Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) community workshop: Application of the TCA as an Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM)

NGATANGIIA,
RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS

1st – 2nd November 2023

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

February 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, Ngāti Kainuku, Ngāti Karika and Ngāti Manavaroa, who attended the workshop and shared their knowledge of the TCA with us all.

ACP MEAs 3

SPREP
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Acronyms

ACPMEAs 3	African, Carribean and Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreements project phase 3).
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
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
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WD-OECM	World Database on OECMs

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Summary

The Cook Islands National Environment Service (NES) hosted a community workshop on 1st – 2nd 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). This workshop follows on from a national workshop on OECMs held in January 2023, where the TCA was recognised as a candidate OECM site, 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.

The aim of this community workshop was to progress establishment of the TCA as an OECM, by confirming and/or amending information that NES has populated into the OECM assessment tool. In addition, NES sought to consult with the community and obtain their consent and any conditions they may have, to undergo the OECM process and report to the World Database on OECMs on their behalf.

The workshop was delivered in both Cook Islands Maori and English.

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 will revise the OECM assessment and establish a TCA OECM Working Group consisting of landowners to confirm the revised information in the assessment, before reporting back to the wider TCA community and obtaining final consent.

A full list of workshop attendees can be found in Appendix 1.

For more information, please email jessie.nicholson@cookislands.gov.ck or nes@cookislands.gov.ck

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Day 1

Opening of the Workshop

Day 1 of the community workshop on Ngai Taporoporo o Takitumu / Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) as an Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (OECM) began on Wednesday 1st November 2023. The workshop was hosted at the Avana Cook Islands Christian Church Sunday School hall, and was opened with a prayer by Kau Mapu te Kauono o Kivao Rangatira at 6pm.

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 and other traditional leaders who were present in the room.

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

1. Engaging with landowners of the TCA to improve understanding of OECMs, and how this concept applies to the TCA
2. Understanding the OECM site-level assessment tool
3. Confirming and/or amending information collected and noted in the OECM site-level assessment tool for the TCA
4. Processes required to recognise sites as OECMs, including Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)
5. Confirming community support of OECMs for the TCA

Following this, Munro gave a quick **Outline of the Workshop**, highlighting that this workshop will take place over two days, and the importance of attending both days to ensure all information from the community is captured throughout the development of the TCA as an OECM.

Overview of OECMs

This section of the workshop covered several topics to introduce the community to what OECMs are, their benefits and challenges, opportunities, and steps to identify potential OECM sites.

Munro introduced the definition of OECMs. **An OECM is** –

> "A **geographically defined area** other than a Protected Area, which is **governed and managed** in ways that **achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes** for the **in-situ conservation of biodiversity**, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, **cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values**" (CBD, 2018).

In comparison, it was noted that a **Protected Area (PA)** is "**a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature**". It was highlighted that OECMs are not legally protected, whereas PAs are. In addition, the primary purpose of establishing a PA is for conservation of biodiversity, whereas the conservation of biodiversity can be the secondary or tertiary purpose of an OECM.

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Next on the agenda was an overview of **Benefits and Challenges of OECMs**, and these are noted in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Identified benefits and challenges of OECMs

Benefits	Challenges
Conserved areas are documented	Ensuring the key purpose of the site is upheld
Site boundaries are clearly determined and mapped	Ensuring the rights of the landowners are fully respected
Databases can be developed for sites	Sites may not be monitored regularly
There is often effective planning of the site	Landowners may want land back in the future
Increased protection and importance of the area	Lack of incentives to support their conservation efforts
Promote the site, and recognition of the site	
Assist in national reporting requirements	
Meets international obligations to Multilateral Environment Agreements	

Opportunities of OECMs.

Identifying and reporting an OECM site can enhance recognition of the site at the international level, bringing awareness of the site to the attention of the global audience. Secondly, OECMs are a way to validate sites where there have been efforts to conserve biodiversity, outside of the Protected Area criteria. Thirdly, this is an opportunity to provide official recognition of the site, as it will be given an international status. Lastly, it was noted that OECMs can provide more support to the management effectiveness of sites, particularly through opening up more potential funding channels to support conservation work. A list of potential funding opportunities are noted in Figure 1 below and are detailed in Appendix 2, and this list was made available for community members to take a copy home with them to look into the opportunities further.

Figure 1. Community presentation slide on Potential funding opportunities that could support the conservation work of the TCA

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Steps to identify OECM sites

A brief overview of the basic steps to identifying OECM sites was presented by Munro, via a flow chart process map as seen in Figure 2, which is derived from the Cook Islands first national workshop on OECMs - *Other Effective Conservation Measures Workshop Report*[1]. Munro did not go into detail here, as she advised the steps to identifying OECMs will be explained by Jessie Nicholson, Biodiversity Coordinator at the National Environment Service.

However, she did highlight that a screening is first done based on a set of criteria, and if the site ticks all the boxes, it then moves to the next step. Munro then began to explain why we are meeting to discuss the Takitumu Conservation Area as a potential OECM, and how it ticks all those boxes.

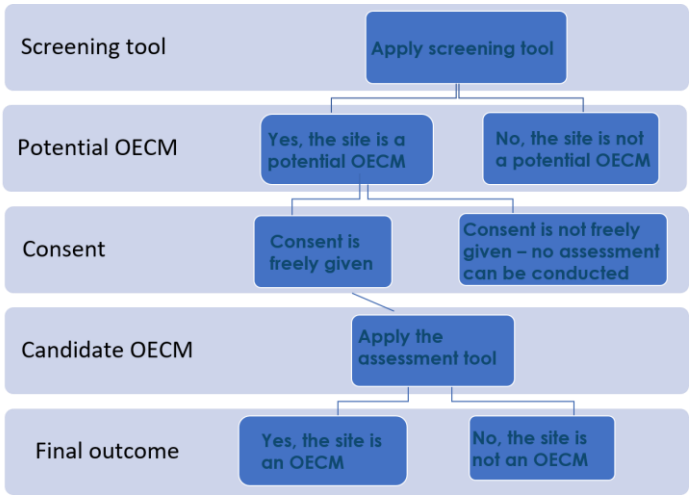

Figure 2. Flow chart depicting the steps to identify OECM sites

Why the Takitumu Conservation Area?

Munro began by advising that in January 2023, a national workshop on OECMs was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands at the Edgewater Resort. She then showed the photo below, Figure 3.C, to show the community who attended the workshop, including members of their own Ngāti. It was at this workshop that participants were introduced to what an OECM is, their potential benefits, opportunities and drawbacks, and where they conducted group activities to identify sites in the Cook Islands that could be potential OECMs. It was during these discussions, that the TCA underwent the initial screening tool based on knowledge of the site from participants in the room. There was general consensus amongst the participants that of all the potential sites identified throughout the two-day workshop, the TCA was the best potential first OECM site for the Cook Islands.

[1] Cook Islands national OECM workshop report is available here: https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/resource/cki-oecm-workshop-report-january-2023

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Figure 3. Photos from the Cook Islands National OECM Workshop (January 2023). A) TCA Landowners; B) Workshop participants undertaking breakout group activities; C) Group Photo; D) Conservation Manager of the TCA, Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika

Munro then broke down the OECM criteria, in relation to the TCA, to show how the TCA ticks the boxes of being a potential OECM.

1. **Is the site geographically defined with an agreed boundary?**
   = YES! There are agreed boundaries on 155ha of land in the upper valleys of Tōtoko'itu, Arakuo, and Avana, as per the map in Figure 4 below. Interestingly, the NES learnt from a map shared by To Tatou Vai that part of the Avana water catchment is located on TCA land, and shared this information with the landowners during the meeting. The Avana water intake is located just outside of the TCA boundaries. Figure 5 is the TCA map, with an overlay of the TCA land that is part of the Avana water catchment.

