

East Coast Hawkes Bay Te Tairāwhiti ki Te Matau-a-Maui Conservation Board Annual Report 2020- 2021



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Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Front Cover: The Board at Taumatawhakatangihangakōauauotamateapōkaiwhenuakitānatahu 26 February 2021, Sara Robinson (DOC) & Anaura Bay (DOC)

Back cover: Te Angiangi Marine Reserve, 27 February 2021, Sara Robinson (DOC) & Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve (DOC)

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1. Chairperson's report

Poipoa te kakano kia puāwai

Nurture the seed and it will blossom

This, my last report as Chairperson, gives me an opportunity to reflect on not only this year but also my seven years on the Board. It's been a tremendous journey that I feel very fortunate to have taken. In this period there's been massive changes of funding for conservation and DOC, the nationwide development of Predator Free 2050 New Zealand, a global pandemic, and climate change. Whew!!

In regards climate change, the ECHB draft Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) refers to the DOC report "Climate Change in East Coast and Hawke's Bay localized projections to support impact assessments". By 2090 we may see as much as a 15% reduction in annual rainfall, 30 more dry days (<1 mm), an annual temperature increase of 3°C, and up to 40 fewer frost nights in the Kaweka Forest Park. We may also see a small increase in heavy rain days, not unlike those experienced in Napier in November 2020! This will undoubtedly impact on our landscape and on our people. It's something the Board needs to have front of mind.

A major role of the Board is to monitor the CMS and it has been a big disappointment for me that the Hawke's Bay CMS (1994 to 2004) and the East Coast (1998- 2008) have not yet been replaced with the promised new version for the combined ECHB region! DOC have not prioritised resource to planning and management but instead have lurched into projects funded from other Ministry buckets such as "tourism", or since 2020, through partnering in "jobs for nature"! It's a precarious situation to have the funding of DOC so uncertain. One of my first Board meetings was with the NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA) around 2015, where it tasked themselves and DOC with finding a better planning model and mooted the idea of having the East Coast help to pilot it! However, it was the Wellington Board that managed to charge ahead with designated planning resources and has a replaced CMS that they can monitor. This wasn't without issues that we are hopeful of learning from! We have come to a full circle as the NZCA in late 2020 confronted DOC with its concerns and DOC has undertaken an urgent review of its statutory management planning process. There is a new CMS approach planned, one that will have greater meaning for iwi and hapū and where DOC can more directly see its value for their own planning purposes!! Each CMS will contribute and work alongside Te Mana o te Taiao – the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, that guides the way all of Aotearoa works to protect and restore nature. It promises to be an exciting time ahead and I am encouraged to think that our new Board will finally get to have transparent and visible goals for conservation in our region that it can help to monitor for the public.

I like to interpret DOC's mission, "Papatūānuku thrives", into actions where "no native species goes extinct in our watch"! I write this at a time where the presence of (feral) dogs in conservation areas have caused devastation to kiwi restoration work, and where deer, pigs and goats are inhibiting any sense of biodiversity restoration in Forest Parks! The work we have ahead is challenging, and it is important. In our East Coast rohe there are inter-generational reviews of Te Tapuwae O Rongokako and Te Angiangi marine reserves, continued landscape scale restoration projects, conservation education, historic area preservation and enhancement, and endangered species protection.

The communities in the rohe need clear direction on managing the conservation estate, and the Board needs to have a way to monitor what gets managed! The board's objectives for the new year embrace all these matters.

During the last year we have had good attendance at our Public Forums. In some of these we have been able to enhance our own knowledge when hearing from experts on topics such as the endangered long-tailed bat, stream restoration, and water quality management.

The many highlights of being on the Board for me include meeting conservation leaders, getting closer to our special flora and fauna than most members of the public will ever do, and being strongly connected into the wonderful mahi that our Te Papa Atawhai people are doing. Alongside that privilege has been the responsibility of being a bridge between our community and the Department! There has always been so much to learn, and I've been very grateful for the support that DOC operations managers and directors have given me while in this role. There were several (!) but I do want to particularly acknowledge Chris Visser, John Lucas, Moana Dunlop, Jenny Nelson-Smith, Jack Mace, Reg Kemper, and of course, the amazing Sara Robinson our long-standing Board Support Officer!

The Board welcomed Doug Bailey in February, who joined Dr Lucy Meagher from Hawke's Bay. We saw two members resign in 2021, Sam Gibson in January and Wayne Taylor in April. Rena Kohere was co-opted onto the Board in February, whilst the process of nominations for the 2021/2022 year took place.

My thanks and acknowledgements to our deputy Chair, Apenti Tamanui-Fransen, for his leadership and knowledge in Te Ao Māori, his planning expertise, and his support at meetings. The connection into the NZCA remains vital for our functioning and it was good to have our new liaison person, Maxine Shortland zoom into our meetings over the last year. I know that I will also miss the keen and intelligent network of conservation board Chairs and leaders.

