



# Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) OECM Working Group meetings report

Reviewing and finalising the IUCN Other Effective area-based  
 Conservation Measure (OECM) assessment for the TCA

RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS

January - April 2024



Photo by Elizabeth Munro, NES

Report by Jessie Nicholson, NES





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Kākerōri (Rarotonga Flycatcher, *Pomarea dimidiata*) adult and juvenile, Julien Ueda (2019)

Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

August 2024



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The National Environment Service would like to extend our gratitude to SPREP, the United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania for their ongoing support and assistance.

A big *meitaki ma'ata* to those from the three traditional landowning tribes of the TCA, Ngāti Kainuku, Ngāti Karika and Ngāti Manavaroa, who joined the OECM Working Group to assist the NES with reviewing and finalising the text for the OECM assessment of the TCA, and for reporting back to the TCA Community at the Reporting Back to the Community meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Note: several of the people named in this report hold traditional titles in the Cook Islands i.e. there is 'Ariki', 'Mataiapo' or 'Rangatira' mentioned before their first and surname. It is therefore requested that their names are cited appropriately by including their traditional title.





## Acronyms

ACPMEAs 3	African, Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreements project phase 3).
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IUCN WCPA	International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NES	National Environment Service
OECD	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure
PA	Protected Area
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCA	Takitumu Conservation Area
TCA OECD-WG	Takitumu Conservation Area Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure Working Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WD-OECD	World Database on OECDs



## Summary

The Cook Islands National Environment Service (NES) hosted a community workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, from 6pm-8pm each evening at the Avana Cook Islands Christian Church Sunday School hall. This workshop sought to bring together landowners and the Coordinating Committee of the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA), to improve understanding of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and its application to the TCA.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the TCA community advised NES on amendments that needed to be made to the information in the OECM assessment tool, and they also agreed on final text and conditions for the letter of consent. NES revised these amendments and incorporated them into the OECM assessment.

Following on from this community workshop, was the formation of a Working Group to confirm the revised information in the assessment, before reporting back to the wider TCA community and obtaining final consent. The Working Group consisted of traditional landowners of the TCA and the NES, who acted as the Secretariat.

Three WG meetings were called between January – March 2024 to discuss and finalise the TCA's OECM assessment.

In addition, another two WG meetings were called to discuss and finalise the designs of the new TCA storyboards that would be installed at Arakuo (main entrance of the TCA) and Avana.

Working Group meetings were typically held between 5pm-7pm in the evening at the National Environment Service conference room. Light refreshments were provided at the conclusion of each meeting.

A list of WG members can be found in Appendix 1.

The Working Group was known as the TCA OECM Working Group (TCA OECM-WG).

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## Background

The National Environment Service (NES) met with the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) community on the evenings of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, to introduce OECMs and present the draft OECM assessment form for the TCA. Several break out group sessions were conducted over the two evenings to review and amend the information that NES populated into the OECM assessment tool for the TCA. A key outcome of this community meeting, was the need for a Working Group (to be formed consisting of the traditional landowners and supported by NES as the Secretariat. The Working Group would review and discuss the draft OECM assessment of the TCA, and present the final document back to the wider TCA community for endorsement and final consent.

NES contacted some of the TCA landowners who attended the community workshop, to gauge who should be involved in the Working Group. Landowners from the three traditional landowning tribes/Ngāti (Ngāti Kainuku, Ngāti Karika, and Ngāti Manavaoroa) were contacted and requested to attend the first TCA OECM Working Group (TCA OECM-WG) meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the NES conference room.

Note: NES acted as the Secretariat, ensuring that the latest changes to the OECM document were circulated to the TCA OECM Working Group ahead of each session.

## Session 1: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Aim: Begin going through the revised OECM assessment for the TCA, based on the changes that were requested to be amended on the assessment, at the community workshop held in November 2023.

