



# Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) as an Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM):

TCA Working Group report back to the community on the OECM application, and obtain consent for OECM submission

**NGATANGIIA,  
 RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS**

November 2024



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Report by Jessie Nicholson, NES





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

Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

19 November 2024



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A big *meitaki ma'ata* to those from the three traditional landowning tribes, Ngāti Kainuku, Ngāti Karika and Ngāti Manavaroa, for their collaboration and guidance.





## Acronyms

ACPMEAs 3	African, Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreements project phase 3).
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NES	National Environment Service
OECM	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure
PA	Protected Area
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCA	Takitumu Conservation Area
TCA OECM-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-OECM	World Database on OECMs
WG	Working Group (i.e. referring to the TCA OECM-WG)



## Background

In January 2023, the Cook Islands National Environment Service (NES) hosted a national workshop on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to introduce what OECMs are, benefits of OECMs for biodiversity and local communities, and how they can support achieving international goals to increase protected areas to 30% globally by 2030.

At the workshop, participants identified potential community conserved areas that may meet the OECM criteria. The Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) in Rarotonga met the screening tool criteria and was identified as a candidate OECM site. This was recognised and supported by TCA representatives at the workshop and echoed by all workshop participants. TCA Manager, Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika, then requested the NES to begin the OECM assessment for the TCA.

In November 2023, the NES presented the draft OECM assessment for the TCA at a community workshop with the three traditional landowning tribes (Ngāti) and Coordinating Committee of the TCA. The landowners were also given an overview of OECMs, including the process to recognise a site as such, and obtaining Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The local community was able to give feedback and fill in the gaps on information about the TCA that was required as part of the criteria in the OECM assessment tool. Feedback was incorporated into the assessment tool.

A Working Group, consisting of landowners from each Ngāti and the NES, was then formed to finalise details in the OECM assessment and consent letter that would be signed by the heads of each landowning tribe. This work was carried out between January – February 2024, before reporting back to the wider community on the final TCA OECM assessment on 12 March 2024.

For more information on the National OECM Workshop held in January 2023, the TCA Community workshop held in November 2023, and the Working Group meetings, see the National Environment Service website <https://environment.gov.ck>



Figure 1. Some of the TCA OECM Working Group members

TCA OECM Working Group members who presented at the community meeting on 12 March 2024 includes:

- Ana Tiraa (back, third left)
- Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika (back, centre)
- Paul Maoate (back, third right)
- Tuaeivi Edward Karika (back, second right)
- Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne (back, far right)
- Jessie Nicholson (back, far left)
- Elizabeth Munro (not pictured)



## Summary

On 12 March 2024, the NES hosted a community meeting, in partnership with the TCA OECM Working Group, to report back to the TCA landowners and Coordinating Committee on the outcomes of the work conducted to finalise the OECM assessment for the TCA. The meeting, held from 6pm-8pm at the Avana Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) Sunday School hall, brought together over 50 landowners – an incredible turnout for community meetings in Rarotonga.

The NES presented a short recap of the last workshop held in November 2023, including what OECMs are, FPIC, the group activity to seek community feedback on information about the TCA in relation to the OECM criteria, and outcomes of the meeting. Following this, the Working Group members then gave updates on the outcomes of the three Working Group sessions and the final OECM assessment for the TCA. Presentations were delivered in Cook Islands Maori and English.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there was a signing ceremony by the heads of the three tribes<sup>1</sup>, giving their FPIC for NES to submit the OECM application for the TCA<sup>2</sup>.

A full list of meeting attendees can be found in Appendix 1. For more information, please email [jessie.nicholson@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:jessie.nicholson@cookislands.gov.ck) or [nes@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:nes@cookislands.gov.ck)



Figure 2. Opening of the community meeting by NES Environmental Stewardship Manager, Elizabeth Munro



Figure 3. Kapiri Tiaiti signing the consent letter on behalf of her mother, Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki. The signing occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

<sup>1</sup> Papa Tangimetua Tere, husband of Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki who is the head of Kainuku tribe, represented Ngāti Kainuku by sitting at the table when Karika Ariki and Manavaeroa Mataiapo signed the letter. Kapiri Tiaiti, daughter and holder of the Power of Attorney of Kainuku Ariki, later signed the consent letter on behalf of her mother Kainuku Ariki (Fig. 2). The signing was witnessed by NES staff Elizabeth Munro and Jessie Nicholson.

