

TE RŪNANGA PAPA ATAWHAI O TE HIKU O TE IKA Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



Annual Report of the

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika

Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987

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LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Edward Ellison Chairperson New Zealand Conservation Authority PO Box 10420 Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

E nga mana, e nga reo, e nga karanga maha o te motu, tena koutou katoa

We submit in terms of section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987, on behalf of all board members, our eighth (8th) Annual Report by Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika

The Board has had another busy year with the primary focus being the review of the draft Te Hiku o Te Ika-a-Maui Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). The Board are particularly proud of the new preferential policies, instigated by the Board which unfortunately took several months by Te Papa Atawhai to concur.

The Board farewells Peter Furze and Mike Finlayson, both community representatives who have been stalwart members since the inception of the Board. We thank them for their support and enthusiasm for the Te Hiku region. It's unfortunate they were unable to see the Te Hiku CMS through to it being operable, however you still have a role to play. We also acknowledge Matua Waitai Petera, our kaumatua and Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupouri Iwi representative who supported and guided us daily to uphold the tikaanga throughout our engagements. We also welcome Phelan Pirrie as the new NNI Statutory Manager and look forward to working with him.

We would like to thank Te Papa Atawhai staff for their continued support and advice. We also acknowledge the commitment of our fellow board members throughout this year. Stepping up for your Iwi and communities in roles such as this requires time, commitment and dedication that has been valued and appreciated.

E kii ana te Whakatauki

Hoki atu ki tōu maunga kia purea ai e koe ki ngā hau o Tāwhirimātea Return to your mountain to be cleansed by the winds of Tāwhirimātea

Nga manaakitanga

Waitai Petera

Co-Chair

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika

Mina Pomare-Peita

she Rest Fester

Co-Chair

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INT	FRODUCTION	6
2.	RO	HE	8
	2.1	Tangata Whenua	9
	2.2	Conservation Features of the Area	10
	2.3	Conservation Issues in the Area	12
3.	FUI	NCTIONS	12
	3.1	Board Functions Under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987	13
	3.1	Board Power Under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987	13
	3.2	Board Functions under Section 30 (s30) of the National Parks Act 1980	14
4.	ME	MBERSHIP	14
	4.1	Members Profiles	15
5.	ME	ETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS	19
	5.1	Agendas	20
	5.2	Field Trips and Site Inspections	20
	5.2	Members' Attendance 2023-2024	27
6.	MA	.HI	28
	6.1	Board Committees	28
	6.2	Special Events	28
	6.3	Training for Members	31
7.	STA	TUTORY ACTIVITY	31
	7.1	Annual Work Plan	31
	7.2	Te Hiku o Te Ika-a-Maui Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)	32
	7.4	2023-2024 National Park Management Plan (NPMP)	32
8.	ADV	ICE AND ADVOCACY	32
	8.1	Board and Authority Liaisons	33
	8.2	Advice to Te Papa Atawhai	33

	8.3	Submissions	.34
	8.4	Community Advocacy and Involvement	.34
	8.5	Community Visibility	.34
	8.6	District and Regional Council Advocacy and Advice	.34
	8.7	Iwi Liaison and Advocacy	.34
9	FEE	S AND ALLOWANCES	.34
10	AC	KNOWLEDGEMENTS	.35
11	дрі	PENDIX 1	36

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the (8th) eight Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this Annual Report.

Most conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute – Section 6L (S6L) of the Conservation Act.

They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and Te Papa Atawhai (**Department of Conservation**) at a regional level. The Conservation Board's primary role is to advise Te Papa Atawhai and the Authority on conservation matters within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation Boards contribute a local voice and perspective to the management of conservation areas. They provide a forum for seeking community views and relaying information back to communities of interest, as well as providing feedback on Te Papa Atawhai work in each Board rohe. Boards focus on matters of policy, strategic direction, and planning. Boards do not focus on day-to-day operations across the rohe; these are managed by Te Papa Atawhai staff.

Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board was established, under section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987 with jurisdiction in the korowai area and must carry out, in the korowai area, the functions specified in section 6M of that Act. The Board has the powers conferred by section 6N of that Act.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the relevant sections of (4) four Te Hiku Treaty Settlements. 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. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising Te Papa Atawhai and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice.
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- advising Te Papa Atawhai and the 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

2. ROHE



Figure #1: Te Hiku o te Ika Conservation Board Jurisdiction - Te Korowai area

The Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 224,991.85 hectares.

The jurisdiction extends from the northern side of the Hokianga Harbour, north to Mangamuka then across to Kaitaia then to Rangaunu Harbour, right around the coastline back to Hokianga Harbour. The jurisdiction also includes the land areas within the Manawatāwhi/Three Kings Island group.

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 0.33% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within the jurisdiction of Te Hiku o Te Ika.

Korowai lands and water (public conservation land) (47,760.71 ha) makes up 21.23% of all land in Te Hiku o Te Ika.

2.1 Tangata Whenua

We acknowledge the five Iwi of Te Hiku:

- Te Rarawa
- NgaiTakoto
- Te Aupouri
- Ngati Kuri
- Ngati Kahu

During treaty negotiations four Iwi, amongst other requests, sought a say in the work of Te Papa Atawhai in their rohe. After lengthy negotiations they agreed to a crown proposal for co-governance which involved establishing the Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board and drafting a Te Hiku CMS for the combined rohe of the four settled Iwi. The Te Hiku CMS forms part of the cultural redress package known as the Korowai for Enhanced Conservation ('the Korowai') that features various cogovernance arrangements for public conservation lands and waters in the Treaty Settlements of the four Te Hiku o Te Ika Iwi (Te Hiku Iwi).