Discussion & Outcomes: the TCA OECM-WG went through most of the OECM criteria, however some of the details within each criteria were skipped as they didn't require heavy discussion. It was decided to focus on the areas that required more discussion and come back to the 'less heavy' ones later. There were also some uncertainties over the land names and sizes, and who to include as the names for the governing authority of the TCA e.g. is this the TCA Coordinating Committee, the names of those in the Working Group, or the traditional leaders of each Ngāti? These questions were noted and put aside to discuss and confirm at a later session.

Next steps: NES Biodiversity Coordinator, Ms. Jessie Nicholson, was requested to collate the amendments and recirculate the assessment to the team via email. The next working group session was decided to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.





## Session 2: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Aim: Continue going through the amended OECM assessment for the TCA.

Discussion & Outcomes:

- Finalized the text of the consent letter for the Free Prior Informed Consent and confirmed that the ones to give consent are the heads of each tribe on behalf of the entire three tribes. These people would be Kainuku Ariki, Karika Ariki and Manavaroa Mataiapo.
- The Working Group then moved to the new maps of the TCA that Paul Maoate (TCA OECM-WG member) had created using GIS.
- Following this, the TCA OECM-WG went through the assessment tool from start to finish, confirming each criteria and section as they progressed through the tool. Changes were made by Ms. Nicholson where told to do so by the landowners. There was heavy focus on criteria 8 as the working group had not gone through that one at the last working group meeting.
- Final decision was to tidy up the document based on the changes from this working group session, and send the document to UNEP, IUCN and SPREP for any feedback or input, to have an extra pair of eyes to tell the group if they were on the right track.
- NES requested the working group to ask around within their families and have a look at their storage boxes, to see if anyone could find documentation of the declaration by the heads of the 3 tribes that the land was being set aside as Takitumu Conservation Area. In particular, NES hoped the document would capture when the TCA was established and its purpose of conservation (to save the endemic Kākerōri bird (Rarotonga Monarch, *Pomarea dimidiata*)). This would be a key document to attach as a supporting document for the OECM assessment, and would be great to recirculate copies with the landowners for their own records.

Next steps: NES to send the assessment tool to UNEP, IUCN and SPREP. Finalize the maps with Paul Maoate.



Group photo from Working Group Session 2 was taken by SPREP staff member Nanette Wooton.







## Session 3: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Aim: Review the comments that UNEP made on the OECM assessment form, and confirm the final document. NES to also highlight next steps.

### Discussion & Outcomes:

- Addressed comments on the TCA OECM assessment made by UNEP-WCMC staff member, Mr. Benjamin Lucas, and IUCN WCPA staff member Mr. Harry Jonas. The WG was happy with the final document and confirmed the text in the assessment as final;
- Discussed the map that Paul Maoate was producing. Paul also showed the working group photos from the Avana side of the TCA that had been burnt in 2011. A fire had gotten out of control. It is key to raise more awareness that the TCA reaches over to Avana, particularly where the road goes inland to the Avana water intake.
- The WG discussed revamping the TCA sign and getting a new storyboard produced to raise awareness on the TCA, noting of course that this was subject to funding availability. The signs should be placed on each of the three sections of land that the TCA sits on.
- At the previous meeting, WG member Ana Tiraa offered that she could meet with Uritaua Mataiapo Teariki Rongo, who worked for the National Environment Service at the time when the TCA was declared. Ana raised what she discussed with Teariki Rongo - that he resigned from the NES in 1995, which is when consultations took place. There were focused group meetings with traditional title-holders. The chiefs of each tribe were very supportive of establishing the TCA
- There was a discussion regarding getting the consent form signed prior to the Report Back to the Community meeting, particularly for Kainuku Ariki who would not be able to attend the community meeting for consent. It was agreed that this was an acceptable approach for NES to take the lead in, and that a representative of Kainuku Ariki should stand in during the signing of the consent form on the day (12 March 2024).
- The final point of discussion was the details of the wider community meeting, known as the Report Back to the Community meeting confirmed for two week's time on Tuesday 12 March 2024.
- It was also confirmed that the Working Group members would present back to the wider community.

