

2017–2018

Operational Report for Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS PLANNING



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Mount Hikurangi hut repair work. Photo: Maara Lee

New Zealand Government

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Published by:
Department of Conservation
Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne Office
P O Box 668, Gisborne 4040
New Zealand

Nov 2018

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Message from the Department of Conservation



Director-General - Lou Sanson

Our Vision

'New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth' is a vision that unites all New Zealanders. At a deeper level, it inherently recognises the interconnectedness of our land, our biodiversity and our people. The Department of Conservation is committed to supporting its Treaty Partners in their ongoing journey to connect iwi, hapu and whanau to species, places and traditions that are important to them. The relationship protocols outlined in the Conservation redress component of each Treaty Settlement binds us in this endeavour.

There are now 64 Treaty Settlements in effect across New Zealand, 11 deeds of settlements in the last stage of being legislated, 8 iwi are negotiating their deeds and 12 other iwi are in the process of negotiating their agreement in principle. The ongoing partnerships we are building with iwi across the country, post-settlement, has greatly improved conservation outcomes for all New Zealanders. I am committed to ensuring DOC meets its Treaty settlement commitments and gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

I am really proud of the work that our Treaty Implementation Rangers are doing to support you in achieving your post-settlement aspirations. The establishment of these new positions around the country signals our commitment to walking alongside you.

The Department of Conservation recently held a hui at Te Papa where we invited iwi from across the country to celebrate some of our shared experiences and successes and I was heartened at how far we have come by working in partnership. I acknowledge that we still have a long road ahead of us, but I believe we are getting much better at walking in step with each other.

Together, this journey will make New Zealand the greatest living space on Earth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Sanson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lou Sanson
Director-General

Outcome Statement

New Zealanders gain environmental, social and economic benefits from healthy functioning ecosystems, from recreation opportunities, and from living our history.



Director - Reg Kemper

Director Comment:

Looking back on the past year, work with iwi and hapu within the Lower North Island region, we are currently working with 11 post settlement governance entities and this area of our work will continue to grow as more settlements are finalised. We have strengthened our network of Treaty Settlement Implementation staff so that we can better understand how to implement the Crown's commitments to you and to increase capability in our districts for working with iwi and hapu. This has also given us the ability to make some progress on the projects that were envisaged in the settlements, as well as linking those commitments better into our planning system.

I acknowledge that there are still some challenges, particularly around how we manage our legislation and permitting processes. However, I believe there is a lot that we can do at a regional and local level; to find areas of mutual interest so that we can achieve more together.

I am looking forward to building on what we have developed to date.

Operations Manager Comment:



Operations Manager – John Lucas

The Department's work with our treaty partners has continued to evolve through the 17/18 financial year. Meeting the Crown's obligations as set out in the Deed of Settlement has always been considered just the starting point with growing conservation through supporting Iwi aspirations the long-term objective.

This year we identified the need for a planning tool to record and measure achievement of Deed of Settlement obligations. These will likely be recorded as agreed tasks as part of our joint annual business planning process. The implementation of this measure is seen as a priority for the Department for the 18/19 financial year. Looking ahead the development of Tikanga guidelines will build on current knowledge and through better understanding support our future working relationship.

Our journey with treaty partners has just begun. It is an exciting time, not without its challenges. The East Coast District team look forward to continuing conservation work alongside Iwi that benefits the whenua, awa and moana.

My role

My primary role as Operations Manager for the East Coast District is to lead and support a team of 17 staff to implement the Department's vision and outcome statement. Our ambition is to not only meet our treaty settlement obligations, but to grow conservation through working with iwi and hapu. A key aspect of my role is maintaining a positive productive working relationship with our post settlement entities. A priority is to ensure my team have the skills and resources to focus on projects, places and species significant to our treaty partners and through collaboration achieve better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lucas', written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Lucas, Operations Manager
On behalf of the Gisborne Office
Department of Conservation

Our Team

Chris Visser – Statutory Manager

Pou Ture Whenua, Lower North Island Region

My role covers the Department's Lower North Island Region, but I am fortunate to be based in the East Coast District Office and I call Gisborne my home. I oversee our regional and cross district statutory processes such as Conservation Management



Plans and departmental submissions and engagement with councils and other government agencies. Much of my work is focused on finding best practice and developing systems to support my district office colleagues in their statutory work 'at place'. I also work closely with the two mainland based Conservation Boards in our region. My background is varied, starting off in the Nature Conservation Council in the 1980's, and then spiralling off into 30 odd years of in and out of the Department, working on commercial crayfish

boats and driving buses for a living, and 20 years living and working on Rakiura Stewart Island.

Charles Barrie – Supervisor, Community
Kaitauawhi, Ao Hāpori

Originally from Wellington, I am in my fourth year in Te Tairāwhiti and now feeling



very much at home. I supervise the East Coast District's community engagement work programme and the amazing rangers who lead our work in this area. Current priorities for me are; the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy and Ngā Whakahaere Takirua, developing new partnerships to support conservation education/capability and youth development, growing citizen science approaches in our region and strategic planning to work better with our Treaty and Local Government partners to manage conservation issues

and opportunities at a landscape/catchment scale.

Rebecca Lander - Senior Ranger Community
Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hāpori

My role includes advocating for the Department's interests in Resource Management Act processes, statutory land management and processing concession



(permit) applications. I have previous experience in survey and monitoring of native flora, native fauna and pest species, island biosecurity on pest-free islands, and as a Freshwater Technical Support Officer undertaking native fish surveys and providing advice on freshwater fish, habitats and pests. As the senior ranger for Community I am responsible for the planning and budgeting for the Community Section of the district.

Don McLean – Senior Ranger Biodiversity Kaitiaki Matua, Kanorau Koiora

As Senior Ranger Biodiversity I plan the projects for the year and manage the budget. I provide technical help where needed for staff and external stakeholders as required. I have been with the department for approximately 10 years. My background has involved botanical and ecological surveys both internally and externally and have assisted various iwi in advising on these subjects. I am mostly based in Gisborne and willingly assist with field work where possible.



Paul Roper, Supervisor - Biodiversity/Recreation and Historic *Kaitauawhi Kanorau Koiora/Ao Hākinakina/Ao* Tuku Iho



I am the supervisor of the operational section of biodiversity/recreation and historic team and ensure we've actioned our planned outcomes. I also fulfil the role of the Health and Safety representative for the district. In my spare time I am also a member of Gisborne Land Search and Rescue and volunteer rural firefighter.

Sandra Groves – Ranger (Community) Kaitiaki, Ao Hāpori



I have worked for the Department since 1991, in different roles; administration, partnerships and community. In my current role, I am responsible for communications/media for the district and work as part of the Lower North Island communications network working across all media. This primarily focuses on telling the stories of the work that is happening. I work alongside the team to produce reports including; conservation board and annual iwi reports. I am from Wairoa, my iwi is Ngati Kahungunu with connections to hapu in the Wairoa/Mahia. I currently work four days a week as I've started a writing business on a part-time basis, contracting out my writing skills.

Trudi Ngawhare - Ranger (Community) Kaitiaki, Ao Hāpori



My work primarily involves leading Education, Events, I-Site (Tourism information) and Volunteers. I have worked for the Department since 2009. Since January I have been Coast based, working from the Ruatoria office, residing in Te Araroa, my papakainga. This allowed the Department to continue to keep connected to the coast communities when long time Te Araroa Ranger Hal Hovell retired. I am always on the look-out for opportunity to grow conservation efforts with community, whanau and hapu. We aim to support whanau to have the tools and knowledge to become experts in looking after their taonga.

Ruby Mackey – Ranger (Treaty Implementation) Kaitiaki Whakatinana Tiriti



As Treaty Implementation Ranger I am challenged every day. It could be how to develop a resource that makes doing my role easier, to problem solving, developing projects, helping staff understand the treaty settlements to ensuring we develop and maintain a positive relationship between with all Iwi. At present we have five settled Iwi within our East Coast District reaching from Ngati Porou in the north to Ngati Pahauwera in the south, inland to Lake Waikaremoana and to the boundaries of Whakatohea and Te Whanau a Apanui. It's very challenging and satisfying at the same time.

Malcolm Smith – Ranger Community Kaitiaki, Ao Hāpori



I am involved with community projects and relationships, including the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group and the Whakaki Catchment Management Group. I work on a variety of conservation work including land management, marine mammals and threatened birds work. For many years, I have had a strong involvement in rural fire management, both for the Department and, at a national and international level, as an aviation specialist. I've also assisted at several overseas fires including more recently in the USA in August 2018.

Jamie Quirk - Ranger Biodiversity Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



I have been with the Department since 1987. I am currently involved in the management of Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve, Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve and the Relationship Manager for two community conservation projects developing areas at Whangara Marae and Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti Rikirangi Reserve.

I work with the hapu/whanau to achieve their outcomes. I also work on all compliance issues that arise trying to protect various areas and species for future generations. I assist other staff with various projects using the skills and knowledge that I have attained over my time in the business. I am also a qualified skipper of Department boats.

Moira Lee – Ranger Recreation Historic Kaitiaki Ao **Hākinakina/ Ao Tuku Iho**



My work involves the planning and actioning of the maintenance, management, creation and information on all things visitor related like huts, structures, tracks, signs, toilets, campsites and amenity areas. As part of the East Coast District Team we do our best to keep these assets maintained effectively for the public to enjoy. I manage the budgets and planning of this work, and best of all carry out the work in the field with the team. The final job for the financial year was the planning, budget and being part of a

team to upgrade the Mount Hikurangi hut. I enjoy my job and work with a fantastic team. In my spare time apart from my many recreational activities, I am a Surf Lifesaving guard for Wainui surf club.

David Lynn – Ranger Recreation Historic Kaitiaki Ao **Hākinakina/ Ao Tuku Iho**



I work in the Recreation/Visitor assets area of the Department looking after the track maintenance of Grays Bush, Te Kuri Farm, Okitu, Cooks Cove, Anaura Bay and Otoko Walkways. I also help with the Morere walkways. My role includes managing the Anaura Bay campground. This involves making sure that it is in pristine condition every camping season. The campground is self-funding and part of this funding goes to employ local people on a seasonal basis to do various work at the campsite. I also get to help in other areas of our business doing things such as hut maintenance, structure maintenance and Back Country Track

maintenance. I also support the school Gateway programme by taking students out for work experiences. My 16 years of administration experience is also called on when required. Outside work I'm the current North Island Team Manager and NZ Executive Member of indoor bowls.

Simon Hustler – Ranger Biodiversity Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



I project manage the pest control part of the Department's business focusing on the deer and goat control in the Raukumara Forest Park, Waimahuru, Pukeamaru, and Waipare Nuhiti. I am responsible for the planning, budgeting and contracting out of this work to contractors as well as work with a team of Rangers from our office training them when required. With this work I am required to organise the flight plans required when we use helicopters to carry our gear and ourselves to work locations in the back country. I am also a compliance officer for the Department and involved with the visitor

assets, marine mammal strandings, fire-fighting, diving, skipper of Department boat, fencing, and pest work. My background as a builder is utilised in the management of the huts and other building assets of the Department. The last job for the year was leading the upgrade of Mount Hikurangi hut.