<sup>2</sup> The heads of each tribe (or representatives thereof) were given copies of the consent letter and OECM assessment for the TCA prior to the community meeting, for their consideration and review.



## TCA Community meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Opening and Purpose of the Meeting

The community meeting was hosted at the Avana Cook Islands Christian Church Sunday School hall, and was opened with a prayer by Papa Kainuku Ariki, Tangimetua Tere at 6pm.

Ms. Elizabeth Munro, Manager of the Environmental Stewardship division at the NES, began the workshop by first giving thanks and acknowledging the presence of Makea Karika George Ariki, Manavaroa Mataiapo Tutara Phillip Nicholas, traditional leaders and all who were present in the room.

Munro then touched on the **Purpose of the Meeting**, which included:

1. Reporting back to the community on the OECM assessment for the TCA that the Working Group had finalized; and
2. Securing Free Prior Informed Consent from the heads of the three traditional landowning tribes to submit the OECM application on behalf of the TCA landowners.

### Recap of the community meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Before the TCA OECM Working Group reported back on the key discussions and outcomes of the three Working Group meetings that were held to finalise the OECM assessment for the TCA, Munro gave a quick overview of the TCA community meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. The presentation gave a recap of –

- The definition of an OECM;
- Benefits and challenges that may arise in managing OECM sites;
- Potential funding opportunities if the site becomes an OECM;
- Free Prior Informed Consent and the draft letter of consent that was considered and reviewed at the community meeting;
- the process to identify an OECM site; and
- the breakout group activities where the community were split into 3 groups to review the information populated into the OECM assessment tool for the TCA.
- Outcomes from the community workshops (Fig. 4)

**Outcomes** NES

1. Confirmed community support of OECM
2. Community gave feedback on the tool and consent letter
3. NES to review feedback and include amendments to the tool and consent letter;
4. Establish a working group to refine the tool further
5. Launch of the TCA Management Plan 2020-2030
6. Translation of tool into Maori

For more details on the community workshop held in November 2023, please see the workshop report on the NES website:  
[www.environment.gov.ck](http://www.environment.gov.ck)

Figure 4. Presentation slide on the Outcomes of the TCA Community Workshops 1-2 November 2023





## TCA OECM Working Group presentation

Munro highlighted that an outcome of the TCA community meeting in November 2023, was the need to form a working group with representatives from the three landowning tribes. This was key to ensure that the draft OECM assessment for the TCA was finalized in collaboration with landowners, who would be able to fill in gaps on information about the TCA and confirm satisfaction and approval of answers provided for each section of the assessment tool.

NES then handed over to four members from within the Working Group, who are part of the three landowning families, to present on the outcomes and key discussions of the three Working Group meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> February, and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne** provided an overview of the key outcomes of the Working Group. She noted that the WG started with an updated version of the OECM assessment tool that incorporated changes to the assessment tool that were requested at the previous community workshop in November. The information in the tool was then further refined, and the Working Group came to a consensus for each of the eight criteria in the assessment tool. In addition, the WG finalised the text and conditions in the draft consent letter, to be signed by the heads of each tribe to give consent for NES to submit the OECM application on behalf of the TCA landowners. Itaata Rangatira concluded by noting that the signing of the letter would commence later in the night's programme.

**Mr. Tuaivi Edward Karika** spoke on his experience and reflections of being a part of the Working Group. He noted that the mission of the TCA to conserve the Kākerōri bird (Rarotonga Flycatcher, *Pomarea dimidiata*) is important to all three family tribes. He highlighted the importance of family unity and the preservation of family legacy through the three families coming together to protect and save a critically endangered bird from extinction that was found nowhere else in the world. "Without any legal support, the protection all came from in the family. And I want to know, how could this come about? This is such a big achievement, in my eyes, because today, families are starting to fall apart, and our new generation coming in is finding there's a lot of conflict, and to me, that was really important to see...Our families have stayed together to keep this intact". He acknowledged that the spirit of the three families coming together in the past was to give the land to help the Kākerōri flourish, and that "it is important to our families to actually continue to protect them and to carry on". He stressed that the main reason this meeting was called was in hope that the families agree to reaffirm the original agreement from 1996 to conserve the Kākerōri on their land, by way of supporting this OECM initiative – "What I do (nearly) 30 years later, to help support those who started it, my family back then, our families back then, is to continue with that same spirit to support what they started".

