

Annual Report 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

> Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai

East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 2014 - 30 JUNE 2015

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority

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1. Chairperson's Report

This is the first Annual Report of the new East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board.

Firstly, let me say it is a real pleasure to be part of this Board. The region is well represented by the spread of membership, commitment and regional knowledge that left very few gaps.

With Murray Henare covering the northern part of the East Coast we have Vicki Thorpe, Penny Shaw and myself in Gisborne. In Hawke's Bay we have great coverage from Kevin Trerise, Jenny Mauger and Jo Blakeley. When looking at our experience and knowledge, as Chairman I feel very lucky. Most of the questions and situations we cover are handled with some understanding and ability to make more than useful contributions. The whole Board have made an extra effort when needed, to fulfil the expectations and support the Department in doing their job. This has been evident in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) development, the affirmation of the region's correct Maori name and participation as liaison with other Boards and associates.

The Board considers budgetary constraints when planning our regional meetings and ensures we give local people the opportunity to engage with the Board and see as much of the region as possible. To this end, we have maintained a sweep of the region meeting in Napier, Gisborne twice, and Waipukurau for the first year and recently Wairoa. This will be complete when we have our next meeting in Te Araroa.

It has been reassuring to have consistent public participation in the forums allowed for at each meeting. These interactions and the Department staff have made the Board aware of several local concerns, conservation highlights and endeavours, first hand. These contacts are vital, especially at this particular time when we have a real chance to influence and change during the CMS planning and consultation phase.

We have initiated the required sub-committees for CMS and concessions, and liaison people for our neighbouring Boards and Fish and Game, in both Hawke's Bay and East Coast. Vicki Thorpe also continues as the Board Member appointed to the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee north of Gisborne. Members are very collegial around wider consultation within the Board when the sub-committees feel the need for any assurance or ratification.

The Board ensures that meetings are a two day exercise, the Saturday being reserved for visiting local conservation. So far this has been illuminating and allowed us to see some marvellous efforts, both private and public. It has been during these visits that the Department staff led by; Reg Kemper, Joyce-Anne Raihania, De-Arne Sutherland, Dave Carlton and John Lucas have also been helpful to the Board. Most helpful was the assistance of departing Board Support Officer, Jill Earle. I have relied on Jill for all sorts of help and information as well as directions when needed.

After the first meeting in Napier the Board visited the Ahuriri Lagoon restoration project for a look at the worthwhile endeavours to restore the lagoon and bring back more bird-life. The second visit was after the first Gisborne meeting, to the inspirational Young Nick's Head Station at Muriwai. For our third extra day after the Waipukurau meeting, we took a look at the proposed site for the Ruataniwha Water Storage project, to assess the conservation value of some of the land concerned. This was requested by the Wellington Conservation Board as some

of the land concerned was in their region. This was an interesting look at a site with varied potential.

It has been very reassuring to also have a Minister in Nicky Wagner, who has taken such a positive attitude to conservation and the Boards in particular. She was accompanied by her husband at the second day of our Wairoa visit in July, which was very much appreciated. I have attended two Chairs meetings in Wellington where the Minister has indicated her expectation of the Boards and the amount of effort involved in conservation in this new world. I feel sure that that this is the right leadership to achieve the most out of the partnerships way of promoting and driving all we value.



Photo: Bluff Hill Lookout (looking south to Cape Kidnappers), Napier, 9 August 2014. East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board members and Department staff; Back row (L-R): Board members - Kevin Trerise, Jenny Mauger, Murray Henare, Penny Shaw, Reg Kemper (Director, Partnerships), Joyce-Anne Raihania (Partnerships Manager, Hawke's Bay), Vicki Thorpe (Board Member), John Wauchop (Chairman), Front row (L-R); Joanne Blakeley, Jill Earle (Support Officer).

I look forward to the next year when we can tidy up the last loose ends and bed in our new CMS in particular.