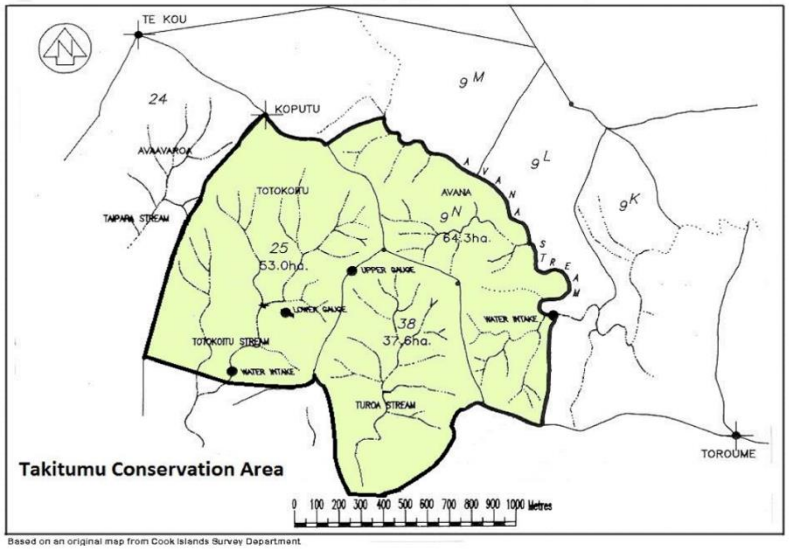

Figure 4. An old map of Takitumu Conservation Area depicting the agreed boundaries, based on an original map from the Cook Islands Survey Department

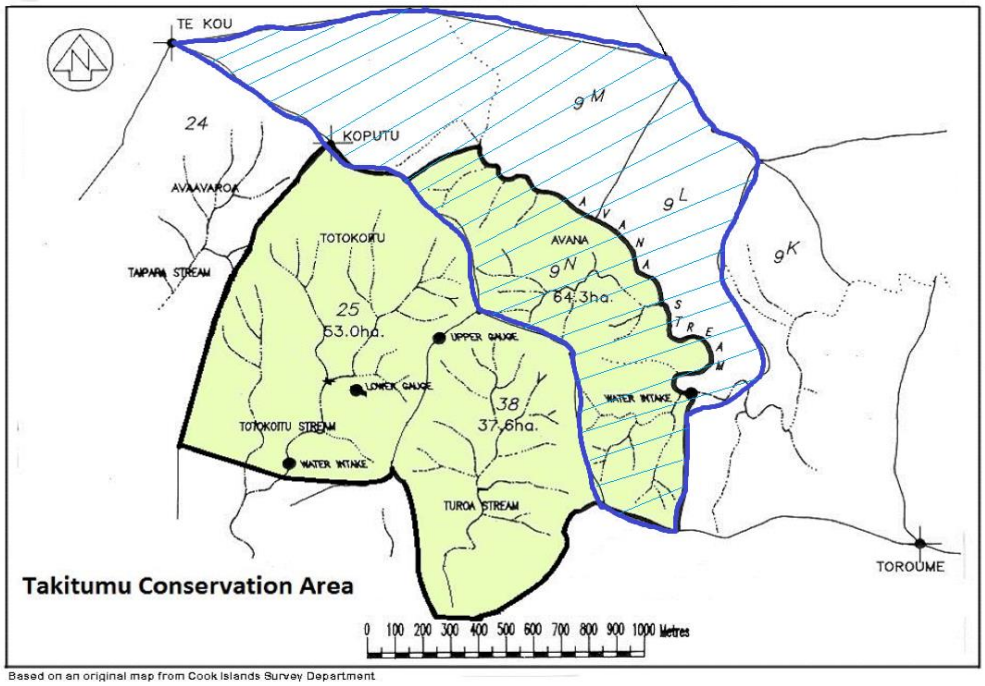

Figure 5. Overlay of Avana water catchment area (in blue) on the Takitumu Conservation Area land. Note: map is based on an original map from the Cook Islands Survey Department, and the overlay is based on a map provided to NES by To Tatou Vai.

2. Is the site managed?

= YES! There is a TCA Management committee in place. The current chairperson of the committee is Philomen Williams. There is also the TCA Conservation Manager, Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika, who runs the day-to-day operations of the TCA.

3. Does the site have clear goals, objectives and measures in place?

= YES! The original goal of the TCA was to increase the number of Kākerōri to a minimum of 50 birds, to move the Kākerōri bird off the list of critically endangered birds.

Other objectives of the the TCA, as taken from the Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030[2] included:

- Annual monitoring of Kākerōri
- Effective (rat & cat) control programme
- Protect Kākerōri nests and translocate birds
- Identify habitat used by Kākerōri
- Education and awareness
- Protection of the bird in appropriate policies.

[2] 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

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4. **Is there long term in-situ conservation of biodiversity?**
   = YES! There is protection of Kākerōri and other native and endemic birds, such as Ī'oi (Rarotonga Starling, *Aplonis cinerascens*) and Kūkupa (Cook Islands Fruit-dove, *Ptilinopus rarotongensis*). Native and endemic plant species are also protected.

5. **Does the site support associated ecosystem functions and services?**
   = YES! The site has varying ecosystems, such as
   - Native forest
   - Streams
   - Mountain
   - And it also provides water security, habitat for species etc

6. **Does the site have other benefits e.g. cultural, spiritual etc.?**
   = YES! Other benefits of the site include
   - Eco-tourism value
   - Recreational value
   - Education value
   - An important area for research

Based on the answers to the questions above, NES agrees the TCA is a potential OECM site.

Munro then paused to allow for any questions to be raised by the community on the topics covered so far, before handing over to Ms. Jessie Nicholson to present the next section.

OECM Assessment Process

Nicholson begun this section by first giving an overview of the OECM assessment process. She explained that there are several steps to follow, as per Figure 6 below.

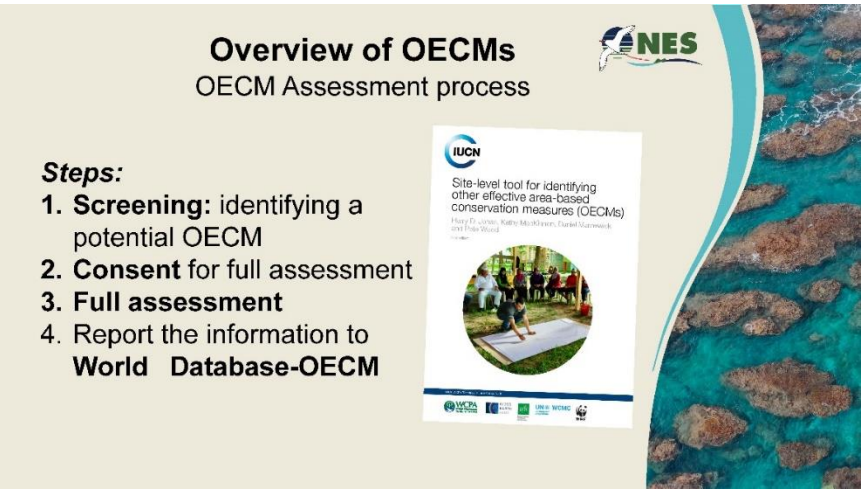

Figure 6. NES presentation slide listing the steps of the OECM Assessment process

Nicholson then went through each step in more detail, as shown in Figure 7 below.

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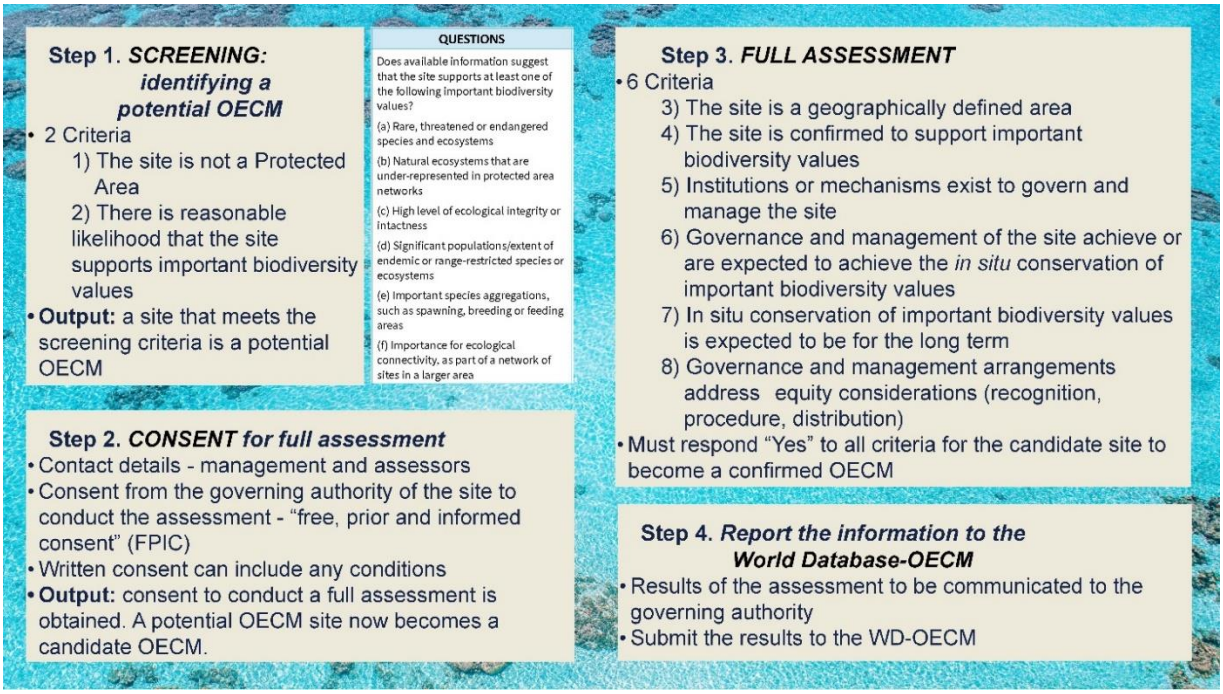