Mr. Karika reinforced that establishing the TCA as an OECM does not change any of the rights of the family to the land, rather what the Working Group has been trying to do with making the TCA an OECM is giving it international recognition for the tremendous work done to save a species. Karika then honoured past contributions to protecting this endemic species, particularly the conservation work of Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika and Ms. Ana Tiraa who have championed this from within the landowning families. However, he raised the importance of the families needing to create a succession plan to make sure all the work that has been done by Ian and Ana is not for nothing. The succession plan should also include education and knowledge



sharing about the TCA within the families to maintain family support, including support from future generations, for the protection of the Kākerōri. He encouraged the families to take interest in continuing their family legacy.

**Ms. Ana Tiraa** started by mentioning that she was a part of the consultations carried out nearly 30 years ago prior to the original landowners agreement coming into force to save the Kākerōri. She noted there was a lot of consultations with the wider family back then but it got a bit less and less and less as time went on. Tiraa gave thanks to the National Environment Service for bringing the three families together again on this occasion.

Tiraa then provided insight on information that the Working Group collated into the OECM assessment tool, and gave examples from three of the criteria –

*Criteria 2: 'The site supports important biodiversity values'*

“Now we know we heard from Ed that this is an important place. It's important for the Kākerōri, which got down to low numbers. We heard that they got down to 29 and today they are over 600 so that's a lot of work, a lot of commitment from individuals, groups, volunteers, landowners, who have all been involved in bringing the numbers of Kākerōri back to the numbers that we are seeing today”.

- Ana Tiraa

The TCA is a key biodiversity area. Key species include the endemic Ī'oi bird and the Kākerōri, among many other native flora and fauna. The TCA also serves as a significant watershed, supplying two of Rarotonga's 10 water intakes, Tōtoko'itu, and Avana, which Tiraa advised, supplies about one third of Rarotonga's water. The value of ecotourism was also mentioned, with people being interested in learning about the conservation efforts and success stories of the site. In addition, the area also has cultural significance for the three landowning tribes.

Major threats to the TCA are rats and wildcats, which prey on birds and nest eggs. Mitigation efforts include rat baiting during the breeding season. Future threats include development that is encroaching into the inland area, impacts of cyclones to the area, and succession planning, with Tiraa stating, “I worry who is going to take over the Takitumu Conservation Area after key people have left. That's something that we need to look at for the future.”

*Criteria 5: 'Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site' and Criteria 6: 'Governance and management achieve in-situ conservation of important biodiversity values'*

Tiraa gave an overview of Criteria 5 and 6 of the OECM assessment tool, which are about the institutional mechanisms, governance and management of the site. For the TCA, governance and management of the site are in place, with a Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives from the three tribes. At present, the Coordinating Committee consists of, Ngāti Kainuku: Ben Tamaariki, Tangimetua Tere; Ngāti Karika: Philomen Williams, Ian Karika; Ngāti Manavaroa: Manavaroa Mataiapo Tutara Philip Nicholas, Ana Tiraa. There is also dedicated and passionate Conservation Manager ensuring the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem values of the TCA.

A map of the TCA with marked boundaries is required as part of the OECM submission. **Mr. Paul Maoate** presented the map that the Working Group started with, which is based off a map from the Cook Islands Survey Department (Fig. 5, year and source unknown). He then showed the map that he created using updated satellite imagery (Fig. 6). Maoate noted there were

discrepancies between the original land survey maps and more recent geo-referenced maps, with some areas showing significant differences in size. The TCA is known as being an area of 155ha and this is reflected on the original map, however, the more recent geo-referenced maps and data from the Ministry of Justice's Land Survey department show that the TCA is between 204ha – 213ha. For example, one of the land sections known as Tōtoko'itu-ki-Uta (Pt. Sec 25) is originally 53ha but now mapped at 85ha to 87ha (refer to Table 1 below).

Maoate emphasized the need to update the maps and boundaries, especially since the original agreement was signed in 1996 and mapping technology at the time would have been limited and improved since then. He stressed the importance of firming up the boundaries of the TCA and creating a single, definitive map, noting that ground-truthing of plotted points would be required as part of this process.