Finally, my sincere thanks to my fellow retiring Board colleague, Penny Shaw, who has served previously as Chair and as a Deputy Chairperson. Your friendship, leadership, enthusiasm for conservation, and your important networking in our Tairāwhiti tourism and conservation communities have been invaluable.

While I step away from this role I will remain connected into conservation and no doubt will see many of you again. I look forward to spending a bit more time helping my own small piece of Aotearoa becoming predator free!

Hei konā mai

Joanne Blakeley
30 June 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Blakeley', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

2. Introduction

This is the seventh East Coast Hawkes Bay 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 East Coast Hawkes Bay 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:

- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- 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

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

The East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 3,268,295.98 hectares.

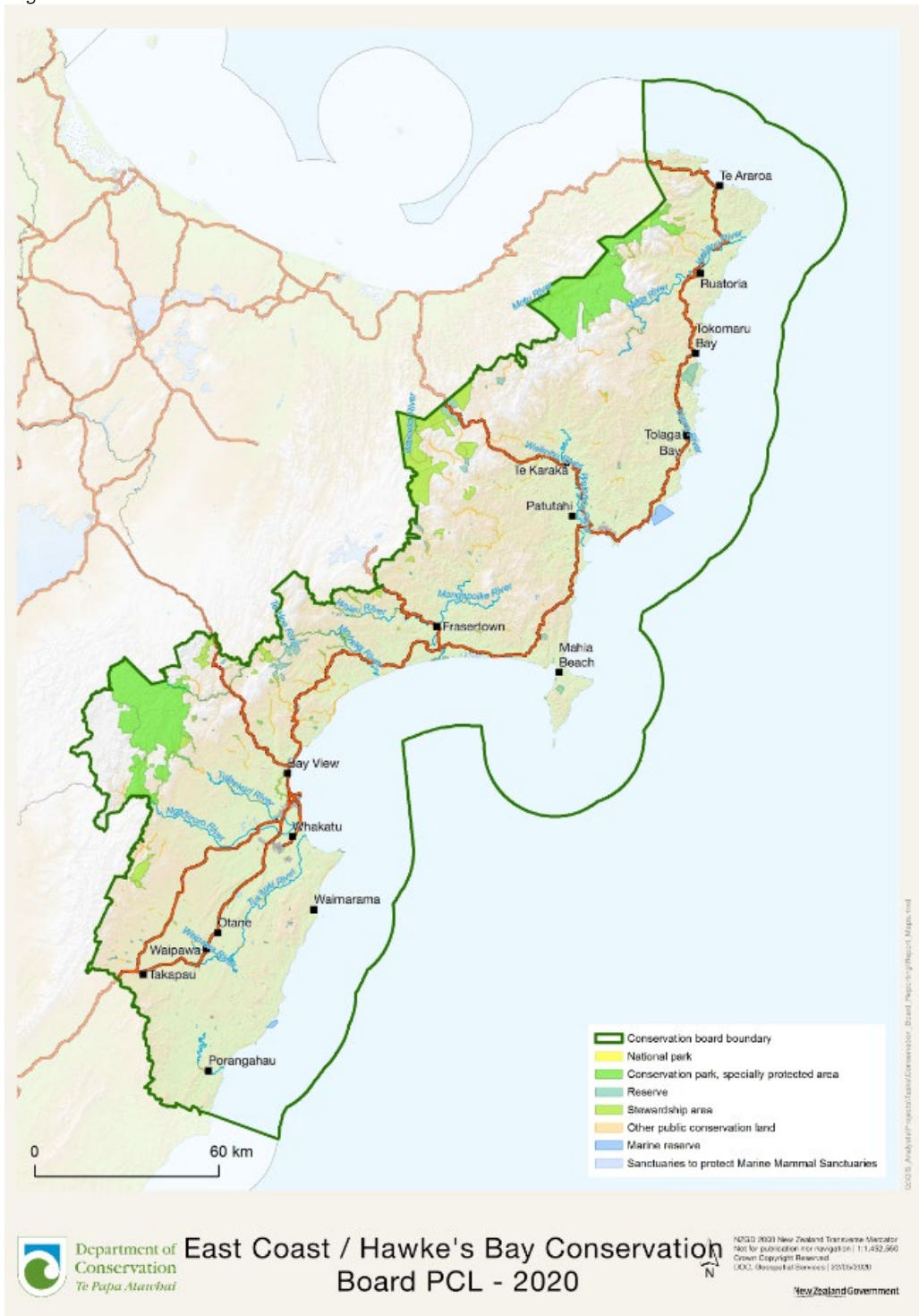
The jurisdiction extends from Te Araroa (north of Gisborne) to Mangaorapa (Central Hawke's Bay) on the East coast of the North Island. The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species.

