



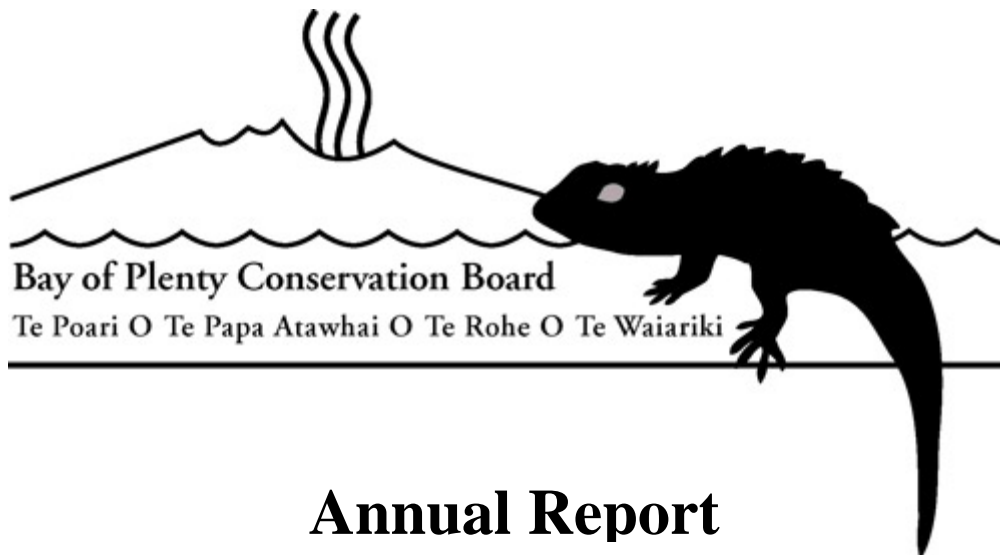
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Annual Report

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Annual Report

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Front cover: Lake Tarawera with Mount Tarawera in the background.

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1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Tena Koutou Katoa

It is with great pleasure as Chairperson and member of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board that I present the Board's Annual Report for 2008-2009.

The Board has had yet another productive year with a number of achievements and highlights.

The Board's Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) field visits provide the Board with an invaluable insight into the great work that is being done by community groups and conservancy staff throughout the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. These visits are also an important part of our "handshake" with communities such as Community Landcare Groups, Iwi and passionate individuals who assist the Board in identifying conservation issues. Our role as community conservation representatives is enhanced by the knowledge we gain during the CMS monitoring regime we undertake throughout the year.



Matata Lagoon at Matata in the Eastern Bay of Plenty

Over the last 12 months I had the pleasure of presenting the draft CMS to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for validation. The draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy is an indication of the collaborative relationship the Board has with Conservancy staff. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the new NZCA Chair Don Ross who has the unenviable task of reviewing the next generation of CMS from each Conservancy.

In the coming years the Board will meet the challenge of incorporating the East Coast into the new East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy. The Board would not be able to tackle some of the complexities of its work without the cooperation and professional relationship demonstrated by the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservator, Henry Weston and his supportive team of staff. While it is difficult to identify singular staff members we would like to make special mention of Mark Davies and Leilani Fraser for their tireless efforts and commitment to supporting the Board.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge my fellow Board members for their untiring work, especially the time and effort they have put into sub-committee work. It has been my pleasure as Chairperson to work with a group of dedicated, professional people who have a demonstrated passion for conservation.

Noho ora mai



Anthony Olsen
Chairperson
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE BAY OF PLENTY CONSERVATION BOARD

This is the last annual report of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. A review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy resulted in a decision by the Minister of Conservation to disestablish the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board. The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board was renamed the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservation Board on 1 July 2009.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is one of the fourteen statutory 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 Sections 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 Plans 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 the Board 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.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BAY OF PLENTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Membership of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board during the reporting period was as follows:

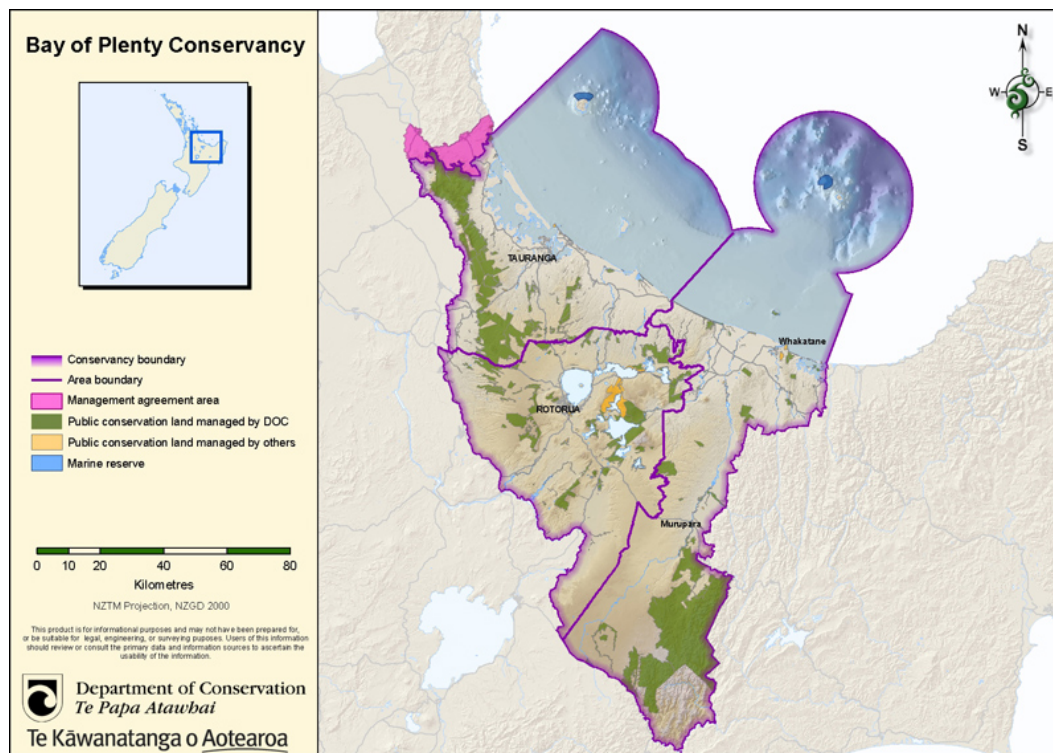
Board Members	Home Location	Meetings Attended
* Laurence Tamati	Rotorua	1
* Neil Clarke	Mount Maunganui	1
Anthony Olsen (Chairperson)	Matata	6
Stephen Parr (Deputy Chairperson)	Tauranga	6
John Coster	Tauranga	6
Margriet Theron	Rotorua	5
Suzanne Williams	Tauranga	6
Ian Pirani	Katikati	6
Hera Smith	Rotorua/Murupara	6
Joe Doherty	Ngaputahi/Murupara	5
Michael Hayden	Waihi	5
# Roger Pikia	Hamilton	0
# Maureen Burgess	Te Puke	4

* Laurence Tamati and Neil Clarke's terms on the Board ended on 31 August 2008 and they attended their final meeting on 1 August 2008. # Roger Pikia and Maureen Burgess were appointed to the Board in September 2008.

4. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

The Chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$190 and other Board members receive a daily meeting fee of \$140. Members are reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Board business. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951.

5. THE BOARD'S AREA



The Board's area of responsibility is the same as that of the Conservancy. The Department administers around 178,000 hectares of public conservation land in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy which is split between three Area Offices: Rotorua Lakes, Rangitaiki (Murupara) and Tauranga.

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

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

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

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 an additional 66 are of national importance. The region also includes four internationally ranked geothermal fields: Rotorua, Waimangu, Waiotapu and Whakaari (White Island); 11 geothermal features of international importance and a further eight of national importance.

Adjoining the coast 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. It was 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 committees.

Two large, natural harbours - Tauranga and Ohiwa - have important ecological values in the Bay of Plenty region.

6. ACTIVITIES OF THE BAY OF PLENTY CONSERVATION BOARD

6.1 BOARD MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

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

Date of Meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
1 August 2008	Department of Conservation Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office	Rotorua
3 October 2008	Tuscany Villas Motor Lodge	Whakatane
5 December 2008	Department of Conservation Tauranga Area Office	Tauranga
13 February 2009	Onboard Dolphin Seafaris Boat 'Guardian' enroute to Tuhua Marine Reserve	Tauranga/Tuhua
3 April 2009	Department of Conservation Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office	Rotorua
5 June 2009	Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Nukuteapiapi Whare Tupuna	Rotorua

The Board had the following field trips during the course of the year:

Saturday 3 October 2008

Hosted by Earl Rewi (Programme Manager, Visitor Assets/Historic) and Don Herdman (Member of Te Tapatoru a Toi Joint Management Committee), the Board attended a field trip to Ohope Scenic Reserve and Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve at Whakatane. Items of discussion included the Ohope kiwi project, Te Tapui Tokotoru Conservation Management Plan, which covers Ohope Scenic Reserve, Tauwhare Pa and Moutohora (Whale Island), and the history of Tauwhare Pa.