Next steps: NES to finalise the OECM assessment form (confirm resource/report listing and ensure to proofread/spellcheck). NES to prepare for the Report Back to the Community meeting, and send out the presentation slides to the Working Group to confirm who will present which slides.





## Quotes from the TCA OECM Working Group.

"The protection is going to have to come from within the family. It's really important what we're doing here, and we need to go back and educate our own family. From my perspective, educating everyone will start with the original agreement"  
 Tuaivi Edward Karika

"It's a legacy for our future generations"  
 Celine Dyer

"I've always thought it's such a noble cause...it's an astonishing story 'to restore the kākeroi population from 29 birds to over 600 birds'"  
 Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne

**"(The TCA) is one example of how a family has come together and agreed on something for 30 years".**  
 Tuaivi Edward Karika

"It's a bigger thing than just a part of our family. There is a worldwide goal to protect areas, and it is important to protect our land for our kākeroi"  
 Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne

"This is a bit of a wakeup call for the families....There's 99 original landowners on Turangaare"  
 Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne

"I found it inspirational when Ian (Karika) played the recording of the kākeroi sound at our last meeting (in November 2023), and to realise that I'd heard that bird sound before up around the Avana intake. If you've heard that bird, congratulations, you've been in close contact with a kākeroi!"  
 Paul Maoate.

"This working group is a partnership, we are working with the family because at the end of the day, the land belongs to the family and only the family can decide what happens on their land"  
 Elizabeth Munro, NES

**"What's important to me is that a family has agreed on something for 30 years. More important to me is to continue that agreement".**  
 Tuaivi Edward Karika

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The following TCA OECM Working Group sessions were called to discuss the new TCA signs and storyboards that NES was working on creating, to coincide with the launch of the TCA as an OECM on International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2024.



## Session 4: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Aim: Discuss story board draft designs, and updates on other matters

### Discussion & Outcomes:

Before discussing the storyboard draft designs, NES updated on other matters since the Report Back to the Community meeting held on 12 March 2024:

- NES updated on the TCA's OECM submission – all documents for submission have been sent to SPREP to submit to UNEP-WCMC, except for the GIS Shapefiles. Paul Maoate advised that he has requested Ms. Gander Wainoqolo, Senior CAD and GIS Environment Engineer at Infrastructure Cook Islands, to assist with obtaining the GIS Shapefiles and will send these through to the NES for OECM submission. Paul advised that ground-truthing of the points will be required in the future.
- NES hopes to hear back from UNEP by 1st May on the status of the TCA OECM submission
- NES reconfirmed support from the Working Group to develop an article on the TCA community meeting held in March
- There is an upcoming workshop in June 17-21 on invasive species, targeting invasive weed species. Representatives of the TCA requested to attend the meeting and propose TCA as a potential site for the purpose of the workshop. NES would circulate invitations as the meeting date drew closer.
- NES advised they presented on the TCA OECM process at the NBSAP Pacific dialogue workshop in Nadi, Fiji. An outcome of this, was a request for the Cook Islands to give a presentation at a workshop in Sydney on 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 on Protected and Conserved Areas. NES requested the IUCN who would host the meeting, for two spots for the Cook Islands – one for CI Government and one for a Community rep of the TCA. There was a short discussion on who should attend the workshop from the TCA OECM-WG. It was agreed that Tuaivi Edward Karika would attend the workshop with Jessie. NES highlighted that this workshop is also a time where Edward can network with the participants and regional partners, to request funding support and assistance for the TCA.
- NES advised they plan to launch the TCA as an OECM on Wednesday 22nd May 2024, which is International Day for Biological Diversity. NES will work with the Working Group to ensure the official launch ceremony program runs smoothly. Seek to unveil new signs for the TCA on this day – one sign in Arakuo at main TCA entrance and one in Avana at the water intake. Hoping to livestream the event.