2.2 Conservation Features of the Area

The main features of public conservation land and waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Raetea Forest 6,600.36 ha
- Herekino Forest 4,358.48 ha
- Warawara Forest 6,886.59 ha
- Maunga Taniwha Forest 61.76 ha
- 20 Scenic Reserves 5,934.06 ha
- 2 Historic Reserves 229.28 ha
- 5 Recreation Reserves 14,704.53 ha
- 27 Stewardship Areas 6,399.87
- 52 Marginal Strips 320.54 ha



Figure #2: Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.3 Conservation Issues in the Area

Approximately .33% of all korowai lands and waters (public conservation land) in Aotearoa lies within the region.

The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements.
- Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats eg. Aupouri Aquifer water takes due to the potential effects on wetlands and other surface water features.
- The need to connect more people with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access to korowai lands and water, especially with the thousands of domestic and international visitors who visit.
- Rangitāhua (Kermadec Islands) are a subtropical island in the South Pacific Ocean, located 800 1000 km northeast of the North Island. There is statutory acknowledgement for Te Aupouri and Ngāti Kuri Iwi to enhance their ability to participate in specified resource management processes. The Board acknowledges the anomaly that Rangitāhua is not included in the current Northland Conservation Management Strategy. The Board would like to see Rangitāhua included in the newly drafted Te Hiku CMS. The Board supports NZCA's strong advocacy for greater marine protection in areas throughout Aotearoa and urges for the development of new tools for marine protection.

3. FUNCTIONS

Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires anyone working under the Act (including Conservation Boards and the NZCA) to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi when interpreting or administering anything under the Act.

The statutory responsibility under section 4 of the Act applies to all aspects of work carried out by Conservation Boards. A 2018 Supreme Court judgement in the case of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust v Minister of Conservation (external

<u>site</u>) underscores the importance of this obligation and how it impacts on the way decisions around public conservation land are made. DOC's own refreshed organisational strategy elevates these principles, which arise out of both legislation and evolving case law.

Section 4 is integral to the work of Conservation Boards, as the statutory management planning processes that Boards engage with involve interfacing with whānau, hapū and iwi in the Board's rohe. In addition, cultural redress including treaty settlements may result in co-governance or co-management with iwi, providing new opportunities for the way Korowai lands, and water (public conservation land) is managed within a Board's rohe.

3.1 Board Functions Under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

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

3.1 Board Power 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
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. 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.

3.2 Board Functions under Section 30 (s30) of the National Parks Act 1980

There are currently no National Parks within the area of jurisdiction for Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints four community Board members and Iwi nominate their representatives under S85 of the Te Aupouri Claims Settlement Act (2015), s95 of the Te Rarawa Claims Settlement Act (2015), S80 of the Ngai Takoto Claims Settlement Act and s83 Ngati Kuri Claims Settlement Act (2015).

The process of appointment ensures that Iwi are properly represented. The Board has a range of perspectives, life experiences, Te Ao Māori - mātauranga Māori, knowledge and contributes to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

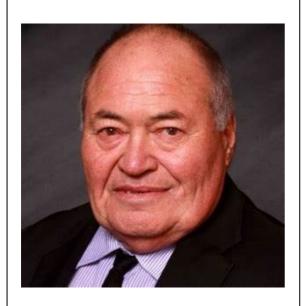
Board members are appointed for a 3-year term and may be re-appointed unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024:

Board Member	Area	Term Start	Term End
Waitai Petera-Te Aupouri (Co-Chair)	Auckland	18 Nov 2021	30 June 2024
Wallace Rivers-NgaiTakoto	Auckland	16 Jan 2020	30 June 2024
Tui Qauqau-Te Paa-Te Rarawa	Ahipara	01 July 2021	30 June 2024
Sheridan Waitai-Ngati Kuri	Awanui	17 Dec 2015	30 June 2024
Peter Furze	Kaitaia	17 Dec 2015	3 Dec 2023
Mike Finlayson	Herekino	17 Dec 2015	30 June 2024
Mina Pomare-Peita (Co-Chair)	Panguru	2 July 2021	30 June 2024
Joanne Shanks	Kaingaroa	2 July 2021	30 June 2024

4.1 Members Profiles

WAITAI PETERA: Co-Chair and Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri Iwi Representative



Matua Waitai Petera nominated by Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri to represent his Iwi, also has affiliation to Ngati Kuri and NgaiTakoto.

Matua Waitai is an oral historian and a native speaker of te reo Maori.

He is passionate about lifting Māori social and economic wellbeing, knowledgeable in tikanga Māori, and skilled in communications, negotiations, and relationship-building.

Matua Waitai Petera is the Principal Advisor Maori Engagement at Te Uru Rakau, MPI.

WALLACE RIVERS: Te Rūnanga o NgaiTakoto Iwi Representative



Wallace Rivers is nominated by Te Rūnanga o NgaiTakoto. He has 35 years' experience in the steel industry, providing knowledge and perspective of primary industry to the Board. He is the Co-Chair of Te Rūnanga o NgaiTakoto and offers extensive knowledge of tangata whenua.

TUI QAUQAU-TE PAA: Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa Iwi Representative



Ko **Whangatauatia** te Maunga. Ko **Te Oneroa a Tōhe** te Moana. Ko **Wairoa** te Awa Ko **Roma** te Marae. Ko **Tinana** te Waka. Ko **Te Rarawa Kaiwhare** te Iwi.