John Wauchop

Juan G

Chairperson

East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board

2. Introduction

Following the review of the Conservation Boards completed in 2013, the East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board was re-established in March 2014 by the Minister of Conservation. It is one of 14 statutory bodies appointed by the Minister under Section P of the Conservation Act 1987. The functions and powers of the Board are outlined in Sections 6M and 6N respectively. Each of the 14 Conservation Boards has their own geographically defined area with up to 12 members.

In a 'Letter of Expectation' sent to the Board, the Associate Minister of Conservation, the Hon Nicola Wagner, provided the Board with a clear work programme for the year.

These were:

Conservation Management Strategy

The review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy commenced in 2014.

Stewardship Land

The Board was asked to work with the Department to provide advice to the Minister on any priorities for reclassification of stewardship land within its region.

Other Functions

The Board may be called upon to provide advice of proposed land changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas which include World Heritage, Ramsar, National Parks and Conservation Parks. It was expected that with the support of the Department the Board would engage in providing advice and support in those processes.

Advocacy

The Board should view its advocacy power in light of its functions and the conservation outcomes it wants to see achieved on behalf of the East Coast Hawke's Bay community. In considering how best to exercise its advocacy power, the Board should consider its unique position and voice, and what it can add to the debate that won't be heard from any other contributor.

Profile

The Board was challenged, along with the Department, to work towards raising the profile of the Board within the region and emphasising the role it plays in achieving the advances of conservation outcomes for the benefit of the community.

Regional Work Programme and Monitoring

The Board was to settle performance indicators with the Regional Partnership Directors and develop systems and tools that will enable it to monitor and measure progress.

The Board developed a work programme for 2014-15 which was accepted by the Minister of Conservation and is appended to this report as Appendix: 1.

3. Membership of the Board

Members are appointed to the East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board by the Minister of Conservation, and are representative across the different communities and interests within the region.

During 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 there have been seven members on the Board.

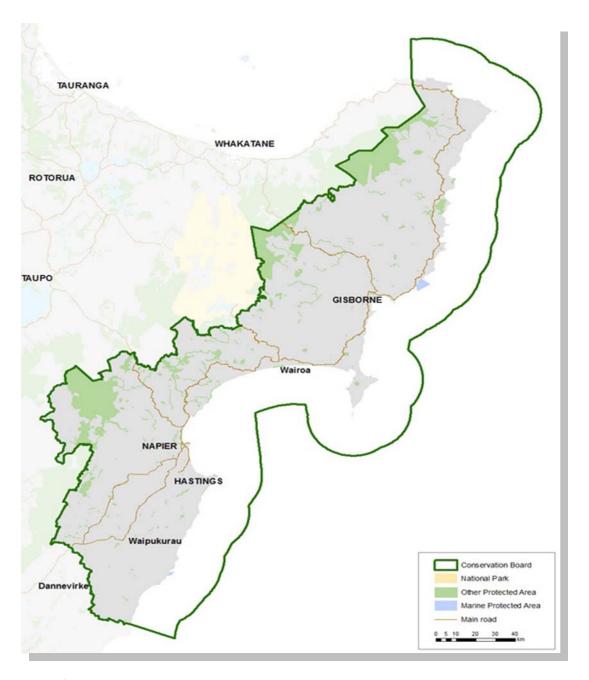
The following table summarises the Board membership during the 2014/15 year:

Name	Area	Date first appointed	Term ends
John Wauchop (Chairperson)	Gisborne	1 July 2014	30 June 2017
Joanne Blakeley	Napier	1 July 2014	30 June 2015
Murray Henare	Te Araroa	1 July 2014	30 June 2016
Jenny Mauger	Napier	1 July 2014	30 June 2017
Penny Shaw	Gisborne	1 July 2014	30 June 2016
Vicki Thorpe	Gisborne	1 July 2014	30 June 2015
Kevin Trerise (Deputy	Havelock North	1 July 2014	30 June 2016
Chairperson)			

4. Board's area

4.1 Coverage

The East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board's coverage extends from Te Araroa (north of Gisborne) to Mangaorapa (Central Hawke's Bay) on the East Coast of the North Island.