The Board and DOC staff on a field trip to Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve near Whakatane (October 2008)

Friday 13 February 2009

Hosted by Andrew Baucke (Area Manager, Tauranga), the Board visited Tuhua (Mayor Island) Marine Reserve and had its meeting onboard the Dolphin Seafaris 'Guardian' boat. Dolphin Seafaris is a concessionaire of the Department.

Saturday 6 June 2009

Hosted by Nicki Douglas (Area Manager, Rotorua Lakes) and Peter Corson (Programme Manager Biodiversity, Rotorua Lakes), the Board visited the geothermal areas of Maungakakamea (Rainbow Mountain), Te Kopia Scenic Reserve, Whangapoa Springs, Waiotapu and Waikite.

6.2 BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

The Board's sub-committees are named after the specific 'Place' sections of the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and members within the sub-committees have a special interest in those places. The Board has other sub-committees which deal with issues such as statutory planning (submissions), Board work planning and local government and TLA liaison.

Subcommittee	Board membership
National Issues / NZCA Liaison	Anthony Olsen
Neighbouring Board Liaison	Anthony Olsen, John Coster
Pest Management Issues	Hera Smith, Ian Pirani, Maureen Burgess
Biodiversity (eg. protected species)	Stephen Parr, Suzanne Williams
Section 4	All Board members
Board Work Planning	Margriet Theron, Anthony Olsen, Mike Hayden, Hera Smith
Statutory Planning (Submissions etc)	Suzanne Williams, Anthony Olsen, Mike Hayden
Local Government & TLA Liaison	Maureen Burgess, Mike Hayden, Margriet Theron
Eastern Region Fish & Game Council Liaison	Ian Pirani
Recreation & Historic	Stephen Parr, John Coster, Joe Doherty, Mike Hayden
Islands	John Coster, Stephen Parr, Maureen Burgess
Kaimai-Mamaku Forest	Stephen Parr, Suzanne Williams, Mike Hayden, John Coster, Maureen Burgess
Whirinaki Forest	Margriet Theron, Hera Smith, Joe Doherty, Stephen Parr
Marine Reserves	Suzanne Williams, Maureen Burgess
Wetlands	Anthony Olsen, Ian Pirani, Suzanne Williams, Hera Smith
Volcanic & geothermal landforms, lakes & associated forests	Margriet Theron, Hera Smith, Suzanne Williams

6.3 OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Joint Management Committee - Te Tapatoru a Toi

As part of the Ngati Awa settlement, the Ngati Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 required the Minister of Conservation to delegate certain reserve management powers in order to recognise Ngati Awa values and relationships with three places: Moutohora (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve, Ohope Scenic Reserve and Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve.

The Joint Management Committee was formed and is known as ‘Te Tapatoru a Toi’.

This committee has representatives nominated by Ngati Awa, the Department of Conservation and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. Anthony Olsen is the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board’s representative on the committee.

During the course of the year, Anthony attended Te Tapatoru a Toi meetings and provided updates to the Board. Highlights during the year for Te Tapatoru A Toi, included involvement by committee members in various Conservation Week activities and approval of the Te Tapui Tokotoru Draft Conservation Management Plan in October 2008.

The Te Tapui Tokotoru Conservation Management Plan will help to achieve the purpose of the Ngati Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and the requirements for reserve management planning under the Conservation Act 1987.

Te Pukenga Atawhai - Maketu Marae, Kawhia on 17-21 November 2008

Board members, Stephen Parr, Suzanne Williams and John Coster attended the Department's Te Pukenga Atawhai Wananga held at Maketu Marae, Kawhia.

The wananga provided participants an opportunity to ask questions about the Treaty of Waitangi and other general matters relating to Maori.

The Board members paid tribute to Taute Taiepa (Pou Kura Taiao for East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy) for his support in keeping the Board members safe and supported at the wananga and found the course very stimulating. The Board members also enjoyed meeting the other Pou Kura Taiao and participants and gained a lot of useful knowledge. Having the wananga at Kawhia was an opportunity to engage with DOC staff from the local area as well as Head Office and other Conservancies.

7. FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

7.1 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

The final draft of the Bay of Plenty CMS was sent out to the Board on 25th July 2008 for consideration at the Board's 1st August 2008 meeting. The following resolutions were carried by the Board at that meeting:

Resolved:

(1) That the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board endorses the 10th of July Summary of Submissions and Responses and the Summary of Consultation documents.

**Moved: Hera Smith
Seconded: Ian Pirani
Carried**

Resolved:

(2) That the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board endorses the final version of the Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (BOP CMS) and recommends to the NZCA approval of the BOP CMS subject to the minor edits by the Chief Legal Advisor and final proof read.

**Moved: Stephen Parr
Seconded: Anthony Olsen
Carried**

Resolved:

(3) That the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board recognises and acknowledges the hard work of Mark Davies and his Conservation Support Team, Area Office staff, the CMS Review Subcommittee and Laurence's Chairmanship through the CMS review process.

**Moved: Hera Smith
Seconded: Stephen Parr
Carried**

A final draft of the Bay of Plenty CMS was sent to the NZCA on 1st September 2008.

Anthony Olsen, Henry Weston (Conservator Bay of Plenty), Taute Taiepa (Pou Kura Taiao) and Mark Davies (Conservation Support Manager) travelled to Wellington on 9th October 2008 to present the draft Bay of Plenty CMS to the NZCA for their consideration and approval.

The presentation was initially well received by the Authority. The feedback from the Authority at that meeting was that they were very conscious this is the first of the second generation CMSs developed under the Conservation General Policy 2005 and in the new format that the Department recommended. From that perspective, the Authority was mindful that this process would take some additional effort on their part and that they are aware of the standard that would be set.



The Board and DOC staff on a field trip to Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve near Whakatane (October 2008)

The Authority advised their intention to not delegate the consideration process to a sub-committee and that the full Authority would be considering the draft Bay of Plenty CMS. Henry and Anthony offered the Authority the assistance of the Bay of Plenty Conservancy staff to attend any workshops or meetings and that they were available at anytime to discuss the strategy.

The Authority took up the offer and NZCA Chairperson Don Ross and members Mike Brown, Yvonne Sharp and Linda Conning met with DOC staff Henry Weston, Mike Bodie, Mark Davies, Taute Taiepa, and Board member Suzanne Williams on 2nd February 2009 in Rotorua.

The draft CMS was worked through in a workshop format. Although the session was productive there still seemed to be some concern within the Authority on the approach taken, the standard of the supporting summary of submissions documentation and housekeeping with reconciliation to the database summary.

There was a commitment made that the Board and Department would go back and look at the submission documentation and database summary and Suzanne Williams was asked to do this exercise as a consultant. Suzanne was in the best position to review what was done and ensure it was complete because she was on the public submissions hearing panel and assisted in preparing the database summary. A full copy of the completed revised summary report was sent to the Authority for their consideration in March 2009.

On 22nd April 2009, a letter was received from the Authority which included the Authority's general comments on the draft CMS. It was clear from the comments that the Authority was not convinced that the draft met its needs. The Department replied advising that the comments were challenging and that the Department would need to discuss its broad response options with the Board at its June meeting.

At the Board's 5th June 2009 meeting, each member was asked to comment on the Authority's response to the draft CMS. There was general concern that the Authority's views on the strategy appeared to differ significantly from those of the Board and the Department.

Both the Department staff and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board spent some time discussing the Authority's comments. It was apparent that the Board and Department were still some distance from meeting the expectations of the NZCA. It was felt that the merger of the Bay of Plenty and East Coast Conservancies should lead to a rethink in approach and that there was no real benefit to continuing to engage over the draft Bay of Plenty CMS.

With some regret the Conservancy and Board came to the conclusion that they would withdraw the document under consideration by the Authority.

At the Board's 7th August 2009 meeting, the following resolutions were carried:

Resolved:

- 1. The Board endorses the Conservator's and Chair's decision to withdraw the draft BOP CMS 2008-2018 document from the NZCA consideration process.**
- 2. That the Department advises all submitters and stakeholders of the decision to withdraw and the reasons why and the proposal to use the draft to guide management of the places in the interim.**
- 3. The Board endorses the draft BOP CMS 2008-2018 as an internal working document to guide conservation management for the interim period, for the BOP portion of the new Conservancy, between now and a new East Coast Bay of Plenty CMS indicatively 2011 to 2012.**
- 4. The Board agrees that the CMS Monitoring Programme in the intervening period will be with the draft BOP CMS 2008-2018.**
- 5. That the Board notes the BOP CMS 1997-2007 will run on in the interim (will require MOC approval) and be used for all statutory decision making (mainly concessions applications).**
- 6. The Board endorses the Department's proposed approach of beginning a new internal process in consultation with the Board of a Strategic Direction and integrated planning.**

**Moved: John Coster
Seconded: Suzanne Williams
Carried**

With the establishment of the new East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy on 1 July 2009, the priority needs to be working with the Board to establish sensible objectives for conservation across the bigger area. This will then enable the Conservancy and Board to look toward a new CMS for the new Conservancy in the next 2 to 3 years.