Tui led the development of the Ahipara Takiwā Environmental Plan which will be used to inform and provide guidance in the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS

Tui has key competencies in understanding the RMA and skills that enable her to understand an application or issue, Tui has recently completed the Environmental Commissioners course.

MIKE FINLAYSON: Community Representative



Mike Finlayson has a keen interest in pest and predator control and has managed broad-scale wild ginger control projects through the Herekino Landcare Group. He has over 30 years of Board experience including a term as a Northland Regional Councillor representing the Te Hiku constituency. He enjoys engaging with young people and youth in enhancing native species. He enjoys tramping & camping, exploring new places, fishing, diving, and boating.

MINA POMARE-PEITA: Co-Chair and Community Representative



Born and raised in the Te Rarawa rohe, beneath Panguru, Te Reinga, and Tauwhare maunga in a farming whānau, the importance of working hard for the betterment of her kāinga has always been instilled into her by her people. They led by example through their hard work and their unwavering sense of identity. Their teachings shaped the path of not only her career but her decision to dedicate herself to the pursuit of addressing the persistent power imbalance between Māori and the systems designed around us, the pursuit of getting our land back, and ensuring she contributes to growing and enabling more leaders.

Mina currently holds many roles in the community including Tumuaki of Te Kura Taumata o Panguru, Chairperson of Ngāti Manawa marae, a leader in Te Kupenga, a māmā, a mentor to other tumuaki, a board member on environmental boards, and a hapū leader.

Mina has a longstanding dedication to education and developing our future leaders using Mātauranga Māori.'

JOANNE SHANKS: Community Representative



Jo is the Environmental Manager/Educator at CBEC Eco Solutions and FNEC Manager (Te Pokapu Tiaki Taiao o Te Tai Tokerau Trust)

Jo enjoys natural plastering, foraging, swimming, walking, and living in nature. She has a vast understanding of environmental concerns and community needs in Te Hiku.

She has experience in collaborating with Te Papa Atawhai, Forest and Bird and schools, on conservation actions such as possum and rat trapping, and propagating of natives using eco-sourced seeds and riparian plantings.

Jo has assisted Te Papa Atawhai to reduce waste and increase recycling rates at their campsites.

Jo co-ordinates an annual (November) beach clean-up along Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē, in conjunction with the community, local businesses and organisations. removing an average of 5 tonnes of waste.

PETER FURZE: Community Representative



Peter Furze is a community activist working as an advocate for the Te Hiku community - Nga Mahi Mo Te Tangata (Working for The People). Peter is a keen surfer and surfboard fabricator.

Peter has been part of the Board since its inception. Due to ill-heath, Pete was not able to see the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS come to fruition during his time on the Board.

SHERIDAN WAITAI: Ngāti Kuri Representative



Sheridan's tribal affiliations are Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, and Tainui.

She has repatriated Taonga species and Taonga back to Ngāti Kuri. She has led connections and work across Ngāti Kuri rohe including the Islands.

She manages coordinates a range of relationships and partners, to achieve shared prosperity, community resilience and mana motuhake for Whanau, Hapu and Iwi.

"I want to contribute in a meaningful way that supports Ngāti Kuri to have vibrant, whanau, hapu and iwi, through whanaungatanga, cultural revitalisation and kaitiaki of our taonga"

5. MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

The Board held 7 meetings during the reporting period (4 Formal Public Meetings, 3 Working Meetings, 2 Site Visits). The venue for the meetings were held in Te Hiku to enable members of the public from the district to attend.

Meeting Date	Location/Venue
11 August 2023	#21 Formal Meeting – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia
05 October 2023	Joint Workshop: Te Ara Hou/Strategic Planning
03 November 2023	Te Ara Hou/Strategic Planning
20 December 2023	#22 Formal Meeting – via MS Teams
2 February 2024	#23 Formal Meeting – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia
4 April 2024	Workshop: draft Te Hiku CMS – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia
18 April 2024	#24 Formal Meeting – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia
7 June 2024	Site Visit: J4N – Te Aupouri Region
4 April 2024 18 April 2024	Workshop: draft Te Hiku CMS – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia #24 Formal Meeting – Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia

5.1 Agendas

The agendas and minutes from all board public meetings can be found on the Board's webpage. <u>Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board (doc.govt.nz)</u>

Board workshops are not decision-making meetings and minutes of workshops are not kept. The workshops have focused on providing feedback into the draft Te Hiku CMS.

5.2 Field Trips and Site Inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to engage with whanau/hapu/Iwi and the community to be aware of conservation issues as well as acknowledge work that has been carried out by whanau/hapu/iwi and hapori.

25 April 2024 - Waipoua Forest



This forest is the home of Tāne Mahuta, the country's largest kauri tree, which is approximately 2,000 years old and still growing. Nearly 18 metres to the first branch and 4.4 metres in diameter, Tāne Mahuta is rightly called 'The Lord of the Forest'. Another significant tree in Waipoua Forest is Te Matua Ngahere – 'Father of the Forest' – which is estimated to be between 2,500 and 3,000 years old.