Figure 7. Detailed steps of the OECM Assessment process

Step 1. SCREENING: Identifying a potential OECM

There are several questions and two criteria to answer which determines whether the site is a potential OECM. Information required includes the name of the site in English and also in local languages if applicable, name of the country where the site is located etc. If the site is not a Protected Area and supports important biodiversity values, such as threatened species and high levels of ecological intactness, it can then move onto Step 2.

Step 2. CONSENT FOR FULL ASSESSMENT

Now that we know the site is a potential OECM, we must now obtain full consent from the governing authority of the site before proceeding with the full OECM assessment.

If required, consent may be obtained in 2 stages – first consent obtained is to conduct the OECM assessment, and consent to be obtained again if the site meets the OECM criteria and the governing authority wishes for the site to be reported and internationally recognised as an OECM.

Step 3. FULL ASSESSMENT: Identifying an OECM

Now that we have obtained consent, we are able to conduct the full OECM assessment. There are 6 criteria that must all be met in order for the candidate OECM to be recognised as an OECM site. It is important to list all relevant reports, documents, research papers etc. that document the important biodiversity values of the candiate OECM site.

Nicholson highlighted here, that Munro gave an overview of most of the criteria in this section, and how the TCA meets these during her *Why the Takitumu Conservation Area* presentation. However, there were still some gaps that NES needs to fill, and NES hoped to work with the community during the Break out Groups session later, to help fill these gaps.

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Step 4. REPORTING: Submitting the OECM assessment to the World Database on OECM

If all criteria have been satisfactorily met, now is the time to relay this information to the governing authority and obtain their final consent to submit their OECM assessment to the World Database on OECMs so their site may be recognised as an OECM.

Nicholson then paused here for any questions from the community. One query asked why the TCA fell under the governance type of "(d) Governance by IPLCs" and why it cannot be called "landowners". Nicholson advised that of the governance types available, the TCA was most aligned with option (d) for IPLCs, and that this is a set international term, although we understand it as 'landowners' at the local level in Cook Islands.

A short break for light refreshments then followed.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Munro elaborated further on consent, noting that full consent is referred to as Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

- FPIC ensures the rights of local communities to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands or rights.
- It enables the community to shape the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects/activities that occur on their land
- Once FPIC is obtained, it can be withdrawn at any stages
- FPIC ensures protection of the community
- FPIC must be documented and may include any conditions agreed upon by the parties giving consent, such as specific requirements for participation or review before finalisation

NES then presented the letter of consent obtained from the TCA Coordinating Committee in Figure 8. Munro highlighted that the letter was signed by the Committee before NES was able to fully consult with the Committee and TCA landowners on what an OECM is, to ensure full FPIC was obtained. NES felt that the consent letter needed to be strengthened, and encouraged the community in attendance to think of conditions that they may want to include as part of the consent. To assist with this, NES had drafted a new letter of consent for the community to consider. The community made some additions and changes to the new draft letter, and requested that the letter is finalized at Day 2 of the workshop, to allow more time to think of conditions or changes overnight.


TCA

birds.cookislands@gmail.com

24th April 2023

Kia orana Mr Halatoa Fua,

We, the traditional owners/custodians of the Takitumu Conservation Area Project of TCA Co-ordinating Committee, hereby confirm that we have been fully consulted on, and understand the benefits and drawbacks of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures and give our free, prior and informed consent for a full assessment to be conducted on the TCA for consideration as an Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM) site.

Meitaki maata,

TCA Co-ordinating Committee members

NES

Figure 8. Letter of consent obtained from the TCA Coordinating Committee on 24th April 2023

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Break out groups

The aim of this session was to confirm and/or amend information that NES had filled out in the screening tool for the OECM assessment of the TCA. Participants split into 3 groups, notably they stayed within their 3 Ngāti (tribe), and together worked through the information on the A3 sheets in front of them.

The A3 sheets were populated with information covering:

1) basic information of the site;
2) Criteria 1: the site is not a protected area; and
3) Criteria 2: there is reasonable likelihood that the site supprots important biodiversity values

Participants spent approximately 10 minutes going through the information on each piece of A3 paper, and the papers were rotated amongst the 3 groups. Information collated during the session is in Appendix 3. Photos from the break out session are below, including a group photo.





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Day 2

Recap of Day 1

Day 2 of the community workshop started with a quick recap of Day 1, as noted in Figure 9 below. Key feedback received to the new draft consent letter included use of "pristine" environment into the text and adding mention of historical sites to the letter. Feedback received from the community also stressed the importance of translating the OECM site-level assessment tool into Cook Islands Maori, especially to translate and contextualise the technical language used in the document.

Figure 9. NES presentation slides with a recap of Day 1

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) continued

NES made amendments to the draft consent letter, based on input received during Day 1. The latest version was projected onto the screen, and the community were able to go through each section of the letter to make further changes and add more conditions as required. It was highlighted by some of the community that it should not be the TCA Coordinating Committee to give the final consent and sign the consent letter, rather it should be the head of each tribe to give consent. Therefore, consent was to be obtained from Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki (Ngāti Kainuku), Makea Karika George Ariki (Ngāti Karika), and Manavaroa Mataiapo Philip Nicholas (Ngāti Manavaroa) – this change was included in the consent letter accordingly. By the end of the session, all TCA landowners present agreed to the final text and conditions in the draft consent letter, as per Figure 10.

Break out Groups

The community were again split into groups to continue going through the information that NES had populated into the OECM assessment for the TCA, and confirm and/or make amendments where necessary. Participants chose to remain within their Ngāti and together worked through the information on the A3 sheets in front of them.

The A3 sheets were populated with information covering:

1) Criteria 3: the site is a geographically defined area
2) Criteria 4: the site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values
3) Criteria 5: institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site basic information of the site;

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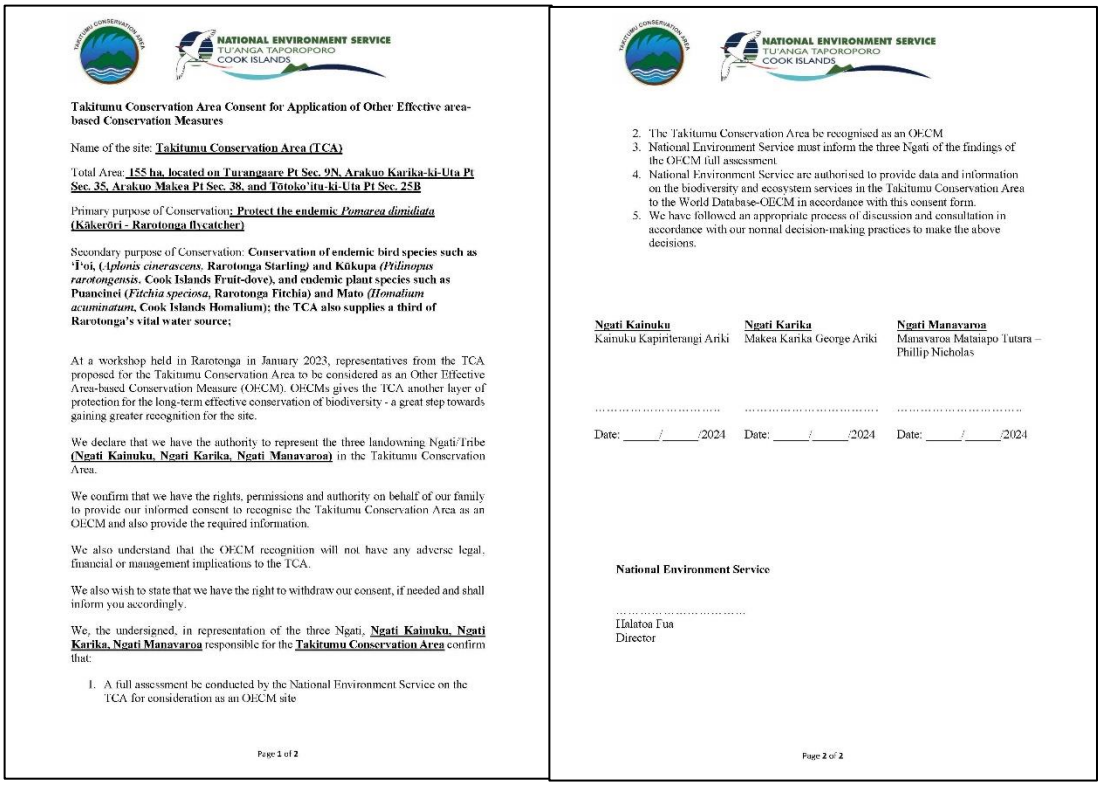