The Board and Department will continue to work with the Authority with regards to its expectations of the CMS.

7.2 SECTION 6M 1(C): TO ADVISE THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR AREAS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD

The Board assessed the implementation of the following CMS monitoring reports during the year:

**1 August 2008: CMS Monitoring Report on Freshwater Ecosystems (Sections 3.3.6, 3.4.7, 3.7.6 and 3.8.6) and Freshwater Wetlands (Section 3.5.6)
Report by Rebecca Lander (Technical Support Officer, Freshwater)
Conservation Board Assessment by Suzanne Williams**

This CMS monitoring report was the last report carried out for the previous Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy 1997-2007.

The report identified a number of issues for future management of wetlands including:

- Fostering relationships with tangata whenua and external agencies to ensure cooperation between all parties involved.
- Ensure that wetlands and freshwater ecosystems (including those on private land) have greater priority in the future as they are very under-represented habitat in Bay of Plenty.
- Ensure resources are prioritised in order to maintain ongoing control and monitoring of grey willow, coupled with effective management of hydrological issues.
- Perched wetlands require careful management to ensure water is retained within them.

Board Recommendations:

- The Board will encourage the Department to continue the level of activity and progress evident in the management of freshwater wetland ecosystems.
- The Board recognises that it is vital that the Department and the wider community act together to protect and restore these important and threatened ecosystems wherever possible.
- The Board support supports the promotion of “showcase wetlands” with a significant shift from recognition to active management.



Kapenga wetland near Rotorua

Consideration for the next CMS review:

- Wetlands receive a “Place” status in the draft CMS review and it is anticipated that the objectives and policies updated by the new document will provide clear strategic direction to meet the outcomes for the preservation and protection of these modified and threatened ecosystems.

CMS Monitoring Outcome:

The Board confirmed that -

- Significant progress has been made in completing the implementation actions.
- Relationships are being developed with iwi.
- Community awareness of, and conservation initiatives for, wetlands are being established.
- There has been increased protection of wetland ecosystems.

The Board commends the Conservancy on the progress that has been made in completing the implementation actions and making appropriate progress on management priorities.

**13 February 2009: CMS Monitoring Report on Marine Reserves
(Part 2, Section 2.5)
Report by Kim Young (Technical Support Officer, Marine)
Conservation Board Assessment by Suzanne Williams**

This monitoring report was the first trial report carried out for the Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy 2008-2018.

The report identified that the outcomes sought for marine reserves in the conservancy-wide Part 1 and place-specific Part 2 are often, but necessarily, overlapping. To reduce repetition, outcomes, objectives and policies from Parts 1 and 2 were collected into four core categories:

- Biological recovery - primarily involves compliance enforcement, biological monitoring and reporting.
- Tangata whenua and Treaty of Waitangi matters.
- Community involvement, enjoyment and ownership of marine reserves.
- Implementation of the Marine Protected Areas Policy.

Board Recommendations:

- The Board will encourage the Department to continue the level of activity and progress evident in achieving the milestones of the draft CMS.
- The Board recognises that through the wider regional approach, working in partnership with tangata whenua and the place specific conservancy approach, the Bay of Plenty community will gain an understanding and appreciation of the importance of marine reserves to the conservation of marine biodiversity and to the success of marine protected areas in the region.



A view of Moutohora (Whale Island) from Ohope Beach, near Whakatane

Draft CMS Monitoring Outcome:

The Board confirms that -

- Significant progress has been made towards achieving the Marine Reserves milestones of the draft CMS.
- Relationships are being developed with iwi. The formalisation of a partnership and support with the Tuhua Island Trust Board will give an operational structure to partnership arrangements.
- Community awareness of and conservation initiatives for marine reserves are being established.

The Board commends the Conservancy on the progress that has been made towards achievement of management objectives and policies and in working towards the marine reserves milestones.