Stop kauri disease and protect kauri

- Scrub all soil off shoes and gear
- Use cleaning stations
- ❖ Always stay on the track



photograph: Taoho (Snow) Tane-General Manager, Te Roroa Development Group, ambassadors and kaitiaki of Waipoua Forest.



photograph: R-L Stephen
Soole- Operations Manager,
Kauri Coast, Phillip Goulter
Strategic Projects Manager Raukau Rangatira, Auckland
Mike Finlayson-Te Hiku CB
Community member, Shelley
Paniora-Senior Ranger, Kauri
Coast,

Thank you, Te Roroa, for protecting our Rakau Rangatira

Nga mihi

7 June 2024 - J4N Projects in Te Aupouri

We set off from the Te Papa Atawhai, Te Hiku office at 8am. The day was wet and cold, the weather didn't look to be improving, an interesting day ahead. We were bracing for an adventurous and challenging day. We arrived to the J4N depot and received a warm welcome. As always, we started with karakia, mihi whakatau, kai iti and a safety briefing.



Photograph: (front seat) Kaumatua Waitai Petera and Niki Conrad

Our hikoi through the **Te Arai Reserve - 1191.4 hectares**



4WD skills were tested and made for a good icebreaker and a laugh. Drivers waited patiently for their turn to maneuverer the terrain.

Te Arai is a hugely significant area of land for far north Iwi, Te Aupouri. It was formerly held by Te Papa Atawhai under the Conservation Act. It was returned to Iwi in 2012.

Eco-systems – Te Arai is the last remaining tupuna forest land and covers at least five different types of ecosystems including dune lakes and wetlands



Photograph: Karena Joyce-Paki, Rober (Blue) Newport, Kayla Raines talking to Niki Conrad



Photograph: J4N kaimahi-Te Aupouri

Restoration – The Iwi is working proactively to protect the area. Descendants are employed through the J4N project to take care of their whenua and develop kaitiaki skills. The first task was to fence off the land area and keep off-roading vehicles and wild horses out.

Trapping statistics in the Te Arai Reserve – 261 traps/146 bait stations.



Lake Wahakari - 248.45 hectares

Cultural - Initial results from the sediment core suggest that prior to human settlement the lake was surrounded by native forest abundant in podocarps, particularly Rimu. The lake serves as a water supply to the community of Te Kao. Te Aupouri lwi, landowners and shareholders are facilitating a lake management plan to preserve native species of fish and plants and to protect future water quality.







Photograph: L-R Brownie-DOC staff, Mike Finlayson-Te Hiku CB, Kaio Hooper-J4N Kaimahi, Karena

Te Kokata Spit - 1261.33 hectares



Parengarenga Harbour is sheltered from the sea by a 10km long promontory of pure silica sand called Kokota Pit. Parengarenga Harbour is an outstanding example of a largely unmodified northern estuary with a subtropical climate.



Photograph L-R: Co-Chairs-Mina Pomare-Peita and Waitai Petera with his wife, Michelle Petera



Photograph: Kaumatua Heta Conrad sharing the history of the area.



Protecting, revitalizing and promoting our unique environments within our region Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata

5.2 Members' Attendance 2023-2024

Board Member	Formal Meetings (4)	Working Meetings (3)	Field Trips (2)
Waitai Petera	4/4	3/3	1/2
Sheridan Waitai	0/4	0/3	0/2
Wallace Rivers	0/4	1/3	0/2
Tui Qauqau-Te Paa	4/4	1/3	0/2
Mina Pomare-Peita	4/4	2/3	1/2
Peter Furze	1/4	2/3	0/2
Mike Finlayson	4/4	3/3	2/2
Joanne Shanks	3/4	3/3	1/2

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the board.

Communications Committee: the purpose of this committee is to inform Iwi and community on co-managed korowai lands and waters and up-and-coming events. During the year, the board posted on their Facebook.

Members: Mina Pomare-Peita, Jo Shanks and Tui Qauqau Te Paa

6.2 Special Events

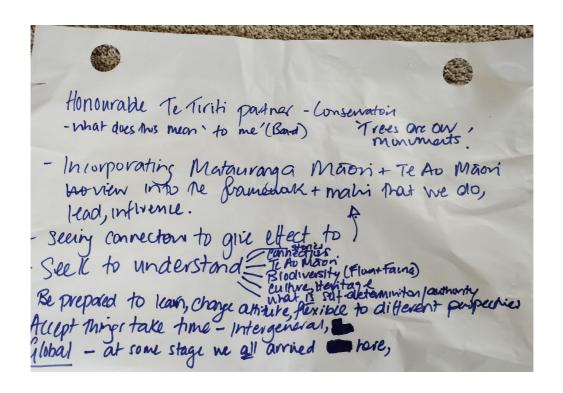
• Te Ara Hou / Strategic Planning

Session 1: 5th October 2023, held at Te Putahitanga Innovation Hub, Kerikeri

Joint session with Northland Conservation Board and Operation Managers from the NNI region (Te Hiku, Pēwhairangi, Whangarei, Kauri Coast)

The morning session set the tikaanga for the hui - sharing a common direction, recognise the unique partnership - governance and operational, how we communicate, listen and learn, be mindful of different kawa, grow our relationships, collaborative mindset - mahi tahi, inclusiveness and openness, whakamana/respect, unity, honesty - be brave, trust it's a safe environment, culture - tika, pono, aroha





