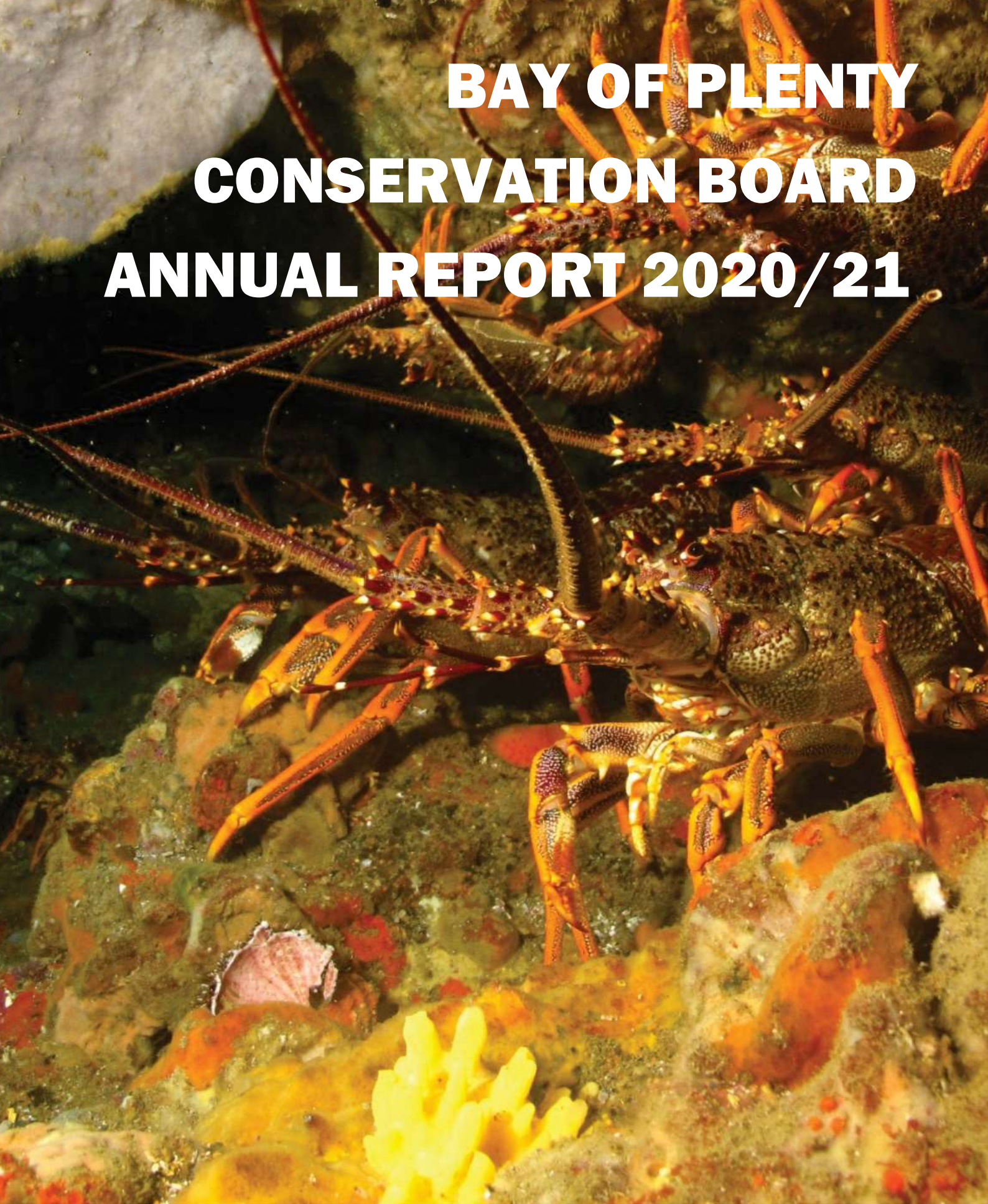


BAY OF PLENTY CONSERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DocCM



Bay of Plenty Conservation Board
Te Poari O Te Papa Atawhai O Te Rohe O Te Waiariki

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Annual Report

2020/21

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Cover Photo: Rock lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*; crayfish) in a cave at Otaiti (Astrolabe Reed), surrounded by the biodiversity typically associated with dark and deep marine habitats (including sponges and ascidians). The remains of a kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*), a preferred prey item of the rock lobster, can be seen bottom left. This photo was taken at the time when an exclusion zone was in place during the salvage of the MV RENA and rock lobster were abundant.
Photo Credit: Phil Ross

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Kauri rickers regenerating on the edge of the Tuahu Track, near Katikati in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. The Tuahu Track has recently been upgraded as part of the Kauri Dieback programme.

1 Chairperson's Report

On behalf of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board (the Board) it is my pleasure to present the Chairs Report and this Annual Report for the 2020/2021 year.

The past twelve months have been a game changing year for the world with the onset of Covid-19 insidiously working its way across borders around the globe. At a local level, the Bay of Plenty (BOP) has not been immune from the Covid-19 fallout. Its impacts have been felt in varying degrees by all communities in our rohe. The social, psychological, and physical benefits that our natural environment delivers through such times, cannot be understated.

It was very welcome amidst darker times, when the Minister of Conservation announced in August 2020, \$53 million of funding for the Forgotten Forests in the Bay of Plenty; \$34 million for Pa Raukūmara Maunga; \$19 million for Kaimai Mamaku; and an additional \$2.5 million for Ngāti Awa in the Eastern BOP. This is a substantial investment in our rohe. It not only provides some relief in the Covid-19 aftermath but is also desperately needed to turn the tide and begin the mammoth task of biodiversity restoration that will require generations of successive mahi. Another significant milestone for the region was the Minister's sign off of the Motiti Protection Areas.

The Board began its year as a ship without a rudder. Ken Raureti who had chaired the Board since its infancy, (all new members) in 2014, was not reappointed. Ken has played a pivotal role in iwi/hapū/whānau engagement and relationships. His membership on the Board has opened doors, formed pathways, and elevated the Board's understanding of some key issues. The Bay of Plenty has over 40 iwi and 286 hapū entities. Treaty settlements are at all phases of the spectrum, and they continue to create a changing landscape. Until the Bay of Plenty Board has better representation that acknowledges its extensive and diverse iwi/hapū/whānau environment, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Ken for a 12-month period which would encompass the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) public notification process.