Helen Jonas – Ranger Biodiversity (Wairoa) Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



I am based in Wairoa and work on threatened species around this location. I am involved in most aspects of work in Wairoa, from spraying weeds, servicing traps, revegetation work, and attending marine mammal strandings. A large focus of my work is on NZ shore plover on Waikawa and I am trying to save kakabeak from extinction, while making *Pittosporum obcordatum* (heart-leaved kohukohu) a common plant. I am also working on improve the lot for the whitebait.

I also run a whio finding dog. I've been working here since 1990, this job is amazing, and so are the people.

Mark Lewis – Ranger Biodiversity (Wairoa) Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



My work involves project managing contractors and working with staff in completing animal/pests and weeds control within the Wairoa region. I also manage the Southern Te Urewera buffer goat control project covering 29,978 ha on behalf of Tuhoē Te Uru Taumata. Other work that I am involved in and around Wairoa are marine mammal strandings, whitebait compliance, fire control and fencing projects.

Graeme Atkins – Ranger Biodiversity Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



I have worked for the Department based at Ruatoria since the mid 1990's. The main focus of my role is threatened species management, pest plant and animal control and supporting our whanau to increase their knowledge and abilities regarding ecology and conservation. This year a big part of my role has been seed collection of native plants due to the Myrtle Rust threat. I provide regular updates to the whanau through Facebook and from that have had volunteers come out and help. The monitoring and protection of kakabeak from pests is also another focus of my role. I work across the whole East Coast district doing a range of work supporting others in our district. I am now also the on the ground support person for the Ngati Porou Treaty Settlement assisting our Treaty Ranger.

Joe Waikari – Ranger Biodiversity Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora



My role is based throughout the East Coast district from Mahia to Whangaokeno. Since the retirement of Hal Hovell, I am now the team lead for our quarterly visits to Whangaokeno where I'm responsible for all on the island. I support others in our team when required by being a support person in many and varied roles that are expected.

Patricia McBreen – Administration Officer Apiha Whakataka



I am the support person for the Gisborne office, providing pivotal reception and administration support to the local team as well as tasks for the Lower North Island (LNI) administration team. I have worked for the Department on and off for 11 years and I am proud of the work that we do. This year the Department is rolling out a new uniform of which I was the LNI Uniform Co-ordinator. I'm also the office warden responsible for ensuring staff are clear of the building in the event of an emergency. In my spare time I enjoy running and other outdoor activities.

Hal Hovell

November 2017 was a significant moment for the team with one of our longest serving staff who joined in 1991, retiring from the department. He later started a new role with Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. This transition hopefully will result in a stronger and increasingly collaborative operational relationship between our two organisations.



Saying goodbye to Hal Hovell (seated Centre) at his farewell November 2017.

1. Introduction

Ngati Porou has cultural, spiritual, traditional and historic associations with the land, waters and indigenous flora and fauna within the Ngati Porou Protocol Area and accept responsibility as kaitiaki under tikanga Maori to preserve, protect and manage natural and historic resources.

Ngati Porou wishes to express the following four principles:

1. Toitu te Mana Atua – Ngati Porou natural and historic resources are cared for, managed, and promoted in a manner that is consistent with Ngati Porou tikanga and will benefit future generations;
2. Toitu te Mana Whenua – Ngati Porou natural and historic resources are actively cared for, managed, and promoted in a manner that respects their origins and connections to particular Ngati Porou whanau and hapu of Ngati Porou;
3. Toitu te Mana Tangata – Ngati Porou natural and historic resources are accessed and utilized in a manner which is consistent with the tikanga of Ngati Porou whanau and hapu;

4. Toitu te Tiriti o Waitangi – Consistent with the partnership principle underlying Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Ngati Porou and the Minister have entered into the Conservation Protocol in good faith and as equals. Ngati Porou and the Minister acknowledge that they are obliged to give effect to the Conservation Protocol and act in good faith, fairly, reasonable and honorably towards each other.

The Department of Conservation is the Crown agency responsible for managing and promoting conservation of natural and historic heritage of New Zealand on behalf of, and for the benefit of present and future New Zealanders. Conservation Legislation must be interpreted and administered so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that those principles are consistent with the Conservation Legislation.

As part of the Ngati Porou Claims Settlement Act, the Crown has issued a Conservation Protocol through the Minister of Conservation regarding Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou and the Department of Conservation. The Protocol sets out how Ngati Porou, the Minister, the Director-General, and the Department will work together to develop a positive, collaborative, and enduring relationship in good faith as Treaty partner.

Implementation of the Protocol includes arranging an Annual Business Meeting between the Department and Te Runanganui, at which the Department will present a synopsis of the Department's work programme (in the form of this report), as it relates to the Protocol Area for consideration and feedback. At the 2014 Annual Business Meeting Te Runanganui requested the inclusion of more financial information regarding operational expenditure and staff hours. This is incorporated to provide more comprehensive information in relation to conservation activity within the Protocol Area.

2. Nga Whakahaere Takirua for Nga Paanga whenua o Ngati Porou

The joint working group made significant progress over the last year in the co-drafting process of this unique strategic document. Key to this progress has been the historical research and engagement with kaumatua and hapū undertaken by Hal Hovell. This provided a rich base of context, values, challenges and opportunities to develop visions for the future of the 22 Ngā Paanga Whenua o Ngāti Porou sites.

The focus for 2018 is the development of the outcomes, management policies and objectives necessary to progress these visions. The draft of this document is currently scheduled to be completed in early 2019, enabling public notification and consultation with hapū later that year.

3. Implementation and Communication

3.1 Joint Implementation Approach

The Department has been working with the Chair of Ngati Porou's Environmental

Committee on a plan to embed Ngati Porou tikanga into our operational planning and delivery. Once completed, the Department would like to work with iwi to develop joint implementation plans for the various sections of the protocols. The aim is to ensure all Department staff understand the tikanga surrounding the various sections of the protocol making our ability to work in partnership with Ngati Porou easier and more productive.

3.2 External Communication and Media

Communicating with our local audiences through the media continues to be an important mechanism for keeping them informed and aware of our work. All department media releases have been distributed locally to all media contacts including Radio Ngati Porou and Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou.

Media releases have covered the following topics:

- Green Ribbon Awards (national environmental)
- Seal awareness
- World Ranger Day (31 July)
- Conservation Week
- Rare seals visit East Coast beaches
- Share our beaches this summer - awareness around NZ dotterel and banded dotterel nesting sites
- Enjoy a family holiday on the East Coast
- Ūawanui project receive a boost from the DOC Community Fund
- Impact of pests in Raukumara Forest Park
- Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve compliance
- DOC reminds hunters to follow the rules this 'roar' season

Department staff have also worked with reporters at the Gisborne Herald, NZ Herald, Radio New Zealand, Maori Television and NZ Historic Places Trust on the following:

- Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve compliance
- Raukumara Forest Park – impacts of pests
- Myrtle rust
- Hungahungatoroa Pa Site
- Whale stranding's at Mahia Peninsula
- Whale stranding at Mawhai Point, Tokomaru Bay
- Wilding Pines in Waimahuru
- Wainui/Okitu group in Okitu Scenic Reserve
- Tu Tane programme (Gisborne Boys High School) at Okitu Scenic Reserve

3.3 Marketing Campaigns

We have continued to use the same approach for marketing campaigns as previous years. Campaigns have included the Whitebait Fishing Regulations, Toyota Kiwi Guardian adventure sites (including a new site at Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve) and short walks. A radio campaign was also organised in 2018 to raise awareness around seals being on roads, an issue identified at the start of the season.

A range of media channels were utilised from radio advertising to newspaper and social media.

3.4 Healthy Nature Healthy People

‘Healthy Nature Healthy People’ is a National Department strategy to build greater links with the health sector, and advocate for the role recreation, volunteering and spending time outdoors has in well-being.

We have been recognised nationally for showing leadership in this space through convening a DOC/Health Sector steering group (featuring some local health leaders) to explore options for this opportunity. Current focus areas are working with Sports Gisborne on the development of ‘green prescription’ materials relating to short walks, volunteering and family adventures; and trialing an all-terrain wheelchair as a method of increasing the accessibility of local tracks.

The youth development work we are doing with YMCA Gisborne aligns with this work programme, and in 2017 we also worked together with Healthy Families East Cape to promote wellness walks and support the ‘Wai Water’ campaign.

3.5 Events

The Department continued to support local and national events as follows:

National

Conservation Week (October 2017)

Conservation Week is run by the Department each year to raise awareness of the benefits of conservation and encourage people to get into nature. 2017’s Conservation Week was held in October with the theme ‘Love your backyard’ which was about trying to get people to convert their love of nature into action. We held a predator trapping workshop with the Whangawehi Management Catchment Group at Mahia which was well received.

Conservation Week 2018 returned in September 15-23 with the theme ‘Conservation Week is calling’ which was about New Zealand’s wildlife being in crisis with over 4,000 of our species threatened or at risk. Conservation Week was about asking for help to turn this around.

As with previous years, radio promotions were shared with the Gisborne District Council and Sport Gisborne.

Seaweek (March 2018)

Seaweek is a national celebration of our marine environment led by NZ Association for Environmental Education with events around the country held in the last week of February/beginning March. Seaweek provides an annual opportunity to collaborate with others to advocate for kaitiakitanga moana.



For this year's Seaweeek we once again co-hosted a marine education and snorkelling day at Te Tapuwae of Rongokako alongside Murray Palmer and Amy Hardy from Ngā Mahi o te Taiao (NMTT). NMTT deliver the national *Experiencing Marine Reserves* and *Whitebait Connection* programmes in Te Tairāwhiti. Department staff took this opportunity to promote both the 'Marine Metred Squared' citizen science approach, and the new Toyota Kiwi Guardians explorer map for the marine reserve (see below).

DOC Community Engagement Supervisor, Charles Barrie talking with snorkellers at Seaweeek event Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve. Photo: S Groves.

Mental Health Awareness Week (October 2017)

Mental Health Awareness Week (as part of Memorandum of Understanding with Mental Health Foundation) is about raising awareness of mental health and its connection to well-being. As part of 'Healthy Nature Healthy People' approach described above, we promoted Mental Health Awareness Week through our communications channels and encouraged staff to take time out in nature during the week.

Toyota Kiwi Guardians

An activity programme for kids to learn about nature, earn cool rewards and go on epic family adventures. A new adventure site was launched at Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve late last year taking the number of sites in our district to three. The other two sites are at Gray's Bush and Okitu Bush Scenic Reserves.

For more info <http://www.doc.govt.nz/kiwiguardians>



Bella and Hamish Swann doing the Gray's Bush Scenic Reserve Toyota Kiwi Guardian adventure. Photo: S Groves.

Local

Gisborne A&P Show (October 2017)

The A&P Show continues to be an opportunity to advocate a community approach to conservation efforts. As usual attracted a lot of queries and discussions about conservation and pest control.

We once again worked alongside Gisborne District Council to host a well-received interactive stall exploring local species, predator impacts and freshwater ecosystems in Te Tairāwhiti.