Session 2: 3rd November 2023, Te Ahu Centre, Boardroom Set the 3-year Strategic Plan for the Board



photograph L-R: Jo Shanks, Carolyn Smith, Mina Pomare-Peita, Waitai Petera

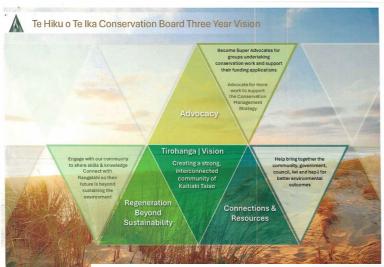


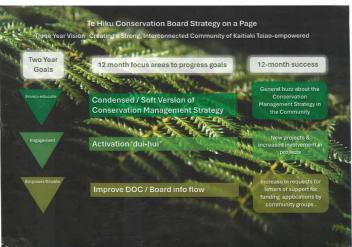
Photograph: Mike Finlayson, Jo Shanks, Carolyn Smith, Mina Pomare-Peita

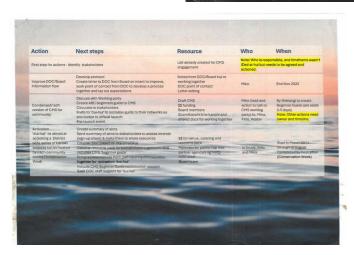


Photograph: Mina Pomare-Peita, Waitai Petera, Peter Furze

OUTCOME - 3 YEAR VISION







Our thanks, and appreciation to Carolyn Smith from Woven Collaborations.

Farewell Dinner, 31 May 2024 at Peekaboo Eatery,

The Board met to celebrate the successes and milestones over the years of past and present members. Tonight, we acknowledge our two retiring members, Peter Furze and Mike Finlayson. They are the last of the original members. They were presented with their Service Certificates and gifts. May you continue to grow strong like te wao nui o tane!



Photograph: Peter Furze-retiring community board member and Jo Shanks



Photograph: Mike Finlayson-retiring community board member, Tui Qauqau Te Paa-Te Rarawa Iwi Rep, Adrienne Bartlett-J4N Delivery Manager, Meirene-Hardy Birch-Operations Manager, Te Hiku, Mina Pomare-Peita-Co-Chair and community member

Thank you to our Te Papa Atawhai whanau for celebrating with us.

6.3 Training for Members

No specific training for the Board in this reporting year.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

The Board work plan is similar to the previous year. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

Given the statutory importance of the draft Te Hiku CMS and its critical importance to Iwi and the Board, it continues to be the focus of the Annual Work Plan and subsequent Board activity.

7.2 Te Hiku o Te Ika-a-Maui Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Te Hiku CMS is a unique process in developing a conservation management strategy (Te Hiku CMS) that gives effect to parts of the Te Hiku Treaty Settlement legislation.

It is co-authored by a collective of Te Hiku Iwi members, a community member, Te Papa Atawhai, and an independent writer to help weave the discussions, the korero, and the iwi aspirations in terms of conservation in Te Hiku.

The Boards focus on developing Te Hiku CMS has three main streams of work:

- Advocating, providing feedback and supporting work on drafting the Te Hiku CMS
- 2. Providing feedback and input into the revision of Conservation General Policy
- 3. Advocate to key decision makers (NZCA and Minister of Conservation) the critical importance of ensuring Te Hiku CMS reflects Te Hiku conservation priorities even if this means the Te Hiku CMS looks a little different to other CMS documents.

7.4 2023-2024 National Park Management Plan (NPMP)

There are currently no National Parks within the Te Hiku region.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

Board members hold active roles and responsibilities with other groups and are not necessarily appointed through the Board. We acknowledge and thank our members for their commitment to the Iwi of Te Hiku.

Board Member	Organisation/Group/Agency	
Tui Qauqau-Te Paa	Ahipara Takiwā	
	Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa	
	Forest & Bird	
Wallace Rivers	Te Rūnanga o NgaiTakoto	
Waitai Petera	Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupouri	
	Te Oneroa- a-Tohe Beach Board	

	Ministry for the Environment (MfE)
	Te Korowai Trust
Peter Furze	Nga Mahi Mo Te Tangata
	Far North Environment Centre
Sheridan Waitai	Ngāti Kuri Trust Board Incorporated
Joanne Shanks	CBEC Eco Solutions
	Far North Environment Centre
	Para Kore
	Waste Wise Schools. Schools Kura Environmental Education
Mina Pomare-Peita	Tumuaki of Te Kura Taumata o Panguru
	Noho Taiao
	Chairperson of Ngāti Manawa Marae
	Te Kupenga
	Northland Conservation Board

8.1 Board and Authority Liaisons

The Board held a liaison relationship with the neighbouring conservation boards for the reporting year:

o Mina Pomare-Peita - Liaison to Northland Conservation Board

Ina Kara-France - The Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. The Authority Liaison attends Board meetings and reports to the full Authority on matters raised.

8.2 Advice to Te Papa Atawhai

The Board provided advice to Te Papa Atawhai and the Te Hiku CMS Working Group on the following issues:

Feedback on the draft Te Hiku CMS - Part 1

8.3 Submissions

 Fast Track Approvals Bill – joint written and oral submission opposing the Bill were lodged by Tamaki Makaurau, Te Tai Tokerau and Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Boards.

8.4 Community Advocacy and Involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is important. Opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised not fewer than five days before the meeting.

8.5 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Te Papa Atawhai website and the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter.

The Board is slowly growing their social media presence through Facebook – 129 followers. The audience is predominantly woman (76.6%), between the following age groups 35 – 44 (24.4%) and 45–54 (22.4%). The Board will look to increase their followers by inviting people to the page and improving engagement and content. Click on the link: Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board | Facebook

8.6 District and Regional Council Advocacy and Advice

The Board will engage and develop a better working relationship with representatives from local council as there are several regional issues that are of interest.