We welcomed two new Board members in 2021, Sara Carley and Zane Jensen who have been conscientious and committed members and brought new skills and diversity to our Board.

If there is to be a disappointment to the year, it has been the departure of four Board members. This is significant for our Board. We reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mark Copeland in the last quarter. A heavy work schedule impacted on his ability to meet Board commitments. Mark 's integrity and wisdom to default to was always hugely valued. Our newest and youngest Board member, Zane Jensen, notified the Board on the cusp of his first year that he was departing. We congratulate and look forward to working further with Zane though, as he embarks on his new career as Operations Manager in Rotorua. The non reappointment of our deputy chairman Dr Phil Ross, and Board member, Hugh Sayers, has sapped our Board of expert marine knowledge and experience. Phil and Hugh have both worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the catastrophic situation in our marine environment and have navigated the murky waters of responsibility that is supposed to ensure the protection, restoration, and sustainability of our marine and coastal ecosystems. There does appear some disconnect in the appointing process and Conservation Board priorities.

However, it has been a privilege to lead such an eclectic mix of individuals committed to addressing the significant marine and terrestrial conservation issues within the Bay of Plenty. I would like to thank all the Board members for their commitment which comes over and above their often heavy working schedules.

On a brighter note, we extend a very warm welcome to Dayle Takitimu and Dr Paul Kayes, who will fill two of our four vacant seats in 2021 and bring new networks and perspectives to our Board. We look forward to working with them.

A special acknowledgement is extended to the iwi/hapū/whānau entities that we have connected with throughout the year. Our korero has been informative and enduring. We look forward to our ongoing contact and to building further relationships with our substantial number of other iwi/hapū/whānau entities.

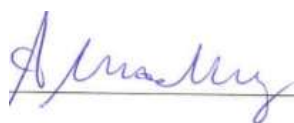
Updating a 24-year-old statutory planning document (CMS) and projecting it onto a 10-year trajectory has not been without its challenges. A significant concern of the Board is their ability to monitor and ensure delivery of constructive environmental outcomes whilst there remains an absence of a CMS. In general, the enormity of the overdue statutory documents nationwide along with the desire and requirement to ensure robust consultation with iwi/hapū/whānau, highlight the need to design meaningful processes and enrich resourcing in the regions to address these issues.

The Board continue to advocate their concerns for the marine and coastal environment. There remain significant gaps in legislation and we have yet to take responsibility for the degradation of local marine ecosystems.

There remains a collective desire on the Board to unearth the values of some significant Stewardship Land areas in the Bay of Plenty and work through their reclassification. It is heartening to have a Minister that has identified Stewardship land reclassification as a priority.

An elevated concern of the Board is the spread of Dama Wallaby in the Bay of Plenty. We need to set bold intergenerational plans targeting their eradication. Ongoing resourcing for this is critical. We are reminded by Te Whānau ā Apanui that in the 1960s, deer were an uncommon sight in the Raukūmara's. Sixty years later they are a significant cause of the forest verging on collapse. Dama Wallaby have the potential to threaten our regions taonga; Kaimai Mamaku; Whirinaki; Raukūmara; and the Tuhoe lands of Te Urewera, in a similar way. We absolutely cannot let this happen.

A huge thank you to the Department staff we have worked with throughout the year – the CNI Director, the Operations Managers and their staff in Whakatane, Tauranga and Rotorua offices, and the Wellington staff who have presented at meetings and whom we have interacted with. Last, but certainly by no means least, a special mention and thanks must go to our Statutory Managers and our Board Support Officer, for communications, commitment and the support you have provided to our Board throughout the year.



Anne Mackersey Chairperson
BOP Conservation Board

2 Introduction

This is the 2020-21 Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (the Department), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of the Bay of Plenty CMS to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the approval of conservation management plans
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

3 Conservation Board Region

The Board area is complex, diverse, extensive and rich in history. The richness and values of the Public Conservation Land(PCL) within this rohe is reflective of the first inhabitants of the Mataatua, Tainui and Te Arawa waka that through to this day, continue to reside, harvest and utilise the resources of the environment. The Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area from Orokawa Bay in the west to Cape Runaway in the east and inland to the forests of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne, Raukumara and Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Parks. These ancient ranges are connected intimately with significant coastal forest and dune-lands that lie at the fringes of the Board's area and continue into the depths of the marine world through to various islands and beyond.

Whilst the boundary lines drawn on the map show the Board's area is quite stencilled in takiwā, rohe boundaries for iwi are a bit more complex. So, through an iwi generic landscape viewfinder, the broader area is defined as Mai Ngā Kuri a Whārei ki Tihirau, from Waihi/Bowentown/ Western Bay of Plenty, to Cape Runaway, tae atu ki a Tūwatawata, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne, through to Tūwatawata and the Whirinaki, mai Maketū ki Tongariro, from Maketū to parts of the Tūwharetoa, tae atu ki te Pare Hauraki, and stretching over to Tokoroa, Matamata, Waharoa and Paeroa generally.