Takitumu Conservation Area Consent for Application of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

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 Puanciniei (*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

Page 1 of 2

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	**Ngati Karika**	**Ngati Manavaroa**
Kainuku Kapirterangi Ariki	Makea Karika George Ariki	Manavaroa Matsiapo Tutara – Phillip Nicholas
.....	.....	.....
Date: _____/_____/2024	Date: _____/_____/2024	Date: _____/_____/2024

National Environment Service

.....
Ilalatoa Tua
Director

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Figure 10. Final text of the FPIC letter for the TCA as an OECM

Participants spent approximately 10 minutes going through the information on each piece of A3 paper, and the papers were rotated amongst the 3 groups.

After a short break for light refreshments, participants then regrouped to go through the remaining 3 criteria of the OECM assessment tool –

4) Criteria 6: governance and management of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the in situ conservation of important biodiversity values
5) Criteria 7: in situ conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be for the long term
6) Criteria 8: governance and management arrangements address equity considerations

Information collated during the session is in Appendix 3. Photos taken durng the break out groups are below.

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Next Steps

NES thanked the community for sharing their knowledge of the TCA during the break out groups, to help fill in the gaps and make sure that we address all of the criteria in the OECM assessment. Regarding next steps, NES advised the following –

1. NES will incorporate the additions and/or changes to the information in the OECM assessment and the consent letter.
2. Once NES had made the appropriate changes, NES would like to call a TCA OECM Working Group consisting of landowners, to confirm each of the criteria in the OECM assessment with this small group, before presenting the final back to the TCA community
3. The results would be reviewed by Kopapa Ao Ora Natura (KAON), also known as the National Biodiversity Committee, at the next meeting held in December 2023
4. Once NES reports back to the TCA community and obtains final consent from the head of each tribe, the assessment will be submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme, who manage the World Database on OECMs.

Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030

The final session of the workshop involved a presentation from Mr. Muraai Herman, Senior Partnerships Coordinator at National Environment Service. Herman presented the Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030[3] to the community in attendance. He highlighted that the Management Plan was produced through the support of the Cook Islands Ridge to Reef project, and this was the first time it was being presented to the TCA landowners and officially launched due to setbacks from Covid-19.

Herman went through the background of the TCA (how big it is, why it was established and when, the landowning families who protected the land etc.), before moving on to give an overview of the objectives of the 10 year management plan (see Figure 12). He ended by acknowleding that the Management Plan is based on the outcomes of 33 years of blood, sweat and tears carrying out studies and management of kākerōri in the TCA. He gave special mention to Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika, Ed Saul, Hugh Robertson, Lynn Adams, Lynda Nia, Te Ipukarea Society for their dedication to safeguarding the kākerōri from extinction, including many other organisations who have provided support to safeguard this species.

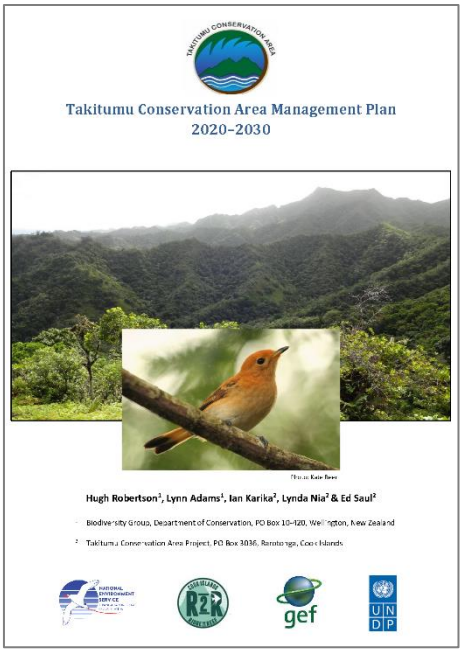

Figure 11. TCA Management Plan 2020-2030 cover page

[3] 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

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Figure 12. NES presentation slide with a snapshot of some of the objectives taken from the Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030

Printed copies of the TCA Management Plan 2020-2030, courtesy of the GEF-7 Project ENUA, were handed out to the community so they were able to take a copy home with them.

Closing

Munro thanked everyone for their time, discussions and contributions to the OECM assessment. She noted that the TCA would be the first OECM for the Cook Islands and Pacific islands region, if the assessment meets all OECM criteria and full consent is obtained. There was great interest and pride from the community for the TCA to be leading the way in this space.

Munro acknowledged the support of SPREP for assisting with this workshop, and for bringing NES Pa Enua officers from Aitutaki, Atiu and Mauke to Rarotonga to this community workshop, to learn the OECM assessment process so they may take it back to their islands and engage with the communities there. The workshop was closed with a prayer and a final group photo.

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Workshop Outcomes

Several outcomes were achieved and are listed below.

- OECM assessment for the TCA was reviewed by members of the TCA community/traditional landowners.
- Landowners were able to add, amend and/or confirm information that NES populated into the OECM assessment tool for the TCA
- NES were advised who to receive the final consent from – Kainuku Ariki, Karika Ariki and Manavaroa Mataiapo only, on behalf of the entire 3 tribes
- Landowners included conditions to add into the consent letter
- Landowners provided input to the consent letter, and confirmed the final text of the letter
- TCA communities accepted the Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030

Recommendations

- NES to incorporate the changes made to the OECM assessment for the TCA
- NES to establish a TCA OECM Working Group consisting of traditional landowners to confirm the revised information in the OECM assessment
- NES to report back and present the final document to the TCA community again once the Working Group confirms the final assessment
- NES to work with its Pa Enua officers to see if there are potential sites in the Pa Enua that may qualify as OECMs
- 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

Resources

- 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
- 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
- Cook Islands national OECM workshop report is available here: https://cookislands-data.sprep.org/resource/cki-oecm-workshop-report-january-2023

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Workshop participants list

DAY 1 – Wednesday 1st November 2023		
	Name	Ngāti (Kainuku/ Karika/ Manavaroa)
1	Tupe Short	Kainuku
2	Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika	Karika
3	Makea Karika George Ariki	Karika
4	Helen Tatuava	Karika
5	Ezekiel Tatuava-Enjoy	Karika
6	Shaun Heath	Kainuku
7	Atai Kirikava	Manavaroa
8	Kau Mapu	Kainuku
9	Paul Maoate	Manavaroa & Kainuku
10	Celine Dyer	Kainuku
11	Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne	Kainuku
12	Tu Mahuta	Kainuku
13	Mona Herman	Karika
14	Lorna Nicholas	Manavaroa
15	Mr. Jack McKenna	Tamati
16	Mrs. Ngatokorima McKenna	Tamati
17	Lillian Browne Mato	Kivao
18	Tamaariki Rangatira Sharon Vaai Maoate	Kainuku
19	Ana Tiraa	Manavaroa
20	Elizabeth Munro	NES
21	Jessie Nicholson	NES
22	Enua Wichman	NES Pa Enua Atiu
23	Raita Moetaua	NES Pa Enua Mauke
24	Avele Simona	NES Pa Enua Aitutaki
25	Mii Herman	Karika / NES