Tairāwhiti Environment Hui (November 2017)

This biannual event is co-organised by the Department, Nga Whenua Rahui, Gisborne District Council and Tairāwhiti Environment Centre. 2017's hui was an afternoon of speakers followed by a very well attended 'Pecha Kucha' evening of punchy short talks on topical ideas and issues. Highlights of the day's proceedings included a presentation by members of the Uawanui Sustainability Project on their inspiring work, a talk by Graeme Atkins on the botanical diversity of Te Tairāwhiti and keynote speaker Allison Balance talking about 'Our Changing World'.

Upcoming Events 2018

While the Tairāwhiti Enviro hui is on a rest year, 18/19 has a few key events already in the planning stages. In addition to our annual Seaweek, A&P Show and Conservation Week contributions we are also looking forward to:

- Advocating for coastal values as part of Plastic Free July
- Taking part in the Gisborne Board riders inaugural environment day at Wainui Beach
- Working with a range of partners to co-ordinate skill sharing workshops on seed collection, predator trapping and tools for citizen science.
- Continuing to run our semi-regular bio blitzes, in which we work together with the Tairāwhiti Environment Centre to support communities in exploring the biodiversity of their special landscapes.

4. Business Planning

4.1 Annual Business Planning 2017/18

The East Coast District's commitment to strengthening our ongoing operational relationship with Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou, (as described in section 3.1) will this year include presenting the 18/19 year business plans to Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou at our business planning round. The long-term goal is to include Nga Whakahaere Takirua in the planning process.

4.2 Vested Lands Subject to the Management Agreement

See section 17 of this report for Management Agreement sites.

5. Management Planning

5.1 Management Plans

We are committed to working in partnership with Ngati Porou through Nga Whakahaere Takirua to identify and prioritise management planning requirements for reserves within Ngāti Porou that we still administer. We will also discuss how we can support Ngāti Porou in developing any necessary management plans for reserves now under the administration of Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou in the business planning hui.

6. Visitor and Public Information

6.1 Mount Hikurangi Track

Staff completed two days annual maintenance in October 2017, maintaining the track and markers. This involved painting and re-installing the hundreds of yellow bollards all along the farm track to the hut. Maintenance and replacement marking to the shute section near the top of Hikurangi was undertaken and is now to a good standard. We were impressed with the new farm managers health and safety procedures, where they operate a check in check out form for visitors.

As requested by PANZ (Public Access New Zealand) as part of Deed of Settlement obligations, the Department and TRONPnui co-authored a report on the track and hut. This February 2018 points were raised about some maintenance requirements for Hikurangi Hut.



In May/June 2018 Monty Manuel from TRONPnui and Department staff spent three days on Mount Hikurangi undertaking these maintenance items. We had a great three days weather and jobs completed included: flying out rubbish (old toilet and fireplace), replacing the flue and firebox maintenance, provision of firewood, new entry step, new door handle, increased bunk space, general tidy up, replaced guttering that survived the June snow no problem and a new window.

Oct 2017 at the top. Hikurangi hut, L-R View from Hikurangi hut for drop saw and replacing guttering. Photos: M Lee.



6.2 Cooks Cove Walkway

Over the past twelve months 15,000 people have walked the Cooks Cove Walkway, this figure will increase as more visitors visit the region. New boxed steps were added to the start of the track in the 17/18 year. Weather events in June 2018 have caused the track to be very wet and muddy and we are currently re-considering applying for funding to upgrade the track, ready for the October 2019 commemoration to mark the 250th Sester-centennial celebrations. The viewing platform had extensive maintenance done to it, with new decking and non-slip matting added as well.



*Viewing platform Cooks Cove walkway
Photo: D.Lynn.*

Every November the Recreation team prepares the track for the summer visitor influx, with great feedback from visitors.

A total of 113 hours was spent at site undertaking maintenance of this area.

6.3. Visitor Information

The Department website www.doc.govt.nz continues to be the main channel for promoting outdoor recreation. As an organization the recreation pages on the website are the most popular and more people are using mobile devices. At a local level this channel is supported by shared agency visitor publications; 'Hikes and Walks on the East Coast' and 'Pacific Coast Highway brochures' and sharing visitor content on social media channels.

We are currently also exploring our relationship with Activate Tairāwhiti and the Gisborne iSite to see how we can work together more effectively in promoting the visitor assets and recreational opportunities of our district. We welcome discussion with TRONPnui regarding the development and promotion of visitor and tourist assets in the Ngāti Porou rohe.

7. Sites of Significance

7.1 Hungahungatoroa

As reported last financial year, the Department led the geographical features mapping of Hungahungatoroa Pa in February 2017, partnering with Heritage NZ, Nga Whenua Rahui, Land Information NZ, TKKM o Kawakawa mai Tawhiti and Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School. It was a great success not only to collect important historical data, but for haukainga to learn their history, mapping techniques and analysis from Heritage NZ, with the added bonus of Land Information NZ (LINZ) teaching mapping skills using technology more widely used in schools and at home.

Following on from this success, the Department with Land Information NZ sought support from Core Education Ltd to deliver a LEARNZ virtual field trip in August 2017. These field trips are an online classroom for New Zealand schools, to participate on the same learning journey with Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti and Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School.

The LEARNZ Map my waahi field trip is still available [online](#). Participating students came from 146 classrooms around New Zealand. Twenty two evaluations were received and spoke positively about the learning experience and how relevant it was for their programmes.

The successful outcomes from this pa mapping was a valuable learning experience not only for the community but for all partners involved. Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti were also able to connect a Moteatea that they waiata to this project. For Heritage NZ, the opportunity to work with Iwi was particularly valuable. Heritage NZ included Hungahungatoroa pa mapping in their Winter 2018 magazine.



Heritage New Zealand magazine – Hungahungatoroa pa mapping (Winter 2018)

7.2 Waimata River

The Department continues to collaborate with the Longbush Trust, QEII Trust, local landowners and Gisborne District Council to advocate for restoration and land protection activities to improve the water quality and habitat of the Waimata River. The focus of this work to date has been the partnerships with EIT and the YMCA to fence and plant native stands along the river and establish predator trapping.

Priorities for the next year will include:

- discussing the work to date with iwi and hapu who associate with the river
- seeking to identify shared values and priority actions
- looking into an approach to goat management in the river's lower catchment
- exploring opportunities to use this project to progress land management capability development opportunities in Gisborne

7.3 Nuhiti Q Scenic Reserve

Nuhiti Q Scenic Reserve is one of the 22 sites to be discussed in Ngā Whakahaere Takirua. The scenic reserve is privately owned by the Nuhiti Q Incorporation. It is leased to the Department for conservation management purposes, under a term which matures in 2021. As such, the Department at both national and district levels is engaged in ongoing dialogue with the Incorporation concerning the term of the current lease and management priorities moving forward. The Department's National team and the proprietors of Nuhiti Q are also currently working through a historic matter regarding specific details of the lease document concerning fencing maintenance. District staff are providing context and detail when requested.

This year management activities in the scenic reserve focused on ungulate control for the protection of kakabeak (the reserve is the East Coast stronghold), and wilding pine control.

7.4 Anaura Hikuwai (Waipare/Nuhiti SR)

Kakabeak

Staff visited the site in September 2017 (pits and the original site). Seed was collected with numerous green pods present on the plants. Pest insects included leaf miner and green vegetable bug. Seedlings were present. Deer browse was noted at the original site. Pampas and Mexican daisy were hand pulled.

Future work involves canopy closing which will include thinning out surrounding vegetation. Pit site is a priority for releasing.

Myrtle seed collection

Seeds were collected from a range of myrtle species including kanuka, manuka, ramarama, rohutu, Northern rata and several small leaved rata species. The seeds were sent to the National seedbank in Palmerston North for long term storage.

7.5 Hicks Bay Conservation Area

Hicks Bay Conservation Area is one of the 22 sites to be discussed in Ngā Whakahaere Takirua. The Department worked with the Wharekahika community to address the huge pampas population that is dominating the beach area at the expense of our native pingao.

Contractor Hicks Bay Drainage was employed to undertake this work. A huge area was cleared with pampas overturned and left to die out. A vast improvement now with whanau to consider how to restore this area so the pampas doesn't dominate again.

Ranger Trudi Ngawhare is currently working with Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti on a rangatahi taiao programme involving core conservation activities in the area (amongst other Wharekahika/Te Araroa locations).

7.6 Okitu Scenic Reserve

Okitu Scenic Reserve is one of the 22 sites to be discussed in Ngā Whakahaere Takirua. Perfectly suited as an outdoor classroom space for schools and community groups, the scenic reserve was again the centre of a few different community engagement activities over the last year. Recently 80 rangatahi from Gisborne Boys High School's Tu Tane group worked with Department staff to re-gravel the tracks and steps leaving the reserve looking fantastic.



Joe Waikari, Ranger Biodiversity with Gisborne Boys High School at Okitu Scenic Reserve. Photo: Gisborne Herald.

A total of 518 hours was spent by staff and volunteers at Okitu maintaining the site.

The reserve was also brought into the spotlight by the community led 'Nga Manu Waiata ki Okitu/Wainui' biodiversity enhancement group. The Department (via Predator Free 2050 funding) and Eastland Community Trust provided grants promoting predator trapping and habitat creation in the suburb. Following the approval from the Nga Whakahaere Takirua TRONPnui working group, the Department is now working with Forest and Bird to set up a trap network within the reserve which will be serviced by the YMCA alternative education group.

Our staff worked with Wainui Beach School to: trial the new 'understanding predators in your green space' resource, monitor predator numbers across the neighbourhood and provide this data to the Nga Manu Waiata group.



Wainui Beach School Predator project. Photo: Gisborne Herald.

8. Species Management

8.1 Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve

The marine reserve was established in November 1999 as the result of many years of work by the joint applicants Ngati Konohi and the Department. The current marine reserve status has a life of 25 years before a generational review. It covers 2450 ha and contains eight of thirteen marine habitats that are representative of the marine area between East Cape and Mahia Peninsula.

The reserve has significant recreation, education, scientific research values for the local community with over 15,000 visitors per year. It is one of the most accessible, safe and visited marine reserves in the country.

Current update:

- The Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee met on three occasions.
- Two annual Lobster surveys were completed ably assisted by one of the Ngati Konohi whanau.
- Air NZ staff attended the winter survey and it was great to show-case this work to them as their funding provides us with a scientist we need to analyse data.
- Compliance work has led to 15 prosecutions which are all currently before the courts.

8.2 Marine Mammals

New Zealand Fur Seals are regularly seen around the coasts with significant increase in numbers over the winter period. The major haul-out site is Whangaokeno Island with large numbers also on the East Cape. The public appear to be more aware of NZ Fur Seals as these marine mammals return to this area annually.

There were 5 whale/dolphin strandings that we were notified of in the Ngati Porou (rohe). They were all found dead on arrival and burial was arranged.