Approximately 1.37% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within East Coast/Hawke's Bay's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 5.47% of all land in East Coast/Hawke's Bay. This consists of:

- 175,921.75 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 2,916.6 hectares of Marine Reserves

Figure 1 East Conservation Board Jurisdiction



3.1. Conservation features of the area

- Ruahine Forest Park - 1,91 ha
- Raukūmara Conservation Park - 51,582.44 ha
- Kāweka Forest Park - 61,461.49 ha
- 9 Recreation Reserves - 82.28 ha
- 6 Historic Reserves - 1,578.06 ha
- 61 Scenic Reserves - 10,224.11 ha
- 2 Specially Protected Areas - 160.69 ha
- 150 Marginal Strips - 2,847.01 ha
- 89 Stewardship Areas - 47,306.27 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves - 2,916.60 ha

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 and 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
- 5) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
- 6) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 8) 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 membership

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Jo Blakeley was appointed Chairperson for a second year and Apenti Tamanui-Fransen appointed Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Jo Blakeley (Chair)	Hastings	01/07/2014	30/06/2021	3
Penny Shaw	Gisborne	01/07/2014	30/06/2021	3
Lucy Meagher	Havelock North	01/07/2016	30/06/2022	2
Sam Gibson	Whāngārā	01/07/2017	11/01/2021	1
Wayne Taylor	Raupunga	01/07/2019	21/04/2021	1
Apenti Tamanui-Fransen	Gisborne	19/11/2019	30/06/2022	1
Doug Bailey	Napier	1/07/2020	30/06/2023	1
Rena Kohere	Gisborne	22/02/2021	30/06/2021	.4

4.4. Members profiles

Jo Blakeley (Chairperson)

Jo has worked in the senior leadership team of the Eastern Institute of Technology since 2003 and lives in rural Hawke's Bay. In addition to extensive experience in tertiary education management and quality within New Zealand, Jo is trained in horticultural science and has a passion for environmental education. Her outdoor recreation interests include tramping and land restoration.

Apenti Tamanui-Fransen (Deputy Chairperson)

Apenti is the Waka Maia lead for Māori Business Kaimanaaki and offers skills in management planning and policy, stakeholder relationship management, and excellent iwi/hapū relationships.

Penny Shaw

Penny is a life member and president of Tourism Eastland. She has detailed knowledge of the tourism industry on the East Coast and is experienced as a member, president and secretary of boards and committees. Currently also Group Welfare Manager for Tairāwhiti Civil Defence. Her outdoor recreation interests are gardening, hiking, cycling and travel.

Lucy Meagher

Lucy is a science teacher at Havelock North High School. She has a degree in agricultural chemistry and has been employed previously by the US Department of Agriculture, Fonterra and AgResearch. She has prior experience as a technical member of the Food Standards ANZ board. Her outdoor interests are in tramping, fishing, and helping in the restoration of wetlands for native birds.

Wayne Taylor

Wayne is a current member of the Wairoa Waikaremoana Māori Trust Board. He has land environmental management experience and is familiar with the Conservation Act and the RMA. He has affiliations to Ngāti Pāhauwera and Ngāti Aonui.

Doug Bailey

Doug is a member of the NZ Institute of Directors and former Chartered Accountant. He has particular expertise in strategy, risk management, audit and compliance. He is involved in several natural and historical heritage projects in the south of Hawke's Bay.

Rena Kohere

Rena (of Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, and Ngāi Tahu) is the Manager for Tairāwhiti Environment Centre. She has experience working with local and central government, iwi and hapū, and diverse community groups.

4.5. Board meetings

The Board held six out of six meetings during the reporting period. 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.

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
28 August 2020	DOC Office Napier/Gisborne - Teams Meeting
25/26 September 2020	Conference Room, MCIA Accountants, Dannevirke - Joint meeting with Wellington Conservation Board
6/7 November 2020	DOC Office Gisborne
26/27 February 2021	Pōrangahau Country Club & Rongomaraeroa Marae, Pōrangahau
15/16 April 2021	Joint Meeting with NZCA, DOC Office Napier.
18/19 June 2021	DOC office Gisborne



Back left to right - Angus Ngarangioue, Apenti Eruera, Doug Jones, Sam Gibson, Doug Bailey, John Lucas
Front left to right - Chris Visser, Pania King, Amy England, Penny Shaw, Bella Hawkins, Allies Whakataka, Andrew White

4.6. 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 also attended CMS working group meetings organised by the Department, subcommittee meetings and representative roles.


Table 3:

Board member	Board meetings	Special events
Jo Blakeley	6/6	
Penny Shaw	5/6	1/1
Lucy Meagher	5/6	
Sam Gibson	2/6	
Wayne Taylor	3/6	
Apenti Tamanui-Fransen	4/6	
Doug Bailey	5/6	
Rena Kohere	3/6	

4.7. Field trips and site inspections

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

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trip destination and purpose
<p>26 September 2020</p>	<p>Walk along the Gorge Track from Balance End to Windy Lookout. The purpose of this was to see the work that had been done on the track with a Jobs for Nature project. This was a joint trip with the Wellington Conservation Board.</p>  <p>From left to right: Nicole McCrossin (WGTN), Sara Arhaim (WGTN), Jo Blakeley (ECHB), Doug Bailey (ECHB), Raewyn Moss (WGTN), Moana Smith-Dunlop (DOC), Apenti Tamanui-Fransen (ECHB), Chris Visser (DOC), Dan Elderkamp (WGTN), Lucy Meagher (ECHB), Esther Dijkstra (WGTN), Barry Wards (WGTN), Sara Robinson (DOC), Jenny Rowan (WGTN)</p>