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DAY 2 – Thursday 2nd November 2023		
	Name	Ngāti (Kainuku/ Karika/ Manavaroa)
1	Kim Monga/Dolan	Manavaroa & Kainuku
2	Atai Kirikava	Manavaroa
3	Kau Mapu	Kainuku
4	Paul Maoate	Manavaroa & Kainuku
5	Helen Tatuava	Karika
6	Tu Mahuta	Kainuku
7	Hineruhi Mahuta	Kainuku
8	Rangimahe Mahuta	Kainuku
9	Celine Dyer	Kainuku
10	Itaata Rangatira Noeline Browne	Kainuku
11	W Kimiangatau	Kainuku
12	Mr. Jack McKenna	Tamati
13	Mrs. Ngatokorima McKenna	Tamati
14	Kamoe Mataiapo Ian Karika	Karika
15	Ana Tiraa	Manavaroa
16	Tamaariki Rangatira Sharon Vaai Maoate	Kainuku
17	Mura Herman	Karika
18	Lorna Nicholas	Manavaroa
19	Tuhilani Framhein-Douke	Kainuku & Manavaroa
20	Louisa Monga	Kainuku
21	Kaiei Tererui	
22	Jan-Dominique Sijp-Napa	Pa Ariki / Ngati Rupe
23	Lydia Sijp	NES
24	Elizabeth Munro	NES
25	Jessie Nicholson	NES
26	Enua Wichman	NES Pa Enua Atiu
27	Raita Moetaua	NES Pa Enua Mauke
28	Avele Simona	NES Pa Enua Aitutaki

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APPENDIX 2. Potential funding opportunities

List of potential funding opportunities available to support the management effectiveness of the TCA. This list was prepared by Rahul Chand at IUCN Oceania to support NES and the TCA.

Fund	Brief Description	URL
EDGE Protected and Conserved Area Fund	The EDGE Protected and Conserved Area Fund is making two types of grants available: Rapid Feasibility Awards: to encourage conservationists and researchers to evaluate important potential sites for creating new Protected Areas. Awards average $5,000-10,000. Applications for Rapid Awards will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Full Awards: projects with a clear focus on creating new protected or conserved areas or the expansion of existing protected or conserved areas. Applications for Full Awards are due by 08 May 2023 – deadline for this year has passed but will be open again in early 2024 Eligibility criteria states that establishment of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) may be considered for project eligibility on a case-by-case basis where they provide for effective long-term conservation of habitat and otherwise meet the criteria.	- https://www.edgeofexistence.org/edge-protected-and-conserved-area-fund/
Global EbA Fund	The Global EbA Fund is a catalytic funding mechanism that supports projects that aim to create enabling environments for the uptake and mainstreaming of Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change. All proposed projects requesting funding must clearly contribute to one of the Global EbA Fund Strategic Objectives as well as fall under a maximum of two of the three action pillars. Projects must not focus primarily on field implementation in the scope of the proposal. Field interventions are allowed if clearly justified. The deadline for 2023 has passed and the next call should be open around second quarter of 2024	https://globalebafund.org/about/what-we-fund/

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Rufford Foundation	The Rufford Foundation provides startup funding for nature conservation projects in developing countries. Grants start at £6,000 and increase to £15,000 for projects that successfully complete each stage. The foundation's focus is supporting MSc or PhD students or those who have recently graduated from such studies, though others can apply if they fit the main criteria outlined. They do NOT fund undergraduate students. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply after 12 months.	https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/
Keindanren Nature Conservation Fund	The KNCF provides assistance for nature conservation efforts implemented by NGO in developing countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. The Application call for 2024 will end on 1 December 2023.	https://www.keidanren.net/kncf/en/fund/program
Macarthur Foundation	MacArthur is a multi-purpose, international foundation with grantmaking in multiple fields that are often inter-related. Applications should include a strong link to global climate change.	https://www.macfound.org/info-grantseekers/
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	The Foundation's Environmental Conservation Program balances long-term conservation with sustainable use. We protect critical ecosystems. We establish models for collaboration that can be replicated and expanded around the globe. And we seek to create lasting change in how land, freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems are managed.	https://www.moore.org/programs/environmental-conservation
The Darwin Initiative: biodiversity grant funding for developing countries	The Darwin Initiative is a UK government grants scheme for biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction activities in eligible low and middle income countries. Most projects funded by the Darwin Initiative will aim to: • help to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty • build capability and capacity to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty in the countries they work in • encourage evidence and best practices to be used more	https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply/
BIOPAMA	(case by case , small assistance for workshop or meetings)	Contact CHAND Rahul at IUCN for more information rahul.chand@iucn.org
KIWA initiative	call for grant has just been opened ; must meet specific Nature-based Solutions criteria ; discuss with @QICA Etika Rupeni if Cook Islands qualify	Contact Etika.QICA@iucn.org at IUCN for more information

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Pacific Bioscapes Project	just completed inception ; discuss with @SLOGAN James	Contact james.slogan@iucn.org at IUCN
Small grants programme at Cook Islands Red Cross (GEF)		See Patience Vainerere at Red Cross
IUCN Green List	The IUCN Green List on Protected and Conserved Areas provides a means by which to recognize OECMs that demonstrate excellence in the areas of good governance, sound design and planning, effective management and positive conservation outcomes. The IUCN Green List Standard provides a means by which countries can report that their protected areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) meet IUCN good practice for effective management and equitable governance. The Green List Standard also requires systems-level considerations, including landscape and seascape connectivity.	More information is available online: https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas Contact CHAND Rahul at IUCN for more information rahul.chand@iucn.org

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APPENDIX 3. Break out group activity sheets

Note: workshop participants were encouraged to 'tick' information that they wanted to confirm and add information or amend where they felt necessary.

STEP 1

Step 1. Screening

INFORMATION REQUIRED	SITE DATA/RESPONSES
Site name:	
Site name (English) [Latin characters only: WD-OECM field = NAME]	Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) ✓
Site name in national or local language (if applicable) [WD-OECM field = ORIG_NAME, any language supported by UTF8]	Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) ✓
Temporary site name or site code (if final name unavailable)	
Site location:	
Country (countries) where site is located	Rarotonga Cook Islands ✓
Sub-national administrative division(s)	Ngati Karika, Ngati Kainuku, Ngati Manavaroa ✓
Other description of location (e.g., name of a river, mountain, area)	Tōtoko'itu, Tūroa Upper Avanā Basin, Lower Avanā Basin, and nearby valleys in Southern Rarotonga Arakuo → according to court records Names of blocks needed
Site designation (if applicable):	
National or local designation of the site, national or local language [WD-OECM field = DESIG, any language supported by UTF8]	Informally protected forest by three landowning families in 1996, to primarily protect the endemic and threatened kākerōri bird (Rarotonga flycatcher, *Pomarea dimidiata*) ✓
National or local designation of the site, English [WD-OECM field = DESIG_ENG, Latin characters only]	Informally protected forest by three landowning families in 1996, to primarily protect the endemic and threatened kākerōri bird (Rarotonga flycatcher, *Pomarea dimidiata*) ✓
Regional or International designation linked to the site's biodiversity value, e.g., Key Biodiversity Area, Ramsar site	TCA designated as a key biodiversity area ✓ Would like wider recognition - Regional / International etc
Organisations/groups or individuals carrying out the screening process:	✓
Name, address and contact details	National Environment Service ph: 21256 Environmental Stewardship division Elizabeth Munro elizabeth.munro@cookislands.gov.ck Jessie Nicholson jessie.nicholson@cookislands.gov.ck TCA Co-ordinating Committee Philomen Williams philomenwilliams@gmail.com ph: 78798 + landowners
Date of the screening	Thursday 16th February 2023 Wed 1 Nov 2023
Main biodiversity value(s): List the main important biodiversity values of the site (see criterion 2 for categories of biodiversity value and criterion 4 for further information)	The TCA supports the protection of the endemic kākerōri, a bird whose range is restricted to the southern hills of Rarotonga. Native trees, H2O, Flora & Fauna, Birds, Cultural importance for 3 tribes.

Educational Value.
"Ecotourism" – Sustainable –
"Micro climate"
no dust makes it beautiful.