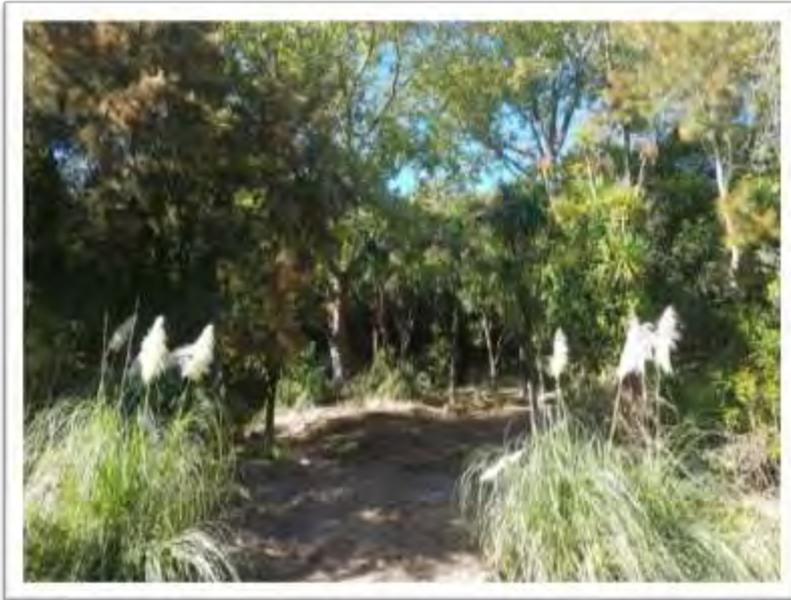
- Pygmy Sperm Whale. Waihau Bay.
- Common Dolphin Tatapouri.
- Pygmy Sperm Whale Whangara.
- Pygmy Blue Whale Mawhai Point.
- Pygmy Minke Whale Tunanui Beach East Cape.

8.3 War on Weeds

The 'War on Weeds' campaign was launched in 2015 by then Minister of Conservation Maggie Barry.

The Department contributed \$25,000 towards the removal of plant pests including honeysuckle and moth plant from Titirangi Reserve as part of the Titirangi

Restoration Project. The work was successfully completed this financial year with a pleasing result.



Titirangi Reserve – site cleared of blackberry and mothplant. Photo: Gisborne District Council.

8.4 DOC Community Fund

The Department's national grants team and district staff supported several significant grants to community and landowner led projects in the district, these include grants from previous rounds which are still current. These included the following projects which are (at least in part) operational within Ngati Porou's Area of Interest:

- Hikurangi Takiwa Trust, Tieke Te Taiao o Te Takiwa
- Tairawhiti Environment Centre – Conservation Group Co-ordination
- Paikea Whitireia Trust- Pukehapopo revegetation and biodiversity enhancement
- Uawanui Sustainability Project
- Te Poho o Rawiri Marae – Titirangi Restoration

While there was no round announced in 2018, we understand that the fund will recommence in 2019. We will advise TRONPnui of the details of this as soon as they are available.

9. National Programmes

East Coast District Office Ecological Management Unit

(EMU) overview

National context

Ecosystem management is prioritised using DOCs Natural Heritage Monitoring System (NHMS) which assesses a set of around 1000 ecosystem management units (EMUs) that range in size from less than one hectare to over 50,000 ha with an average size of just over 3400 ha. Wherever possible, EMUs contain sequences of related ecosystems, often with catchment-defined boundaries. However, particularly in New Zealand's lowland ecosystems, only small fragments remain, and management of extensive sites is not possible.

EMUs were identified using information from a range of sources, including expert identification of high quality examples of particular ecosystems, previously identified sites of high ecological/botanical value, and sites that are currently receiving intensive management, including mainland islands. Together the current set of EMUs contain a full range of New Zealand's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, including offshore islands, coastal turfs, lowland to montane forests, tussock grasslands, wetlands, lakes and rivers.

EMUs are predominantly located on public conservation land, to facilitate the straight-forward implementation of management. However, some EMUs contain land of other tenure, either because they contain ecosystems that are not represented adequately on public conservation land, or because they are being managed intensively by other agencies.

Inclusion in the prioritisation process of sites managed by other agencies is important, as it enables the Department to avoid duplicating work already under way by community groups. It also allows work done by community groups to be placed into a broader national context.

East Coast District (EMU)

The East Coast District still has a total of 12 sites being managed and range from 12 hectares (Grays Bush) to 3271 hectares (Pukeamaru). These sites come from a list of 1000 ecosystems, with only the top 500 managed. Ecosystem types include a marine reserve and a variety of forest types. Management of the EMUs ranges from intensive (e.g. trapping mustelids, rats and possums, controlling weeds and goat control) through to extensive (e.g. goat control but no mustelid or rat trapping).

Most of the current EMUs are on public conservation land. Waikura, Pukeamaru, Waimahuru and parts of Anaura and Hikuwai are the only East Coast EMU on private land.

10. Freshwater Fisheries

10.1 Compliance and Law Enforcement

The Department's compliance staff actively patrolled rivers from Wharekahika to the Waikare during the whitebait season 15 August to 30 November 2017 with two nets seized due to non-compliance with whitebait regulations.

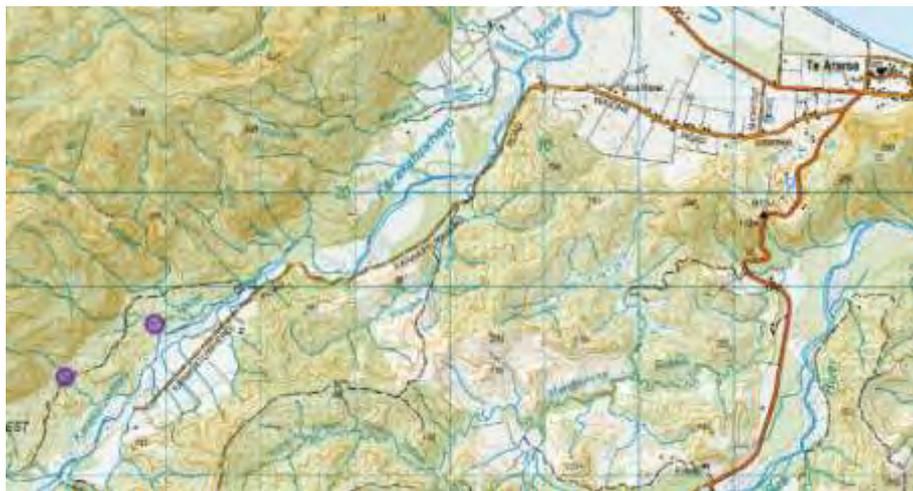
The main issue encountered during the season was fishers leaving nets unattended. At the time of going to print we are currently in the 2018 whitebait season.

10.2 Native Fish Monitoring

As per the Deed of Settlement requirements native fish were surveyed at four sites around Pukeamaru on 4-5 April 2018. At each site 150 metres of stream was surveyed at night by spotlight and a habitat assessment was undertaken during the day. The survey sites are shown (purple circles) on the maps below:



Waikare Stream and Waikare Stream tributary ('Water Supply Creek')



Horotia O Kirimana Creek and Korokoromiko Stream

The fish species found were as follows:

- Waitaukakari Stream: redfin bully, common bully, inanga and longfin eel, plus unidentified galaxiid, eel and bully species.
- Waitaukakari Stream tributary ('Water Supply Creek'): inanga, longfin eel, giant kokopu, common bully, redfin bully, elvers (unidentified eel species).
- Horatia O Kirimana Creek: long fin eel, koaro, elvers (unidentified eel species).
- Korokoromiko Stream: longfin eel and unidentified bully, eel and galaxiid (kokopu) species.

Three students from Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School and Te Kura Kaupapa o Kawakawa mai Tawhiti assisted with the surveys, learning and sharing knowledge about survey techniques and native freshwater fish.



L-R Fish survey April 2018 Photos: Trudi Ngawhare



11. Pest Control

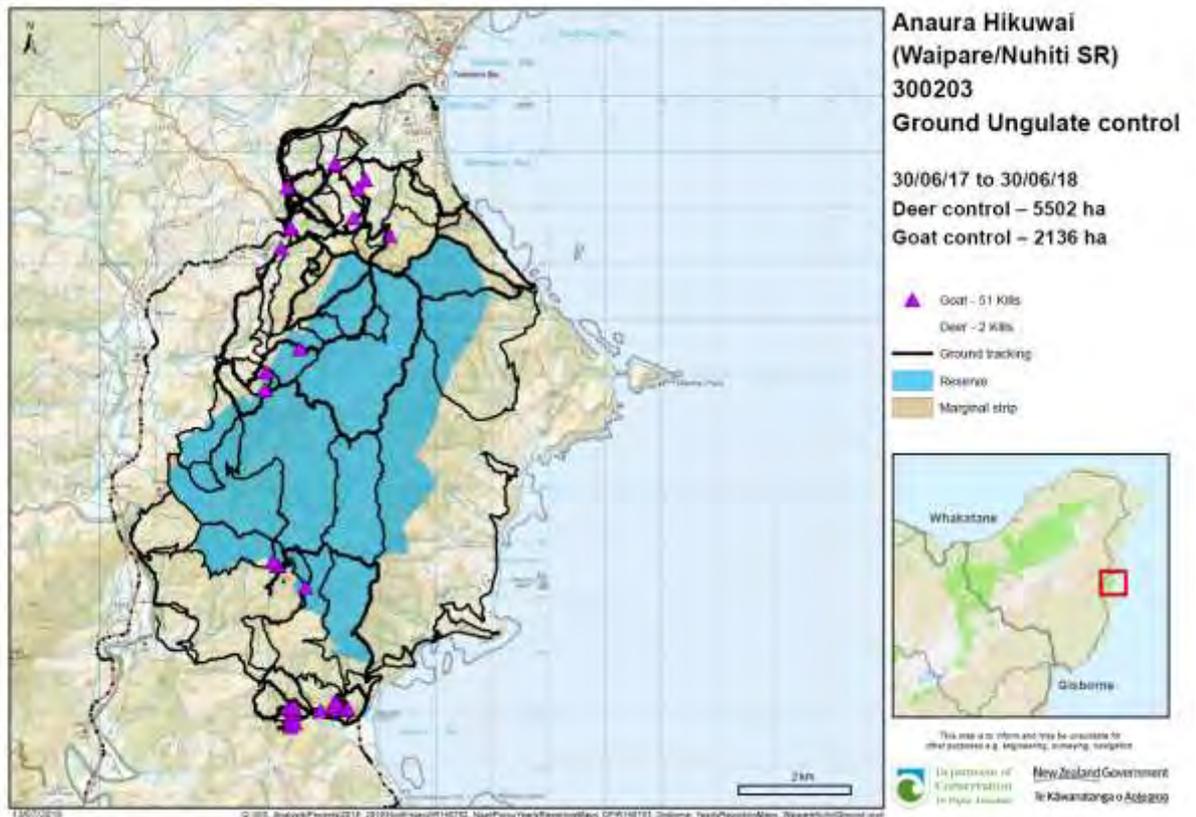
11.1 Goat control Waipare/Nuhiti Q

Waipare/Nuhiti is known by the Department as the Anaura Hikuwai Ecological/Biological Management Unit and contains the privately owned Nuhiti Q Scenic Reserve. It is a complex mosaic of highly modified forest, secondary scrub and patches of primary forest, notably pohutukawa towards the coast and tawa-kohekohe on inland sites.