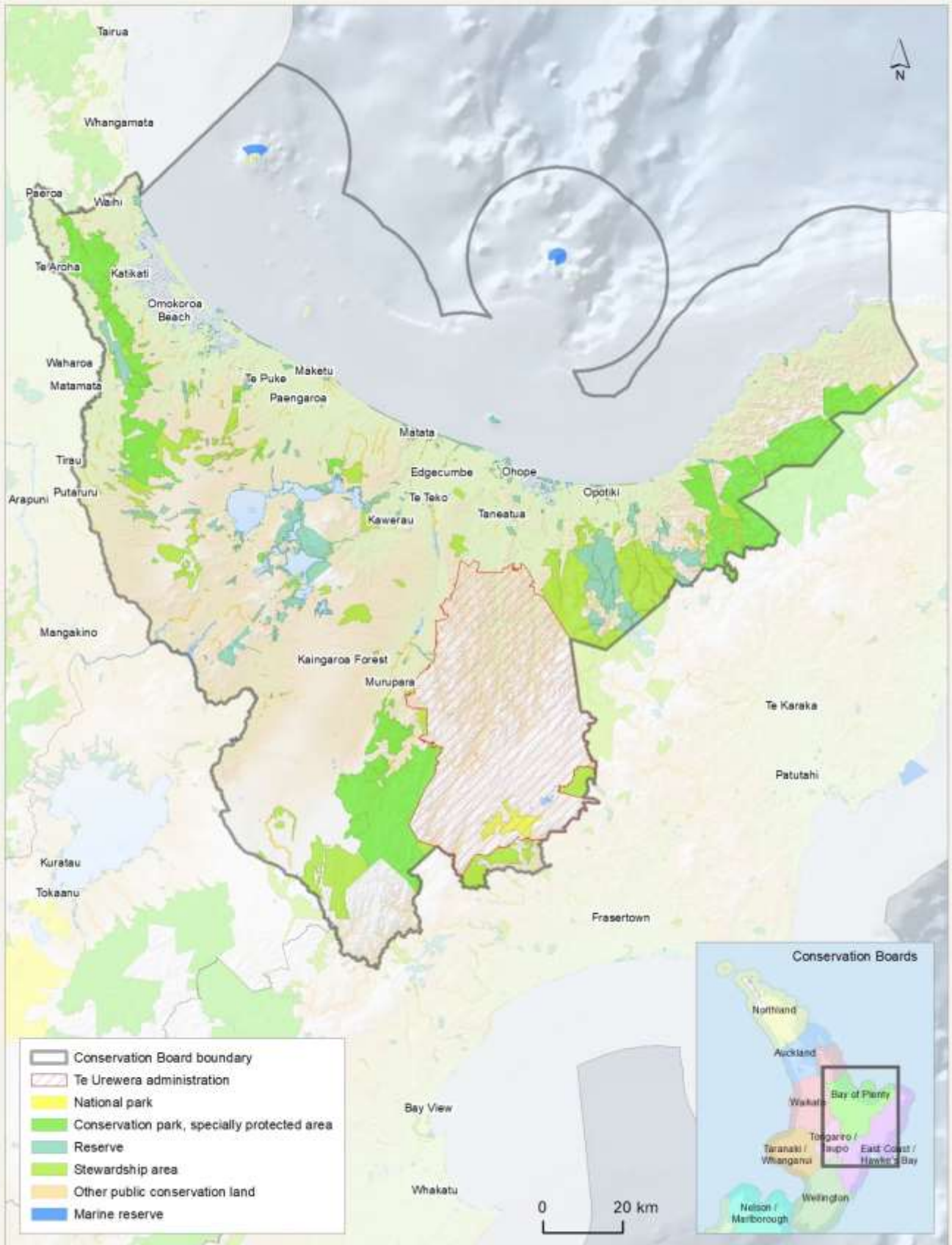
This physical location represents our ongoing responsibility to iwi under the Treaty of Waitangi as the Board's area is homeland to the whānau, hapū and iwi of Pare Hauraki, Tauranga Moana, Te Arawa and Mataatua Waka. Within the region Treaty Settlements are at varying stages of pre-treaty settlement to post-treaty settlement. Department staff and iwi have been initiating discussions around co-governance of a number of significant areas of PCL in anticipation of these arrangements following settlement.

Two marine reserves are located within the Board's rohe being Tūhua and Te Paepae o Aotea Marine Reserves. The area extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. With respect to protected species, wetland features, associated vegetation and the geothermal wonders of the Rotorua Lakes and surrounding reserve network also provide unique features to an area that is as diverse in species as it is in people groups and communities.

From the many mountains, volcanoes, podocarp forests and hinterlands, from the fresh water tributaries, geothermal features, lakes and freshwater systems, through to the mangroves, estuaries and the great ocean of Toi, therein lies the diversity, complexities, and the richness of our Board's area.

The Bay of Plenty region hosts a large range of water catchments and lake reservoirs that flow out to the coastal ecosystems and the Pacific Ocean. Lastly, a significant boundary is shared with the East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board along the Raukūmara Ranges.

There are over 50 active community groups within the region who work alongside the Department and the Board, which adds an interesting complexity given the number of people contributing positively to conservation. Right across the Bay of Plenty, hundreds of volunteers gave up their time, during 2020/21, to support conservation efforts. These volunteers undertook more than the equivalent of around 2000 work days of mahi during the year. We have been fortunate to have continued support from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, who also help much of the effort of our conservation groups.



Map 1 – Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

3.1 Conservation Features of the Area

The total area of the Bay of Plenty Region comprises **2,602,857** ha. Of this total, approximately **319,501** ha is contained within the boundary of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

The main features of PCL and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park – 40,000 ha
- Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne – 56,000 ha
- Raukūmara Conservation Park – 59,312 ha
- Scenic Reserves – 47,381 ha
- Historic Reserves – 70 ha
- Recreation Reserves – 420 ha
- Ecological Areas – 312 ha
- Stewardship Areas – 108,413 ha
- Marine Reserves – 2,330 ha

3.2 Conservation Issues

The Bay of Plenty has a significant range of issues that the Board maintains a keen interest in, or monitors the progress of. In the absence of a current and active CMS which would provide a consistent mechanism to report against, the Board maintains regular updates and incorporates into their work programme, the following issues relevant throughout the rohe:

- Progressing the reclassification of Stewardship Land in the BOP rohe
- Effective engagement with the significant number of iwi/hapū/whānau in the Bay of Plenty rohe
- Progressing the protection of significant marine ecosystems throughout the Bay of Plenty
- Management of pest species:
 - Deer, possums, pigs, goats
 - Dama Wallaby
 - Wilding pines
- Biodiversity and Biosecurity
 - Protection of Kauri from dieback
 - Ecosystem management
 - Threatened species management e.g. Kōkako, kiwi, whio
- Impacts of Covid-19 on tourism, employment and the resetting of tourism pressures that have impacted the environment

4 Board Functioning

4.1 Board Functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review an amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General
 - a) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

4.2 Powers of the Board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

4.3 Board Functions under Section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

There are no national parks within the Board's region.

4.4 Board Membership (Profiles Appendix I)

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year 2020/21 appointed by the Minister of Conservation and one additional co-opted member. Anne Mackersey was confirmed as Chairperson and Phillip Ross was confirmed as Deputy Chairperson.