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CR.1

TEST	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 1: The site is not a protected area (PA)	Is the site OUTSIDE any recognised PA?	YES (site is not within a recognised PA) NO (site is within a recognised PA)	**The TCA is on private land and is conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities. The site is not recognised formally by the national government as a protected area and therefore, may be a potential OECM.**

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 1:

An OECM is a site that is NOT a recognised PA. The meaning of 'recognised PA' may vary from country to country, but the following guidance can be used:

- *If a site (whatever the governance type) is recognised as a PA by a national or sub-national government agency that has the relevant mandate or authority, and meets the IUCN definition for a PA, then it is a PA and therefore is* NOT an OECM.
- *If a site is governed by a private, indigenous or community entity and meets the IUCN definition for a PA, and the governing authority recognises the site as a PA, then the site is a PA and therefore is* NOT an OECM.
- *A site that is a* proposed PA, *but is not yet recognised as a PA, in some cases* may be an OECM. *Recognition as an OECM may be appropriate for proposed PAs that are unlikely to be recognised as a PA in the short term, to give the site some recognition or protection. If an OECM is later recognised as a PA, data can be moved from the WD-OECM to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).*
- *If only part of the site is a recognised PA or overlaps with a recognised PA, then the part of the site outside the PA* may be a potential OECM.
- *If a site is NOT currently recognised as a PA by the governing authority, then it may be a potential OECM. However, in this case the following points apply:*
  - *A privately protected area (a PA under private governance by an individual, corporation or non-governmental organisation) that meets the IUCN definition of a PA should normally be reported to the WDPA as a PA. If the site is reported as a PA, then it is NOT an OECM. However, the private governing organisation may choose to report a site as an OECM instead of a PA.*
  - *A territory or area conserved by Indigenous peoples or local communities that meets the IUCN definition of a PA should normally be reported to the WDPA as a PA. If the site is reported as a PA, then it is NOT an OECM. However, the indigenous or community governing authority may choose to report the site as an OECM instead of as a PA.*

Additional notes:

- *Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, all PAs, whatever the governance type, should be reported to the WDPA, and all OECMs should be reported to the WD-OECM.*
- *If, as noted above, the governing authority chooses not to report a site that meets the criteria for PA as a PA, then it may be reported as an OECM, with the governing authority's consent. Doing so may provide some recognition and protection and also may ensure that the site is included in relevant statistics.*
- *The recognition of a site as a PA or OECM can be updated in the future to accommodate changes in status. The WDPA and WD-OECM are interconnected and allow for simple assignment of a site to the 'PA' or 'OECM' category.*

Further information:

Information on sites may be available from national databases and documents (e.g., the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan). Sites that have been reported to the WDPA and WD-OECM are displayed on the Protected Planet website: www.protectedplanet.net

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CR. 2

TESTS	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 2: There is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values	Does available information suggest that the site supports at least one of the following important biodiversity values?	NO	The site supports important biodiversity values as it is the home of the endemic kākerōri bird, whose range is restricted to the forested hills in Southern Rarotonga. In 1989, there were only 29 kākerōri. Efforts to protect their population against predation by ship rats have seen the population rise to at least 471 birds as of 2017.
	(a) Rare, threatened or endangered species and ecosystems		
	(b) Natural ecosystems that are under-represented in protected area networks	✓	
	(c) High level of ecological integrity or intactness	✓	
	(d) Significant populations/extent of endemic or range-restricted species or ecosystems		
	(e) Important species aggregations, such as spawning, breeding or feeding areas	✓	
	(f) Importance for ecological connectivity, as part of a network of sites in a larger area		

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 2:

- *At this screening stage, the assessor should select 'yes' if there is a reasonable likelihood that the site supports important biodiversity values. Further evidence is used to confirm the presence of important biodiversity values, if necessary, during the full assessment (step 3).*
- *'Reasonable likelihood' means, for example, (a) there are reports of important biodiversity values, including from indigenous and traditional knowledge holders, or (b) analysis suggests that important biodiversity values are likely to be present, for example if satellite imagery shows suitable intact habitat within the range of a threatened species or ecosystem.*
- *If a site is already recognised under an international biodiversity designation (for example, as a Key Biodiversity Area, or an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area), then it can be assumed to support important values and may be a potential OECM.*

There is further guidance related to biodiversity values under step 3, criterion 4. Sources of biodiversity information are listed in the guidance for criterion 4.

MAP & NAME OF THE LAND.
MAP SHOWING WHERE KAKERORI BIRD ARE
AND ANY HISTORICAL SITES ON THE LAND.

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STEP 2

Step 2. Full consent

INFORMATION REQUIRED	SITE DATA/RESPONSES
Contact details for organisations/groups or individuals carrying out the full assessment	Jessie Nicholson jessie.nicholson@cookislands.gov.ck ✓ Paul Maoate paul.maoate@cookislands.gov.ck Elizabeth Munro elizabeth.munro@cookislands.gov.ck
Mandate or role of the organisation/group or individual carrying out the full assessment	Staff of the National Environment Service. The NES aims to protect, manage and conserve the environment in a sustainable manner. The NES has previously provided some financial support to the TCA for maintenance of the tracks, and through the Ridge to Reef project
Governance or management of the site:	
Name and contact details of the governing authority (or authorities). Identify the representative of the governing authority for the site ☐ The governing authority has a recognised mandate or right to make decisions on the overall management and use of the site ☑ The authority may be government, private entity, Indigenous peoples, local communities, or a combination of these.	Takitumu Conservation Area Co-ordinating Committee Chair - Philomen Williams (Karika line) Philomen Williams philomenwilliams@gmail.com ph: 78798 Ina Karika-Anae mauruabb@yahoo.com ph: 78992 Noeline Brown brownnoeline@gmail.com ph: 78505 Ian Karika ✓
Name and contact details of any Indigenous peoples or local communities who claim ownership or rights in the site.	Ngati Karika (Ian Karika, Philomen Williams) ✓ Ngati Kainuku (Kainuku Ariki, Noeline Brown) Ngati Manavaroa (Phillip Nicholas pvkdental@gmail.com)
Name and contact details of any other rights-holders or stakeholders who are involved in the process, for example government agencies, private sector or civil society organisations.	Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) te.ipukarea.society.inc@gmail.com ✓ NES nes@cookislands.gov.ck ✓
Governance type: Identify the existing governance type for the site, using IUCN/WD-OECM categories: (a) Governance by government: *Federal or national ministry or agency*, *Sub-national ministry or agency*, *Government-delegated management* (e.g., to an NGO); (b) Shared governance: *Transboundary governance*, *Collaborative governance*, *Joint governance*; (c) Private governance: *Individual landowners*, *Non-profit organisations*, *For-profit organisations*; (d) Governance by *Indigenous peoples* and *Local communities*: Indigenous peoples conserved areas and territories, community conserved areas [WD-OECM field = GOV_TYPE. Accepted values are italicised]	d) Governance by IPLCs ✓ UPDATED!!! * LIST OF LANDOWNERS FROM THE THREE NGATIS. ✓

Ana Tiraa

Patipati kia uri ki te reo maori, meitaki
Kare e papaa i runga i teia au enua. Kare au maori e marama ana i teia reo.

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STEP 3

Step 3. Full assessment

INFORMATION REQUIRED	SITE DATA/RESPONSES
Boundary of the site:	
Describe how the boundary of the site is defined (for example, with reference to natural, customary, surveyed, or administrative boundaries).	The site boundary is a collection of the three landowning families' lands, within the Tōtoko'itu, Tūrea, Upper Avanā Basin, and Lower Avanā Basin areas. ARAKUO KARIKA-KI-UTA -
Describe whether the boundary is mapped and whether the map is publicly available, and whether it is in a digital (GIS) format. N/A	The TCA boundaries have been mapped. 'Improve access to physical maps
Describe whether the boundary is physically demarcated in the field.	There are boundary pegs Old survey boundary pegs
Describe whether there are any conflicts over the boundary that impact the site's important biodiversity values.	No known conflicts Boundary pegs need GPS reference.
Size and configuration:	
Note the size of the site, if known (e.g., land and sea area in square kilometres, or river length in kilometres). For reporting to the WD-OECM (REP_AREA field), this should be area in km2.	The TCA covers a total area of 155-ha forested lowland hills and nearby valleys in Southern Rarotonga. This equates to 1.55km^2
Describe how the site's size and configuration relate to the conservation of its important biodiversity values.	The valleys provide shelter against the prevailing southeast trade winds and are not easily accessible due to their remote location and as permission to enter onto the land is required by the landowners. For these reasons, the size and configuration of the TCA makes it appropriate for the conservation of its important biodiversity values
Describe whether the site is important because it connects other sites with important biodiversity values.	Water Catchment, Water security Biodiversity
Describe whether the site is part of a network of sites that, together, support important biodiversity values.	Yes 70% of species found in the TCA (Anne Tirau)
Confirmation of biodiversity values: Compile all available information that demonstrates that the site supports important biodiversity values (see criterion 4 for a list of values), such as: ☐ Credible reports from reliable sources, including relevant traditional knowledge ☐ Expert opinion from relevant experts	Takitumu Conservation Area Management Plan 2020-2030 draft METT scores • Doc findings/survey

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CR. 3

TESTS	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 3: The site is a geographically defined area	Does the site have clear boundaries?	YES UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY NO	The site has a boundary of 155-ha

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 3:

The boundaries of an OECM should be determined by the assessor in consultation with the governing authority, Indigenous peoples and local communities, where present, and other relevant stakeholders. Existing limits of land use and rights will often be the basis for determining boundaries.

