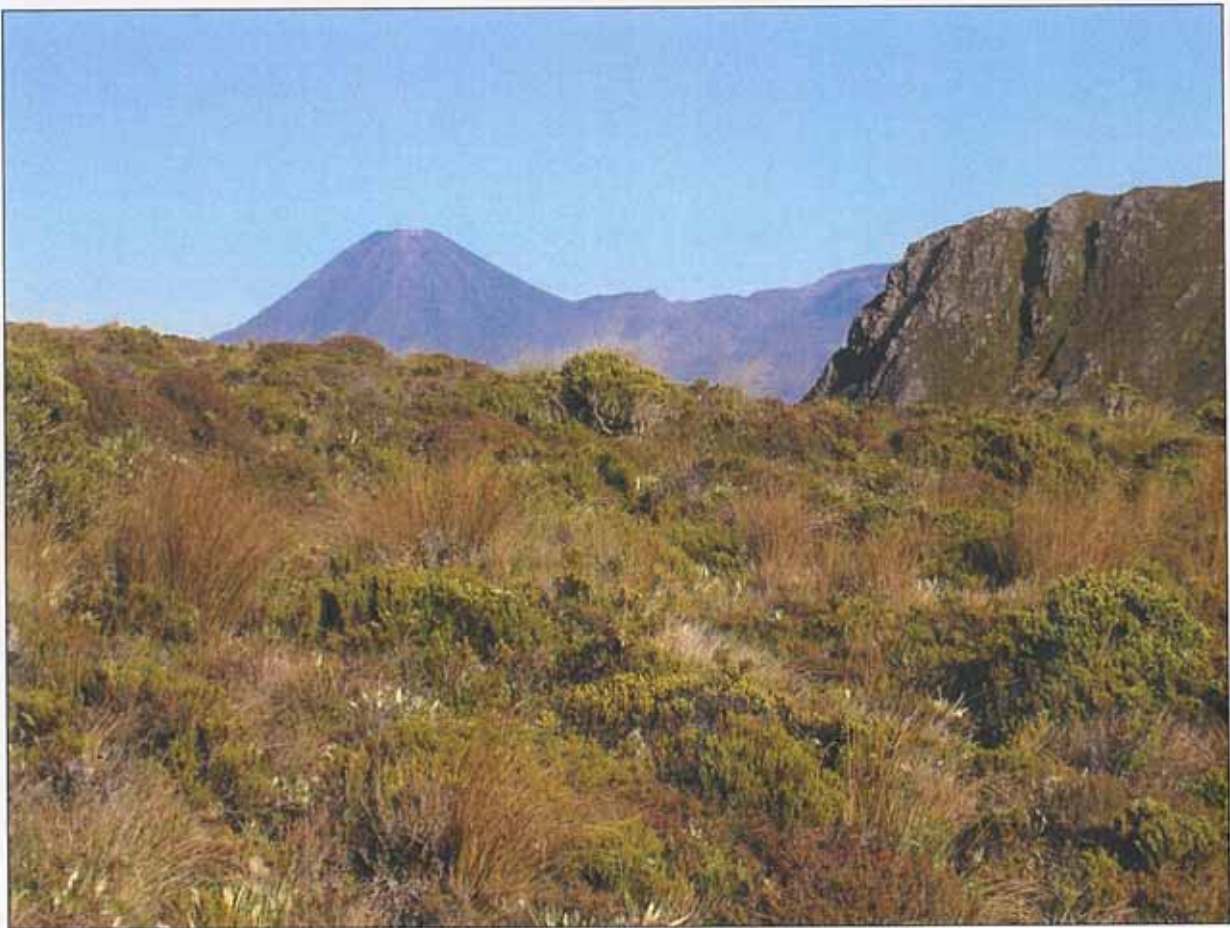


ISSN 1176-6735

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

Te Poari Papa Atawhai
o Tongariro/Taupo



Annual Report

1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

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o Tongariro/Taupo

Annual Report

1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987

Serviced by the Department of Conservation

Turanga Place,
Private Bag,
Turangi

Front Cover: Kaimanawa Forest Park
Photo: Bruce Jefferies

Chairperson's Report

Management Plans

Another busy year for the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board has seen the completion of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan. The subcommittee chaired by Warwick Silvester has put a great effort in getting to the final stages. They have had to seek legal advice from the department's chief legal adviser Jonty Somers, an addition to the work load. To complete the plan another meeting with Ngati Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board and the Ketetahi Trust took place to discuss the advice received from the legal advisor. When this is completed and an agreement reached, we will be able to finish the plan.