Four members terms of office expired on 30 June 2020, Ken Raureti, Steve Morris, Julian Lee, and Dayle Hunia. Julian Lee, and Dayle Hunia were reappointed for a further term and two new board members were appointed, Sara Carley and Zane Jensen. Ken Raureti was co-opted onto the board as the 11th non voting member in Oct for a period of 12 months.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 and their term of office.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end
Julian Lee	Opotiki	1/7/2014	30/6/2023
Anne Mackersey	Whakamarama	1/5/2014	30/6/2022
Mark Copeland (Resigned from position May 2021)	Rotorua	1/7/2016	30/6/2022
Dayle Hunia	Whakātane	15/8/2017	30/6/2023

Phillip Ross	Tauranga	1/7/2017	30/6/2021
Rachel Pinn	Tauranga	1/8/2018	30/6/2022 (1 + 3 yr)
Hugh Sayers	Tauranga	1/8/2018	30/6/2021
Gina Mohi	Rotorua	1/7/2019	30/6/2022
Sara Carley	Tauranga	1/7/2020	30/6/2023
Zane Jensen (Resigned from position Jun 2021)	Tauranga	1/7/2020	30/6/2023
Ken Raureti	Rotorua	1/7/2011	30/6/2021 Co-opted board member till Oct 21

Table 1: Board Membership

4.5 Board Meetings

The Board held 6 meetings during the reporting period and 2 Field Trips. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
11 August 2020	Rotorua DOC Office
13 October 2020	Rotorua DOC Office
09 December 2020	Kaimai Mamaku Field Trip
10 December 2020	Tauranga DOC Office
23 February 2021	Ngati Awa, Korehāhā Whakahau Project, Whakatōhea, Opotiki Harbour Project
24 February 2021	Whakātane DOC Office
28 April 2021	Rotorua DOC Office
24 June 2021	Tauranaga DOC Office

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

4. Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

Board member	Attendance
Julian Lee	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun
Anne Mackersey	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun
Mark Copeland	Aug/Apr
Dayle Hunia	Oct/Feb
Phillip Ross	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun
Rachel Pinn	Oct/Dec/Jun
Hugh Sayers	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun
Gina Mohi	Feb/Apr/Jun
Sara Carley	Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun
Zane Jensen	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr
Ken Raureti	Aug/Oct/Dec/Feb/Apr/Jun

Table 3: Board Attendance

4.7 Conservation Board Liaison

Board member	Board
Julian Lee	East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board
Hugh Sayers	Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board
Phill Ross	Waikato Conservation Board

Table 4: Board liaisons and representatives

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Mark Copeland and Zane Jensen (shared)	Eastern Fish and Game Council
Dayle Hunia	Te Tapatoru ā Toi
Zane Jensen	Regional and District Councils

Table 5: Group/Agency/Organisation liaisons and representatives

4.8 Authority Liaison

The Board welcomed Puke Timoti as the new New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison and has valued the contribution Puke has made to the Board meetings and field trip he attended.

4.9 Board Committees and Representation

Board sub committees and membership is reviewed annually, at the beginning of the reporting year. The CMS sub committee moved back to the whole Board as the CMS draft was being prepared for notification.

The Stewardship Land sub committee has met regularly with Department staff to progress an extensive list of Stewardship land parcels into logical groups and categories.

Committee name	Date established	Members
Conservation Management Strategy	2015	As this moved toward final draft and notification, the sub committee was disbanded and the entire board became involved with the process
Stewardship Land sub Committee	2017	Anne Mackersey Julian Lee Zane Jensen Hugh Sayers

Table 6: Committees

4.10 Iwi/Hapū Statutory Responsibilities

Te Tapatoru ā Toi Joint Management Committee

Te Tapatoru ā Toi Joint Management Committee was created under the Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005. The Committee holds a range of delegations from the Minister of Conservation in order to recognise Ngāti Awa values and relationships with three places:

- Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve
- Ōhope Scenic Reserve
- Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

Committee Membership is as follows:

Te Kei Merito	Chair	Ngāti Awa Representative
Dayle Hunia	Member	Conservation Board Representative
Lynda Walter	Member	Community Representative
Rapata Kopae	Member	Ngāti Awa Representative

The Committee regularly considers management options and updates with operational support from Te Papa Atawhai staff. A wide range of hapū, Iwi, community groups and commercial operators attend meetings to discuss conservation outcomes and initiatives. A key highlight during the reporting period was the installation of revised signage at Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve.



Signage at Tuwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

The Committee is pleased to support Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa in the implementation of the Korehāhā Whakahau Predator Eradication Project within the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. The \$5.6 million-dollar project seeks to eradicate predators, starting with possums, across a 4,700ha area covering Whakatāne and Ōhope, benefitting biodiversity and boosting employment opportunities. This Iwi led initiative builds upon the strong foundation of conservation established by Te Papa Atawhai and the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust.

New appointments to the Committee are expected to be announced by the Minister of Conservation in the near future.

4.11 Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 2 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

4.12 Board Priorities

Conservation Management Strategy Sub-committee

The CMS for this Board's region was finalised and published on 6th November 2020. The journey thus far has been lengthy, challenging and within this time, the landscape both environmentally and politically, has changed considerably. The current legal document is now over 24 years old.

A CMS is intended to be a 10-year statutory strategy that directs and implements a range of integrated conservation policies for the Boards region. This includes how the Department gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the Bay of Plenty (BOP). The centralised planning department is significantly under resourced to meet the current needs of Departmental planning reviews. Our Board was proactive with support from the Department, to position itself ready to begin the CMS review and were thankful to be allocated some resource to progress the BOP CMS review in 2018.

In January 2021, the Draft BOP CMS was revoked to enable the Department to undertake further iwi engagement.

The landscape of the BOP is characterised by over 40 iwi and 286 hapū entities, all with varying levels of resource and capacity to engage with the Department, more aligned to Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership approach. This is an evolving pathway. Some have expressed interest in the preparation of the CMS document, which goes beyond 'consultation'. This signals a change in the way conservation to date has been undertaken and managed in the BOP and a shift in how conservation principles are enacted and upheld. Concomitant reviews of legislation and conservation generally, have added considerable complexity to the development of a

meaningful and functional CMS for the region, especially reviews of legislation pertinent to marine areas where the BOP CMS is signaling urgent action.

It is recognised that the Region's CMS document needs to be visionary and flexible. Iwi/hapū/whānau seek certainty that they will be able to input their aspirations into the Strategy when they have resource and capacity to do so. Adequate resourcing is a key issue for both iwi/hapū/whānau, as well as the Department, to enact effective engagement with each entity throughout the rohe, prior to notification of the CMS document. The ability to do this needs to be on a continuum through the 10-year life cycle of the CMS. The Board have been advocating for this.