**5 June 2009: CMS Monitoring Report on Volcanic and Geothermal Environments
(Part 2, Section 2.6)
Report by Peter Corson (Programme Manager Biodiversity)
Conservation Board Assessment by Suzanne Williams**

The Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes associated forests and the Tarawera Trail Network has become the primary focus for Rotorua Lakes Area Office. Key sites have been identified at Tarawera, Waimangu, Waiotapu, Maungakakamea, Waikite and Te Kopia.

- At Tarawera, the Trail Network is well underway, pending resource consent. Partnerships have been developed with the community and tangata whenua. Work will also begin in partnership with the owners of Mount Tarawera in a combined effort to control pines.
- At Waimangu, work will continue with the concessionaire to ensure a high quality visitor experience. Pine and other weed control have occurred.
- At Maungakakamea the tracks and visitor facilities will be upgraded in 2009/2010 and pine control will continue.
- Waiotapu has received pine control and weed control will continue. The facilities at the mud pools are about to be improved and work has occurred to ensure ongoing public access.
- At Te Kopia, Bay of Plenty Conservancy, DOC Head Office and Tongariro Taupo staff as well as Rotorua District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty are working to ensure it remains protected in to the future. Active research is being undertaken.
- At Parimahana an adjacent piece of land has been linked to the reserve. Ongoing weed control and some interest by researchers in the hot geothermal field.
- In the Associated Forests, there is continued support to community groups. DOC's primary role is providing technical support and providing training.



Conservator East Coast Bay of Plenty, Henry Weston (foreground) with his children, attending the Conservation Board's field trip to the geothermal area of Te Kopia Scenic Reserve, near Rotorua (June 2009)

It is evident that much effort has been made to involve community and tangata whenua in planning and working on projects. Improved relationships have been noted with Ngati Rangiwewehi, Ngati Whakaue, Tuhourangi, Ngati Tahu, Ngati Whaoa, Kaharoa Kokako Trust and Landcorp.

Cooperative relationships with Environment Bay of Plenty, Environment Waikato and the District Councils are also noted.

Board Recommendations:

- Continue fostering and coordinating relationships with tangata whenua, community groups, energy companies and statutory bodies.

- Work towards addressing cultural and natural heritage information deficiencies.
- Ensure equality amongst parties and sustainable resource use by ensuring compliance from concessionaires and researchers.
- Protection of geothermal biodiversity and water quality requires further understanding of the threats, and focused animal pest control.
- Develop a better understanding of the assets and threats within the ecosystems by increasing the level of staff knowledge in order to effectively meet the 10 year milestones.
- Continue working with community groups and public in developing ecological corridors.



The Board, DOC staff and family members on a field trip to Ohope Scenic Reserve, near Whakatane (October 2008)

Draft CMS Monitoring Outcome:

- Relationships are being fostered and coordinated with tangata whenua, community groups and statutory bodies.
- Visitor opportunities are being developed.
- The Tarawera Trail project is progressing well.
- Information deficiencies are being recognised and will be addressed.

It is evident that a high level of activity has occurred towards the achievement of the milestones, and therefore the outcomes, of Section 2.6 of the Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy. The Board commends the Conservancy on their enthusiasm, their planning and the progress that has been made.

7.3 SECTION 6M 1(D) (II): TO ADVISE THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON ANY OTHER CONSERVATION MATTER

Proposal for a Maori Conservation Leadership Hui for Conservation Board Members

On 9th September 2008, the Board wrote to the NZCA asking whether a Maori Conservation Leadership Hui would be held sometime in the 2009-2010 financial year, as was discussed at the National Conservation Board Chairpersons Conference.

Hera Smith suggested that if a Maori in Conservation Hui did eventuate the Board could put forward the Bay of Plenty Conservancy to host the hui, specifically the Rangitaiki Area and Whirinaki Forest Park. Hera advised that September 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the inception of the Whirinaki Forest Park and the hui could be held around the time of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary.

On 29 September 2008, the Authority sent a letter of reply advising that its preference was for conservation interests of Maori to be discussed at the local level and to include all local conservation board members. The consensus of the Conservation Board Chairpersons at their last hui was that it would be helpful to hold regional meetings first to identify what issues were worthy of discussion at a national level and to prioritise those issues.

Consequently the Authority preferred to see Maori conservation leadership discussed by conservation boards in regions and the need for a national level discussion established before it made a decision on how that might best occur.