Map of East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board area

4.2 Significant areas of natural and historic importance

HAWKE'S BAY

Boundary Stream Mainland Island

Boundary Stream Mainland Island is home to a number of threatened species including North Island brown kiwi, kaka, kokako, New Zealand falcon (karearea) and kereru.

Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve

The reserve is managed by Department of Conservation to protect gannet nesting sites, the 13 ha reserve includes the Saddle and Black Reef Gannet colonies.

Kaweka Forest Park

The Forest Park is characterised by alphine shrublands, tussock valleys and beech forests with pockets of podocarp.

Many native birds can be found in the area including the North Island brown kiwi, New Zealand falcon (karearea), North Island kaka, and



the blue duck. Ten native freshwater fish species have been recorded in the Mohaka River.

Otatara Pa Historic Reserve

One of the largest and most ancient Maori pa sites in the Hawke's Bay. It is significant for the immense size and large number of terraced dwelling sites and food pits. Remnant earthworks of many of these are still evident today.

Te Angiangi Marine Reserve

On the central Hawke's Bay coast approximately 30 km east of Waipukurau and Waipawa, Te Angiangi Marine Reserve protects a piece of coastline of approximately 446 ha.



The reserve is special in that it contains several marine habitat types, including boulder bank area, rocky intertidal platforms and a sheltered bay that is perfect for snorkelling.

EAST COAST

Raukumara Forest Park

The Raukumara Forest Park is one of the least developed or visited tracts of bush in the North Island. Recreation opportunities include climbing Mount Hikurangi, rafting the Motu River and mountain biking Otipi Road.

Cooks Cove Walkway

The walkway was named after the Cove and the English sailor and explorer, Captain James Cook. He visited the area in 1769 as part of his circumnavigation of New Zealand.

Cooks Cove Walkway is situated at the southern end of Tolaga Bay, 52 km north of Gisborne.

Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve



The National Historic Reserve commemorates the first landing place of James Cook in New Zealand in 1769. The site is believed to be within a short distance of the actual landing site, and not far from Te Toka a Taiau where the first significant meeting between Maori and European took place.

Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve

Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve is a small but highly significant remnant of the tall, kahikatea (podocarp) forest which once covered much of the Gisborne Plains. Forested areas are rare on the plains which have been extensively cleared and drained for pastoral farming and agriculture.

It is semi-coastal in character and has a dominant canopy of kahikatea, with significant presence of puriri. It also provides a nesting, resting and feeding habitat for a number of different bird species both native and introduced.

Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve (North of Gisborne)

Protects approximately 2,450 ha of coastline and contains eight marine habitat types that are representative of the area, including inshore reef, rocky intertidal platforms and sediment flats.

Kelp forests, marine snails, kina, sponges, seaweed and a diverse range of fish can be found in the reserve.



5. Board meetings and field visits

The Board decided to rotate its meetings with the aim of sharing between Hawke's Bay and East Coast. This would enable them to view the issues that are arising in the region.

During the 2014/15 year, the Board's formal programme comprised four meetings and three field trips. Meetings of the Board were held in Gisborne, Napier and Waipukurau.

5.1 Meetings

The Board scheduled four full-day meetings:

Date of meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
8 August 2014 - Inaugural	Department of Conservation Napier Office	Napier
10 October 2014	District Council Chambers, Gisborne	Gisborne
30 January 2015	The Picture House	Waipukurau
17 April 2015	Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou Office	Gisborne

5.2 Field Trips

Visits to specific locations provided opportunities for the Board to:

- Become more familiar with the conservation values of key places
- Discuss management challenges and approaches with DOC staff and stakeholders

Field trips were held in 2014/15 to:

- 9 August 2014: Ahuriri Estuary in Napier
- 11 October 2014: Young Nicks Head Station in Gisborne
- 31 January 2015: Ruataniwha Land Exchange in Waipukurau





5.3 Board member's attendance

Attendances at meetings and field trips during 2014/15 are detailed in the following table:

Board Members	Number of meetings attended (4 held)	Number of inspections attended (3 held)
John Wauchop (Chairman)	4	3
Joanne Blakeley	4	3
Murray Henare	4	3
Jenny Mauger	4	3
Penny Shaw	4	3
Vicki Thorpe	3	3
Kevin Trerise	4	3

For approved Board activities, Members are paid \$140 per day and the Chairman \$190 per day.