8.7 Iwi Liaison and Advocacy

No updates for this reporting year.

9 FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The Co-Chair receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and Members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250. In addition to the meeting fee, Board Members are also entitled to be reimbursed for mileage, reading time and other associated meeting costs e.g., accommodation.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, the Board would like to acknowledge the following people for their support, advice, and friendship in 2023 - 2024:

- Sue Reed-Thomas, Director Operations Te Papa Atawhai, NNI-Whangarei
- o Meirene Hardy-Birch, Operations Manager Te Papa Atawhai, Te Hiku
- o Abraham Witana, Te Hiku Treaty Settlement Implementation Advisor Te Papa Atawhai, Te Hiku
- Ina Kara-France, NZCA Liaison NNI-Aotearoa Conservation Authority (NZCA)
- o Phelan Pirrie, Statutory Manager Te Papa Atawhai, Te Hiku
- o Nyree Porter, Chair Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau
- o Nicole MacDonald, Chair Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau
- Annwyn Buchanan, Conservation Board Servicing Officer (CBSO) Āpiha Tautoko Poari

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku O Te Ika Te Hiku O Te Ika Conservation Board Annual Work Programme

1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

Overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, Hon Willow-Jean Prime. It is in three parts, namely:

GOVERNMENT AND MINISTERIAL PRIORITIES

- Support the implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- 2) Contribute to any reviews of National Park Management Plans and Conservation Management Strategies (CMS's) and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes.
- 3) Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work
- 4) Support the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

BOARD SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- 1) Support the development and approval of the Te Hiku CMS
- 2) Support the National Predator Control Programme to actively promote pest management.
- 3) Actively support the use of 1080 measures in the Waipoua Forest

ADDITIONAL BOARD PRIORITIES

- 4) Advocating for the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS through to completion.
- 5) Board member training, including report-based accountability, board members' legal obligations, and cultural competencies.

REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Planned Board activities to meet statutory requirements and act on regional advocacy priorities:

Resources

Your community

Mahi Tahi / Working with Te Papa Atawhai.

Mahi Kotahitanga / Working with other Conservation Boards and the NZCA

Communication & Advocacy – "No Surprises" policy – could include but are not limited to, imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment or any matters on which I could be asked to express a view.

Understanding Conservation Boards' Legal Obligations – an expectation that all conservation board members fully understand their legal obligations under conservation law, including the hierarchy of priorities that should be taken into account when making decisions. Conservation boards' legal obligations are covered in section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.

Planning and Reporting – with the Director Operations, finalising your work plan in the near future. Your work plan should align with your statutory obligations under the Act, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. The finalised work plan would include measures and milestones, a demonstration of what success will look like for each priority, and how your board will be able to support the Department's priorities.

Status Indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

GOVERNMENT AND MINISTERIAL PRIORITIES

The basis for the Ministers expectations originates in the statutory functions set out in section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. As reflected in these statutes, the focus of conservation boards is policy issues, strategic direction, and planning, not the day-to-day operations of the Department.

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - we know we are on the right track when
1	Support the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao - The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy		Board oversight of the CMS to ensure the protection of species.
2	Contribute to any reviews of national park management plans and Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes.		There are no National Parks in the Te Hiku area.
3	Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work		Ensure the intent and statutory requirement for conservation of four Te Hiku Iwi (as reflected in their separate Deeds of Settlements (DoS) and legislation are included in the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS Correctly pronouncing Māori names

		and places. Learning/knowing/respecting Maori values, understanding Tikanga Māori (Māori cultural practices), working and listening to Māori. Advocate for equal opportunities for Māori.
4	Support the transition to a lower- carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019	The Board supports the Climate Change & Adaptive Policy proposed in the draft Te Hiku CMS.

BOARD SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

Support the development and approval of the Te Hiku Conservation o Management Strategy (CMS)

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

The Board will advocate and comment on draft sections of the Te Hiku CMS. The Board will also review the revised Te Hiku CMS draft and when appropriate will recommend the approval of the draft to the Authority with or without amendments.

Toitū Te Whenua Toitū Te Tangata

Kaihautu: Wallace RiversRōpū Tautoko: All Members

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – we know we are onthe right track when
1	Support the development and approval of the Te Hiku CMS Encourage and monitor the 'Parties' (the Department and Iwi) as they complete the draft Te Hiku CMS.		Mike Finlayson-community member is the Board representative on the Te Hiku CMS Working Group Wallace Rivers-NgaiTakoto Iwi Rep on the Board also represents his Iwi on the Te Hiku CMS Working Group and is the Te Hiku Iwi representative on the Te Hiku CMS Governance Group. There is regular discussion between the Board and the Te Hiku CMS Project Team. Draft Te Hiku CMS updates are provided and discussed at Working and Formal Meetings. A 1-day workshop was held 4/4/2024 specifically to discuss the draft Te Hiku CMS and the "preferential policies" which were proudly initiated by the Board.
2	Support the National Predator Control Programme to actively promote pest management		