The Department currently undertakes active management work in Nuhiti Q and Waipare Scenic Reserves; largely focused on goat control for the purpose of protecting the wild populations of the endangered Kowhai Ngutukaka plants (Kakabeak) and allowing the recovery of forest understory. Wilding pine control is also a current priority as this species has the potential to dramatically transform these significant botanical biodiversity sites.

Two hundred hours of goat and deer control have been completed for the year with 51 goats and 2 deer killed. This compares to 28 goats and 1 deer last year for the same number of hours.

The same issues exist from last year's programme with goat farm holding goats opposite the Mata Road turn off. Although this fencing has slowed the number of escapees they are still escaping. There was an influx of goat numbers from the southern end of the block which we haven't seen for 5 or 6 years. This incursion must be due to a build-up of goats on the farmland to the south but has been limited to the outer edges of the block.



Map 1. Ground Kills and Tracking for Waipare/Nuhiti and Buffer

11.2 Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)

The Department carries out feral goat control in the Raukumara range and in a buffer the full length of the range. Gisborne District Council has agreed that money from the Department RPMP money is used for aerial feral goat control in the Motu area to complement other feral goat control.

Feral goat control was carried out in the Motu area in a buffer area. Deer were controlled in Whinray Scenic Reserve. Weed control was carried out in Donners bush, Motu and Whinray Scenic Reserves.

Staff Hours (based on \$100 hourly rate)

Pukeamaru	180 = \$10k
Waimahuru	340 = \$34k
Raukumara	640 = \$64k
Anaura Hikuwai	70 = \$7k
Myrtle seed collection	840 = \$84k
Myrtle surveillance	370 = \$37k

Waimahuru budget - \$21k due to paying contractors for trapping due to staff carrying out myrtle related work.

12. Resource Management Act Advocacy

12.1 Gisborne Regional Freshwater Plan

The Department lodged an appeal on the Gisborne Region Freshwater Plan and has participated in mediation, which is currently ongoing.

The Department's appeal focussed on four points:

1. The failure of the plan to address impacts on coastal waters from discharges to freshwater.
2. The lack of adequate policy guidance to properly implement biodiversity off-setting.
3. The elevation of stock drinking water over instream ecosystem values during periods of water shortage, and the failure to provide for firefighting water as a priority water take.
4. The failure to consider the impacts of groundwater bores on nearby wetlands.

The Department also joined the appeals of several other organisations in order to advocate for the Department's interests.

12.2 Resource Consent Applications

Under the Conservation Act 1987 one of the Department's functions is to advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources generally. The Department therefore has a role in RMA processes to advocate for conservation values and ensure that species, habitats and other resources of interest to the Department are recognised in RMA decision making e.g. coastal and marine, freshwater, terrestrial and historic heritage interests. Conservation General Policy also specifies when the Department may become involved in such statutory processes.

As part of the development of the CMS/NWT, the Department's management planners and district staff are working with TRONPnui to identify opportunities and issues relevant to specific sites and landscapes within the Ngati Porou rohe, which will assist in the consents process moving forward.

The Department has been consulted on the following Resource Consent applications within Ngati Porou's rohe (July 2017 to June 2018):

Publicly notified:

- Gisborne District Council: Coastal erosion protection works, Wainui Beach
- Eastland Port Ltd: Redevelopment of slipway and wharves 6 & 7 Gisborne Port

Non-notified:

- Hikurangi Forest Farms Ltd: Road line harvest, road and landing formation, clearfell and replant operations Huanui Forest, Huanui Road, Tauwhareparae
- Han Rakau Ltd: Increase to extract 12,000m³ of shingle from the Awatere River annually, Te Araroa Road

- Eastland Port Ltd: Upgrade of Waikahua seawall separating Eastland Port's southern log yard from the sea, Kaiti Beach Road
- Ngati Porou Whanui Forests Ltd: Increase shingle extraction from 10,000 cubic metres to 15,000m³ from the Awatere River annually to upgrade roads in the Tokararangi Forest
- Eastland Port Ltd: Install navigation light at Gisborne Port, inner harbour
- Eastland Port Ltd: Upgrade berths at Gisborne Marina, Gisborne Port, inner harbour
- Eastland Port Ltd: Upgrade western sea wall, Eastland Port southern log yard, Gisborne
- Tairawhiti Roads: Landslide remediation works – install horizontal drainage, unblock natural drainage areas, widening stream to previous width prior to the slip, Mangamaumu stream Tauwhareparae Road
- Pankaj Tandon: Forest harvesting and road construction activities, 221 Potikirua Road, Hicks Bay
- Christophers Management Service: Forest Harvest at Huiarua Station, 2987 Mata Road, Raukumara
- Daniel Russell: Clearing of 12 hectares of scrub to create pasture land for grazing, 5265 Waiapu Road, Te Puia Springs
- Potikirua Incorporation: Gravel extraction (7000m³) from Oweka River, Waikura Road, Potikirua
- Tairawhiti Roads: Remediation of McIlroy Road, Waipiro Bay
- Whangara B5 Incorporation: Sand quarry extension, Whangara beach, Whangara (draft application)
- John Puha: Aerial desiccation and/or hand cutting of 125 hectares of regrowth scrub, 14 Marangairoa Road, Te Araroa
- Kuru Contracting Ltd: Shingle Extraction, Mata River
- Harrison Bulk Haulage Ltd: Extract 60,000m³ of gravel for forestry roading, Waiapu River (Tapuaeroa Road)
- Tairawhiti Roads: Bridge Maintenance, Repairs and Prevention Work in Tairāwhiti Region (Global Consent)
- Te Rawhiti Forest Partnership: Harvest of Pinus radiata on Te Rawhiti block 4520/17, Tauwhareparae
- Tairawhiti Roads: Realignment of SH35 1.2km north of Waihau Road
- Tairawhiti Roads: Raising and stabilising sites along Mangaoporo Road and Poroporo Road
- Tairawhiti Roads: Extract material from Golf Course Stream and use to rebuild washed-out road shoulder adjacent to the stream, Golf Course Rd, Te Puia Springs
- Gisborne District Council: Construction of track K on Titirangi, Titirangi Domain Gisborne

13. Concession Applications

A concession is a permit, lease, license or easement that enables commercial activities, organised non-profit activities, occupation of land and building of structures and research in areas managed by the Department. These activities are permitted provided conservation values are protected.

Activities involving marine mammals or protected wildlife require other forms of permission from the Department.

Concessions and other permissions cover a wide range of activities such as guiding, grazing, filming, transport, research, access to resources, accommodation, infrastructure, marine mammal watching, events, wild animal recovery etc.

All concession applications are carefully considered. The concessions application process ensures that potential significant effects are identified and managed to ensure quality environments and visitors' experiences are protected.

The Department values the views of our iwi partners and has a legislative responsibility to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, ensuring that iwi are involved in the decision making process. In addition, Claim Settlement Acts often include obligations for the Department regarding concessions.

As part of the development of the CMS/NWT, the Department's management planners and district staff are working with TRONPnui to identify opportunities and issues relevant to specific sites and landscapes within the Ngati Porou rohe, which will assist in the permissions/concessions process moving forward.

The following concession applications were received by the Department between July 2017 and June 2018. Information on each was provided to Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou and feedback was invited:

- John Heraty, University of California: Collect parasitic wasps in the superfamily Chalcidoidea for research purposes from 1 December 2017 – 15 January 2018 in Raukumara Conservation Park
- Andreas Nord, Lund University, Sweden: Collect feathers from penguin carcasses and to export them to Sweden
- Dan Godoy: Turtle research nationwide
- Gabriela de Tezanos Pinto: Export/import of false killer whale tissue sample from Anaura Bay
- Krista Hupman & Ingrid Visser: Leopard seal research nationwide
- Wet 'n' Wild Rotorua Ltd: Rafting Motu and Mohaka Rivers, Raukumara Conservation Park and Willow Flat Marginal Strip
- Gisborne District Council: Electric fishing in waterways within Ngati Porou rohe
- Te Hui Amorangi Ki Te Tairāwhiti Trust Board: Hold native bird feathers
- Matiu Bartlett: Hold albatross parts
- Tonkin and Taylor Ltd: Operate an electric fishing device, all New Zealand

Minor changes were made around which areas were included or excluded in the existing Wild Animal Recovery Operator (WARO) concessions. There are currently six North Island concession holders.

14. Contracting for Services

As mentioned earlier in this report, the arrival of Myrtle Rust in Aotearoa, and East Cape specifically, had a major impact on our 17/18 work programme particularly the

workload of our Ruatoria based Biodiversity Ranger. In order to mitigate this, the possum and stoat trapping in Waimahuru was contracted out to TreeGen.

Builder Gary Cunningham was contracted to build steps on the Anaura Bay track and replace decking on the Cooks Cove walkway lookout. Deer and goat ground control contracts were let in a closed tender at the beginning of the financial year to six pre-qualified contractors. A subsidy was paid to a helicopter company for the control of deer in the Raukumara ranges. Many of the deer were recovered for sale. Due to concerns raised by neighbouring landowners we are not planning to continue with this control method.

It is the Department's intention to work with operators who are generating opportunities for training and employment of nga hapu me nga whanau o Ngati Porou. As such, the conditions under which the East Coast District uses contractors will be on the agenda at our annual business planning hui with TRONPnui.

15. Conservation Capability Building

15.1 Conservation Capacity Building

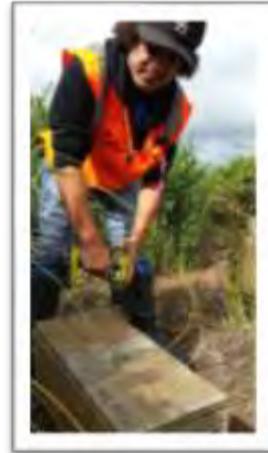
We are currently revising our capability development strategy due to a growing number of requests and opportunities for training both within Ngāti Porou, and in the wider district. This is necessary to manage the impacts on staff time, align ourselves to iwi needs/priorities and to make the most of the range of training partnerships available in the region.

Current focus areas in capacity building include:

- The co-development with EIT of a new 'ecological land management' training pathway based in Ruatoria
- Community focused workshops on seed collection, predator trapping and other key skills
- Working with schools across the East Coast to support them utilising the Department's resources and citizen science approaches to explore and care for their local landscapes
- Utilising 'Bioblitzes' and other citizen sciences methods to bring experts and enthusiasts together with the wider community to create co-learning events, and working with matauranga Māori leaders to increase our understanding of kaupapa Maori approaches to monitoring and management
- Supporting hapu led training programmes such as Pakirikiri Wananga and the Te Araroa marine monitoring project

15.2 NZ Dotterel and native wildlife advocacy

The Department continues to support Hicks Bay Oneroa trapping with TKKM o Kawakawa mai Tawhiti, finding opportunity to evolve this project to be independent of Department involvement at every step. We aim for community to be the advocates for their taonga educating others to take care when on the beach. This area is home to NZ Dotterel and a large population of pingao.