NES advised the Working Group that funding had been secured through SPREP to create new storyboard signage for the TCA. NES staff Elizabeth Munro, Jessie Nicholson and Cailean Henderson had begun a draft design. These designs were then shown to the WG, who provided input to the designs, suggested text and photos. It was agreed there would be two signs – one in Arakuo (Titikaveka) and one in Avana. The reason for the sign in Avana was to create awareness that just over the hill was the TCA, therefore encouraging visitors to Avana water intake to be mindful that there is a conserved area close by that was set up to save endemic species.



Next steps: Below are the action points moving forward, before the meeting proposed for the next week.

1. NES to send the drafts of the storyboard designs for review
2. WG to review drafts and provide their comments via email by this Friday 19th April
3. WG to add text on the three landowning families
4. Paul to ask his mum Tamaariki Rangatira Sharon Maoate, to recite the traditional chant (pe'e) of the plants and animals in the environment in Avana. Paul was requested to record and transcribe the pe'e to include it onto the storyboard
5. Celine was requested to provide a summarized text on the TCA in Cook Islands Maori
6. Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika was requested to send the photo of 2x kākērōri sitting together (the grey colour and orange/brown colour i.e. adult and juvenile)
7. NES to organize a time with To Tatou Vai (TTV) and Paul to meet next week at Avana water intake to identify a spot where the Avana TCA Storyboard sign may be placed
8. Paul to send final GIS Shapefiles of TCA map to NES, once Gander has completed the readjustments with streams, ridges etc.
9. Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne to work on the article about the TCA community meeting held in March and the working group sessions that led up to that. Everyone to include their input.



## Session 5: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Aim: Finalise story board designs, and updates on other matters

### Discussion & Outcomes:

NES incorporated feedback from the last session and feedback sent via email, into the final draft designs of the TCA storyboards, and sought confirmation of the final designs from the Working Group. Tamaariki Rangatira Sharon Maoate recited the traditional chant (pe'e) and this was included onto the storyboard. The Maori text for the sign was also finalized. The Working Group agreed on the final design – there will be two storyboards printed – one for the Arakuo entrance of the TCA and one on the Avana water intake side.

Next steps: NES to send the final storyboard design to Hori Signs for printing, and will let the WG know when the signs are installed, so they may assist with removing the old sign and installing the new ones.



## Final TCA Storyboard designs

It was agreed that the storyboard in Arakuo would have a left panel on information about some of the species found at the TCA – endemic, native and invasive species. The centre panel would have information in Cook Islands Maori and English about the history and purpose of the TCA, including a photo of Rarotonga showing where the TCA is found, a map of the TCA boundaries, mention of the TCA being the first OECM site in the Cook Islands and other general information. A right panel would also be included on the rules for entry. The storyboard in Avana would not contain the species panel, and the centre panel would only slightly change, to show that the location is at Avana and not Arakuo in Titikaveka.



Storyboard design was led by NES staff, Mr. Cailean Henderson and Ms. Jessie Nicholson. The landowners in the WG gave input to the designs and confirmed the final design.