3 ADD	Actively support the use of 1080 measures in the Waipoua Forest		24/4/2024 the Board were invited to a site visit to Waipoua Forest. Te Roroa Iwi and ambassadors/kaitiaki together with Te Papa Atawhai-Kauri Coast are working together. The Rakau Rangatira Project will help restore the health of the ngahere and its Iwi.
		1	
4	Advocating for the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS through to completion		Provide support and recommendations to the TH-CMS Working Group as the opportunities arise. Ensuring the Te Hiku CMS is statutorily correct and meets a standard that will achieve the goals and aspirations of Te Hiku Iwi as set out in their Te Hiku Treaty Settlements In conjunction with Te Hiku Iwi and Te Papa Atawhai, the Board supports and advocates priorities for implementation of the approved Te Hiku CMS. Achieving this goal will require changes from the standard DOC CMS format. The process is complex and new. It requires support and understanding by all parties involved in the creation and drafting of the Te Hiku CMS.
5	Board member training, including report-based accountability, board members' legal obligations, and cultural competencies		It has been difficult to achieve full board participation throughout the year. We will review the Induction process for new members eg to include existing members and allocate more time for board training. We acknowledge and thank our Iwi representatives for their guidance to ensure tikaanga is upheld during meetings, site visits and events.
6	Working with other Conservation Boards, including with the Northland Conservation Board on their CMS		Mina, Co-Chair has a good relationship with Nyree Manuel, Chair of Northland Conservation Board and Nicola MacDonald, Chair of Auckland CB.

		Mina Pomare-Peita is the Te Hiku CB liaison to Northland Conservation
		Nyree Manuel is the Northland CB liaison to Te Hiku CB.
	T	The Board envisages a Partial Review of the Northland CMS once the Te Hiku CMS nears completion.

REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

The Department services conservation boards in accordance with section 6V of the Act. This includes providing resources developed by the Department to help boards achieve the highest standards of conservation leadership. These are published and updated as appropriate at: www.conservationboards.org.nz

Whāinga roa / Objectives
Mate kahukura ka rere te manu
The bird has to have feathers to fly

Kaihautu: Mike Finlayson **Rōpū Tautoko:** Jo Shanks

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
1	Conservation Board Manual		Available online only - provides guidance for conservation boards in carrying out their duties and functions.
2	Public		CB agenda and meeting papers are uploaded to the DOC website for public viewing.

YOUR COMMUNITY

As board members, you represent the public interest in conservation. It is integral that you are active and visible in your communities, so that you bring a well-informed community voice to the table. New Zealand communities are becoming increasingly engaged with conservation and are increasingly aware of the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment. I expect your board to continue to encourage, nurture and facilitate this interest.

Whāinga roa / Objectives
He tawhiti rawa tā mātou, kia kaua e haere tonu
We have come too far not to continue

Kaihautu: Mina Pomare-PeitaRōpū Tautoko: Peter Furze / Jo Shanks

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
1	Work with community groups		The Board is keen to work with community groups and AGAIN needs the CMS to ensure this work can be backed with action and certainty.
	DOC Community Fund		It was very disappointing external representatives were not selected on the DOC Panel for the DOC Funding round in 2023.
2	Participate in conservation with community funding discussion		The Board advocate and support communities with their funding applications and Te Papa Atawhai to support Te Hiku initiatives particularly those that (will) align with the CMS objectives and place-based milestones.
3	To return abandoned public marginal land spaces to ngahere with the assistance of kura and community.		A board member has contributed funding and project creation assistance to a Regeneration Project. Green Spaces funding application in conjunction with Tiaki Taiao.
3			The group has approached Te Papa Atawhai for support.

MAHI TAHI/ WORKING WITH TE PAPA ATAWHAI

The Department is focused on the delivery of quality conservation work, which aligns with the conservation leadership role you play within your local communities. I expect you to work collaboratively with the Operations Director and Statutory Manager to maintain a strong working relationship with the Department. This relationship is important in providing advice to the Department on conservation matters within your area. I expect you to report on what is working well for you, and areas that require improvement.

Whāinga roa / Objectives

Kaihautu: Tui Qauqau-Te Paa

Rōpū Tautoko: Jo Shanks

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
1	Meet with Te Papa Atawhai staff at meetings and elsewhere and ensure a professional relationship is maintained.		Board Members will maintain a good working relationship and open dialogue with Directors, Managers, and the Board Support Officer to engage strategically in conservation for the region. The Board will continue to work positively with Te Papa Atawhai but will also reserve the right to question.
2	Embed the principles of whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga in the working relationship between the Board and Te Papa Atawhai		We acknowledge the continual attendance by Te Papa Atawhai staff through regular attendance to Board meetings.
3	Maintain regular feedback and monitoring of the Board's progress towards implementation of its Annual Work Programme including regular review of the Board during the year supported with advice from Te Papa Atawhai support staff		Acknowledge the presence of Te Papa Atawhai management at every Formal Meeting and when required, especially in regard to the drafting of the Te Hiku CMS.

MAHI KOTAHITANGA / WORKING WITH OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS AND THE NZCA

Conservation is a nationwide challenge, and work on conservation matters, management strategies and plans frequently requires working across boundaries with other conservation boards. I encourage you to continue to develop effective ways of working together with other conservation boards to establish a consistent and efficient approach and avoid a duplication of efforts. The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) is a source of support for conservation boards to draw upon in relation to the national and policy context for conservation issues.

Whāinga roa / Objectives

Kaihautu: Mike Finlayson / Waitai Petera

Rōpū Tautoko:

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
1	Work with Northland CB.		The two Boards will need to work closely on the development of the Te Hiku CMS as this has an impact on the existing Northland CMS. Liaise effectively with the Northland Conservation Board, and related groups to engage strategically in conservation and to progress cross-boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest eg. opposing the Fast Track Bill.
2	Work with Auckland CB.		The Board will need to hold discussions with Auckland CB over the Kermadec Islands as two Te Hiku Iwi have statutory acknowledgments in their treaty settlements.
3	Work with Te Oneroa-a- Tōhe Beach Board		The Board is keen to build a meaningful relationship with the Beach Management Board however, the Board needs the CMS to progress so it can ensure that plans the Board is developing are, as far as possible, coordinated, and meeting Iwi aspirations.