In defining boundaries, assessors and stakeholders may want to consider the following:

- ⌘ *'Clear' boundaries means that the boundaries of the site can be mapped and have been agreed upon by the governing authority, Indigenous peoples and local communities, where present.*
- ⌘ *A site can be defined by the limits of ecosystem types, geographic features, customary boundaries or administrative limits.*
- ⌘ *A site can include land, freshwater and marine ecosystems in any combination.*
- ⌘ *It is not necessary that the boundaries of the site have been physically marked, but they should be mapped, where possible in digital (GIS) format to allow submission of data to the WD-OECM.*
- ⌘ *A site's size and configuration should, as far as possible, be appropriate for managing and maintaining its important biodiversity values. This may mean selecting site boundaries that include larger populations of important species or larger areas of important ecosystems, since these are more likely to be viable in the long term. However, selecting extremely large sites may be counterproductive, as they may be difficult to manage and protect effectively.*
- ⌘ *A site may be part of a mosaic of sites in a larger area, or may form a connection between sites, so that together they contribute to the conservation of important biodiversity values.*
- ⌘ *In marine ecosystems, boundaries should include benthic and pelagic ecosystems and avoid vertical zoning wherever possible.*

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CR.4

TESTS	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 4: The site is confirmed to support important biodiversity values	Does information confirm that the site supports at least one of the following important biodiversity values?	YES ✓	Yes, as indicated via the METT scores and TCA Management Plan 2020-2030, the kākerōri is an endemic bird, with a restricted range to the lowland forested hills and valleys in Southern Rarotonga.
	(a) Rare, threatened or endangered species and ecosystems ✓	UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY	
	(b) Natural ecosystems that are under-represented in protected area networks ✓	NO	
	(c) High level of ecological integrity or intactness ✓		
	(d) Significant population/extent of endemic or range-restricted species or ecosystems ✓		
	(e) Important species aggregations, such as spawning, breeding or feeding areas ✓		
	(f) Importance for ecological connectivity as part of a network of sites in a larger area		

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 4:

An OECM should be confirmed to support at least one of the important biodiversity values listed above.

- *Sub-criterion (a): Important biodiversity values include species and ecosystems that have been identified as rare, threatened or endangered at the global, regional, national or sub-national level. The basis for the definition of species status (for example, national red list) should be referenced as part of the justification.*
- *Confirmation of important biodiversity values may be from credible reports from reliable sources including indigenous and traditional knowledge holders, or the opinion of relevant experts documented as part of the assessment process.*
- *A site where significant progress has already been made with restoring or reintroducing important biodiversity values may be an OECM.*
- *Ecosystem services and local economic values are not criteria for identifying an OECM. However, in many cases these values will be an important feature of the site. As far as possible, the conservation of biodiversity and management of ecosystem services and local economic values should be complementary and integrated.*
- *Important biodiversity values can be domesticated and cultivated species, where these are in their native habitats.*

Sources of information on biodiversity include the following (this is neither a mandatory nor an exhaustive list):

- *Further information on criteria for important diversity can be found in the IUCN-WCPA OECM Technical Report.*
- *Information on sites already listed as Key Biodiversity Areas is on the KBA data dashboard* https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data
- *Information on sites already listed as Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) is available at* https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/
- *Information on sites already listed as Important Plant Areas is available at* https://www.plantlifeipa.org/home
- *Information on Important Marine Mammal Areas is available at* https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/
- *Information on species whose conservation status has been assessed by IUCN is on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* https://www.iucnredlist.org/
- *Information on ecosystems classified as 'threatened' is on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Ecosystems at* https://www.iucn.org/theme/ecosystem-management/our-work/red-list-ecosystems
- *For sub-criteria (c, d and e), the criteria for Key Biodiversity Areas may be relevant:* https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-033-En.pdf
- *A searchable typology of ecosystems is available on the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology website,* https://global-ecosystems.org/

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CR.5 (info)

see text

INFORMATION REQUIRED	SITE DATA/RESPONSES
Governance and management:	
Describe the long-term objectives for the site, as determined by the governing authority (for example: maintenance of water supply; sustainable production/ extraction of wild products; practice and preservation of spiritual values).	- Conservation of the endemic kakerori population, which has led to the conservation of other native species within the area - The manager of the TCA (Ian Karika's role) needs to maintain oversight of the entire programme and keep the various activities on schedule throughout the year. - The manager's position needs a deputy or understudy to pick up the role when the manager is unavailable. - succession - Pest control officer(s) with knowledge of kākerōri and other species in the TCA, and confident working on the steep and slippery tracks. - Maintenance officer(s) to keep public tracks, baiting tracks and the road clear and safe, and keeps the water pump, shelter, office and cottage in good working order. - Tour guide(s) with a sound knowledge of the kākerōri and other species in the TCA, especially the traditional uses of plants growing along the public tracks. - Ecologist(s) or volunteers to carry out, or assist with, monitoring kākerōri and other species in the TCA, including colour-banding and censuses, and to answer general scientific questions and train field staff and guides.
Describe whether/how the long-term objectives for the site are linked to the conservation of the site's important biodiversity values.	The long-term objectives are taken from the Management Plan, and are key to ensuring the site is managed well
Describe the management activities (for example, protection, harvest controls, restoration), especially those that impact the biodiversity values and ecosystem services of the site.	Main rat poisoning; Interim poisoning; Kakerori nesting; Kakerori banding; Kakerori census; Eco-tours; School visits; Trek clearing and maintenance All activities listed above are from the draft management plan and contribute towards bird conservation
Pressures and threats:	
List any current pressures on the biodiversity values and ecosystem services of the site. These pressures may originate inside the site (e.g., illegal logging) or outside the site (e.g., pollution).	The primary threat to the site is the ship rat, which predates upon the eggs and nestlings of the endemic kākerōri and other bird species within the area.
Describe how and to what extent the governance and management of the site can mitigate the pressures on the biodiversity and ecosystem values.	This is being mitigated through predator control by Te Ipukarea Society, NZDoC and others via rat baiting
List any anticipated future threats that may affect the important biodiversity values and ecosystem services of the site.	High risk: landowners wanting to dissolve the TCA and reclaim their land. High risk: development encroaching towards the TCA Medium risk: succession of the current caretaker. A suitable candidate within the landowning families needs to be identified Low risk: track maintenance. This is necessary to ensure the safety of those who visit high risk: cyclone may wipe out the population and block existing tracks. A contingency fund would allow a quick response to fixing any damaged tracks and roads, thus allowing rat baiting to be run on time, and helping to prevent invasion of weeds
Long-term basis for governance and management:	
Describe any legal, official, customary, or other recognised basis for the institutions/organisations involved in the governance and management of the site that contributes to making the governance and management arrangements permanent.	The TCA is a community conservation area. The agreement between the three landowning families was that the area would not involve legal ownership, and has proven to be effective in its current governance. The primary objective to protect the endemic kākerōri has resulted in an increase from 29 birds to over 500, over the 27-year period since the establishment of the TCA
Describe any legal, official, customary or other recognised status of the site (for example, forest reserve, military zone, customary land, Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, archaeological heritage site) that contributes to the site's long-term status.	The TCA is a community conservation area. The agreement between the three landowning families was that the area would not involve legal ownership, and has proven to be effective in its current governance. The primary objective to protect the endemic kākerōri has resulted in an increase from 29 birds to over 500, over the 27-year period since the establishment of the TCA

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CR.5

TESTS	QUESTIO	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 5: Institutions or mechanisms exist to govern and manage the site	Is there one or more institution(s) or mechanism(s) that govern(s) and manage(s) the site?	YES UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY NO	**The site is owned by IPLCs – Ngati Karika, Ngati Kainuku and Ngati Manavaroa. The TCA is governed and managed by the TCA Co-ordinating Committee, which consists of representatives from the landowning families**

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 5:

The following may be an OECM:

⌘ *A site governed by government where one or more agencies have a mandate to govern and manage the site.*

⌘ *A site where an Indigenous people or community has a mandate to govern and manage the site.*

⌘ *A site where a private entity (individual, group or organisation) has a mandate to govern and manage the site.*

⌘ *A site with mixed forms of governance and management where there is an appropriate institution, collective agreement or division of roles that results in necessary governance and management being carried out.*

The following are unlikely to be OECM:

A site with no governance or management mechanism.