5.4 Board sub-committees

The Board formed the following sub-committees for 2014/15:

Conservation Management Strategy

John Wauchop (Chairperson) Murray Henare Jo Blakeley Jenny Mauger

Concessions

Penny Shaw (Chairperson) Kevin Trerise Jenny Mauger

5.5 Liaison roles

The Board agreed in order to network and raise their profile to assign liaison roles with neighbouring Fish and Game Council, other Conservation Boards and Territorial Authorities.

The following liaison roles were agreed for 2014/15:

Fish and Game Council

Hawke's Bay Kevin Trerise Gisborne John Wauchop

Other Conservation Boards

Bay of Plenty Murray Henare Tongariro-Taupo Vicki Thorpe Wellington Kevin Trerise

Territorial Authorities

Gisborne John Wauchop Hawke's Bay Jo Blakeley

Treaty Partners

Gisborne Murray Henare Hawke's Bay Jenny Mauger

5.6 Other meetings and activities

Conservation Boards' Chairs Meetings

John Wauchop (Chairman) attended the Conservation Boards' Chairs meetings and lunch hosted by Nicky Wagner (Associate Minister of Conservation) held in November 2014 and June 2015. The purpose of the meetings is to facilitate the sharing of ideas between Conservation Boards' Chairs around achieving conservation outcomes in their communities.

Community Conservation Partnership Fund

Kevin Trerise as Board representative ably assisted the Department at two meetings to consider applications to the second round of the Community Conservation Partnership Fund. The Fund was first established in 2014 to provide \$26 million over four years for community-led conservation projects around New Zealand.

Maori Translation of Board Name

The Maori translation of the Board name "Te Poari Atawhai o Te Tairawhiti ki Ngati Kahungunu" was the result of consultation by the previous East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board. With changes in rohe the Board decided to review the Maori translation and undertook engagement with iwi, hapu and whanau in Hawke's Bay led by Board Member, Jenny Mauger.

The Board then approved the revised name "East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board". The Board to be known by this name to more accurately reflect the Board's boundaries.

6. Public involvement

The Board informs and interacts with the public through forums, correspondence, annual report, DOC website and media releases. The Board's formal relationships with specific organisations are described in section 13.

6.1 Public Forum

During 2014/15, the Board welcomed individuals to a Public Forum, a half an hour session scheduled at each meeting, to enable people to speak to the Board about agenda items or other conservation issues. The Board regards the Forum as an important opportunity to hear from the community and hopes to see more people take up this prospect in 2015/16.

Matters raised by speakers who participated in these Forums included the following:

- Ruataniwha Land Exchange and population of Long Tail Bats
- Water usage within New Zealand
- CMS and management of conservation estate and public land
- Ramifications of treaty settlements and real opportunities provided
- Complimenting DOC staff on work at Gray's Bush (Gisborne) and partnership between DOC and Forest & Bird
- Work being undertaken growing native plants from seeds by Women's Native Tree Project (Gisborne) and sharing with local community groups, schools etc
- Wetlands and any opportunity to increase the habitat

6.2 Correspondence

The Board values receiving information from people who have specific interests and/or a long-term association with specific areas within the East Coast Hawke's Bay region.

6.3 Distribution of the Board's Annual Report

This is the first Annual Report for the re-established Board. The primary audience is the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The Board will circulate the report more widely to increase awareness of the Board's role and conservation issues in the East Coast Hawke's Bay region.

6.4 The Board's website

The Board posts information about the region, meeting agendas and minutes, the Board Members and Annual Report on its pages of the DOC's website.