**Figure 2. The Takitumu Conservation Area**

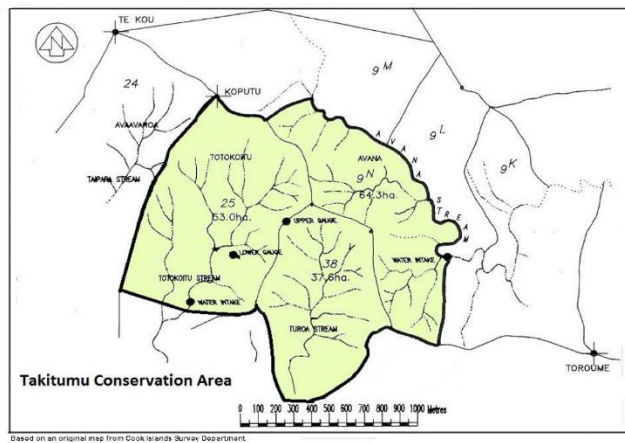


Figure 6. Map of the TCA based on the original land survey map from the Cook Islands Survey Department (year unknown)

**MAP Takitumu Conservation Area**

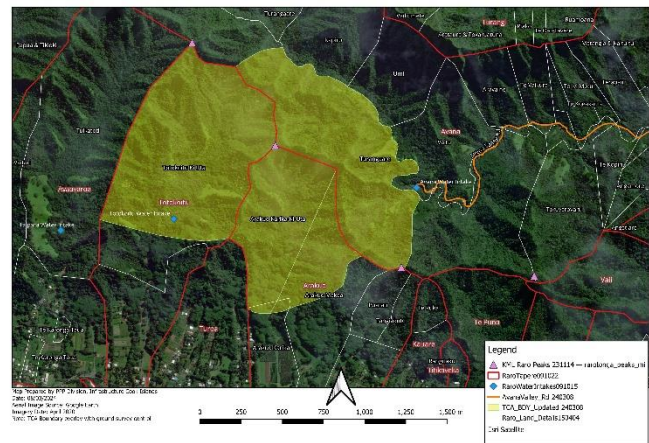


Figure 5. Map of the TCA produced by Paul Maoate for the OECM submission using updated satellite imagery

**Table. 1** Size of the boundaries of each section that makes up the Takitumu Conservation Area

Land	Section #	Tapere	District	Vaka	Area (m2) QGIS	Area (ha) QGIS	Area (ha) MOJ	Area (ha) Original	Variance (ha)
Tōtoko'itu-ki-Uta	Pt Sec. 25	Tōtoko'itu	Takitumu	Takitumu	874,587.14	87.46	85.66	53.00	34.46
Arakuo Karika-ki-Uta	Pt Sec. 38	Arakuo	Takitumu	Takitumu	383,764.22	38.38	38.09	28.43	9.95
Arakuo Makea	Pt Sec. 35	Arakuo	Takitumu	Takitumu	185,889.67	18.59	12.29	9.17	9.42
Turangaare	Pt Sec. 9N	Avana	Ngatangia	Takitumu	688,327.03	68.83	68.92	64.30	4.53
Total						<b>213.26</b>	<b>204.95</b>	<b>154.90</b>	

**Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika**, Conservation Manager of the TCA, also had a presentation prepared to share the conservation work of the TCA with the three family tribes (Fig. 7). The presentation included photos of different flora and fauna found at the TCA, the annual Kākerōri bird monitoring program and a map of where the regular rat baiting is conducted. He highlighted group visits to the TCA, which included local schoolchildren and tourists, to educate them about the Kākerōri and its conservation, and the insurance population of Kākerōri on Atiu.

One of his presentation slides listed the names of the TCA Committee members, noting that there has been 3 committees over the years – one in 1996 when the TCA was established, the next committee established in 2006, and again most recently in 2023. The community were quite interested to learn who was in the committee previously, and who the current committee is. The 2023 Landowners Committee members are:

- Kainuku – Tangimetua Tere, Ben Tamaariki
- Karika – Philomena Williams, Ian Karika
- Manavaeroa – Philip Nicholas, Ana Tiraa

Kamoe Mataiapo mentioned some challenges of maintaining the TCA, such as sustainable funding and environmental changes such as increasing number of invasive plant species. He expressed his gratitude for the support that the TCA has received from volunteers, organizations, and projects over the years, whether through conducting the Kākerōri census surveys, helping to lay rat baits, or providing financial support. He also reflected on the long-term commitment of individuals and volunteers to do this work, and the importance of community involvement to sustain the project in the future.