The Board also recognise the time lag it will take to incorporate consistency with changing systems and legislation. Nonetheless, the Board is steadfast on seeking solutions to halt and reverse current biodiversity decline in their rohe, through improved protection and enhancement of conservation areas, both land and marine. The CMS is the mechanism the Board has to do this through, ensuring governance agencies and co-governance partnerships effectively manage te taiao in our rohe.

As at 30 June 2021, the Draft BOP CMS document was still revoked.

Stewardship Land Sub-Committee

In keeping with the Government's commitment to protect, preserve and restore our natural heritage, the board has undertaken a range of initiatives which seek greater clarity on protecting conservation benefits of both small and large land areas, categorised as Stewardship Land within the Board's area. This sub-committee provides oversight and champions protection for Stewardship Land - a large proportion of PCL within the Bay of Plenty region.

The Board welcomes the recent establishment of a national initiative to accelerate re-classification of Stewardship Land to ensure high conservation value is protected, as the Board remains concerned about the threat posed to Stewardship Land from development and services endeavouring to meet demands of the region's rapidly growing population.

The Board is committed to the focus on the region's previously identified high priority areas. Consistent with the region's pending CMS, review and monitoring of Stewardship Land across the Board's area will continue to be a strategic priority on the Board's agenda.

The Board is mindful of the fact that some of this land, in due course, will be protected through the Treaty Settlement process.

Little progress has been made since the Ministry of Environment's 2013 report '*Investigating the future of conservation: The case of stewardship land*' and the ensuing recommendation '*to identify areas of stewardship land that are clearly of significant conservation value and reclassify them in accordance with that value*' by the Minister at the time (*Update report, 2015*). While the Board acknowledges the preferential emphasis on the large South Island tracts of land under consideration for re-classification, it does little to help with protecting Stewardship Land in our region. In many cases these are small parcels of land characterised by unique, often rare, and different conservation values. These areas are endangered, and low in funding priority. Working with the Department's staff, a list of these areas was endorsed by the Board, and our position of concern is little changed from previous years.

Coastal and Marine

The Board has felt the Department are struggling to find its place in the marine conservation landscape.

Government policy is for 30% of the Coastal and Marine Area to be under some form of protection by 2030, yet in the Bay of Plenty and nationally, less than 1% currently protected. In

previous decades, the Department took an active role in proposing and progressing Marine Protected Areas (primarily Marine Reserves). However, the Department now favours a more passive advocacy role where it will support community groups seeking protections that align with the Departments conservation objectives.

The Conservation Board has actively sought to work with the Department to help them find their place in the marine conservation landscape and find new ways to achieve marine conservation objectives. In particular we have sought to help the Department develop processes by which its conservation values and objectives can be aligned with the aspirations, cultural and recreational values of tangata whenua and all New Zealanders.

The Board began developing a proposal to assist the Department to meet with Tangata whenua in the BOP to discuss values and aspirations at place and identify common ground with the Department's biodiversity values and aspirations. It is hoped that this work will be able to continue to progress.



Biodiversity of offshore reefs in the Bay of Plenty. A currently unquantified and largely unknown diversity of sponge, ascidian and coralline algae species inhabit the deeper and darker areas of the region's rocky reefs

Dama Wallaby Control

A major concern of the Board is the spread of Dama Wallaby through areas of the Bay of Plenty.

Board members Anne Mackersey and Ken Raureti, have been invited to join the Regional Co-ordination Group for the Dama Wallaby Programme. This group has oversight and involvement with the development, implementation and monitoring of the operational and annual plans for the Dama Wallaby in the Bay of Plenty. The group is in its infancy, and it is anticipated momentum will build through the coming years.

On reflection, previous pest control efforts during the 1970s and 1980s to contain Dama Wallaby to an area around Lake Okataina, have now been in vain. Since this period, with little investment to continue the work, they have dispersed more widely throughout the Bay of Plenty than ever before. Dama Wallaby now pose a significant threat to our regions taonga; Kaimai Mamaku; Whirinaki ; Raukūmara; and the Tuhoe lands of Te Urewera.

The Board is united in the belief that eradication is the only satisfactory solution for the Bay of Plenty. To ensure conservation efforts of the past and the significant costs associated with these efforts are not wasted, there needs to be a commitment to an intergenerational pest eradication programme, which embraces agencies, iwi/hapū/whānau, landowners and NGO's targeting Dama Wallaby in the Bay of Plenty.

4.13 Field trips and Site Inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

December 2020 – Kaimai Mamaku Forest Field Trip

The Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park was the focus of the Board field trip in December 2020. Two main historic tracks which link the Tauranga Harbour region and the Waikato were the initial sites visited.

The Tuahu Track west of Katikati township was a location for the Board to investigate the regeneration of Kauri from heavy milling in the early twentieth century. Riki Nelson, a local iwi representative and lead of the Kauri Ambassadors programme, along with Jeff Milham (DOC), outlined the mediation work that has been undertaken to protect Kauri from threats which could introduce dieback. The Kauri Ambassadors programme operates through the summer months connecting directly with public recreating in these areas, educating them on Kauri dieback and its risk to the area.

Thompsons Track, slightly further south, is a legal paper road. Visiting the start of the Track, significant conversation was generated between local iwi, the Department and the Board. Concerns raised were around the inability to access the area easily for ground based pest control operations and the threat to Kauri from the poor drainage and condition of the track.



Board Members during Kaimai Mamaku Field Trip Feb 2020

In addition the environmental impacts of 4WD use was discussed, as were the opportunities for more diverse recreation use.

Further south along the Kaimais, the Board was hosted by Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust (AFRT), an organisation of volunteers who undertake ground based pest control over 500ha of Conservation Park. The Board was taken through a significant area of King Fern (*Ptisana salicina*) or Tawhiti para, protected now from browsing deer through a partnership between AFRT and NZ Deer Stalkers Association. The project was funded through the Community Conservation Partnership Fund.

Meeting with community group volunteers such as AFRT, highlighted the enormous amount of work and effort that community volunteers are contributing to our environment with visions beyond their lifetimes. It also highlighted the ongoing challenges these groups continually face, one being the interface or buffer zone between farm land and forest.