Preparing traps. Photo: Trudi Ngawhare

15.3 YMCA Partnership; OSCAR and Alternative Education

Aligned to our 'Healthy Nature Healthy People' workstream and under the banner of 'DOC and the YMCA: Working together to support strong, healthy kids to connect to our nature' we are collaborating in the following ways:

- Supporting the OSCAR management and supervisors to utilise DOC resources and the richness of the local landscape in their afterschool and holiday programmes
- Promoting conservation and recreation messages in the YMCA monthly newsletter
- Engaging the rangatahi of the Alternative Education programme in the Waimata river restoration activities and Okitu SR trapping

15.4 EIT Partnership

Utilising public conservation land as 'outdoor classrooms' in Wairoa, Motu and Gisborne EIT's horticulture and rural studies. Currently working to develop a Waiapu catchment focused 'ecological land management' training programme and continuing to utilise Donner's Bush Scenic Reserve as an outdoor classroom. The aim is to develop local capacity for engaging with environmental issues and with the hope of creating employment opportunities or further training pathways.

15.5 Teacher Workshops

We are strengthening our working relationships with the Tairāwhiti Environment Centre, Ngā Mahi o te Taiao and EnviroSchools/Te Aro Tūroa to develop teacher's workshops. These environmental education resources explore how to engage with local projects and issues of interest. The plan is to run these workshops in Wairoa, Gisborne and Ruatoria.

15.6 Marae/Hapu lead projects

The Department were responsive to community calls for support at wananga and community meetings.

Myrtle Rust marae-based hui

Many landowners needed information to know what they could do, and marae-based hui were called. For now, the recommended course of action is to observe how the rust impacts our native plants, learn as much as we can and take best steps to avoid “people” spread.

Whetumatarau hikoi

Te Araroa based ranger Trudi Ngawhare supported roopu with guided walks up tipuna maunga ‘Whetumatarau’ in Te Araroa. It’s been a while since groups have been up the maunga but now with healthy native vegetation, Hinerupe Marae toitu te reo wananga gave whanau an opportunity to reconnect with their maunga.

TKKM o Kawakawa hosted Rotorua based Kura ‘Te Koutu’ who were visiting Ngati Porou marae their kura whanau had affiliations to, learning about each hapu they visited. Much of the hikoi was learning the history of the maunga, which included some of the ecological values also and the need for whanau to become involved in looking after this taonga.

15.7 Management Agreement Sites

The department is adhering to the rules agreed to with regards to the management of these sites within the Treaty Settlement. We look forward to further discussion with TRONPnui as to how these sites can be further utilised for training and capability development opportunities.

16. Dispute Resolution

There were no dispute resolution matters to report for this period.



17. Management Agreement Sites

Management agreement sites are owned by Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou, but the Department still has a commitment to undertake operational work in these sites. These sites are set out in the Deed of Settlement and include Pukeamaru, Whangaokeno, Aorangiwai, Waimahuru and Anaura Bay. Raukumara Forest Park is an area of interest. All budget and expenditure information are contained in the financial section of this report.

17.1 Pukeamaru

The 3264-hectare reserve has semi coastal to montane forest, with populations of hochstetter frog and freshwater fish present. Common bush birds such as tui, kereru and tomtit.

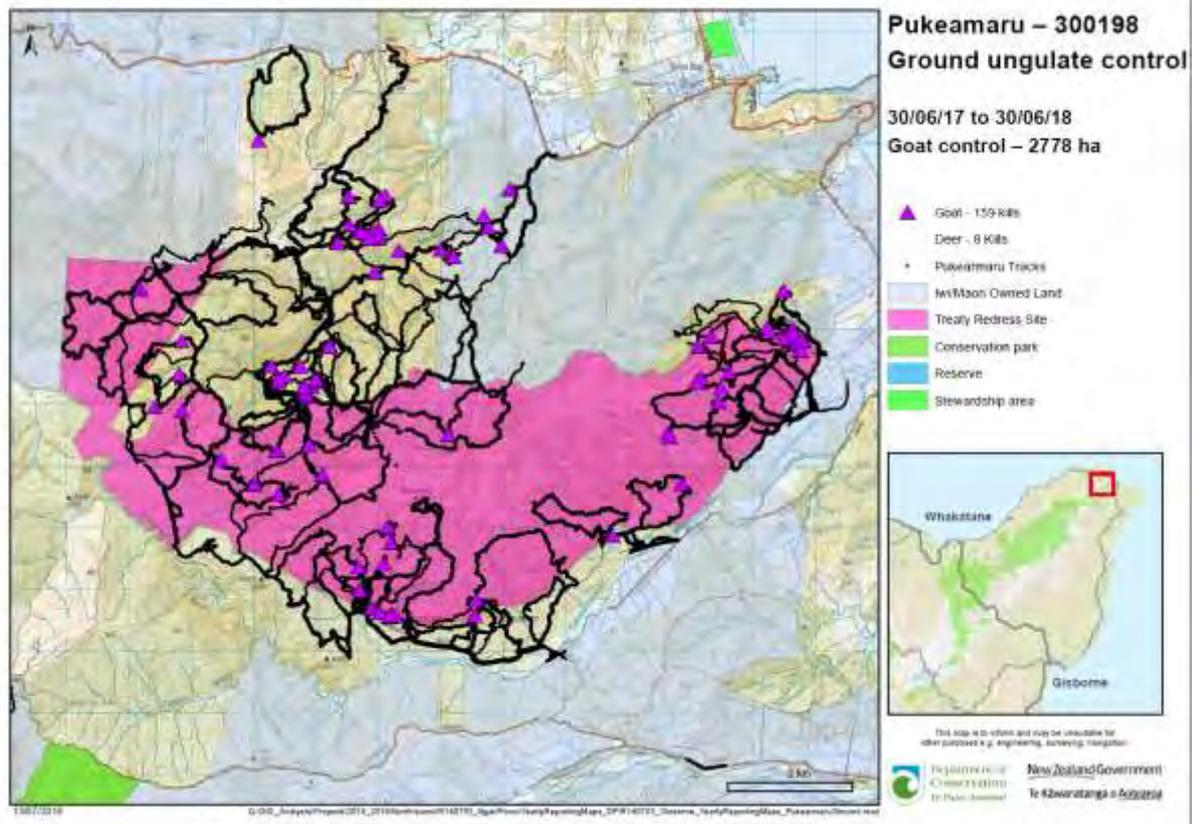
Works completed

600 hours of animal control have been completed to date this financial year with the last completed in June. 158 goats and 9 deer have been shot for the 600 hours. Goat numbers in the centre of the block continue to decrease, with the majority of the tally being shot on the edges where new areas are being hunted. Reinvasion is a major problem which will keep contributing to reasonable goat numbers being shot every year. Hal Hovell worked with local landowners to gain more access to pockets of goats that have been inaccessible previously. The areas that are unable to be accessed remain a problem. In comparison, last year's tally was 93 goats and 5 deer.

As with the previous years, contractors have flown into the interior of the block for about 50% of their time then worked the outside, based from the Te Araroa campground. This enables good coverage of the block.

Access to the block has been good this year with Ernslaw One providing entry through the Mullany's Forest to enter the southwestern side and Ngati Porou Whanui Forest also permitted entry through the Hoia block on the north-eastern side. As with previous years all the locals spoken to have been positive about the project. Oweka Station did not give permission to us to control goats on their land.

Map 3. Ground Kills and Tracking for Pukeamaru and Buffer



Fish Survey
 See section 10.2 native fish monitoring.

17.2 Whangaokeno

Description

The island has high botanical and wildlife values. Breeding colonies of several species of shearwater and petrel are present on the island and monitoring of these has occurred. Restoration plantings and weed control has been carried out over the years to enhance and protect the coastal shrubland and herbfields. Tuatara have been reintroduced recently. Several threatened plant populations are present including papa plantain (*Plantago picta*), Shore puha (*Sonchus kirkii*) and the re-introduced Nau (Cook's scurvy grass/*Lepidium* species).

Works completed

A separate report is currently under preparation and will be submitted as soon as it is completed.

17.3 Aorangiwai

Description

The 751 hectare reserve comprises lowland to sub-alpine forest with common forest birds present such as tui, kereru and whitehead. Goat control has been under taken at three

yearly intervals, but since settlement has occurred annually. Arongaiwai has been surveyed and no goats were present. The buffer zone on Waingakia station was not shot this year due to access issues.

Future works

The buffer zone on Waingakia Station will hopefully be controlled in 2018/19. One of the owners has indicated that he will be able to do so but not just yet.

17.4 Waimahuru

Description

The 264-hectare coastal reserve contains the southernmost extent of significant pohutukawa forest on the eastern side of the North Island. The reserve contains a number of threatened plant populations including kakabeak/ngutukaka, dactylanthus/Pua o Te Reinga and mistletoe. Several species of orchid also reach distribution limits in the reserve. A population of grey petrel/titi are also present. Weed control of wilding pines, Mexican daisy, pampas, Spanish Heath have been controlled over the years. The reserve is a high ranking BMU (biodiversity management site).



Access to the reserve is through a neighbouring forestry block.

Works completed

Tracks

The tracks were becoming overgrown and covered by fallen trees in some areas. Three days of track clearing were carried out by TreeGen with handtools to make it safer to get around the traps. Minor track maintenance has been carried out while trapping.

Possums and Stoats

109 possums and 15 stoats have been trapped between June 2017 and July 2018. There were 2 cats, 81 rats and 8 hedgehogs caught as by-catch.

The possum numbers seem to have increased after the harvest of the neighbouring pine block, they should reduce next year as the majority get trapped.

Goats

With the removal of the pine trees aiding the ongoing control in this area goat numbers in the northern end of the block have decreased to nil this year. There has been an increase in goats on the very southern end of the block around Te Waipuna. We have managed to stop them moving north into the block at the moment. With the low/nil numbers in the pine the buffer could be extended further south to combat this.

The removal of the pines has pushed deer numbers up in the reserve and created better habitat in the cut overs for deer to breed. The reserve itself, because of the regenerating understory is very hard to successfully hunt deer in. And while the



Kakabeak plants on roadsides in Koutinui Forest Photo: Graeme Atkins

Dactylanthus

Twice yearly monitoring of the seed sowing trial. This is undertaken while carrying out other field work.

Future works

The two major wild kakabeak sites have a canopy that is closing in and blocking the sunlight, so we need to thin out the surrounding vegetation. The sites are very steep so will need specialist expertise.

Wilding pines can outgrow the native trees, so are the priority weed to control. We plan to hand pull these in the 4 hectare block that was recently harvested of pines and added to the reserve. The Department has a ready source of labour from EIT Ruatoria to help us with this job. They will collect seeds from forestry roadside plantings and SH35 plantings. Volunteers and school groups will help with weeding the roadside sites and growing more plants to be planted out.

Traps are being reinstalled along the forestry road side after harvesting. Four cat traps will also be installed as more signs of cats are seen.

17.5 Anaura Bay

Works completed to date

Steps have been built in two areas of the Anaura Bay walkway track for visitor safety. Pine trees continue to fall and be cut off the track. The track was cut in November to a very high standard. Further work will not be done on ¾ of the track until the pine trees are removed.