**Ms. Elizabeth Munro**, agreed that it was fitting that Ian presented at the end of the Working Group. She noted his passion and dedication of 27+ years to save the Kākerōri reaffirmed the importance of this bird to the landowners from the three tribes in the room, and to take pride that their own family is safeguarding this species for the whole of the Cook Islands.

Munro then advised the community that all of the documents relating to the OECM submission are publicly available online on the Cook Islands Environment Data Portal <https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/> and also the NES website <https://environment.gov.ck/stewardship/oecm/>. The community were encouraged to visit these websites to access the many resources.



*Figure 7. Ian Karika presenting about the TCA and the work they do there for the Kākerōri*

Munro then highlighted that the Cook Islands has promoted the TCA and the OECM process undertaken so far, at international and regional meetings. She encouraged participants to be proud of what their familie's and ancestors have done to save the Kākerōri and the importance of agreeing as a family to continue their efforts.



## Opportunity to ask Questions

There were a few questions during this open floor session (Fig. 8 for photos of community).

- One member of the community reflected on the role that rangers play in national parks in New Zealand, and asked if there are Cook Islands youth being trained to be rangers in the Cook Islands, who could work as rangers for Takitumu Conservation Area. There was a question around whether there was funding that could enable this for Cook Islanders. Munro advised that she was uncertain on Cook Islands are being trained the specific skillset required of rangers, however she noted that it comes back to the three families and the passion required to step up to look after the TCA. “Now is the time to let Ana and Ian know if you want to volunteer, or include your kids in the conservation work”. Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne echoed Munro’s comment, highlighting that “it’s not the Environment Service who is going to do this work, its us, the family”, therefore encouraging the younger ones in the family to take this on board.
- The GEF Small Grants fund hosted at Red Cross was highlighted as an avenue to seek funds to support the work of the TCA. NES suggested the community to start one project and to come together as a family to look at the budget required to achieve their proposed activities.
- There was a suggestion from one of the community participants for the family to consider creating Kākerōri ‘piggy banks’ with information about the TCA to place at banks and shops around Rarotonga as a way to raise further funds. This is similar to donation boxes that other organisations have in place at stores.



Figure 8. Community members during the Open Floor session for Questions

## Next Steps

NES Biodiversity Coordinator, Ms. Jessie Nicholson, raised 3 key Next steps:

1. The NES would submit the application on behalf of the 3 tribes to SPREP, who would then submit the OECM application for the TCA to UNEP-WCMC.
2. The NES would inform the National Biodiversity Committee, known locally as Kopapa Ao Ora Natura (KAON) about the outcomes of this meeting, during the KAON meeting in the first quarter of 2024
3. The UNEP-WCMC will conduct their process of review for the OECM assessment for the TCA and advise when the TCA is officially recognized as an OECM.



## Signing of consent letter

As there was no opposition to the TCA being recognized as an OECM, the heads of the three tribes were invited to the front table to sign the consent letter (Fig.9 and 10).

The NES hand delivered hard copies of the final version of the consent letter to Kainuku Ariki, Karika Ariki and Manavaroa Mataiapo for their consideration and review, prior to the community meeting. They felt confident in the hard work conducted by their family members who assisted to draft the letter during the Working Group and so, had no changes to the letter. Note: Papa Tangimetua Tere, husband of Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki who is the chief/head of Kainuku tribe, represented Ngāti Kainuku by sitting at the table when Karika Ariki and Manavaroa Mataiapo signed the letter. Kapiri Tiaiti, daughter and holder of the Power of Attorney of Kainuku Ariki, later signed the consent letter on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 on behalf of her mother Kainuku Ariki (Fig. 2). The signing by Kapiri Tiaiti was witnessed by NES staff Elizabeth Munro and Jessie Nicholson. See Appendices for the signed consent letter.



Figure 9. Signing the consent letter (L-R) Manavaroa Mataiapo Philip Nicholas, Karika George Ariki, and Papa Tangimetua Tere representing Kainuku Ariki (but did not sign).



