </ul>	This is be produced with stories summarizing the Boards Annual Report and included in the Conservancy Conservation Korero
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board member profiles in DOC and other publications.</b></li> </ul>	Once per year Board members profiles included in Conservation Korero
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regular advertising of who Board members are and who they represent.</b></li> </ul>	Three members per issue of Conservation Korero.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Website information.</b></li> </ul>	Board members profiles and contact details on the <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz">www.doc.govt.nz</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An activity run by the Board during Conservation Week.</b></li> </ul>	Within the programme one event hosted and run by the Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual public forum.</b></li> </ul>	One public forum on a regional conservation issue to be hosted and run by the Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community and target groups presentations</b></li> </ul>	Board members to work with Executive Officer to ensure appropriate opportunity on meeting agendas and field trips for community group presentations and discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The role of Board members covered during their induction.</b></li> </ul>	Full half day induction and orientation session for all new board members completed by the Executive Officer and the Community Relations Manager.

## 8 Monitoring and Evaluation of the PR Strategy

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- An annual review will be undertaken prior to production of the Board annual report.
- A full evaluation of progress will be undertaken three yearly in step with the CMS monitoring cycle.
- Peer review will be undertaken, possibly by members of another Conservation Board, a community organisation, or by a consultant.

## **Appendix 5: Conservation Management Strategy Review**

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- The current CMS will expire in December 2007.
- That there will be the necessity to formally extend the current CMS for 6 months from December 2007 to June 2008 and possibly beyond.
- The proposed date for public release of the draft review CMS is June 2007
- It is Recommended that a Board CMS sub-committee be formed. This sub-committee will be the key contacts for staff and be available over the next 24 months to attend workshops, hui and hearings. It is important to have continuity over this period of board members.
- The intention is to form a CMS Review Project Steering Group consisting of the Conservator, 3 x Area Managers and CRTS Manager to oversee the project. This group will set out the Terms of Reference and timeline and will assign the work of the review to the conservancy staff to do the component section drafting. It will also set out roles and responsibilities (including accountabilities) for the team.
- A Project Team lead by Clint Cameron (Planner) with key TSO, CRO's will be also set up to complete the main body of the review work. This team will have a progress reporting aspect to the steering group and the board on a two monthly basis over the coming 2 years.
- The project team will develop a CMS Structure Diagram to facilitate a conceptual layout of how the revised national template for the CMS fits together in the new BOP CMS.
- Under each heading the team will identify who will be involved with which the development of each section and form section work groups. These groups will have area PM's and other staff involved as required.
- Some generic sections will be provided by Head Office (there will be some common sections across the country like how the CMS relates to general policy etc).
- The project team intends to develop draft CMS with headings/ sections as per the guidance document and layout. This will allow the identification of objectives and policies which are still relevant or that need to be revised or updated.
- The draft CMS will build in our five places (as per Nga Puia Ariki Matakirea) and build on the outcomes for these places.
- While the CMS has a statutory basis and purpose (and accordingly has to be written with this in mind), it needs to remain a relevant document for operational staff.

- There needs to be alignment with the business of the conservancy, Nga Puia Ariki Matakirea and Department functional strategies.
- Consultation with key stake holders is to begin early 2007. This consultation will need to be focused on specific issues.
- The budget in 2006-07 is \$10,000 and 300 hours of staff time. This will increase in 200- 08 with an additional \$15,000 and a further 300 hours of staff time

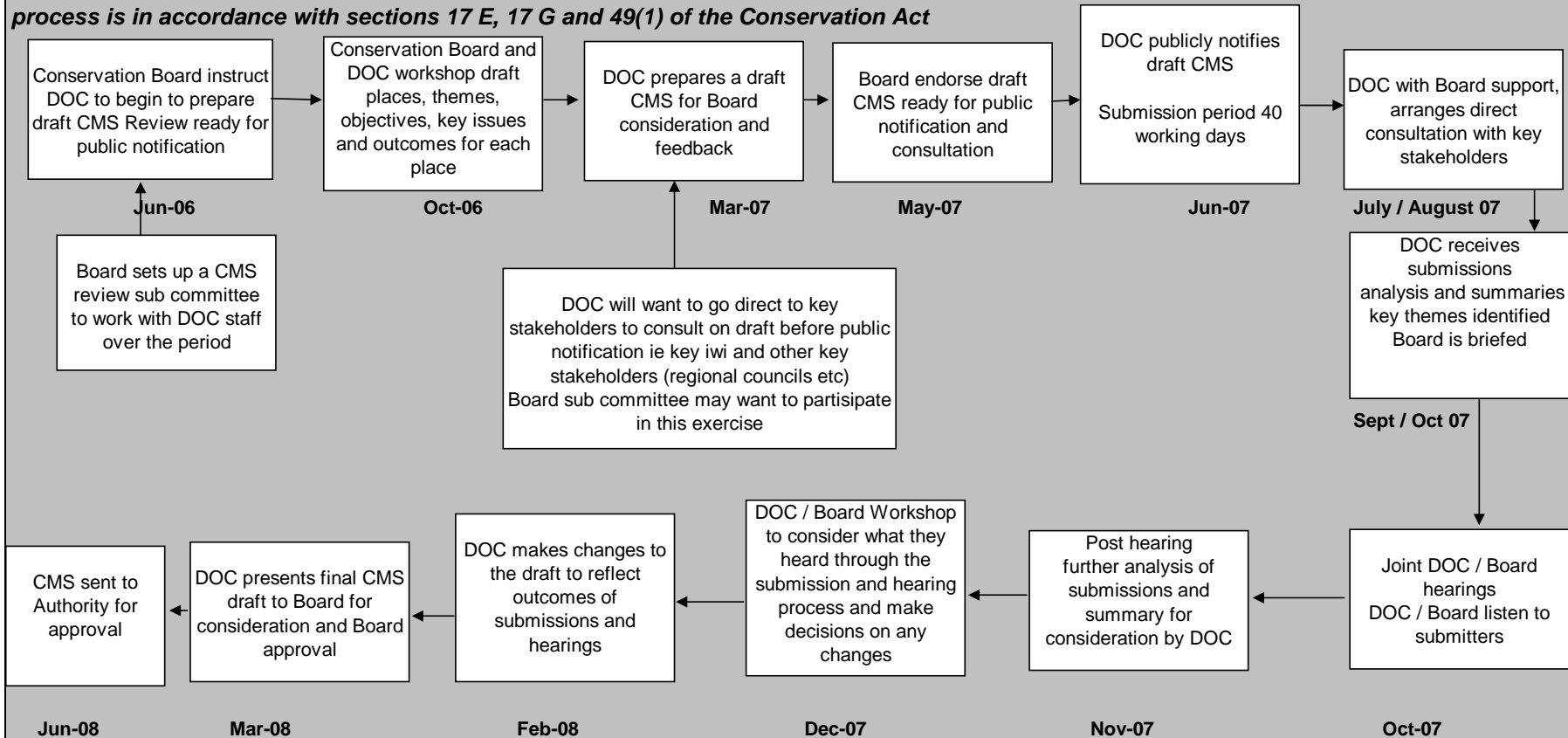


**DRAFT**

# Review BOP Conservation Management Strategy Process (CMS) and Timeline

for Board consideration

*process is in accordance with sections 17 E, 17 G and 49(1) of the Conservation Act*



**total time 24 months**

**DRAFT**

## **Review BOP Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Project Team Structure**