View from Windy Lookout



Walking through the Gorge

7 November
2020

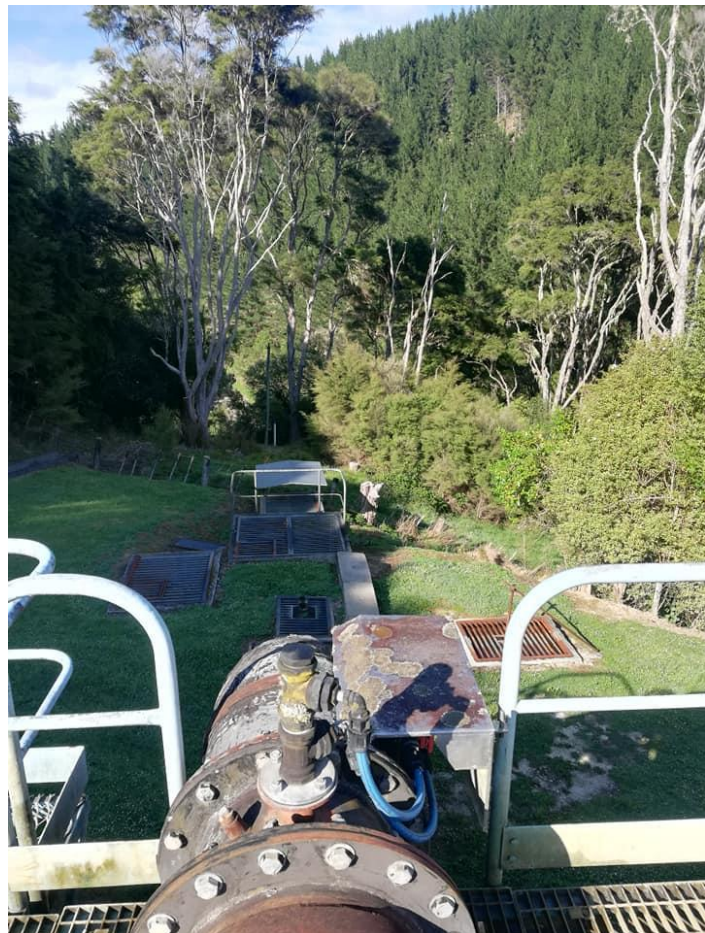
Site visit to see the first stages of the Waingake Transformation Programme. The Board learnt the history of the Waingake catchment within the rohe of Ngāi Tā manuhiri.

The plan is to return the whenua and waterways to what it once was, which includes the return of native fauna such as tuatara, kiwi and other nga manu katoa (native birds).

From work in progress below..... to the future:



A clear message on the day was that taking the land back to native vegetation can help reduce issues of erosion as well as help with the water quality. The board saw the first plantings from August's tree-planting and mauri karakia ceremony as the start of this major revegetation and restoration project at Waingake.



Waingake Waterworks Intake

In addition, the Board visited the Waingake Water Treatment plant and had a tour to see how and where Gisborne city gets its clean water supply – an eye opener for the Gisborne Board representatives



Restoration Waingake

**26/27
February
2021**

Te Angiangi Marine Reserve – The Board were shown along the coast at low tide from Blackhead to Aramoana to view the marine ecosystem of the rocky shore. Later, at the Aramoana Woolshed, Peter Kay of the Aramoana Environmental & Educational Charitable Trust spoke about the mahi carried out by the Trust. Dr David Tipene -Leach spoke on the long generations of history for his whanau with this whenua.



From left to right: Jenny Nelson-Smith, Peter Kay, Penny Shaw, Jo Blakeley, David Tipene- Leach, Rena Kohere, Lucy Meagher and Doug Bailey

15 April 2021

Field trip with the NZCA to Opouahi Reserve; Ahuriri Estuary and Ōtātara Pā.



Opouahi Reserve



East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board members, NZCA members and DOC staff and Ōtātara Pā

18/19 June
2021

The Board visited the Te Ao Tipu team based at Tarere Marae, to see the work achieved through Te Rea (Tairawhiti Agroecology Recovery Programme) which is funded through Jobs for Nature/ Mahi mo te Taiao. Board members and DOC staff were impressed with the work achieved to date by this small team on trap lines, water monitoring work and riparian planting. This work demonstrates mana whenua leadership in conservation, the contribution of rangatahi to conservation, and the intersection of mātauranga Maori with modern technology. The visit also included a walk in Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve, Makauri the most accessible scenic reserve to the city that shows the rare relationships between puriri and kahikatea trees amongst a plethora of nikau palms.



From left to right: Doug Bailey, Lucy Meagher, Penny Shaw; Julian Lee, Jo Blakeley, Chris Visser; Rena Kohere, Charles Barrie

4.8. Learning for members

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report, which is considered at each meeting, the following was also covered this year.