		Our Co-Chair, Waitai Petera is also a member of the Beach Management Board.
4	Board representatives are nominated as Liaison Members to neighbouring Conservation Boards (Northland and Auckland).	Mina Pomare-Peita is the appointed Board Liaison for the Northland Conservation Board. These roles will be reviewed annually. The Board has developed a Liaison Policy and Template to provide guidelines and expectations in the role.
5	Maintain effective communications with the NZCA.	Currently communication is received monthly via the NZCA Chair's letter and copies of minutes from NZCA meetings. The NZCA liaison, Ina Kara-France attends our formal meetings and provides support and guidance to the Board.
6	Develop working relationship with relevant conservation- based councils, advisory groups such as Fish and Game, Forest & Bird, NRC etc	20/12/2024 - Tui Qauqau Te Paa is the appointed Board Liaison for Forest & Bird 20/12/2024 - Waitai Petera is the appointed Board Liaison for Fish & Game

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

I expect to be informed well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the board, whether positive or negative. Examples of matters that could fall within the 'no surprises' policy could include, but are not limited to, imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment, or any matters on which I could be asked to express a view.

"No Surprises" policy - could include, but is not limited to, imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment or any matters on which we could be asked to express a view.

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

Kaihautu: Joanne Shanks

Rōpū Tautoko: Mina Pomare / Tui Qauqau-Te Paa

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Implement the Board's Communications Strategy over a suite of platforms including maintaining the Board's Facebook page, developing broader web-based communications, and issuing media releases on important subjects, to engage a wider audience and position the Board as a trusted and independent conservation advocacy body		The Communications Plan has been approved by the Board. The Board to identify stakeholders.
В	Support public awareness and implementation of cross-agency efforts to manage the ongoing threat of Kauri Dieback (Kauri Ora), Public awareness also needed once the draft Te Hiku CMS is publicly notified.		To be included in the Comms Plan

UNDERSTANDING CONSERVATION BOARDS' LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

I expect that all conservation board members fully understand their legal obligations under conservation law, including the hierarchy of priorities that should be considered when making decisions. Conservation boards' legal obligations are covered in section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.1

The Board will undertake a full understanding of their legal obligations under conservation law, including the hierarchy of priorities that should be considered when making decisions. The Conservation Board's legal obligations are covered in Section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

Kaihautu: Tui Qauqau-Te Paa / Waitai Petera / Mike Finlayson Rōpū Tautoko:

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - we know we are onthe right track when
1	Increase awareness of and develop Tiriti o Waitangi knowledge competencies of Board members, including but not limited to understanding Section 4 of the Conservation Act, decolonisation, co-governance, basic beginners guide such as pepeha, karakia, language familiarisation.		Members are keen to register for Pukenga. The Board's ongoing intention is to appropriately reflect tikanga in its meetings and practices and aims to include matauranga maori in every meeting and workshop with the guidance from the maori board members. The Board propose to hold at least one hui on a marae to incorporate cultural competency elements.
2	Continue to engage with Te Papa Atawhai and Te Hiku Iwi to understand co-governance to guide the Board's mahi.		The board requested Te Papa Atawhai to clarify their interpretation of cogovernance. This has been completed as one of the preferential policies in the draft Te Hiku CMS. The Board are seeking a presentation on the Treaty of Waitangi and s4 as part of the Induction for new and existing members.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

Your work plan should align with your statutory obligations under the Act, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977, and the Te Hiku Treaty Settlements Act.

To support Te Papa Atawhai in achieving their stretch goal: New Zealanders lives are enriched through their engagement with our nature and heritage.

Kaihautu:

Rōpū Tautoko:

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	How will the Board support Te Papa Atawhai to reach their stretch goals.		The Board are keen to understand their stretch goals and the depth of their engagement with whanau/hapu/Iwi.

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risks Identified from The Board's Perspective

1	The Board's minimal budget for communication support impacts its ability to deliver expectations in the Work Programme and is out of proportion to the expected level of public engagement.
2	The Board has not had full attendance for some years.

Opportunities for Conservation Growth in The Board's Rohe

1	A truly co-drafted CMS reflects the desires of Te Hiku Iwi, and its successful implementation (shown by regular monitoring) leads to strong enduring relationships and collaborative conservation on co-managed lands and beyond.	
2	Drafting a great CMS is an opportunity to create a model for other unsettled (TOW) Iwi and to also test ways forward on some tricky issues such as issuing concessions where Iwi have an interest.	

	3	Support Te Papa Atawhai to work effectively with the iwi of Te Hiku to achieve their stretch goals
	4	Develop the Board's effectiveness and capability in working with Iwi to further achieve conservation goals through meeting the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act
•	Advocate for and support community-centric conservation and engagement with te taiac through breakthrough projects with diverse communities across Te Hiku (e.g. Jobs for N projects, Kaitiaki Rangers).	

This Work Programme was developed in August 2024 by Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika (Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board). It is designed to give effect to Board functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 and other statutory requirements of conservation boards. 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 Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Hiku o Te Ika
Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board], please see the website:
www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at Te Papa Atawhai
via e-mail tehikuconservationboard@doc.govt.nz