

Te Tuanga Taporoporo o Takitumu (TCA)

Information Sheet 2: The Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA)

Eaa te Tuanga Taporoporo o Takitumu?

Ko te TCA e vao rakau teia i roto ia Takitumu i te tua i uta i te tuanga muri o te enua ko Rarotonga. Ko te tuanga tikai teia e anau ana teia manu tei vaitata i te pou ko te kakerori. Kua akatinamouia teia tuanga ei paruru i te kakerori e pera no te paruru i tetai au rakau e tetai au manu takake e noo nei ki roto i teia tuanga. E porokaramu rima mataiti teia tei turuturuia e te Porokaramu Taporoporo i te au Tuanga Natura i roto i te Tuanga Pasifika Tonga (South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme). Te akarakaraia nei e kia rauka i teia porokaramu i te akatere iaia uorai me pou ake te au moni turuturu mei vao mai.

Akakoroanga

Ko te akakoroanga maata o te TCA ko te taporoporo i te au turanga natura katoatoa (te mou natura o te au manu e te au rakau e pera te maata i to ratou au numero) no te meitaki e pera ei mataoraanga no te iti tangata o te Kuki Airani i teia ra e pera no te uki ki mua.

No naea i akatinamouia'i?

Kua riro mai teia au nga'i i uta i Turoa, Totokoitu e pera i Avana e ko te TCA i roto ia Peperuare i te mataiti 1996 na roto i te akatikaanga a te au kopu tangata atu enua e toru (Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika e pera te Ngati Manavaroa). Kua tauturu mai te Tuanga Taporoporo o te Kuki Airani i teia akakoroanga.

Te tuanga angaanga a te au Atu Enea?

Kua riro tetai au tangata ei mata i te au atu enua ki runga i te Kumiti Akateretere i te Tuanga Taporoporo (CACC). E ono tangata i runga i teia kumiti - koia oki e rua no roto i te kopu tangata okotai. E riro ana te au tukuanga tika mamaata no runga i te TCA e na teia au mata o te au kopu tangata i runga CACC e tuku i te reira. Kua piri oki ratou ki roto i te akateretereanga e pera te paranianga i te au tuanga katoatoa o teia angaanga.

Te au manu i roto i te TCA

Ka kiteia te nga manu enua e ki roto i teia tuanga. E rua i teia nga manu kare e kitea ki tetai ngai ke atu, koia oki ko te i'oi e te kakerori. Ko tetai, koia oki ko te kukupa ka kiteia te reira ki Rarotonga ua e pera ki te enua ko Atiu. Ko tetai i teia au manu enua tikai ko te rupe e ka kiteia



What is the Takitumu Conservation Area?

The TCA is a 155ha forested area situated within the Takitumu district on the southeastern side of inland Rarotonga. It is the core breeding area of the endangered and unique landbird - the kakerori. The area was mainly established to protect the kakerori but also to conserve many other unique plants and animals found there. It is a 5-year project with financial support from the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme. The project is focussed towards self-sufficiency when external funding ceases.

Objective

The overall objective of the TCA is to conserve its biological diversity (the natural richness of kinds and numbers of plants and animals) for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of the Cook Islands.

When was it established?

The three upper valleys of Turoa, Totokoitu and Avana became the TCA in February 1996 with the agreement of the three major land-owning groups (Ngati Kainuku, Karika and Manavaroa). The Cook Islands Environment Service assisted with this move.

Landowners involvement

Members of the landowning clans are represented on the Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (CACC). The committee consists of six landowners - two from each of the clans. All major decisions concerning the TCA are made by the landowners representing the CACC. They are fully involved in the management and planning aspects of the project.

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teia ki runga i te au enua i roto nei i te au Pa Enua Pasifika Tonga. I roto i teia au manu ko te kakerori kua tae ki te turanga e ka pou te reira e ka kitea ua ia te reira ki roto i te TCA; ko tetai pae ka kiteaia te reira ki runga ia Rarotonga katoatoa. Tetai au manu te ka kitea i reira ko te manu piru (mynah) teia apainaia mai ki konei e te karavia iku roa; e manu teretere teia. Te vai katoa nei tetai au manu tai te koanga na ki roto i teia tuanga, kare ra i maata.