February 2021 – Whakātane and Ōpōtiki field trip

The Board were privileged to spend a morning in and around Whakātane hosted by Ngāti Awa and Korehāhā-Whakāhau, the first Iwi led Predator Free 2050 project, administered by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, in partnership with Predator Free 2050 and Te Papa Atawhai (DOC).

Based in the rohe of Ngāti Awa, this Jobs for Nature project includes an ambitious goal to eradicate possums from 4700ha of land in the Whakātane, Ōhope and Ōhiwa Harbour areas. At a site visit to Ngāti Awa Farms, the Board were shown a demonstration by the team of their trapping, monitoring and recording methods used. The energy, enthusiasm and pride from the group in this project was inspiring, as too the level of training, resourcing and technology applications in use. Trapping possums for the Korehāhā Whakāhau project is also a mechanism for building social, cultural, environmental and economic opportunities for those doing the mahi. The strong support provided, enables a solid foundation from which to build future aspirations, practice kaitiakitanga and observe restoration of te taiao.



Korehāhā Whakāhau Trapping Demonstration

During the afternoon the Board was hosted by the Whakatōhea Trust Board to meet their leadership team and gain a better understanding of their current aspirations. The Board were also provided with an overview of the Whakatōhea pending deeds of settlement, the timeframes for the settlement process, and the development and incorporation of a joint chapter in the BOP Conservation Management Strategy. The Board then met the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Team who gave a presentation on the upcoming Ōpōtiki Harbour Development, including the forthcoming concession application for the Huntress Creek Conservation Area. A field visit to the Development Site provided the opportunity for further discussion with the development team into the complexities of the project, including the safeguarding of the nearby NZ Dotteral population, and protection of the adjacent Huntress Creek Stewardship Land area. The latter is of significant conservation value and is high on the Boards priority list of Stewardship Land parcels identified for re-classification to safeguard against vulnerability and loss of this ecosystem to future development.



Board Visiting the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Site

4.14 Department Involvement in Board Meetings

Department staff regularly attended Board Meetings throughout the year. Presentations were given to the board by the Department on:

- Raukūmara Pae Maunga Project Announcement update and Kaimai Mamaku Project Announcement
- Iwi Settlement Update within Bay of Plenty rohe with Gavin Smith
- Draft Board Manual Update by Ngaire Best, Director Governance, DOC
- Iwi Settlement Update for both Whakātohea and Te Whānau ā Apanui with Matt Russell
- Iwi, Hapū, Whānau Update within the Rotorua rohe with Joe Tahana
- Kāhui Kaupapa Atawhai Update with Michelle Hippolite
- Cleans Hull Programme Presentation by Sarah Hucker, Senior National RMA Advisor
- Partical Review of Conservation General Policy and Management Planning System.

4.15 Other Presentations to the Board

Covid-19 Effects for Rotorua Tourism and Economy

The Board invited Mayor Steve Chadwick to their Board Meeting in April 2021 in order to gain a greater insight into the effects of Covid-19 in the Rotorua community and the Rotorua Tourism Landscape. This session also include an update on the Toruism Futures Taskforce with the 4 pillars of sustainability being the core focus.

Raukūmara Pae Maunga

Ora Barlow, Te Whānau ā Apanui presented to the Board on the Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration project. A video she presented resonated with the Board and flagged concerns and wider actions. It showed in the 1960s how deer were a rare sight through the Raukūmara Forest Park. The impact 50-60 years later has been devastating. The consequences if we don't take action on Dama Wallaby could be a repeated story, not only in Raukūmara but also Whirinaki, Te Urewera, Kaimai Mamaku and the surrounds.

4.16 Special Events

Representatives from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and Te Tapatoru ā Toi, Gina Mohi and Dayle Hunia, were privileged to attend the launch of the Raukūmara Pae Maunga Project on 11 August 2020 at Maraenui Pā. The Project has been years in the making and is a partnership between Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau ā Apanui and Te Papa Atawahi (DOC).

Level 2 Covid-19 restrictions unfortunately placed a limit on numbers of people that could attend the significant Ministers announcement on the 15th September 2020, at Waitaia Lodge, Opuiake. Minister of Conservation, Hon Eugenie Sage delivered the welcome news of \$19 million from the Covid Nature Fund, essentially for maori and community employment projects that support forest restoration in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park. Anne Mackersey and Hugh Sayers were honoured to be invited to celebrate the announcement.

Our previous Board Chair, Ken Raureti, always looked forward to attending Te Tapatoru ā Toi AGM and Annual Report presentation. Our Board has forged a strong and lengthy connection with Te Tapatoru ā Toi over the years with Dayle Hunia as our Board representative on the committee. This year the meeting and presentation were held at the Tauwhare Pa near Ōhope on 4th December. It combined with the unveiling of fabulous new interpretation signs at the site. Our Board Chair received the Te Tapatoru ā Toi Annual Report on what was, a very special occasion and brilliant Eastern Bay of Plenty day.

4.17 Advice and Advocacy

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Nominated Board liaison members have continued their contacts with the Boards of adjoining Conservation Board regions, namely East Coast-Hawkes Bay (ECHB), Tongariro-Taupo and Waikato, through reciprocal attendance of respective Boards liaison representatives and interchange of meeting agendas and meeting minutes. Information sharing and discussion across many common issues for both Boards continues to be of value, and their reports noted at respective Board meetings.

The Board has continued to advocate for more resource and funding within the Marine and Coastal Environment with letters sent to the Minister and NZCA:

- 27th April 2021 – Letter to Minister & DDG Biodiversity 12 Mar 2021. Response received and DDG requested a meeting to share vision and develop a plan. This is yet to take place.
- Motiti Protected areas signed off in January – The Board wrote to Hon Kiritapu Allen, acknowledging her sign off for Motiti Protected Area on 01 Mar 2021

The Board has been active and engaged with the District and Regional Councils and completed submissions for the following Long Term Plans:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council Long Term Plan Submission
- Tauranga City Council Long Term Plan Submission
- Whakātane District Council Long Term Plan Submission
- Rotorua Lakes Districts council Long Term Plan Submission
- Ōpōtiki District Council Long Term Plan Submission

Board members Zane Jensen, Anne Mackersey and Phil Ross attended the Submission hearing for Bay of Plenty Regional Council Long Term Plan and spoke to the Board's Submission.