Figure 10. NES Environmental Stewardship Manager, Elizabeth Munro, advising the heads of the 3 tribes (or their representative thereof) that there are 4 copies of the consent letter and to sign each copy. There will be one copy for each of the 3 tribes, plus one for NES records

## Closing remarks

Munro thanked everyone for coming together to be a part of Cook Islands history in making the Takitumu Conservation Area the first OECM site in the Cook Islands and the Pacific. She acknowledged the Working Group for their time and dedication the past few months to finalise the OECM assessment, highlighting the spirit of collaboration between the NES and the landowners to give this international OECM recognition to the TCA. “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”, Munro stated. She reiterated previous speakers, highlighting that the protection of the land and the Kākerōri at the TCA must come from within the family, and the signing of this agreement today reaffirms the families commitment to continue conserving the TCA for future generations to know and appreciate.



Munro acknowledged the support of SPREP and NES staff for helping the families receive the OECM recognition for the TCA. The community meeting was closed with a prayer and a final group photo was taken (Fig. 11).



Figure 11. Group photo to commemorate the families giving consent for the TCA to be submitted for recognition as an OECM

## Meeting Outcomes

The key outcomes of the meeting were;

- The TCA OECM Working Group reported back on their discussions and the outcomes of their meetings to progress the OECM assessment for the TCA
- TCA OECM assessment form completed for submission
- Obtained landowners consent for the TCA to be submitted and recognised as an OECM
- Signing ceremony of the Free Prior Informed Consent letter by the heads of the 3 tribes

## Recommendations

- The NES to host a launching ceremony of the TCA as an OECM once it is officially recognized by UNEP-WCMC, as it will be a national milestone as the first OECM in the Cook Islands and the Pacific.
- NES to continue this partnership with the TCA landowners to assist with conserving biodiversity found at the TCA
- 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, which will assist with undertaking the OECM assessment for different local conservation sites.



## Resources

- Report of the TCA OECM Working Group meetings is available here: <https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/resource/tca-oecm-working-group-meetings-report-nes-2024>
- Report of the TCA OECM Community Workshop held in November 2023 is available here: <https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/resource/tca-oecm-community-workshop-report-nes-2024>
- Cook Islands national OECM workshop (January 2023) report is available here: <https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/resource/cki-oecm-workshop-report-january-2023>
- The discussion paper on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Cook Islands is available on the NES website here [https://environment.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/OECMs-in-the-Cook-Islands\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://environment.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/OECMs-in-the-Cook-Islands_FINAL-1.pdf)
- Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs): First Edition is available here: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51296>
- The Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030 can be found here: <https://environment.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/28.-TCA-Management-Plan-2020.pdf>





## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Meeting attendance sheet

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024				
	Traditional title (if applicable)	Name	Ngāti (Kainuku/ Karika/ Manavaroa)	Gender
1	Manavaroa Mataiapo Tutara	Philip Nicholas	Manavaroa	M
2		Darlene Nicholas		F
3		Mata Tui Nicholas	Manavaroa	F
4	Tamaariki Rangatira	Sharon V. Maoate	Manavaroa / Kainuku	F
5		Tearuru o Te Rangi Takai	Manavaroa	F
6		Tauarangi Estall	Manavaroa / Kainuku	F
7		Upokotiao A. Manavaroa	Manavaroa / Koropanga	F
8	Tairi-o-te- Rangi	Tupe Takau Short	Kainuku	M
9		Margarett Merritt	Kainuku	F
10		Diane Holford	Kainuku	F
11		Trish Holford	Kainuku	F
12		Rapakie Meti	Kainuku	F
13		Kapiri Maurangi	Kainuku	F
14		Jackie Wightman	Karika	M
15	Karika Ariki	George Karika Ariki	Karika	M
16	Kamoe Mataiapo	Ian Karika	Karika	M
17		Michael Connal	Manavaroa	M
18		Rob Connal	Manavaroa	M
19		Ana Tiraa	Manavaroa	F
20		Ngatokorima McKenna	Tamati	F
21		Jack McKenna	Tamati	M
22		Jamie Short	Kainuku	F
23		Canny Aratangi	Kainuku	F
24		Mura Herman	Karika	M
25		Kaiei Tererui	Kainuku	F
26		Vaine Murray	Kainuku	F
27	Kivao Rangatira	Kau Mapu	Kainuku	M
28	Vaikai Mataiapo	Sonny Daniel	Kainuku	M
29		Atai	Manavaroa	M
30		Pari Teuru (nee Tamarua)	Koropuaka	F