Te au manu enua

Ko te au manu enua o roto i teia tuanga e mea apainaia mai te katoatoa. Te mea maatamaata rava atu koia oki ko te moa kirikiri, e tauranga na oki teia ki roto i teia tuanga. Te vai katoa nei te kiore toka pai, te kiore toka pasifika, e pera te kiore-ngaere. Kua kiteia na oki te kiore toka pai i te kai anga i te kakerori. Te vai katoa nei tetai au kiore taetaevao te kai ana i teia au manu e pera katoa te au kiore toka.

Te au rakau

Te vai nei e toru tu rakau me kore tita i roto i te TCA: te ngangaere i runga i te maunga, te au ngangaere tei tamanamanataia, e pera katoa te au tuanga tuanue. Ko te maata anga i teia au rakau no konei rai te reira, inara te katoa nei te ko'i rau maniota, venevene tinito e te au tuava papaa i roto i teia au vao rakau.

Te au tumu rakau maata i roto i teia au nga'i koia oki ko te mato, koka, karaka, turina, tuitui, matira, au, pua e te i'i. E maata katoa te maire ana'e i raro i te au tumu rakau. Ko te neinei te tumu rakau meangiti ka kitea maataia ki runga i te au ivi.

Kua vaitata ki te itu ngauru patene i te au rakau katoatoa o uta i Rarotonga, ka kitea ki roto i teia tuanga, e pera katoa te au rakau te ka kore e kitea ki tetai ngai ke atu mei te neinei e te orchid Rarotonga. Tetai au rakau e kare e kitea ki tetai ngai ke atu koia oki ko te orchid enua, te tumu rakau Charpentiera rau mamaata e te karaka no te au pa enua mai i vao. Te vai katoa nei tetai au tumu rakau melicope i roto i teia tuanga.

Te tu natura o teia ngai

Ko teia ngai o te TCA ka kitea te reira mai tetai 50 metera ki tetai 270 metera i runga ake i te tika o te tai. E tapokii na oki teia au ngai i runga ake i te 200 metera e te tiao rangi. Kua aite teia ngai ki te maataanga o Rarotonga i te tiketike e te au toka te tuatuaia na ko Tangaroa.

Birds in the TCA

All four native breeding landbirds are found in the area in reasonable numbers. Two of these are unique, the i'oi and the kakerori. Another, the kukupa is found only on Rarotonga and the neighbouring island of Atiu. The other native landbird, the rupe, is widespread in the South Pacific. Of these, the endangered kakerori at present occurs only in the TCA; the others are spread widely throughout Rarotonga. Other birds present include the introduced myna and the migratory long-tailed cuckoo. Several seabirds also nest in the area in small numbers.

Mammals

The mammals in the TCA are all introduced. The largest is the moa kirikiri, which has roosts in the area. The other mammals are small rodents such as the ship rat, the pacific rat, and the field mouse. The ship rats are known predators of the kakerori. Feral cats in the area also prey upon birds as well as the rats.

Plants

There are three vegetation forms present in the TCA: upland forest, disturbed forest/scrub, and fernland. Most species in these communities are native, but invasives such as koi'i, rau maniota, venevene tinito and tuava papaa are common in both forest types.

The most common trees in the valleys are mato, koka, karaka, turina, tuitui, matira, au, pua, and i'i. The ana'e fern is common underneath the trees. The neinei is the most common small tree along the ridges.

About 70% of all plant species found in inland Rarotonga occur in the area, and include both unique species such as the abundant neinei and the patchily distributed Rarotonga orchid. Rare species with notable populations in the area are the noded ground orchid, the large leafed Charpentiera tree, and the outer-islands karaka. A few specimens of the rare Melicope tree are located in the area.

Physical Features

The TCA extends from about 50m to about 270m above sea level. Clouds often cover those points higher than 200m high. The area is typical of inland Rarotonga - steep dramatic topography characterised by upstanding pinnacles of volcanic rock, locally known as Tangaroa.