- Anthony Tipene, (Heritage Advisor for Heritage NZ) expertly demonstrated the use of several Taonga puoro (traditional Māori musical instruments) and provided insights into their history. The Board also learned about the significant local historical sites and went to Te Awakeri, an old ox-bow pa site that has been a conservation project with HBRC.
- Kay Griffiths from The Conservation Company gave a presentation on long-tailed bats in the Central Hawkes Bay region.

4.9. Department involvement in Board meetings

Department staff also attended throughout the year.

Jack Mace, Regional Director, LNI attended meetings and provided a Director's update.

Chris Visser, Statutory Manager, LNI attended meetings.

Jenny Nelson-Smith, Operations Manager (Hawkes Bay) and John Lucas, Operations Manager (East Coast) attended meetings when they took place in their operational District to provide District Context and District Operations Report.

Administrative Support is provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Sara Robinson) who arranged, attended and provided administration services to all Board meetings.

In addition to the above the following DOC Staff also attended meetings:

Chris Wootton - updates on Jobs For Nature within Te Matau a Māui

Ngaire Best - to provide an update on the Governance Improvement Project

Tricia McBreen - Admin Support covering BSO absence.

4.10. Special events

The Board has shown commitment to supporting relationship development, including attending iwi engagement hui and representing the region at National Events.

On 26th September 2020, Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage presented the Loder Cup to Graeme Atkins at a special ceremony in the GDC Council chambers due to the official event in August being cancelled from a Covid-19 outbreak. Deputy chair Penny Shaw spoke on behalf of the Board's nomination citing Graeme's dedication to conservation in the East Coast region in particular.



4.11. Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

5. Statutory activity

5.1. East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The CMS is currently on hold and will be looked at again during 2021/2022.

6. 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. *Ref Section 6 of the Work Plan for more information on advocacy outcomes.*

Table 5: Board liaisons and representatives

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Sam Gibson	Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve
Penny Shaw	Gisborne District Council
Doug Bailey	Hawkes Bay Regional Council & Te Āngiangi Marine Reserve
Wayne Taylor	Hawkes Bay Fish & Game

6.1. Other Conservation Boards liaison

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards.
Jo Blakeley – Chatham Islands Conservation Board and national Board Chairs
Lucy Meagher – Wellington Conservation Board
Apeni Tamanui-Fransen – Bay of Plenty Conservation Board
Doug Bailey – Tongariro/Taupo – Conservation Board

6.2. Authority liaison

Maxine Shortland is the NZCA member liaison with the Board. Maxine participated online for some of the Board meetings and updated the Board on the activities of the NZCA.

The Board received the agenda, papers and minutes of the NZCA meetings, and the Board Chair received regular communication from the NZCA.

6.3. Department advice

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

Strategic alignment and closer working relationship with HB Regional Council.

Marker buoys and hapū involvement at Te Āngiangi Marine Reserve.

Name change and signage for McLean’s Bush Scenic Reserve

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the East Coast/Hawkes Bay region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

6.4. Community visibility

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

The Board has a membership with Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay. A permanent Board liaison role with BHB has been established. Board activities are shared on BHB’s social media.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Board members attended hui ahead of the opening of the 2020 whitebait season, hui about Te Āngiangi Marine Reserve, and a tour of Cape Sanctuary and its nursery.

Public forum issues raised during 2020/2021

- Te Āngiangi Marine Reserve – Pōrangahau locals and hapū have varied opinions as how to best manage the marine reserve as it approaches its first generational review in 2023.
- Lois Easton of Kererū Consultants gave a presentation of the work achieved to date at Waikereru Ecosanctuary / Longbush before outlining the Waimata River Restoration Project.
- Rob McLean updated the Board on the conservation work done in McLean’s Bush Scenic Reserve
- Volunteer work was also commended when hearing from Soraya Pohatu with her Rongowhakaata Taiao team helping to restore Rongawhakaata ngahere at both Rakaukaka Scenic Reserve and Te Wherowhero lagoon

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

6.5. District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the six local Councils as there are several regional issues in which it is interested. Doug Bailey and Jo Blakeley met with HBRC managers to discuss mutual interests.

6.6. Iwi liaison and advocacy

In addition to Board meetings, board members work closely with iwi and hapū in the rohe. Refer to Work Plan for further information.

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

Work Programme 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme responds to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 7 September 2020. The intention is that this document will be reviewed and updated at Board meetings during the year, as a living document.

It comprises three parts, some of which contain overlapping objectives:

Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the Board's strategic priorities and its core statutory functions:

1. Develop strong Treaty Partner relationships
2. Ensure there is better biodiversity protection in a changing climate
3. Review, develop and monitor statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)
4. Provide advice relating to stewardship land and classification
5. Fulfil the Board's other statutory functions
6. Provide advocacy on strategic conservation mahi in the region




Part B: The Minister's fundamental priorities as set out in the Letter of Expectation:

1. Ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy occurring in the Board area is progressed and effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes.
2. Work with Te Papa Atawhai and manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act.
3. Advise the Department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
4. Implement Te mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is released, working with iwi and hapū, community organisations, councils, and the department.
5. Advocate for conservation and engage and connect with manawhenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.