### SPECIES FOUND IN THE TCA

<p><b>Rarotonga Fitchia</b> <i>Fitchia speciosa</i></p> <p><b>Pua Neinei</b> Endemic</p> <p>A small tree up to 5m, found in the mountains of Rarotonga. The flower heads are strongly curved back towards the branch to promote pollination by the 'Ōi which feeds on its nectar.</p>	<p><b>Rarotonga Flycatcher</b> <i>Pomarea dimidiata</i></p> <p><b>Kākerōri</b> Endemic</p> <p>The flagship of the TCA, this is a rare and endemic bird in Rarotonga. A contingency population was set up in Aitu in case the bird went extinct in Rarotonga.</p>	<p><b>Cook Islands Fruit-dove</b> <i>Phainopepla rarotongensis</i></p> <p><b>Kūkupa</b> Endemic</p> <p>Feeds on small fruits and berries. Fun Fact: The Cook Islands Police Patrol boats was named after this bird being Te Kūkupa &amp; Te Kūkupa II</p>
<p><b>Rarotonga Starling</b> <i>Alonis cinerascens</i></p> <p><b>'Ōi</b> Endemic</p> <p>The 'Ōi is considered to be the most melodious of the Cook Islands forest birds, it's song is often a repeated "I-oi".</p>	<p><b>Shampoo Ginger</b> <i>Zingiber zerumbet</i></p> <p><b>Kōpi 'Enua</b> Polynesian Introduction</p> <p>The liquid squeeze from this plant can be used as a shampoo.</p>	<p><b>Pacific Fruit-bat</b> <i>Pteropus tonganus</i></p> <p><b>Moā Kirikiri</b> Native</p> <p>A flying mammal with a native range from islands near Papua New Guinea eastward to Mangaia; introduced to Rarotonga around 1880.</p>
<p><b>Strawberry Guava</b> <i>Rattus rattus</i></p> <p><b>Tūava Papa'ā</b> Introduced/Invasive</p> <p>One of the worlds top 100 invasive species. The seeds of this sweet fruit are dispersed by people, pigs and birds.</p>	<p><b>African Tulip Tree</b> <i>Spathodea</i></p> <p><b>Kō'i</b> Introduced/Invasive</p> <p>One of the worlds top 100 invasive species. It has bright orange flowers and hundreds of tiny winged seeds in each pod. Bio-controls help to reduced the spread of this species.</p>	<p><b>Ship Rat</b> <i>Rattus rattus</i></p> <p><b>Ki'ore Toka</b> Introduced/Invasive</p> <p>The rodent poses the biggest threat to endemic birds in the TCA. There are rat bait stations scattered across the TCA to help remove the population.</p>



# WELCOME TO NGAI TAPOROPORO O TAKITUMU TAKITUMU CONSERVATION AREA



Kia Orana, tei rata kae i te ngai Taporoporo o Takitumu tei matau ia te kapiki e, Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA). E 155 e 'ka te maataamaata i teia ngai vaoraku, takako ia e te au tuviri maunga akaaka i te tua tonga o Rarotonga. Kua taporoporo'ia teia ngai e te au atu enua o teia au kopu e toru, Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika e te Ngati Manavaroa i te mataiti 1996.

Ko te akakoro'anga maata o teia ngai, no te paruru e te taporoporo'anga i teia manu ko te Kakerōri (*Pomarea dimidiata*), tei kitea ua ia ki runga ia Rarotonga nei, e kore i tetai uatu ngai i teia nei oo. Te paruru katoa nei teia ngai i te au manu e te rakau, katiri enua, mei te manu Kukupu (*Phlinopus rarotogensis*), te rakau mei te 'ana'e (*Angiopteris evecta*), pua (*Fagraea berteriana*) pera te katiri kura, mei te manu 'T'oi (*Aplonis cinerascens*), te rakau puaneinei (*Fitchia speciosa*), mata (*Homalium acuminatum*) e te vai atura.

Kua kitea ia mai i te mataiti 1989, e 29 rae manu Kakerōri i toe mai i teia nei oo katoataa, e te viviki atura te ngaro takiri mei teia nei oo, me kare e angaanga e rave ia no te takore i te katiri kikino koia te kiore toka pai (*Rattus rattus*) e kai nei i teia au manu.

Kua akamata ia tetai porokaramu mataiti, ei takore i teia kiore toka na rato i te maunu poitini tei toku aere ia na rato i teia ngai. Kua pou e 30 mataiti teia porokaramu i te rave ia anga, e kua rira teia i te akamaata mai te numero o te kakerōri, ki te 618 i te mataiti 2023.