In September the Board began their review of the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan the sub-committee for this is chaired by Les Molloy. It is envisaged that we will have the plan in the public arena by October 2005. All things going well it should be completed by March 2006.

Crater Lake

Mount Ruapehu lake crater has been to the fore again. The subcommittee chaired by Murray McKee has kept a watchful eye on lake levels along with the department's scientist, Dr Harry Keys. A presentation by Jarrad Bowler, from Genesis, on their hazards and warning systems was held at our December 2004 and we also discussed any issues concerning the departments own warning systems. Our partners Ngati Tuwharetoa and Ngati Rangi are kept informed of the situation at regular intervals. Their stance is still no interference at the lake crater. The Board still stands firm in its view of not intervening at the lake itself as well.

Lake Taupo Water Quality and Related Matters

The Board again this year has taken a special interest in the Lake Taupo water quality and increasing urban development in Taupo resulting in pressures on public conservation land. The Statutory Planning subcommittee, lead by Brian Robinson, has made several submissions on matters related to Lake Taupo water quality and urban development. Firstly to Environment Waikato, on the proposed Regional Plan, Variation 5, on limiting nitrogen entry to the lake. Secondly to the Taupo District Council plan, Variation 8, and Taupo West Rural Structure Plan. The subcommittee have also attended several hearings.

The Blue-Duck Programme

This project is now underway. The project is to secure a combined minimum population of forty inter-relating pairs in the central North Island. To achieve this we will have to control predators like stoats. Nic Etheridge (Technical Support Officer) reported to the Board on the response of Blue Duck populations to predators and predator control. Thanks to the support of local iwi and the Sir Edmund Hilary Outdoor Pursuit Centre.

Special thanks to Bub Smith for his efforts in this programme.

The Old Coach Road and The Historic Hapuawhenua Viaduct

Following strong submissions to the Tongariro National Park Management plan hearings the Ohakune Coach Road and the Hapuawhenua viaduct have been included as managed resources in the new management plan. The Board has taken a particular interest in this including a site visit in

2003. The development of these resources is the subject of a joint Department of Conservation and local community initiative. This has developed to where the people of Ohakune are progressing to organise funding and working groups to proceed with the clearing of the cobble stones. This initiative will be followed with interest by the Board.

World Heritage

In October 2004, at the Grand Chateau, the World Heritage Committee met with the express purpose of producing a five year strategic plan, for the World Heritage in the Pacific. This was chaired by Tumu te Heuheu and the powhiri was held at Whakapapa Visitor Centre. There were sixty people in attendance from all over the South Pacific. Department of Conservation and Conservation Board members also took part.

Conservation Awards

In December many Board members were present at the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy's Conservation awards. This was well supported by the community and the Schools throughout the district.

I would like to thank the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy staff for their assistants and co-operation during the past year. Particular mention to Paul Green, Sean Goddard, Dave Lumley, Mark Davies, Rowena Cudby and Jodine Hood must be made. John Nankervis has been reappointed to the New Zealand Conservation Authority, congratulations to John, he has kept the Board up to date during the year. Last but not least I would like to thank all my Board members for all their hard work and achievements. To those members that have retired, Bettine Davies, Murrary McKee and Lynette Brown much appreciation for your services to this Board, I wish them well for the future and for any new endeavours that they may pursue.

Naku Noa,



Na. J. A. Wilson
Chair

1 Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Members

The following people were members of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board during 2004/2005:

Chair

James Wilson (Alex), Rotorua¹

Board Members

Lynette Brown, Taupo

Bettine Davies, Taupo

Ngaire George, Rotorua¹

Maree Gurney, Marton¹

Bruce Jefferies, Taupo

Murray McKee, Wellington

Les Molloy, Wellington

Richard Pirere, Ohakune¹

Brian Robinson, Taupo

Warwick Silvester, Hamilton

Ngarau Tarawa, Taumarunui²

Tumu te Heuheu, Taumarunui

¹Member since 8 October 2004

²Term ended 13 August 2004



Back Row: from Left: Murray McKee, Richard Pirere, Warwick Silvester, Bruce Jefferies, Jim Maniapoto (Kaupapa Manager), Paul Green (Conservator)

Front Row from Left: Les Molloy, Alex Wilson (Chair), Bettine Davies, Brian Robinson, Ngaire George, Tumu te Heuheu

2 Functions and Powers of the Board

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board is an independent advisory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board is responsible, under this Act, for shaping conservation management through the development of a conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for land administered by the Department of Conservation in Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy. The Tongariro National Park is administered under the National Parks Act 1980 under which the Board also has functions. The Tongariro National Park Management Plan is developed under that Act. The Board provides advice on policy to the Department, acts as a liaison body between the Crown and the public, and advocates for conservation values on land not administered by the Department.