Part C: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the Minister's Letter:

1. Take account of DOC priorities (contained in its Four-year Plan)
2. Increase engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board to achieve the Board's objectives
3. Align the Board's conservation leadership role with DOC by maintaining a strong working relationship with DOC and providing strategic advice
4. Work closely with adjoining conservation boards, the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority, NZCA) and other conservation boards
5. Understand the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
6. Monitor and self-review.

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

Key:	Means...
	Action under way and on track, ongoing or completed.
	Potential for concern, early flag.
	Risks identified, delay or concern.

PART A: KEY PRIORITIES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

1 Develop strong Treaty Partner relationships

1.1 **Board objective:** to work with DOC to further develop relationships with Treaty Partners.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Actions	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
1.1	Nurture relationships with Treaty Partners by participating in hui and actively looking for opportunities to engage		Wairoa Tatau Tatau: Wayne- participated in hui with CE Maungaharuru Trust: Apenti met with hapū early 2020 on restoring marae at Tangoio and has on-going discussions. Wairoa settlement group /Lake Waikaremoana: Wayne and Carl Baker met with the hapū Ngati Kere: Doug attended 2020 whitebait season opening at Pōrangahau. Subsequent informal discussions surrounding water quality in the catchment. Board was hosted at Rongomaraeroa marae in February 2021 and was taken on site visits, including Te Angiangi Marine Reserve. The public forum at the February meeting was held on the marae.
1.2	Support co-design, co-approval, and implementation processes with Treaty Partners		Supported other conservation board members on the DOC Options development group.
1.3	Actively support DOC cultural advisors and resources		
1.4	Annual updating of Board on s4 and related opportunities		DOC updated members on Ngai Tai and Section 4 matters and the work of the Options Development Group to review DOC General Policy at meetings held online. (August/September)

Performance measures (to assess performance):

- Engagement hui attended by Board members.
- Number/proportion of processes that the Board is involved in that include co-design with Treaty Partners.

Milestones (significant steps towards goals):

- Board clearly articulates its contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- At least one Board member attended one or more hui in each district

2 Ensure there is better biodiversity protection in a changing climate

2.1 **Board objective:** to support initiatives to protect indigenous biodiversity freshwater, marine and on land – both with DOC and in the community.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
2.1	Engage with communities, strengthen connection and understanding of biodiversity protection on land, rivers and in the sea		<p>Ref Section 6.4 community visibility; Workplan 1.1. Whatatutu, Mangatu community: Apeni attended a whanau maungaparae restoration project. 2000 totara to be planted in June 2021.</p> <p>Cape Sanctuary: Doug toured the Sanctuary and nursery with Dr David Bergin (Project Crimson) and Troy Duncan (QEII) to provide advice on rātā planting.</p> <p>Raukūmara Advisory Group: Sam attended hui to prioritise biodiversity projects for the next four years. 31/10/2020</p> <p>TEC and DOC: Sam ran a large landscape trapping workshop in Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve. 20/10/2020</p> <p>Waimata Catchment Group: Sam ran a biodiversity planning workshop on 1/11/2020.</p> <p>Te Angiangi Marine Reserve: Board held a meeting at Pōrangahau to enable engagement with local community and iwi in respect of the marine reserve and the upcoming generational review.</p> <p>Pōrangahau Catchment Group (Facebook): Doug has participated since March 2021.</p> <p>Ahuriri estuary ECHB Board Field Visit with NZCA April 2021</p> <p>Waterworks / Maraetaha: Board Field Visit November 2020</p> <p>Formalised relationship with Biodiversity Hawkes Bay, providing access to many Hawkes Bay community groups.</p>
2.2	Opportunities taken to support North Island		Koranga Station and Mangaotane Station: Sam is working to create Kiwi Protection Plans.

	community conservation targeting kiwi		Meet with Pete Shaw- Liferforce restoration trust Opouahi Kiwi Creche: combined NZCA and Board visit on 15 April 2021
2.3	Board input to management plans includes biodiversity focus		Raukūmara Advisory Group: Sam attended meetings in 2020. Raukūmara Pae Maunga: Rena to update after attendance. Te Tapuwae O Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee: Sam and Rena as representatives. Board was briefed on the DOC Papatuanūku thrives Kaupapa in Sept meeting.
2.4	Ensure importance of tikanga and mātauranga is reflected in DOC strategies and plans		Discussed the importance of developing board member's own skills in te ao Māori. The opportunity for Board members to attend Te Pukenga Atawhai.
2.5	Strive for sustainability – board seeks to reduce our emissions and impacts		Meetings online where we can... car-pooling (including hybrid vehicles) to field visits and meetings. Discussions around carbon neutral work within the built environment. How we can contribute to the thought leadership within this space.