31		Josephine (Emile) Maoate	Taingaroa	F
32		Celine Dyer	Kainuku	F
33		Fred Nicholas	Manavaroa	M
34		Tua Nicholas	Manavaroa	F
35		Tu Mahuta	Vaikai	M
36		Bianca Whittaker	Kainuku	F
37		Edward Karika	Karika	M
38		Heimata Karika	Manavaroa	F
39	Itaata Rangatira	Noeline Browne	Kainuku	F
40		Ngamata Kimiangatau	Kainuku	F
41	Kainuku Tane	Tangimetua Tere	Kainuku	M
42		Emma Kainuku	Kainuku	F
43		Paul Maoate	Manavaroa	M
44		Helen Tatuava	Karika	F
45		Pepe Karika	Karika	F
46		Mama Ake	Karika	F
47		Maara Nicholas	Manavaroa	M
48		Lorna Nicholas	Manavaroa	F
49		Justine Flanagan	Kainuku	F
50		Elizabeth Munro	NES	F
51		Jessie Nicholson	NES	F
52		Siana Whatarau	NES	F
53		Lydia Sijp	NES	F

There was approximately 21 representatives from Kainuku tribe, 8 representatives from Karika tribe, and 15 representatives from Manavaroa tribe.



## Appendix 2. Consent letter



### **Takitumu Conservation Area Consent for Application of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures**

Name of the site: **Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA)**

Total Area: **155 ha, located on Turangaare Pt Sec. 9N, Arakuo Karika-ki-Uta Pt Sec. 35, Arakuo Makea Pt Sec. 38, and Tōtoko'itu-ki-Uta Pt Sec. 25B**

Primary purpose of Conservation: **Protect the endemic *Pomarea dimidiata* (Kākerōri - Rarotonga flycatcher)**

Secondary purpose of Conservation: **Conservation of endemic bird species such as 'Ī'oi, (*Aplonis cinerascens*, Rarotonga Starling) and Kūkupa (*Ptilinopus rarotongensis*, Cook Islands Fruit-dove), and endemic plant species such as Puaneinei (*Fitchia speciosa*, Rarotonga Fitchia) and Mato (*Homalium acuminatum*, Cook Islands Homalium); the TCA also supplies a third of Rarotonga's vital water source;**

At a workshop held in Rarotonga in January 2023, representatives from the TCA proposed for the Takitumu Conservation Area to be considered as an Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM). OECMs gives the TCA another layer of protection for the long-term effective conservation of biodiversity - a great step towards gaining greater recognition for the site.

We declare that we have the authority to represent the three landowning Ngati/Tribe (**Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika, Ngati Manavaroa**) in the Takitumu Conservation Area.

We confirm that we have the rights, permissions and authority on behalf of our family to provide our informed consent to recognise the Takitumu Conservation Area as an OECM and also provide the required information.

We also understand that the OECM recognition will not have any adverse legal, financial or management implications to the TCA.

We also wish to state that we have the right to withdraw our consent, if needed and shall inform you accordingly.

We, the undersigned, in representation of the three Ngati, **Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Karika, Ngati Manavaroa** responsible for the **Takitumu Conservation Area** confirm that:

1. A full assessment be conducted by the National Environment Service on the TCA for consideration as an OECM site



2. The Takitumu Conservation Area be recognised as an OECM
3. National Environment Service must inform the three Ngati of the findings of the OECM full assessment
4. National Environment Service are authorised to provide data and information on the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Takitumu Conservation Area to the World Database-OECM in accordance with this consent form.
5. We have followed an appropriate process of discussion and consultation in accordance with our normal decision-making practices to make the above decisions.

**Ngati Kainuku**

Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki  
POA-Kapiri Teiti

*[Signature]*

Date: 12 / 03 / 2024

**Ngati Karika**

Makea Karika George Ariki

*Makea George Karika Ariki*

Date: 12 / 3 / 2024

**Ngati Manavaroa**

Manavaroa Mataiapo Tutara –  
Phillip Nicholas

*[Signature]*

Date: 12 / 3 / 2024

**National Environment Service**

*[Signature]*  
Halatoa Fua  
Director