The 2017/18 camping season was the best on record, with the campground looking pristine. An Eftpos machine continues to be used at the campground and WiFi technology to get the full benefit of the Eftpos machine is being investigated. Again, the honesty box was removed in December and January due to past theft. Campers continue to enjoy what our coastline has to offer. The campground is closed after Easter weekend, to the start of labour weekend.

New steps on track at Anaura Bay walkway
Photo: Dave Lynn

A total of 368 hours was spent by staff and volunteers at Anaura bay track and campsite over the 17/18 year undertaking maintenance and improvements to this area.

Future works

More steps to be added to enhance the track whilst forestry harvesting taking place leaving a part of track open. Once harvesting gets close to that end of the track the full track will be closed.

17.6 Raukumara Forest Park (Area of interest)

Description

The forest park comprises 120,000 hectares of forest ranging from semi coastal to sub alpine vegetation. A range of fauna are present including common forest birds, kaka, whio, kakariki, native bats and native fish.

Works completed

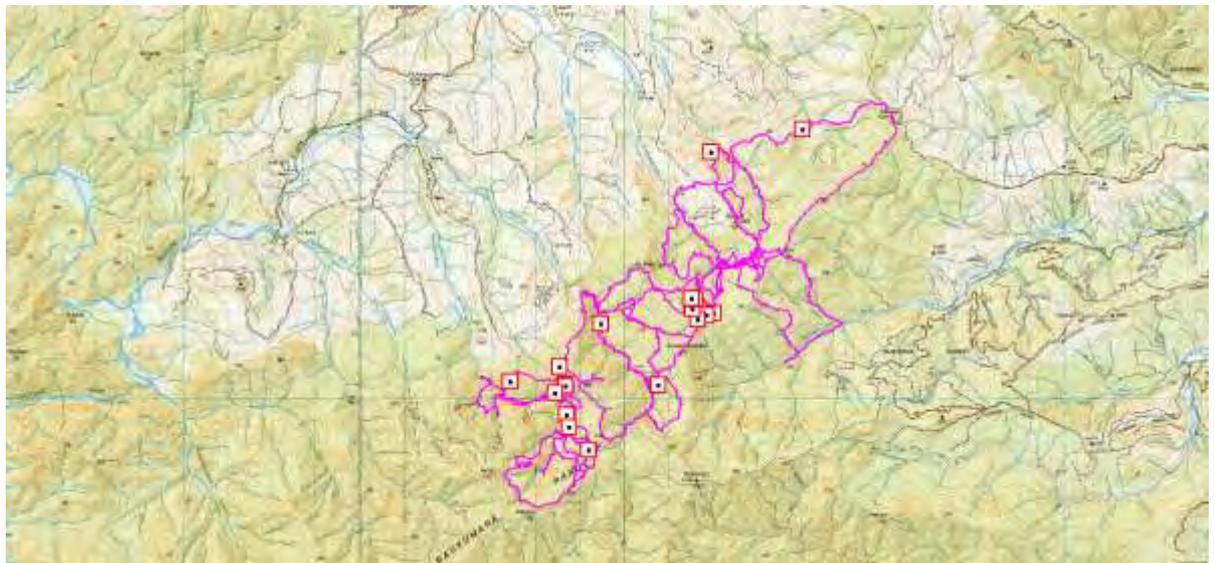
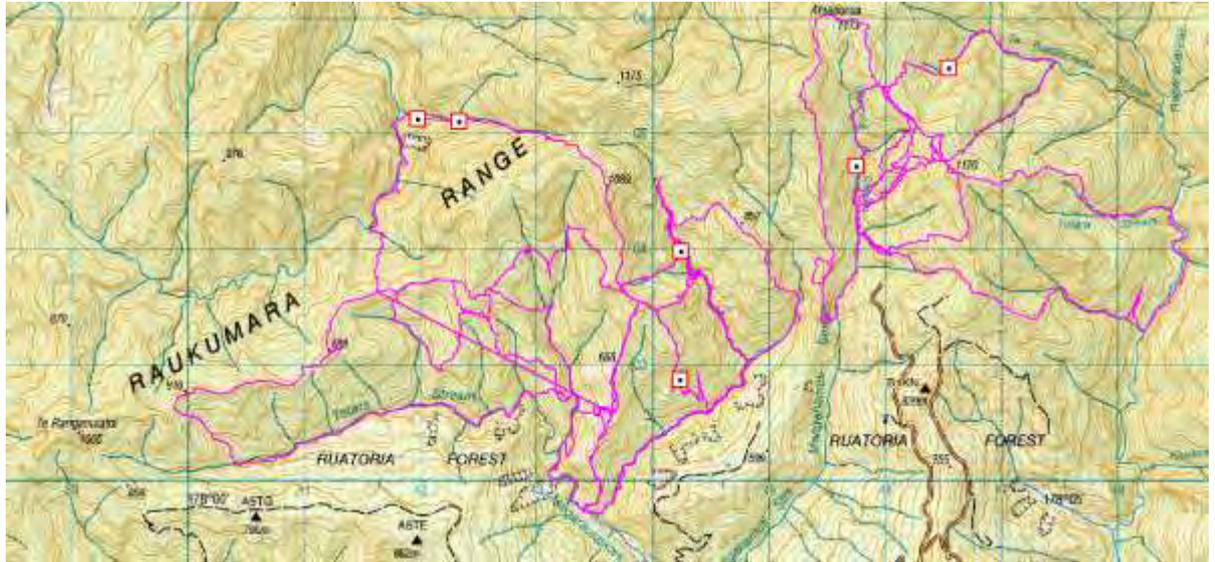
North Eastern Raukumara

300 hours of animal control has been undertaken in the Outlier/Littleworth's forest and Rip Forests areas plus an aerial shooting component.

The contractors on the ground killed 22 goats, 12 deer, 2 sheep and 1 cattle beast. 1 goat was shot behind the Raparapariki/Gate forests after there was a mob reported by the WARO operator. No other goats or goat sign was encountered which means there is still several goats in the area /pines.

Of the 22 goats only 3 were on Public Conservation Land (PCL) the rest were on Rewatu station. Goat numbers on PCL remain very low in this area and the ability to shoot a buffer on Rewatu, Waikura and Pakira station has contributed to this. Littleworths remains an area that contains moderate numbers of goats and is hard to access and will contribute to reinvasion into the PCL.

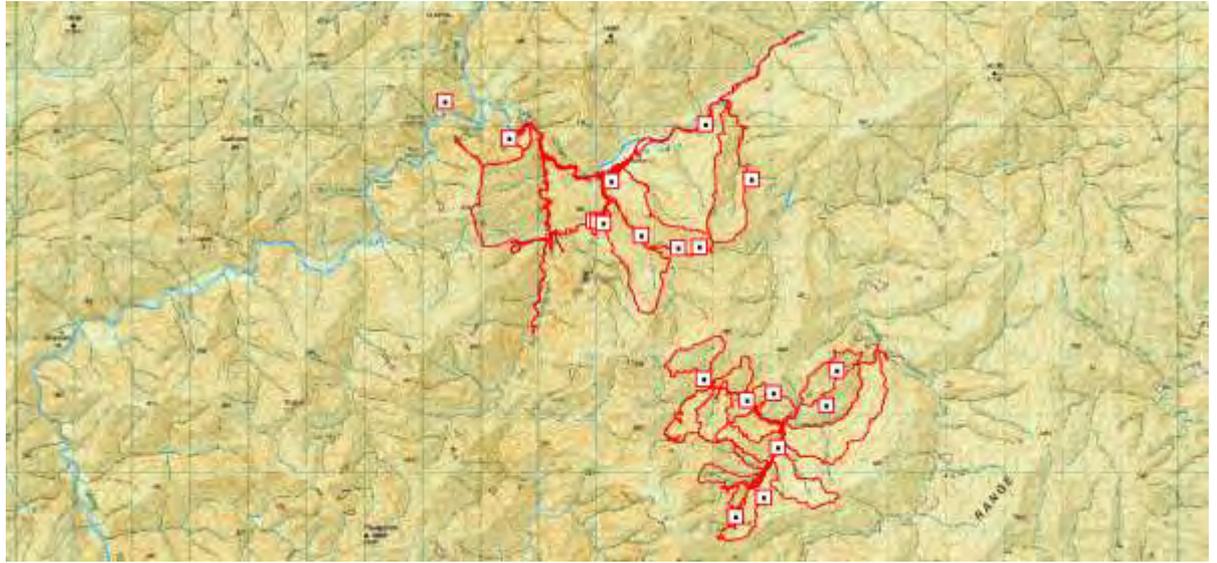
Map 5. Outlier/Littleworth's forest Ground Hunting Kills



Te Kahika/Mangatutara Area

After two goats were shot out of the bottom end of the Unknown/Kahoka in the 16/17 year 200 hours contractor time was committed into this area. This year with the result of no more goats or goat sign discovered 16 deer were shot while undertaking this operation.

Map 6. Te Kahika/Mangatutara Ground Hunting Kills



Deer - 30000ha control block

1400 hours of deer control have been completed by contractors using indicating dogs. 467 deer have been killed which equates to just under 1 deer per 3 hours hunting. 1 deer per 3 hours has been consistent for the three years the project has run. Most deer shot were reported as in poor to average condition. The top hunter produced just over 1 deer every 2 hours hunting. This year the highest number of deer shot in a day by one contractor is 8, 29 deer for a 50 hour run (5 days) and 45 deer for a 100 hour run. (10 days).

The Department again subsidised a WARO operator to shoot deer out of the control area. They have killed 315 out of the 30000ha control area (Map 8) and over 1200 out of the Raukumara (Map 10).

Over 1700 deer, 89 goats, 7 cattle and 5 sheep have been killed in the Raukumara on the true right of the Motu River and the buffer zones to date this financial year (July-June).

The new (2017) deer monitoring method was undertaken again this year. Only 20 of the 30 lines were completed this year due to adverse weather in February and March.