Performance measures:

- Number of times Board provides [high quality] formal comment or advocacy on biodiversity protection that improves outcomes.
- Board member attendance at community biodiversity initiatives.
- Biodiversity featured on Board agendas.

Milestones:

- Board will actively engage with conservation communities as part of site visits
- Board will meet virtually when practicable

3 **Review, develop and monitor statutory management plans including conservation management strategies (CMS)**

- 3.1 **Board objective:** to develop, monitor and review statutory management plans and conservation Management strategies in the Board’s area of jurisdiction
Principles- Recognise Treaty partners and co-design in all processes

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
3.1	Review and confirm the draft CMS in conjunction with the Department in preparation for public notification in 2021.		DOC provided updates on the draft at all Board meetings. Public notification timelines deferred again. Planner resource issues alongside outstanding decisions on national matters affecting all CMSs, and iwi co-design.
3.2	Determine the timeline with DOC for the CMS final draft, its public consultation, and NZCA approval [in 2021].		
3.3	Ensure engagement of key stakeholders at critical stages of the CMS consultation.		
3.5	Determine priorities for implementation of the draft CMS, in conjunction with DOC.		

Performance measures:

- Number of Board committee meetings providing input into CMS and any other statutory management planning processes.

Milestones:

- Timeline for CMS received by Board.
- Timeline for Stakeholder engagement determined.
- Timeline for CMS received by NZCA

4 Advice on stewardship land and classification

- 4.1 **Board objective:** to provide sound advice to DOC on the stewardship land reclassification process

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
4.1	Committee meetings held with DOC staff - progress towards increased protection of stewardship land		This work is on hold pending iwi consultation led by NZCA and DOC.

Performance measures:

- Committee meetings providing input into stewardship land reclassification.

Milestones:

- Process and timeline for reclassification presented to Board by DOC.

5 Other statutory functions¹

- 5.1 **Board objective:** To build and maintain positive ongoing working relationships with the Fish and Game Council representatives and provide sound advice to DOC on other conservation matters relating to areas in the Board's jurisdiction.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
5.1	Advice on any other conservation matter relating to any area in the Board's jurisdiction		Board member liaised with the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve Working Group. Board member appointed to the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako (TTOR) Marine Reserve.
5.2	Provide advice on proposed changes of status of nationally or internationally important areas		
5.3	Liaise with Fish and Game		Eastern region: Sam liaised regularly.

Performance measures:

- At least one annual meeting between Board representative and Fish and Game representatives to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- Permissions Committee considers applications that meet the Board's triggers for consultation and provides advice to DOC.

¹ Under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

- Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Board representative appointed annually
- Active engagement with DOC on the development, values, and threats on Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve

Milestones:

6 Advocacy

- 6.1 **Board objective:** To take all reasonable opportunities to advocate for conservation and biodiversity protection at public forums and statutory planning processes.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
6.1	DOC advised of Board's concerns as they arise		DOC Gisborne: Sam meets with staff informally on a regular basis as issues arise.
6.2	Support biodiversity improvement actions for and in our region.		Biodiversity HB: Jo attended annual meeting in October, and supported several events. Eastern Whio Link: Sam helped to double their trapping efforts and get a great crop of Whio chicks away this season. Manu Waiata Wainui: Sam helped to establish their trapping operation. Mangaotane Station: Sam helped to establish their trapping operation.
6.3	Board updated on DOC's regulatory framework including any RMA advocacy actions.		September agenda- Ngaire Best's talk

Performance measures:

- Board members attendance at relevant public forums.
- Planning update provided to Board at relevant meetings.

Milestones:

- Comments provided on policy or strategic consultations where they align with the Board's conservation priorities.

PART B: MINISTER'S PRIORITIES 2020-2021

- 7. Ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy occurring in their Board area is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes.**

Addressed in Part A, section 3

- 8. Work with Te papa Atawhai and manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.**

9. Addressed in Part A, section 4

- 10. Advise the Department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaption initiatives.**

- 11. Implement te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is released, working with iwi and hapū, community organisations, councils, and the department.**

Addressed in Part C

- 12. Advocate for conservation and engage and connect with manawhenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.**

PART C: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

12 Aligning with DOC Priorities

12.1 **Board objective:** To provide sound and timely advice on DOC's regional priorities

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
12.1	Provide governance level advice to DOC on its priorities		

Performance measures:

- Feedback from the Director Operations on how advice received from Board has been implemented.
- DOC website has up-to-date professional profile information on Board members.

Milestones:

- Board providing advice on DOC regional priorities for 2020-21 financial year.

13 Community engagement

13.1 **Board objective:** To build and maintain strong community networks and invite community involvement in Board meetings to build understanding of conservation matters and to represent iwi and community values in the Board's decisions.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
13.1	Board members engage in relevant community and DOC events – See also 2.1		Members engage with community groups Rat trapping workshop, biodiversity planning workshop, Taruheru Catchment Group Hui, Raukūmara series of Hui,
13.2	Other conservation entities from the community are invited to Board meetings.		Kay Griffiths – Conservation Company gave a presentation to the Board (and public) on long-tailed bats
13.3	Programme regular Board field trips and meetings across its area of jurisdiction		ref 4.7 Field Trips

Performance measures:

- Board members attendance at DOC and community events.
- Location of field trips and Board meetings across region.
- Number of community groups and others presenting to the Board at meetings.