4.18 Department Advice

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues/areas:

- Governance and Concessions: The Board provided input to the Department on a new draft Governance Manual and Code of Conduct. The Board has also reviewed and suggested changes to the Department's triggers for deciding when concession applications should be referred to the Board for advice.
- Stewardship Land reclassification: The sub committee has worked with the Department to further prioritise Stewardship land areas by identifying high risk areas, areas for potential Treaty settlements and block grouping areas geographically.
- Conservation Management Strategy review: Due to the lengthy time the CMS was paused, the Board conducted a final review in July 2020 suggesting a few alterations before the final draft was completed for legal review. The Board have acknowledged Minister Allens advice that the Department no longer refer to Treaty Partners but to iwi/hapū/whānau. The challenges for the Department to engage with 300+ iwi/hapū entities in the Bay of Plenty and vice versa is an ongoing discussion between all parties.
- Marine Advocacy: The Board continued to advocate the role of the Department in monitoring the implementation of Regional Coastal Plans that the Minister signs off. The Department's role in Marine protection is one that the Board have continued to grapple with.

4.19 Community Advocacy and Involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important.

Dama Wallaby Group

The Board is alarmed with the spread of the Dama Wallaby throughout the Bay of Plenty region. Board members Anne Mackersey and Ken Raureti have been invited to join the Regional Co-ordination Group for Dama Wallaby Programme. This group's core focus is with oversight and involvement in development, implementation and monitoring of annual and operational plan for the Dama Wallaby

Thompsons Track

Following the Board's Field Trip and site visit in February, the Board has been working with iwi and the local community to meet with the various agencies and progress a pathway forward. This work will continue throughout the 2021-22 year.

Board Meeting Public Forum

Board meetings were held in different parts of the Bay of Plenty region. The Board welcomes public to attend Board meetings and offers a standing public forum period during their meetings for public who choose to attend.

Public presentations included:

- Kia Maia Ellis – Manaaki te Awanui and Tauranga Moana Customary Fisheries
Customary Fisheries works with sustainability of kaimoana. Current projects include Kaimoana Restoration Plans, Deep Sea Kaimoana, cultural impact assessment on proposed new wharf development and protection of kororā/penguins.
- Carole Long – Te Puke Forest and Bird
Otanewainuku Stewardship land designation and the risks and threats to this valuable area of PCL
- Paul Charteris & Paula Chapman – Kawerau Trails Trust
Plans and aspirations for Walking, Biking and Recreational access trails in and around Kawerau township.

4.20 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken.

Maanaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust and Forum

Board members were invited and attended meetings that ratified the new governance structure of the MKMT.

Bay Conservation Alliance

Board members were invited and attended the BCA Annual Member Event celebrating the environmental and conservation work members have carried out over the preceding 12 months

Appendix 1 – Board Member Profiles

Members Profiles

Anne Mackersey (Chair)

Mrs Mackersey is a farm manager in Whakamārama. She has trained in landscape architecture and has a lifelong interest in land management and environmental practices. She is an active member on several local community groups.

Phil Ross (Deputy Chair)

Dr Ross is a Senior Research Fellow and marine ecologist at Waikato University, and has extensive knowledge of Bay of Plenty coastal and marine environments and ecology. His strengths lie in the interpretation of scientific information and conveying science and conservation issues to a diverse public audience.

Julian Lee

Dr Lee is now retired from a career in science with a biological chemistry background, A Massey University graduate, his career started with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, After the formation of the Crown Research Institutes, he had roles in AgResearch as a senior scientist and Group Leader, Chief Scientist at Crop and Food Research (2005-2007) and was a former Group Manager Strategy at Plant and Food Research (2007-2009). He has established university and CRI science networks and wide experience in research leadership and governance, with skills in science in negotiation, consensus building and strategic thinking. His outdoor recreation interests are fishing, planting, gardening, and golf.

Mark Copeland

Mr Copeland has over 25 years legal experience, including in resource management, property, and conservation. He is also a governance consultant and expert rural mediator. He has enjoyed a lifetime interest in the New Zealand outdoors

Dayle Hunia

Ko Pūtauaki te maunga, ko Ngāti Awa te iwi. Dayle Hunia runs an environmental consultancy that is based in Whakatāne. She currently serves on a range of boards including the Environmental Protection Authority and Te Tapatoru ā Toi . Dayle is married to Hurricane and they have three kids and one kiwi averted dog.

Rachel Pinn

Ms Pinn is an independent director with skills in strategic planning and policy development. She has a passion for the New Zealand environment and holds a Bachelor of Resource Management and a Master of Applied Science in Transport Science.

Hugh Sayers

Mr Sayers is project manager for the Mōtītī Rohe Moana Trust. He has had a lengthy involvement in matters relating to the *Rena* disaster, as an advocate for marine protection and the marine environment. He has a strong understanding of Māori relationships with the land and sea, and is involved in several Waitangi Tribunal claims in the Bay of Plenty.

Gina Mohi

Mrs Mohi has worked in the resource management and environmental planning for 15 years. Gina is employed by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council as Pūtaiao Mātauranga, Science and Strategy. She holds a Master's degree with a double major in Environmental Planning and Earth Sciences. She has affiliations to Ngāti Rangiwewhi, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, NgāiTai, Te Whakatōhea and Te Arawa.

Sara Carley

Sara has a long background in public service as an International Development Manager with experience in the Pacific Islands and Asia. She has strong policy, planning, and analysis skills, with experience in programme planning, financial management, and cultural awareness.

Zane Jensen

Zane is a Community Sport Team Leader, with a strong knowledge of the sport and recreation sector. He has exceptional community engagement skills and an understanding of reserve management and planning.

Ken Raureti (Co-opted member)

Mr Raureti is a self-employed business consultant and mediator. He has professional and strategic leadership and governance experience, from roles such as Manager/Advocate for EMA, Chief Mediator of the Department of Labour's Mediation Service, and chairperson on several Boards and Trusts. He has extensive networks and professional relationships within the business community, tourism sector, iwi authorities, local authorities and government departments. His outdoor recreation interests are hunter-gathering, tramping and fishing. He is of Ngāti Rangitihī, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Pīkiao, Te Arawa, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Ruatakena and Ngāpuhi nui tonu iwi.

Appendix 2 –Annual Work Plan

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Work Programme

1 July 2020– 30 June 2021

Work Programme Overview

This Bay of Plenty Conservation Board work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation. It is structured in three parts, namely:

Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:

- Advice relating to stewardship land
- Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)
- Advocacy
- Other statutory functions for the Board

Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:

- Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA
- working with the Department
- taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Four-year Plan
- understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
- general engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board; and

Part C: risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

Part A: Regional Work Programme

1.1 Board Objective:

The Board will provide the Minister and Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values.