6.5 Media

The Board sought guidance from the Department on a policy for dealing with the media. In the interim until guidelines were available the Chairman was the first point of contact for the media.

Media releases were considered at meetings and distributed as appropriate. Two media releases were circulated informing the public of the inaugural meeting of the Board and providing an update on the Conservation Management Strategy process.

7. Advising on implementation of the CMS

(Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987)

As the Board was re-established from July 2014, it did not advise on implementation of the current East Coast and Hawke's Bay CMS'. The review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay CMS commenced in 2014/15 and the Board were fully involved in this process.

There has been no activity on Conservation Management Plans during the 2014/15 period, although it is an agenda item at meetings. The Board asked to be informed about the Marine Protected Areas and were briefed by Sean Cooper, DOC Marine Ecosystems Manager at their meeting in January 2015.

8. Review of Conservation Management Strategy

(Section 7H (4) of the Conservation Act 1987)

8.1 Background

The East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board area is presently covered by two existing CMS' that expired in 2008. Draft CMS' were started in 2009/10, reflecting the new Board boundaries that included parts of Bay of Plenty and Wellington. The 2009/10 draft CMS' were never notified. On this basis, the expiry dates for the two existing CMS' were extended by the Minister of Conservation to allow this review process to be completed.

As part of the treaty settlement for Ngāti Porou, the Department and Ngāti Porou are working together to produce a part of the CMS called the nga Whakahaere Takirua that covers the 22 public conservation sites identified in their settlement.

The existing CMS' and the draft CMS will be reviewed and information still considered relevant will be used to augment the new CMS covering the nga Whakahaere Takirua and the East Coast Hawke's Bay areas.

8.2 Updates provided to the Board

The Board were updated by various Department staff at meetings on the CMS process and their expected level of involvement. An indicative timetable for talking with the community from November 2014 through to April 2015 was provided. The drafting of the CMS was to occur after the public consultation with the notification of the draft CMS available in 2016.

The Board also provided input through a workshop exercise on places within the region. They were also updated on the initial consultation process and partnerships teams work to engage with local communities. Board members supported Gisborne and Napier District Office staff at a number of public engagement hui. It was places such as Motu (Gisborne), Wairoa, Napier and Hastings that had the biggest turn-out of local people and quality input into the CMS process.

An approach for the pre-statutory engagement with stakeholders on the East Coast is still being developed between Department staff and Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. This will address the co-authored portion of the CMS nga Whakahaere Takirua.

The Board are expected to be involved in the CMS process in 2015/16, by supporting Department staff during the drafting process, and in preparing for the draft's public notification and subsequent hearings.

9. Advocating for conservation within the Region

(Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987)

The Board considers at each meeting any opportunities and priorities for statutory advocacy and the availability of members to prepare submissions.

During 2014/15, the Board:

- responded to a request from the Wellington Conservation Board on the Ruataniwha Land Exchange
- submissions made to the Gisborne District, Napier City and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils' Long Term Plans

10. Advocating for conservation at a national level

(Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987)

The Board did not make any submission(s) during the 2014/15 year.

11. Advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority

(Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987)

No formal advice was sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). However, the Board did receive their minutes, memos and Annual Report which were considered at its meetings.

The Board were pleased to have Rauru Kirikiri, NZCA (Liaison Officer) in attendance providing guidance to members at their meeting in October 2014.

12. Advice to the Director-General of Conservation

(Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987)

12.1 Concessions

The Board reviewed applications for and progress with concessions at each meeting and provided advice. The Board also decided on triggers for future concessions reports provided by the Department.

12.2 Lower North Island Boundary Changes

The Board supported changes in operational (Services and Partnerships) boundaries for the Department and the East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board boundaries were aligned accordingly.

12.3 DOC response to Ombudsman Report on Routeburn guided concession decision for discussion with Conservation Boards

The Department's response to the Ombudsman Report on the Routeburn Guided Concession was considered by the Board. The Board responded with a letter commending the review and encouraging the raising of the bar of DOC staff in consistency of application and interpretation of concessions.