Milestones:

- Board will actively engage with conservation communities as part of site visits
- Board will meet virtually when practicable

14 Working with DOC

- 14.1 **Board objective:** To maintain strong working relationships with DOC staff at all levels, to contribute to regional financial priority setting and to support the work of DOC.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
14.1	Engage regularly and constructively with key DOC staff and discuss mutual concerns when opportunities arise, including by attending events at DOC offices and training opportunities, and in occasional informal meetings in DOC offices.		Jo-community engagement group member- Poutiri Ao ō Tāne project aims to improve biodiversity within the Maungaharuru-Tūtira catchment and eventually to the sea. Jo attended Melissa Brignall-Theyer farewell with DOC in September. Sam and others - meets informally with DOC staff as issues and opportunities arise.
14.2	Board members attend local events and opportunities with staff		Sam- Attended Raukūmara hui with DOC Staff.

Performance measures:

- Feedback from Chair, Deputy, and staff on the quality of the relationship.
- DOC providing timely opportunity for Board to comment on regional expenditure priorities.

Milestones:

- Board advice and priorities on regional expenditure considered by DOC for financial year 2020-21 and feedback provided to Board on how advice was implemented.

15 Working with adjoining conservation boards and the Authority

- 15.1 **Board objective:** To build and maintain strong working relationships with adjoining conservation boards, other conservation boards and the NZ Conservation Authority

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
15.1	Identify Liaison roles and maintain regular contact.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ref Section 6.1
15.2	Cross boundary conservation matters are raised and addressed.		The Raukūmara Forest is a cross boundary conservation matter with Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. A joint meeting was planned, and deferred to next year.
15.3	Chair and Deputy attend annual NZCA and Chairs' conference		Jo Blakeley attended the annual NZCA and Chairs' Conference for 2020, and regular online meetings with the Chairs' group.
15.4	Invite NZCA representative to Board meetings		Maxine Shortland attended one meeting via Microsoft Teams, and hosted NZCA colleagues in Napier for the April hui.

Performance measures:

- Feedback from Chair, Deputy, NZCA and staff on the quality of the relationship.
- Clear role definitions and goals.
- Phone conference with NZCA liaison person and Chair/Deputy twice per year, and as required.
- Cross boundary conservation matters addressed.

Milestones:

- NZCA liaison attendance either virtually or in person at Board meeting.
- Board liaison members attended at least one meeting at each neighbouring Board

16 No Surprises

- 16.1 Keep the Minister informed well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the Board, both positive and negative.

17 **Monitoring and Self-review**

- 17.1 **Board objective:** To regularly monitor and review the Board's performance and effectiveness.

Planned Board activities, measures, and milestones

	Action	Status	July 2020 to June 2021
17.1	Regular reviews of Work Programme and priorities		Review of Work Programme took place at each meeting.
17.2	Governance workshop for Board		

Review and updates

This document will be reviewed and updated at each Board meeting, as a living document.

Milestones:

- Approved Work Programme sent to NZCA and Minister.

PART D: OPPORTUNITIES and RISKS

18 Opportunities for conservation growth

	Improving biodiversity through predator/pest/invasive weed controls and strategies. Priority issues include possum management in Hawkes Bay (where TB has again emerged); ungulate management in Raukūmara Ranges; wilding pines in the Kaweka Ranges; more rat and stoat control projects on the East Coast to preserve our unique genetic populations and river protection.
	Protecting and restoring wetland. The East Coast region is particularly impacted by the loss of wetlands. The Board wants to ensure the CMS has appropriate milestones for the mahi to improve water quality and restore these essential ecological areas. Related to this will be a focus on mitigating the negative impacts of forestry slash and protected regionally significant species.
	A strategy for dog management. The Board wants to help DOC to progress conversations and manage expectations with the public on avian aversion therapy and on access onto PCL by dog-owners.
	The Board will support DOC in making best use of the pūtea for nature-based employment and training initiatives for manawhenua and the community announced in May 2020.

19 Risks and Mitigations

	Risk	Mitigation
A	Implementation of Treaty Settlement and S4 obligations. Treaty partner relationships are at risk – care and work needed	Openly engage with DOC on S4 obligations. Board to have regular report on agendas.
B	CMS Statutory and planning processes are delayed – climate adaptation and planning falls behind the rate of change	Maintain dialogue with DOC. Keep close to community understandings of conservation priorities during CMS process.
C	Board not visible to community.	Implement work plan. Complete media releases regularly. Encourage public participation at conservation board hui.

Risks and opportunities were reviewed at the August virtual and September 2020 conservation board meetings.



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Palmerston North phone 027 611 2442 or e-mail [Sara Robinson sarobinson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Sara.Robinson@doc.govt.nz).