3 Introduction to the Board District

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy covers 780,000 hectares, of which approximately 217,000 hectares are administered by the Department of Conservation. The conservancy is unique in that it has no sea coastline and includes the Lake Taupo sport fishery.

The Conservancy is dominated by the volcanic landscape of Tongariro National Park, the beech forest and tussock ranges of Kaimanawa Forest Park and by New Zealand's largest lake, Lake Taupo. Tongariro, Erua and Rangataua conservation areas to the east and south of the national park play a valuable part in terms of their ecological features and recreational opportunities.

Tangata whenua – Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Hikairo, Ngati Rangi and Ngati Tahu Iwi – have long had a special relationship and history with the mountains, lakes, waterways and geothermal features of this area. Tongariro, New Zealand's first national park, grew from the Ngati Tuwharetoa gift of its mountains to the nation in 1887. The park received World Heritage status in 1988 for natural landscape values and in 1993 for its cultural landscape values, recognising the special significance of the mountains to Tuwharetoa and Wanganui iwi.

The Conservancy contains many rare, uncommon, vulnerable or threatened native plants, birds, communities and ecosystems. Managing these in light of weeds, predators, fires and other threats remains a challenge.

The landscape of the area is unique in New Zealand and large numbers of national and international visitors come here for sightseeing and recreation. Tongariro National Park is the most visited national park in New Zealand and numbers are expected to rise further. In contrast, the surrounding mountain ranges retain a feeling of remoteness and isolation which is increasingly sought by recreationists - New Zealanders especially.



4 Meetings 2004/2005

Meetings (5)

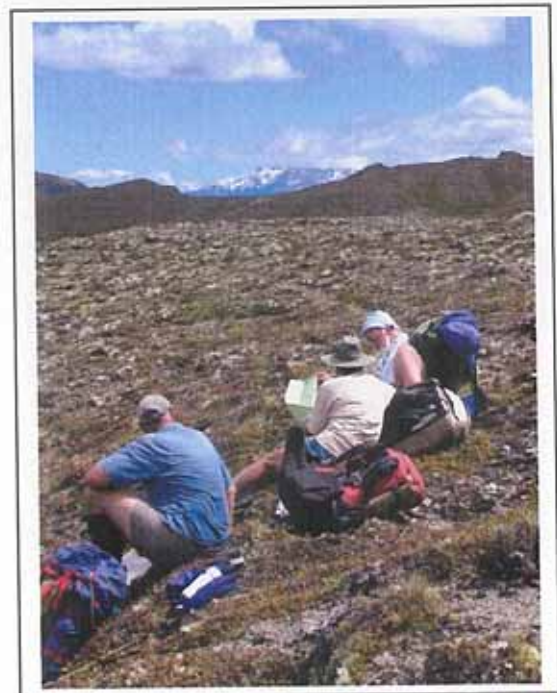
13 August 2004	Department of Conservation, Turangi
08 October 2004	Department of Conservation, Turangi
03 December 2004	Department of Conservation, Turangi
18 February 2005	Department of Conservation, Turangi
15 April 2005	Meeting Cancelled due to not getting a quorum
17 June 2005	Department of Conservation, Turangi

Board members attendance at meetings was as follows:

Lynette Brown	1
Bettine Davies	5
Ngaire George	2 ¹
Maree Gurney	4 ¹
Bruce Jefferies	4
Murray McKee	4
Les Molloy	5
Richard Pirere	3 ¹
Brian Robinson	5
Warwick Silvester	3
Ngarau Tarawa	0 ²
Tumu te Heuheu	1
Alex Wilson	5 ¹

1 Board members appointed 8 October 2004

2 Board members term ended 13 August 2004



5 Board Functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987¹

5.1 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES – SECTION 6M(1)(A)

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy was approved in May 2002 and has a lifetime of ten years.

5.2 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS – SECTION 6M(1)(B)

The Board and the department have worked on the Tongariro National Park Management Plan review process during 2004/2005.

The Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan review is underway and a discussion document was provided to the Board in August 2004. Many Board members attended a round of public consultation meetings during September and October on the discussion document. Board members each received a full copy of public submissions to the discussion document. The draft Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan is due out in July 2005 with a combined board/staff workshop on the draft planned for 29 July 2005.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CMS – SECTION 6M(1)(C)

The Board has initiated the process of CMS monitoring reporting which was established in early 2004. The Board was briefed on seven of the 18 sections of the CMS. The sections covered were:

- Additions to and Classification of Conservation Land
- Natural Hazards (Including Fire) and Earth Resources Protection
- Control of Animal Pests
- Taupo Basin
- Protected Species – Fauna
- Protected Species – Flora
- Recreational Use Management (Excluding Skiing)

The way the Board responds to and liaises with the Department of Conservation continues to evolve as the Board becomes more familiar with the process.

¹ There was no action under sections 6M(1)(G) and 6M(2).

5.4 ADVICE TO THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION ON CHANGES TO LAND STATUS – SECTION 6M(1)(D)

There has been no progress on the addition of Rangataua Forest to the Tongariro National Park or the gazettal of Tongariro Forest as a conservation park. These areas are currently subject to a Treaty of Waitangi claim.

The gazettal of the proposed scenic reserves Huka Falls, Alum Lakes and Craters of the moon are still on hold due to outstanding Treaty issues and the settlement of the Crown's obligations to Contact Energy Limited.

5.5 ADVICE TO THE NZ CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON ANY OTHER CONSERVATION MATTERS – SECTION 6M(1)(D)(II)

The Board made submission on the National Parks draft policy mountain bike statements.

5.6 ADVICE TO THE NZ CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW WALKWAYS – SECTION 6M(1)(E)

The Board continues to be interested in the possibility of a walking track around Lake Taupo. A proposal by Bike Taupo, a community group, concerning the establishment of a multi-user track from Whakaipo Bay to Kinloch is still being undertaken.

5.7 LIAISON WITH FISH AND GAME COUNCILS – SECTION 6M(1)(F)

A Eastern Fish and Game Council representative continues to be informed of the Board's work through agenda papers and minutes.

6 Board Powers under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987²

6.1 REPRESENTATION AT PUBLIC FORUMS AND STATUTORY PLANNING PROCESSES – SECTION 6N(2)(A)

Board members attended public forums and the Board advocates for conservation values in the statutory planning process as follows:

- Written and verbal submissions on the geothermal policies of the draft Waikato Regional Policy Statement
- Written submission to the Draft Variation to the Waikato Regional Plan: Lake Taupo Catchment

² There was no action under sections 6N(1) and 6N(2)(C).

- Written and verbal submissions on the Taupo District Plan, Variation 8 Rural Provisions
- Written submission on MAF/MfE Discussion paper: Freshwater for a sustainable future: issues and options.
- Written submission to the Proposed Taupo West Rural Structure Plan



6.2 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEES – 6N(2)(B)

The Board operated the following committees:

Concessions	Brian Robinson (facilitator), Richard Pirere, Ngaire George, Lynette Brown.
Crater Lake	Murray McKee (facilitator), Richard Pirere, Warwick Silvester.
Management Planning	Warwick Silvester (facilitator for TNPMP), Murray McKee, Tumu te Heuheu, Les Molloy (facilitator for KFPMP), Bruce Jefferies.
Statutory Planning	Brian Robinson (facilitator), Bruce Jefferies, Lynette Brown, Bettine Davies.
CMS Monitoring	Les Molloy (facilitator), Murray McKee, Bettine Davies, Brian Robinson.
Recreation	Bruce Jefferies (facilitator), Les Molloy, Maree Gurney.

6.3 MATTERS AFFECTING OR RELATING TO THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS – SECTION 6N(3)

The Board was informed on the following issues and topics of note:

- The Tongariro National Park Management Plan review process;
- Mount Ruapehu Crater Lake levels and potential lahar risk management;
- Whakapapa and Iwikau village Sewage Scheme opening
- Attend World Heritage workshop
- Skifield amenity areas;
- Grand Chateau extension, Tongariro National Park;
- Concessions Review;
- Recreation Opportunities Review;
- The Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan review process;
- Makatote Western Red Cedar;
- Nga Whenua Rahui;
- Heather Beetle trials;
- Visitor numbers and study on use limits on Tongariro Crossing;
- Genesis Hazards and Warning System;
- Urban development in and around Taupo resulting in increasing pressure on public conservation land, especially lakeshore reserves;
- Taupo nui a Tia 2020 Action Plan;
- Weed spraying and track maintenance;
- Draft Taupo District Plan Variation 8 Rural Provisions;
- Five Mile Bay Rec Reserve, Camping Ground Proposal;
- Old Coach Road;
- Hapuawhua Viaduct;
- Proposed Kinloch/Whakaipo Bay mountain biking/walking track
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Summer Nature Programme;
- Resource consent updates;
- Environment Waikato Regional Policy Statement;
- Proposed Waikato Regional Plan: Draft Variation Lake Taupo Catchment;
- Geothermal Forum;
- NZ World Heritage Tentative List Discussion Document;
- 1080 Operations;
- Central North Island Blue Duck Project;
- Conservation Week activities in August 2004;
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Awards on 02 December 2003;
- 2004/2005 Business Planning priorities;
- Department of Conservation's Strategic Directions 2004-2009;