Kua apoina katoa ietu e 40 kakerōri ki Ātiu, no te mea kare e kiore toka pai (*Rattus rattus*) i reira, e i te mataiti 2017 kua rekoti ia te numero kakerōri i runga ia Ātiu e 150 manu.

Te mana tiaki o to tatou au enua mei 'ito mai te reira, e te ngakau parau nei matou te au atu enua, Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Kariki e te Ngati Manavaroa, tei akaalinga i teia tu'anga enua no teia akakoroanga tumanava, ei puapinga e te marekaanga no teia uki, e te uki a muri mai o te Kuki Āirani.

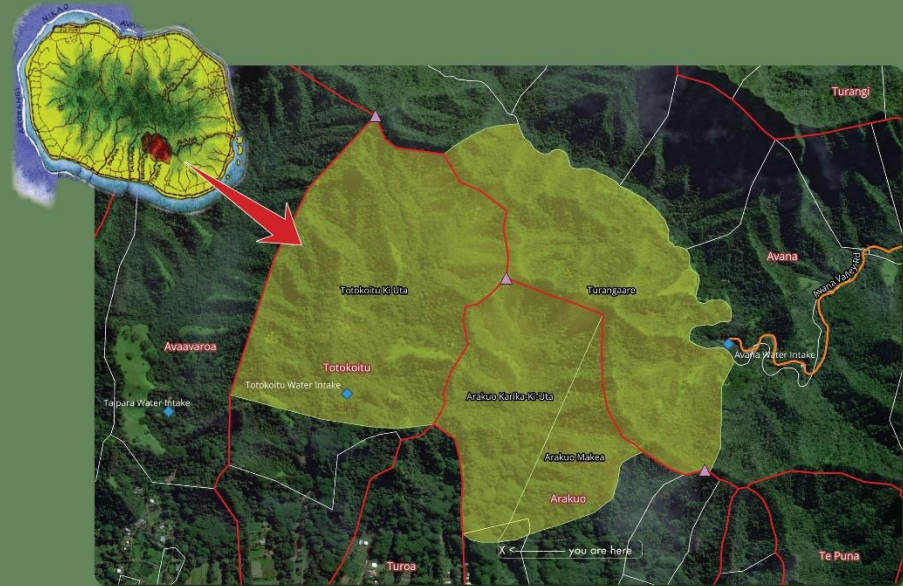
The Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) is a 155-ha area of forested lowland hills of southern Rarotonga, Cook Islands. It was protected by three landowning families (Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika and Ngati Manavaroa) in 1996. The TCA was mainly established to protect the small rare bird, kakerōri/ Rarotonga flycatcher (*Pomarea dimidiata*), that was once found only on Rarotonga and nowhere else in the world. The TCA also protects many other unique plants and animals found there.

In 1989, there were just 29 of the critically endangered kakerōri left in the world, and they were rapidly heading towards extinction unless predation by the introduced ship rat (*Rattus rattus*) could be reduced. An annual programme of rat control, using poison in bait stations, has run for over 30 years, and this has led to the kakerōri population in and around the TCA increasing to at least 618 birds as of 2023. Translocations of a total of 40 young kakerōri to form an insurance population on ship rat-free Ātiu has been successful, with a minimum population of 150 birds recorded in 2017.

The overall objective of the TCA is to conserve plants and animals and their surrounding environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of the Cook Islands.



- Kakerōri  
Rarotonga Flycatcher  
*Pomarea dimidiata*



In 2024, the TCA was internationally recognised as an Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM). This is the first OECM site for the Cook Islands, and for the Pacific.

As the ancient custodians of this land, we ask that you hold to our traditions to take care of the environment whilst you are at the Takitumu Conservation Area.

- Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika, Ngati Manavaroa

For enquiries call 29906





## Final TCA storyboard signage installed in Arakuo and Avana, Rarotonga.

Note: information was taken from the TCA Visitor Guide<sup>1</sup> to populate onto the storyboard designs.



**Above:** new storyboard installed before the gate to the TCA in **Arakuo**, Titikaveka.

**Left:** new storyboard installed past the **Avana** water intake in Avana, Ngatangia.

Both storyboard signage were unveiled on International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2024 when the TCA was officially launched as the Cook Islands first OECM site.

Special thanks to Suwarow Rangers Johnnie Tangaroa and Keanu Harawira for leading installation of the new signs with NES staff and TCA landowners.

<sup>1</sup> [https://environment.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/29.-TCA-Species-Booklet-Fin\\_Draft.pdf](https://environment.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/29.-TCA-Species-Booklet-Fin_Draft.pdf)



## TCA OECM Working Group Outcomes

Several outcomes were achieved and are listed below.

- The WG met over three sessions to discuss the draft text of the OECM assessment.
- The WG agreed on the final text of the OECM assessment for the TCA, and supported submission of the documents to SPREP and UNEP-WCMC
- The WG agreed on the final text of the free prior and informed consent letter, to be signed by the chief of each tribe, that being Kainuku Ariki, Karika Ariki and Manavaroa Mataiapo.
- The WG agreed to present the final OECM assessment to the wider TCA community at the Report Back to the Community meeting on 12 March 2024. WG members who presented included Itaata Rangatira Noline Browne, Paul Maoate and Tuaeivi Edward Karika
- The WG was requested by NES to meet again to discuss the new draft storyboard signage designs that NES staff had produced for the TCA. The WG met twice to finalise the designs, and approved of the final design to be printed for unveiling on 22 May 2024 (International Biodiversity Day). This would be incorporated into the official launch ceremony of the TCA being the first internationally recognised OECM site in the Cook Islands and in the Pacific Islands.
- The WG nominated Tuaeivi Edward Karika to attend the IUCN Workshop on Protected and Conserved Areas in Sydney, Australia on 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Recommendations moving forward

- Translation of the OECM assessment tool into Cook Islands Maori is highly recommended to ensure local communities are able to fully understand the technical language in the OECM criteria. NES advised that SPREP was able to support a local consultant to translate the document into Cook Islands Maori.
- Forming a Working Group consisting of traditional landowners is highly recommended when considering potential OECM sites in the Cook Islands. This is one way to help ensure traditional landowners have input into the OECM process for a site that they are landowners on. Ideally, these landowners will hold a lot of knowledge about the site to contribute to the OECM process
- It is also recommended that the Working Group present the final assessment and information back to their family/community – this demonstrates that the work has been a partnership with the local community and not something driven by government.
- It is highly recommended that ground-truthing of the TCA boundaries is conducted to confirm the boundaries of the TCA map





## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1: TCA OEMM Working Group members and attendance for the 5 Working Group sessions

Note: 'Y' means yes, did attend

Name (with traditional title if applicable)	Tribe/Ngāti (i.e. Kainuku/ Karika/ Manavaoroa)	Session 1: Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Session 2: Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Session 3: Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Session 4: Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Session 5: Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika	Karika	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul Maoate	Kainuku & Manavaoroa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne	Kainuku	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
(Tuaivi) Edward Karika	Karika & Manavaoroa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ana Tiraa	Manavaoroa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tamaariki Rangatira Sharon Maoate	Kainuku & Manavaoroa	Y				Y
Tearea Hunter	Kainuku & Manavaoroa					Y
N. Kimiangatau	Kainuku	Y				
Ngatokorima & Jack	Kainuku	Y				
Tangimetua Tere	Kainuku	Y	Y			
Nanette Woonton	SPREP		Y			
Celine Dyer	Kainuku			Y		
Elizabeth Munro	NES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jessie Nicholson	NES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cailean Henderson	NES				Y	Y