13. Liaison

13.1 Nature Central

The Board were updated regularly at their meetings on Nature Central in Hawke's Bay by Sarah Owen (Programme Co-ordinator). Nature Central blends with Regional Councils in the area to look at ways of working together on bigger projects such as wilding pines Whareroa Farm, education and shared services.

13.2 Fish and Game Council

Liaison was maintained with Fish and Game in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay with relevant members reporting at meetings on any activity. An invitation was extended to local members of Fish and Game to attend Board meetings.

13. 3 Other Conservation Boards

The minutes and agendas of neighbouring Boards; Bay of Plenty, Tongariro/Taupo and Wellington were provided for member information. Liaison roles were assigned to Board Members for neighbouring Boards.

Julian Lee (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Liaison Officer) attended the Board's October meeting and informed members about the new Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. An invitation was also extended for the Board's representative to reciprocate and attend one of their meetings. It was hoped to continue a close relationship between the Boards with the development of the CMS.

Murray Henare attended Bay of Plenty and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Boards meetings and updated members. Kevin Trerise also updated members after attending the Wellington Conservation Board meeting. Vicki Thorpe would be attending a Taupo/Tongariro Conservation Board meeting in the near future.

13.4 Territorial Authorities

Two members were assigned the liaison role for Gisborne and Hawke's Bay Territorial Authorities. As part of the Board developing a close association with Councils, the Board were pleased to have Meng Foon, Mayor of Gisborne and Judy Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of Gisborne District Council in attendance at the first part of the Board's October meeting.

13.5 Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee

At its inaugural meeting on 8 August 2014, the Board agreed to establish Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee as a committee of the Board.

The Marine Reserve Committee has nine members of which one is from the Conservation Board. Vicki Thorpe was appointed as the Board's representative on the committee until June 2015. The Board agreed to review the matter at that time.

The Board receive regular updates from Vicki on matters of interest discussed at the committee meetings. John Wauchop, Chairman was included on a crayfish monitoring trip to the marine reserve where he observed first-hand the success of the reserve. Of note, was the range of sizes of crayfish, increase in numbers in the reserve and the edge of the reserve was working as well as the reserve itself.



The marine reserve was established in 1999 as the result of many years of work by joint applicants Ngati Konohi and the Department of Conservation. The current marine reserve status has a life of 25 years before a generational review. The reserve has significant recreation, education, scientific research values for the local community with over 15,000 visitors each year. It is one of the most accessible, safe and visited marine reserves in the country. The reserve continues to be a place for everyone to enjoy thanks to the regular compliance work undertaken by Jamie Quirk (DOC Ranger, Services) ably assisted by the Ministry for Primary Industries staff.

Appendix 1: Conservation Board Work Programme 14/15

- Establishing a robust East Coast Hawke's Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Māui Conservation Board Governance team, that enables members to reflect the voice of their local communities including Iwi, Hapu, Whanau and enable wide support for conservation within the Board region while providing strong support to the conservation growth opportunities.
- Develop and maintain constructive communications with neighboring Boards to ensure cross boundary issues are recognized.
- Develop productive relationships with Directors and Managers which support the implementation of LNIR conservation work programmes within the respective districts.
- Allocate portfolio responsibilities to ensure effective issue leadership.
- Contribute and participate in the development of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and Ngāti Porou - Nga Whakahaere Takirua CMS via the consultation, planning overview and draft strategy ratification processes
- Understand and support the Treaty Settlement process and departmental obligations under Section 4 (Conservation Act 1987) for Iwi, Hapu & Whanau engagement; obligations and prospects.
- Provide support for the Departments current and future partnership growth initiatives with Local Government, Iwi, Hapu, Communities & Businesses, within the respective districts.
- Provide leadership, support and input to agreed concession triggers within the respective districts and provide guidance in the establishment of Concessions where the Board "triggers" are activated.
- Engage appropriately where opportunities arise and provide support for the work programmes for Ecological Management Units and other sites of significance of each respective district.