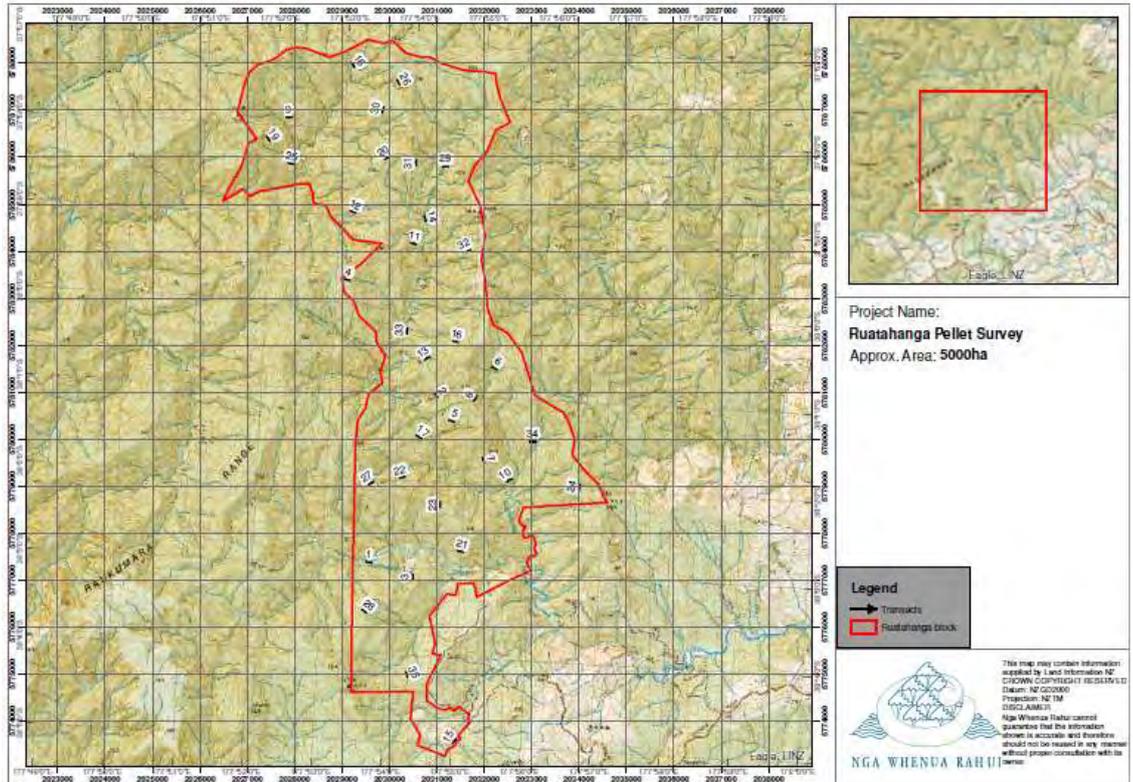
Initial analysis of the FPI suggests that the deer population has been growing at a rate of 3% per annum.

A seedling pellet line survey was also completed in the Waingakia catchment. The number of palatable seedlings per plot appears to reduce every survey. We have an analyst sorting the data and a waiting on a report. Observations of large stands of dead totara during this survey were picked up by the media.

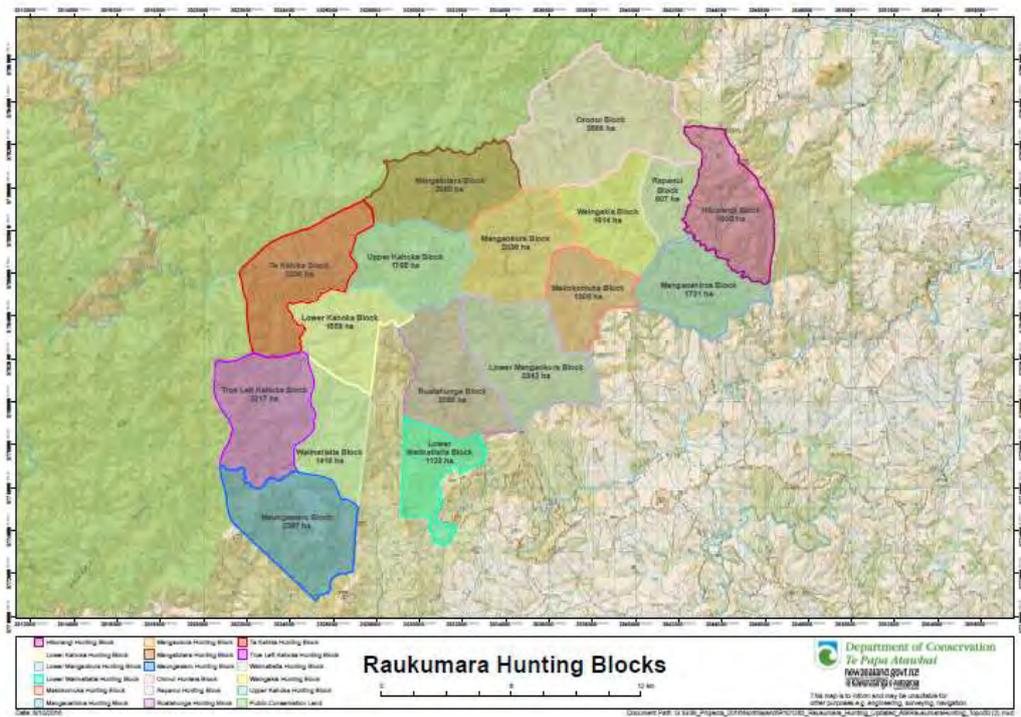
The Department's national monitoring team were in the district over summer. The terrestrial monitoring programme has been established at approximately 1400 plot locations that are evenly spaced across Public Conservation Land (PCL).

Approximately 280 plots are measured each year, with every plot being measured on a 5-year rotation cycle. The information is displayed in an easy to view format on the DOC website at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/plot-level-report/>

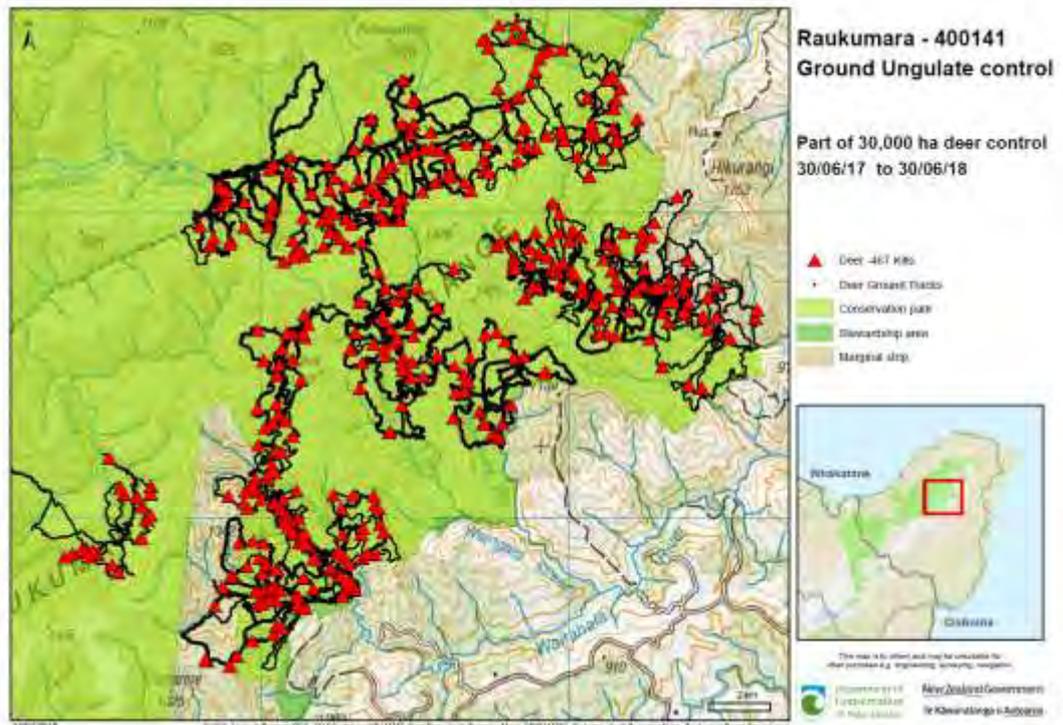
Map 7. Faecal Pellet Index Lines, Ruatahunga



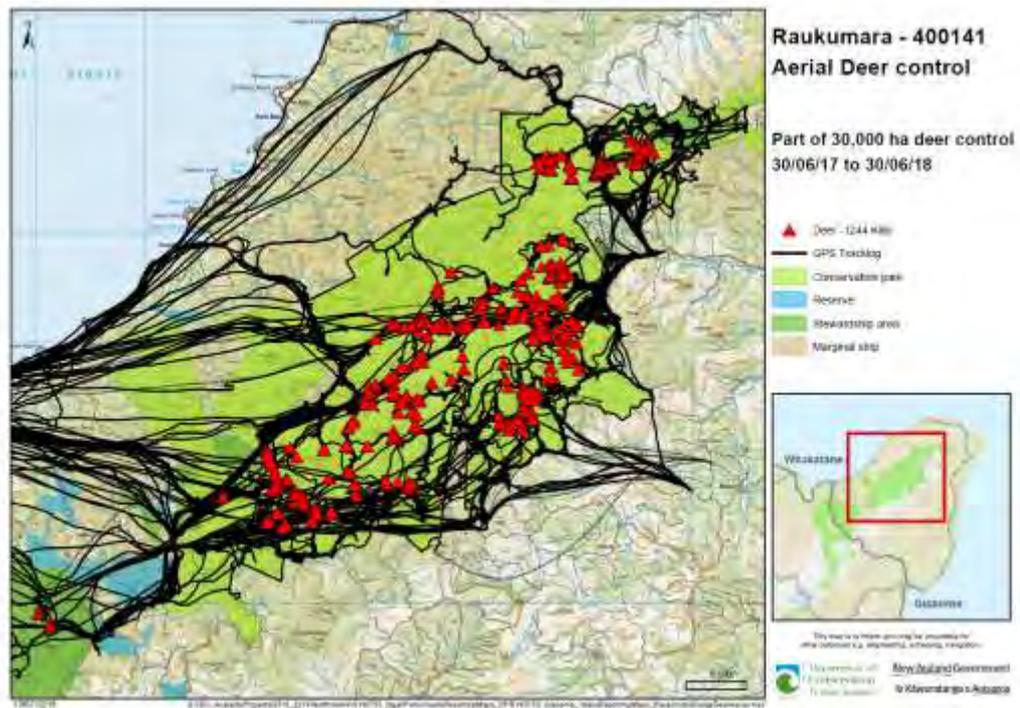
Map 8. Deer Control Block With Contractor Hunting Areas



Map 9. Deer Control Block Ground Hunting Kills]



Map 10. Total Aerial kills Raukumara Conservation Park



Raukumara huts and tracks

Inspections this year confirmed the huts are to standard and safe, but all need work. Minor work has been completed and the fireplace at Oronui replaced. This fireplace had final code of compliance sign off from Council in June.

Future works

Oronui and Mangatutara huts will be re-piled by staff and volunteers next financial year 2018/19. Mangaotane hut had a helipad created by unknown persons. This helipad now needs to be removed and replaced by a compliant structure.

We are currently reviewing our measuring tools for deer populations in the Raukumara to ensure they give us the information we need to guide our future management. Due to increased interest/concern regarding the impact of browser and predator mammals on the flora and fauna of the Raukumara, DOC staff are currently working with Ngati Porou community leaders to investigate the scale of the impacts and potential mitigation approaches.

18. Financial report

In the 2017/18 financial year funds provided to the Department to support the implementation of the Ngati Porou Treaty Settlement have been allocated as follows:

Project	Operating	Revenue	Staff Hours in \$
Management Agreement Sites			
Pukeamaru	71,218		
Whangaokeno	26,700		
Anaura Bay Scenic Reserve	3,000		
Waimahuru	9,030		
Aorangiwai	4,974		
Sites of Significance			
Raukumara Forest Park	258,405		
Waipare/Nuhiti	18,000		
Anaura Bay Recreation Reserve		29,000	
TOTAL	\$391,327	29,000	114,018