- Statement of Intent; 2005-2008

... and provided input to/responded to/acted on the following:

- Draft general policies for conservation and national parks;
- Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan Discussion document public meeting
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Conservation Awards 2004;
- Conservation Week 2004;
- Farm Environment Awards Trust;
- Management of Whakaipo Bay and 5 Mile Bay recreation reserves; and
- Lakes and Waterways Action Group and Lake Taupo Water Quality.



7 Board Responsibilities under Other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987³

7.1 ANNUAL REPORT – SECTION 60

The Board's 2003/2004 Annual Report was provided to the NZCA in August 2004.

³ There was no action under sections 16A(2) and 17K.

7.2 STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP OF NGATI TUWHARETOA PARAMOUNT CHIEF – SECTION 6P(5)(B)

Tumu te Heuheu, ariki of Ngati Tuwharetoa since July 1997, is a statutory member of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board.

7.3 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS SECTION 6Q(1)

The Board did not co-opt any members during 2004/2005.

7.4 CONCESSIONS – PART IIIB

The Board's concessions committee continues to assess those applications forwarded to the Board by the Department - that is, all those applications that require advertising and all others as thought necessary by the Department or requested by the Board. A concessions schedule is presented at each Board meeting. At the first meeting of each financial year members receive a full annual summary. The Department provides feedback to the Board on all applications with which the Board's committee has been involved.

During 2004/2005 the concessions committee considered applications from:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| - Taupo Plunket | Renewal of lease at the Scannell Street Local Purpose Reserve. |
| - Taupo Float Plane | Renewal of lease for the activities conducted on the Taupo Landing Recreation Reserve |

8 Board Responsibilities Under Other Acts

No actions were taken by the Board under the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990.

The Board responded to all concession applications, where they involved reserves, in terms of the Reserves Act 1977.

9 Liaison

All Board members receive the minutes of the New Zealand Conservation Authority meetings. Through the year contact has been maintained with NZCA liaison member John Nankervis who attended the Board's December meeting.

Agendas and minutes from neighbouring conservation boards are provided to individual liaison members who raise items of relevance and occasionally attend other boards' meetings.

The Board continues to liaise with numerous organisations including:

Bike Taupo;
Eastern Regional Fish & Game Council;
Environment Waikato;
Farm Environment Award Trust;
Federated Mountain Clubs;
Genesis;
Lakes and Waterways Action Group;
Lake Taupo Development Co.
Mighty River Power;
Ngati Hikairo ki Tongariro Trust;
Ngati Rangi Trust;
NZ Forest Managers;
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society;

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts
Ruapehu District Council;
Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association;
Taupo District Council;
Taupo-nui-a-Tia Management Board;
Taupo-nui-a-Tia 2020;
The Grand Chateau;
Tongariro National Trout Centre Trust;
Tongariro Natural History Society;
Tongariro River Advocates Inc.; and
Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board.



10 The Board's 2004/2005 Financial Year

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board 2004/2005 Expenditure

Resource	Expenditure
Board Member Fees	6,426
Postage/Freight & Courier	171
Phones, Tolls, Faxes	124
Domestic Travel - Airfares	0
Domestic Travel – Other Cost	5,777
Office Supplies	2,371
Purchase Field Supplies	1,226
Printing and Publishing	1,109
Catering & Entertainment	1,275
Ex-Gratia / Koha	0
Total	18,479

11 Adoption of Report

Moved:

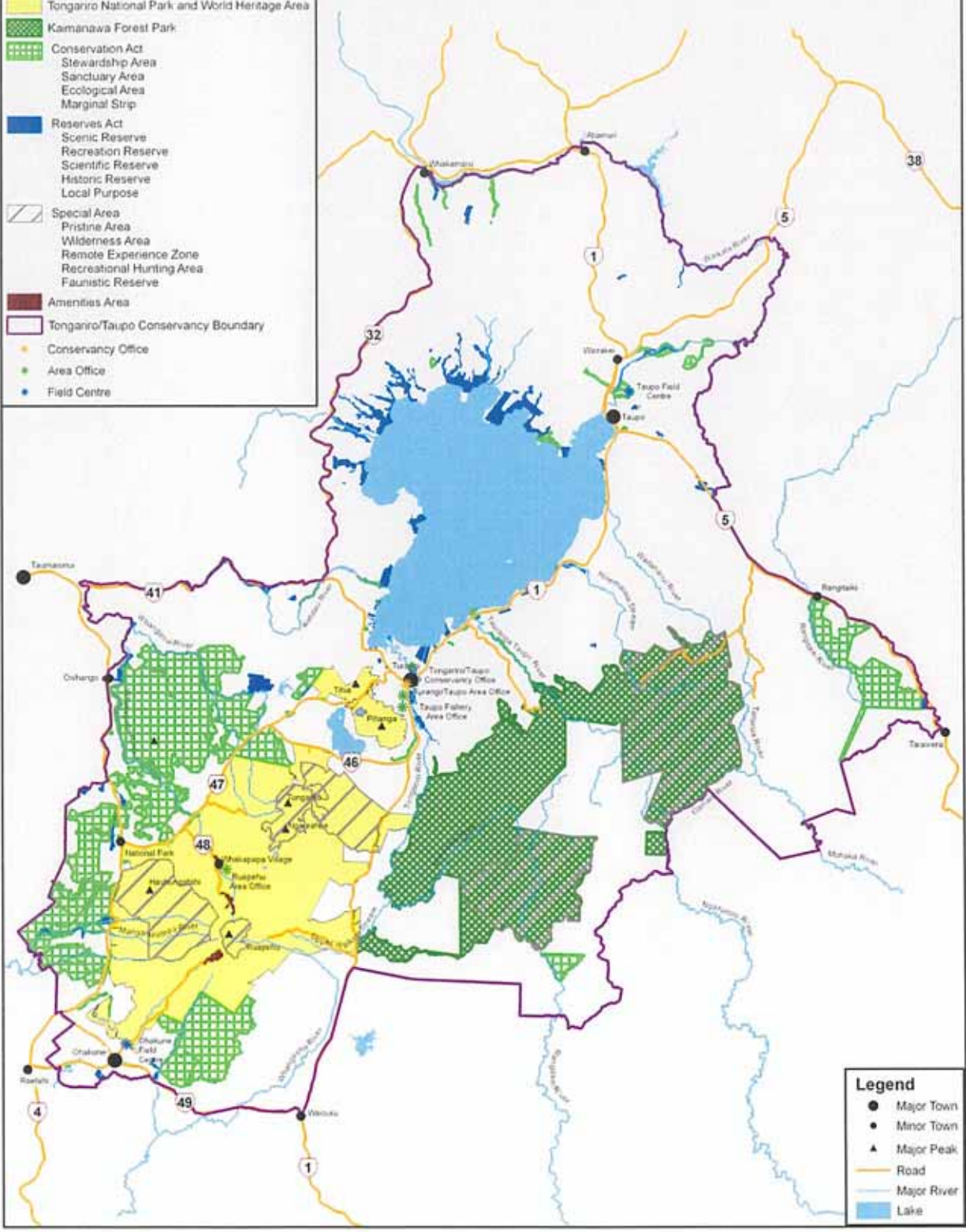
That the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board adopt the annual report for 2004/2005 and forward it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority, as required under section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987.

Alex Wilson/Brian Robinson
Carried

Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy

Key to Public Conservation Land

- Tongariro National Park and World Heritage Area
- Kaimanawa Forest Park
- Conservation Act
 - Stewardship Area
 - Sanctuary Area
 - Ecological Area
 - Marginal Strip
- Reserves Act
 - Scenic Reserve
 - Recreation Reserve
 - Scientific Reserve
 - Historic Reserve
 - Local Purpose
- Special Area
 - Pristine Area
 - Wilderness Area
 - Remote Experience Zone
 - Recreational Hunting Area
 - Faunistic Reserve
- Amenities Area
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Boundary
- Conservancy Office
- Area Office
- Field Centre



- ### Legend
- Major Town
 - Minor Town
 - Major Peak
 - Road
 - Major River
 - Lake