At the Board's 3rd October 2008 meeting, the Board agreed that a hui should be held and that Conservation Boards from the North Island should be invited to attend. At the Board's 3rd April 2009 meeting, the Board discussed the objectives and theme of the hui and at its 5th June meeting it endorsed the draft programme. The hui will be held on 4th September 2009 to coincide with the Whirinaki 25th Anniversary Celebrations.



Peter Corson (Programme Manager Biodiversity, Rotorua Lakes Area Office) hosting the Board, DOC staff and family members at a field trip to the geothermal area of Te Kopia Scenic Reserve, near Rotorua (June 2009)

The theme for the hui is “People and their Places” - Communities’ Relationships with their Conservation Places.

Workshop sessions would be run to answer the following questions:

- What are community conservation relationships?
- What do we want these relationships to look and feel like over the next ten years of our Conservation Management Strategies?
- How can these relationships give best effect to Kaitiakitanga?
- How can Conservation Boards work effectively with communities and tangata whenua to build these relationships at their Places for the benefit of communities, conservation and giving effect to Section 4?
- What do communities and tangata whenua expect from Conservation Boards in relation to these relationships?
- How can Conservation Boards be more effective in assisting with the development of these relationships?

Representatives of Ngati Whare and Ngati Manawa, hosts for the Whirinaki 25 Anniversary celebrations and the Board hui have confirmed their attendance at the hui.

The Board looks forward to hosting other Conservation Board members on 4th September 2009 at Te Whaiti Nui a Toi in the Whirinaki Forest Park.

7.4 SECTION 6M 1(F): TO LIAISE WITH ANY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ON MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD

Rob Pitkethley took over from Steve Smith as Regional Manager of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council early in 2008.

Through Board member, Ian Pirani, the Board liaises with the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council on a regular basis. At each Board meeting, Ian brings back the discussions had with Rob and Fish and Game staff.

Rob attended the Board's 1st August 2008 meeting to introduce himself to the Board and explain the role of the Fish and Game Council.

Rob has found it interesting working with and building on relationships with stakeholders and other agencies and believes Fish and Game has a good working relationship with the Department.

Rob suggested meeting annually with the Board, which it agreed to do. The Board ensures that the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council are sent the Board meeting agendas and minutes.

Mark Davies (Conservation Support Manager) noted that Fish and Game works well with the Department and Regional Councils for habitat protection and has common goals and objectives. Rob agreed and noted that there was room for improvement of relationships and advances to be made in habitat protection.

8. POWERS UNDER SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

8.1 SECTION 6N 2(A): EACH BOARD MAY ADVOCATE ITS INTEREST AT ANY PUBLIC FORUM OR IN ANY STATUTORY PLANNING PROCESS

Submission on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008

On 6th May 2008, the Board made a submission, drafted by Suzanne Williams, on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008, to support the policy statement. The Board wished to be heard in support of its submission.

At the Board's 3rd October 2008 meeting, Suzanne advised that the hearings would be held in Tauranga between 18 to 20 November. At that time, Suzanne would be attending the Pukenga Atawhai Wananga so would be unable to attend the hearings on behalf of the Board. Anthony advised that he would be available to attend the hearings.

The hearing was held on 20th November 2008 at The Tauranga On The Waterfront venue and Anthony went through the Board's submission and answered questions from the panel. Anthony explained to the panel that the Board's primary role is to be the conduit for its communities and that in terms of the CMS review, the consultation process was comprehensive.



Board members, DOC staff and family members on a field trip to Ohope Scenic Reserve, near Whakatane (October 2008)

Anthony found the hearing to be very worthwhile and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement process as a whole to be useful for the Board to get involved in.

Consultation Feedback on the Draft Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary Strategy, Draft Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary Action Plan and Discussion Document on Potential Re-diversion Options

On 18th February 2009, the Board made a submission, drafted by Suzanne Williams, on the above strategy, action plan and discussion document.

The Board commended the Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council on many of the actions to address conservation and biodiversity in the Kaituna catchment.

Submission on the Consultative Draft Native Frog (*Leiopelma spp.*) Recovery Plan 2009-2019

On 27th February 2009, the Board made a submission, drafted by Suzanne Williams, on the Consultative Draft Native Frog (*Leiopelma spp.*) Recovery Plan 2009-2019.

The Board commended the proposed actions by the Native Frog Recovery Group, to secure the species from extinction.

Submission on National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

On 9th April 2009, the Board made a submission, drafted by Hera Smith, on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, to support the policy statement.