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Some animals & plants found in the Takitumu Conservation Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Maori Name
Birds:		
Land Birds		
Rarotonga Flycatcher	<i>Pomarea dimidiata</i>	Kakerori
Rarotonga Starling	<i>Aplonis cinerascens</i>	I'oi
Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Manu Kavimanu
Pacific Pigeon	<i>Ducula pacifica</i>	Rupe
Cook Islands Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rarotongensis</i>	Kukupa
Long-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	Karavia
Seabirds & Shorebirds		
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	
White Tern	<i>Gygis alba</i>	Kakaia
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Ngoio
Herald Petrel	<i>Pterodroma heraldica</i>	Koputu
Collared Petrel	<i>Pterodroma rostrata</i>	
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	Rakoa
Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Kotuku
Mammals:		
Pacific Fruit Bat	<i>Pteropus tonganus</i>	Moa Kirikiri
Ship rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Kiore toka
Pacific rat	<i>Rattus exulans</i>	Kiore
Norway rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Kiore toka Norue
Domestic cat	<i>Felis domesticus</i>	Kiore Ngiao
Field mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	
Reptiles:		
Blue-tailed Skink	<i>Emolia cyanura</i>	Moko 'Iku-moana
Dandy Skink	<i>Emolia trossula</i>	Moko Maunga
Mournful Gecko	<i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i>	Moko 'Are
Invertebrates:		
Bracelet Prawn	<i>Macrobrachium lar</i>	Koura vai
Thick hand Prawn	<i>Macrobrachium latimanus</i>	Koura vai
Fish:		
Eels	<i>Anguilla obscura</i>	Tuna
Plants:		
Cook Islands Homalium	<i>Homalium acuminatum</i>	Mato
Bishofia	<i>Bishofia javanica</i>	Koka
Elaeocarpus	<i>Elaeocarpus tonganus</i>	Karaka
Mountain Latern Tree	<i>Hernadia moerenhoutiana</i>	Turina
Candlenut	<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>	Tuitui
Cyclophyllum	<i>Cyclophyllum barbartum</i>	Matira
Hibiscus tree	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Au
Fagraea	<i>Fagraea berteriana</i>	Pua
African Tulip-tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	Ko'i'i
Ardisia	<i>Ardisia elliptica</i>	Venevene tinito
Cherry guava	<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Tuava papaa
Rarotonga Fitchia	<i>Fitchia speciosa</i>	Neinei
Metrosideros	<i>Metrosideros cillina</i>	Rata
Charpentiera tree	<i>Charpentiera</i>	
Pouteria	<i>Pouteria grayana</i>	Karaka Ngaputoru
Melicope	<i>Melicope</i>	
Weinmannia tree	<i>Weinmannia samoensis</i>	Kaiatea
Rarotonga Geniostoma tree	<i>Geniostoma rarotongensis</i>	'Ange
Tangle Fern	<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i>	Tuanu'e
Kingfern	<i>Angiopteris evecta</i>	Ana'e
Rarotonga orchid	<i>Habernaria</i>	
Noded ground orchid	<i>Phaius graffei</i>	

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Te au meitaki o te TCA

- ☉ E maata te inangaro o te TCA i te taporoporo no te mea e manganui te au manu e te rakau e kare e kitea ki tetai ngai ke atu.
- ☉ Ko te ngai ua rai teia i roto i te Kuki Airani ka kiteaia te Kakerori.
- ☉ Ka rauka te TCA kia akairoia ei akaraanga no te akatupuanga i tetai au Tuanga Taporoporo ke i roto i tetai au tuanga ke atu i runga ia Rarotonga e pera i roto i te Kuki Airani.
- ☉ E ta'angaanga na te au apii e pera tetai au putuputuanga ke atu i teia tuanga no te akakoroanga o te apii.
- ☉ Mei te okotai toru (third) i te vai inu o Rarotonga e rauka mai na no roto mai i teia tuanga, no reira ka riro teia tuanga i te paruru katoa i teia ngai koi anga vai i runga i te enua.
- ☉ Ei ta openga, kua rauka tetai turanga ou i roto i te manako o te au atu enua, te katoatoa o te tangata e pera te au manui no te puapinga o teia au meitaki e pera katoa te anoanoanga e kia taporoporoia te reira.

Benefits of the TCA

- ☉ The TCA has high conservation value because of the occurrence of unique, endangered and uncommon species.
- ☉ It is the only site in the Cook Islands where the Kakerori is found.
- ☉ The TCA can be used as a model for implementing Conservation Areas in other parts of Rarotonga and the Cook Islands.
- ☉ Schools and community groups use the area for educational purposes.
- ☉ About a third of Rarotonga's drinking water comes from the TCA, hence the area helps protect one of the more important watershed areas on the island.
- ☉ Lastly, an appreciation has grown in the landowners, general public and visitors for the resources and their conservation.

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