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Gain an understanding on the status of the processes for management and reclassification of stewardship land	Regular sub-committee updates held with the Department. Priority list reviewed and discussed. Business case approach to identified Stewardship land parcels, and cross-reference with Treaty claims Further action pending national review on Stewardship Land
B	Advocate for more resource	Needs emphasis, although no specific resources identified at this stage.
C	Continue the process to designate sites identified as having significant value with new reclassifications	Work continued by the Department to list values of specific Stewardship Land parcels with feedback to Board. A focus on clustering potential has been identified.
D	Investigate further Stewardship land areas at risk, or deteriorating from existing use	As above; further action pending National Panel Outcomes

1.2 Board Objective:

Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS):

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Continue to focus on notification of CMS following legal review and work with Department to ensure timelines are met	Current hold on notification of CMS. Interaction with the Department on notification process is on-going; Timelines not met.
B	Continue conversations with iwi/hapū wishing to engage	Specific iwi/hapū concerns identified. Conversations in progress; impasse on specific engagement discussed with the Department. No resolution as yet, this is ongoing
C	Work with the Department to connect with the community throughout the community engagement process	Early progress with initial notification but as notification now withdrawn this activity is on hold.

1.3 Board Objective:

Advocacy - Continue to grow the Board's knowledge of the coastal and marine areas within the Bay of Plenty and ensure their values are inclusion in statutory documents.

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Understand the key issues impacting and threatening biodiversity in the Marine and Coastal areas of the Bay of Plenty	Some board members have a clear vision for the conservation of marine ecosystems in the BOP which is backed through their strong technical expertise. Through a series of presentations and communications this vision has been shared and supported by the wider board.
B	Establish a Marine and Coastal Forum on Microsoft Teams to advocate for more (ground upwards) resource in the department specific to marine and coast	The board has felt the Department are struggling to find their place in the marine conservation landscape. It has been keen to work with the Department to find new ways to achieve marine conservation objectives and support the aspirations of tangata whenua and all New Zealanders. The board developed a proposal to assist the Department to meet with Tangata Whenua in the BOP to discuss values and review. A meeting was arranged with the DDG Biodiversity to discuss this proposal. Unfortunately, the DDG left DOC prior to this meeting taking place and there has been no subsequent opportunity to progress this endeavour with her replacement.
	Advocate for the minister to sign off promoted MPA's as per court ruling	The Board wrote to the minister Hon Kiritapu Allen acknowledging her sign off for the Mōtītī Protected Area on 01 Mar 21

1.4 Board Objective:

Advocacy - Biodiversity and Biosecurity

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Support the Department in conversations around controversial but essential pest control actions	The board remain supportive of the Department and iwi/hapū who are undertaking landscape scale pest control programmes to benefit the restoration and biodiversity improvements in their rohe
B	Ensure the Kauri Dieback threat to the northern Kaimai area is actively managed by the department. Advocate for resources as required.	The Board were hosted by the Kauri Dieback Ambassadors at their field trip to Tuahu Track in the Kaimai Rangers. The Department have undertaken an intensive track rehabilitation programme that has included some permanent track closures where Kauri could be at significant risk. Cleaning stations have been stalled at track entrances and are serviced regularly by the Department.
C	Monitoring and active management of deer populations and wallabies are adequately resourced.	The Board has representation on the Dama Wallaby Regional Co-ordination Group. This group provides iwi and stakeholder input to the regional planning for the BOP and the Waikato regions. Whilst in its infancy, the Board remain adamant, and strongly advocate for, the eradication of Dama Wallaby in the BOP, not merely containment.

1.5 Board Objective:

Other Statutory Functions - The Board will nurture ongoing working relationships with iwi, hapū, whānau

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Enhance relationships with treaty partners	Meetings with iwi, hapū and whānau partners as component of field trips (e.g Whakātane and Ōpōtiki). Department briefings as regular agenda items. Individual engagement from Board members on-going
B	Acquire an understanding of tikanga	Continuous learning
C	Improve pronunciation of Te Reo	Continuous learning
D	Ensure the Department and the Board continue to build relationships with all iwi, hapū and whānau in the Board rohe	Board Field trips included meetings with Ngāti Awa and Whakātohea. Regular updates to the Board by DOC team regarding iwi, hapū and whānau

Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:

2.0 Board Objective:

Liaison roles – Working with other boards, statutory relationships, Fish and Game etc.

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Appoint Board Members to Liaison roles, including neighbouring boards, Te Tapatoru ā Toi and Fish and Game	Liaison members attended meetings with neighbouring boards and reported back at full Board meetings. Hugh Sayers – Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board Julian Lee – East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board Philip Ross – Waikato Conservation Board Te Tapatoru ā Toi – Dayle Hunia Fish & Game – Zane Jensen & Mark Copeland

2.1 Board Objective:

The Board will work closely with the Department

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Confirm a suitable monitoring template for new CMS through testing an old CMS	On hold pending outcome of CMS notification. Hold-up on ratification of CMS limits Boards effectiveness
B	Provide advice to the Department on any Concessions or issues they require consideration from the Board	Concession Triggers were reviewed and updated. List of concessions provided by Department at regular Board meetings; input and advice given where concession triggers have been met.
C	Provide advice to the Department on any Concessions requiring Board input	No concessions were referred to the board for input during the 2020-21 year.
D	Advocate on behalf of the Department anything that enables the Department to fulfill their roles and obligations in the Bay of Plenty	Board advocated for regional councils to continue to partner effectively with DOC and this is ongoing.
E	Advocate for the environment locally and nationally	Board provided input to regional councils on their long-term plans, advocating for biodiversity, including marine biodiversity in coastal management, pest control, and partnerships with tangata whenua. Continuous process; particular emphasis on state of marine ecosystems and biodiversity; marine concerns communicated to Minister and NZCA ;

2.2 Board Objective:

Global Oversight

Planned Board Activities, Progress Commentary

	Action	Progress Commentary
A	Keep a watching brief on global influences and targets that impact on the CMS especially: Climate change/pandemics/international agreements on marine	Implications for Marine Outcomes signaled in CMS General awareness heightened by recent release of IPPC report.