The Board wished to be heard in support of its submission. At the time of writing, the Board had not heard back from The Board of Inquiry as to when the hearings would be held.

9. GIVING EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

The Board gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by:

- Monitoring the way in which the Conservancy is giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act;
- Actively engaging in discussions on Treaty of Waitangi issues through its representative on the Ngati Awa/Department of Conservation Joint Management Committee (Te Tapatoru a Toi) and other forums with tangata whenua;
- Holding meetings on marae and having field trips and inspections and engaging meaningfully with iwi representatives and local hapu;
- Ensuring that it has meaningful processes for tangata whenua input to its work;
- Supporting the conservancy with settlement implementation where it can.

Te Arawa

The Board held its 5th June 2009 meeting at Nukuteapiapi Whare Tupuna, a traditional meeting house, located at the Te Arawa Lakes Trust in Rotorua.

Board member Hera Smith, the Executive Officer at the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, organised her workplace as a meeting venue for the Board.

Hera made a presentation to the Board on the work of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006.



Ngati Whare Kaumatua, Ratu Tibble and Jimmy Goldsmith, outside Murumurunga Marae at Te Whaiti

Ngati Whare and Ngati Manawa

The Board - through its members Joe Doherty and Hera Smith - have liaised with representatives of Ngati Whare and Ngati Manawa with regard to the hosting of the Whirinaki 25 Celebrations and the Board's "People and their Places" hui, to be held on 4th September 2009.

10. LIAISON

10.1 MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

The former Minister of Conservation, Hon Steve Chadwick, was invited to attend the Board's 1st August 2008 meeting.

The Minister answered questions from the Board and DOC staff and discussed topics of interest to her, including:

- The Board appointments process in terms of the roll over and maintaining a broad range of expertise on Boards
- The NZ Coastal Policy Statement
- Marine Protected Areas Policy
- Community care groups
- Consultation with communities
- The Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy
- Enviro Schools initiatives
- Treaty of Waitangi negotiations
- The role of the Minister of Conservation and her meetings with the Director General

The Board and Conservancy staff appreciated the Minister's attendance at the Board meeting and enjoyed chatting to her over lunch.

10.2 NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Board's liaison with the NZCA is through its member Linda Conning. This link with the NZCA is useful in keeping up to date with national issues and informing the NZCA of issues important to the Board.

Linda Conning attended the Board's 3rd October 2008 meeting held in Whakatane.

Regular correspondence from NZCA Chairperson Don Ross is also appreciated as a means of keeping the Board up to date on NZCA meetings and activities. The minutes and meeting agendas of the NZCA are also received from Elena Sedouch, Senior Statutory Bodies Officer in Head Office.



Board member, Hera Smith, viewing the interpretation panels at the entrance to the Ohope Scenic Reserve and kiwi zone on a Board field trip (October 2008)

10.3 OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS

The Board appreciates the agendas, minutes and correspondence received from the following Conservation Boards, throughout the year:

- Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board
- East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board
- Waikato Conservation Board
- Taranaki Wanganui Conservation Board

10.4 OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council - 3 October 2008

Warwick Murray (Group manager, Land Management, Environment Bay of Plenty) attended the Board's 3rd October 2008 meeting to present to the Board a presentation on the Kaimai Community Catchment Project.

The presentation was a joint effort by Environment Bay of Plenty and the Department's Tauranga Area Office. Andrew Baucke, Area Manager Tauranga, made the presentation jointly with Warwick Murray.

The Kaimai Community Catchment Project looked at the numerous projects occurring in the Kaimai catchment.

Forest and Bird Te Puke Branch - 5 December 2008

Carole Long (Chair of Te Puke Forest and Bird) attended the Board's 5th December 2008 meeting.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust - 5 June 2009

Otanewainuku Trust members, Carole Long and Heather White attended the Board's 5th June 2009 meeting. Stephen Parr attended the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust's Annual General Meeting and advised that the meeting was well attended. At the AGM, the Trust discussed its announcement that it had reviewed the kiwi crèche project and was putting it on hold.

Carole Long explained that the kiwi crèche was the initial objective of the Trust and adult kiwi were wanted to add to the remnant kiwi populations at Otanewainuku.

The Trust has very good volunteers, many of whom have worked for the Trust for the past 7 years. Carole advised that the Trust were disappointed that its latest application for environmental enhancement funding to the Regional Council had been turned down.



Board members visited Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve in October 2008. The fortified pa site is clearly visible in the photograph above.