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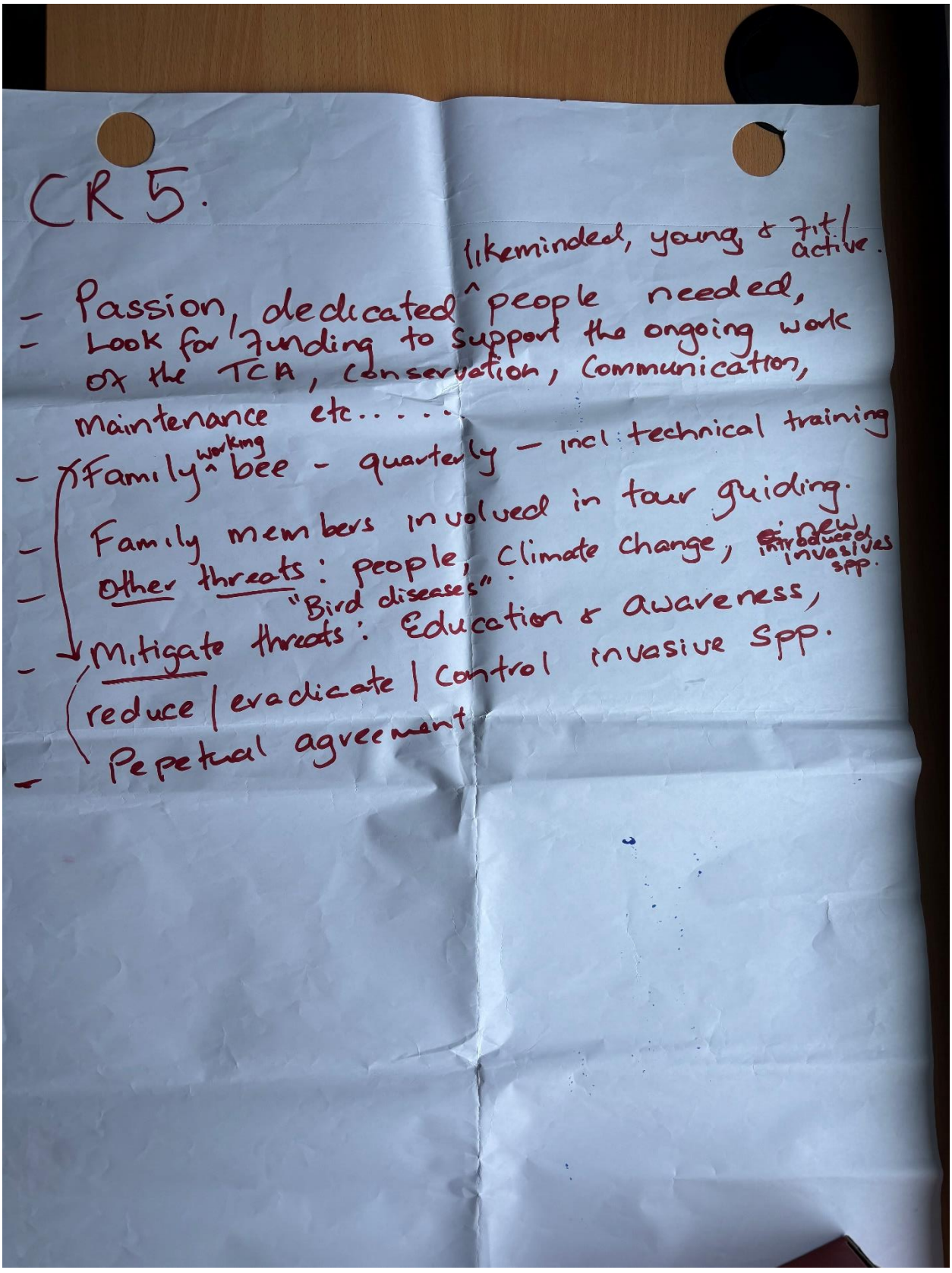

CR 5.

- Passion, dedicated ^ people needed, likeminded, young & fit/active.
- Look for funding to support the ongoing work of the TCA, conservation, Communication, maintenance etc.....
- Family ^ working bee - quarterly - incl technical training
- Family members involved in tour guiding.
- Other threats: people, Climate change, e.g. new introduced invasives spp. "Bird diseases".
- Mitigate threats: Education & awareness, reduce | eradicate | control invasive spp.
- Pepetual agreement

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CR.6

TESTS	QUESTION	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 6: Governance and management of the site achieve or are expected to achieve the *in situ* conservation of important	Do the governance and management of the site prevent and mitigate threats, and conserve the site's important biodiversity values, or are they expected to do so?	YES ✓ UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY NO	**Yes. Management is addressing threats through predator control, which has led to an increase in population from 29 kākerōri birds in 1989 to 471 birds in 2017. The three landowning families have respected the formation of the TCA and grown the conservation values of the area since it was formed in 1996. No industrial activities occur at the site.**

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 6:

The following may be an OECM:

- *A site where a mechanism exists (for example, a legal means, customary law or binding agreement with the landowner) to address pressures on biodiversity values, and there is a reasonable expectation that the mechanism will be used when required.*
- *A site where mitigation of pressures and conservation of biodiversity values are constrained by limited capacity or resources,* but there is a reasonable likelihood that these additional resources will be available *within a time frame that will allow effective management.*
- *A site with no pressures identified but where capacity or a mechanism exists to identify and respond to possible future threats.*
- *A site where governance and management deliver effective biodiversity conservation even though conservation is not the primary objective (this may be 'secondary' or 'ancillary' conservation' – see the IUCN-WCPA Technical Report on Recognising and Reporting OECMs). This may include:*
  - *Sustainable traditional or low-impact management of natural resources as long as this is consistent with the in situ conservation of important biodiversity values*
  - *Management for a specific ecosystem service (for example, for recreation, or to maintain a water supply), as long as this is consistent with maintaining important biodiversity values*
  - *Management primarily for cultural, spiritual, socio-economic or other locally recognised values and practices, as long as this is consistent with maintaining important biodiversity values*
  - *management that involves no intervention, but the site is being conserved in practice, due to limitations on human activities (for example, a military exclusion zone)*
- *A site within an industrial concession/plantation that is permanently set aside from all environmentally damaging industrial activities for the purpose of conservation.*
- *A site where restoring or reintroducing important biodiversity values has already resulted in some conservation outcomes, and these are expected to be sustained for the long term.*
- *A site where there is a reasonable expectation of a positive biodiversity outcome, even though empirical data is lacking.*
  Such expectation could be based on projections and modelling of threats and management interventions, or on experience in other, similar sites.
- *A site where management measures have both negative and positive impacts on biodiversity, but the overall net impact is judged to be positive.*

The following are unlikely to be an OECM:

- *A site where the level of conflict or insecurity is such that no effective governance or management can take place and there is no in situ conservation of biodiversity values.*
- *A site experiencing immediate pressures on its biodiversity values that cannot be addressed by management; assessors should note, however, that the presence of pressures that are entirely beyond the control of the governing and managing authority (such as climate change and sea level rise) does not exclude a site from being identified as an OECM.*
- *A site that is subject to environmentally damaging industrial-scale activities (such as industrial agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas extraction, and major infrastructure), whether the environmentally damaging activities take place inside or outside the site (except areas set aside for long-term conservation within such sites; see above). Note that sites under industrial-scale 'sustainable management' should be reported under targets 5 and 10 of the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework (see the IUCN-WCPA OECM Technical Report) and not as OECMs.*
- *A site where management results in the conservation of only a single species or group of species, unless this involves in situ conservation that also protects the wider ecosystem.*

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CR.7

TESTS	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 7: *In situ* conservation of important biodiversity values is expected to be for the long term	Is there a reasonable likelihood that the important biodiversity values for which the site is identified will be conserved *in situ* in the long-term?	YES ✓ UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY NO	**Yes, the establishment of the TCA and its management through regular predator control has resulted in the recovery of the endemic kākerōri population from 29 birds in 1989 to 471 in 2017. This has also led to the conservation of other native flora and fauna within the site.**

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 7:

Assessors in consultation with other stakeholders should make a judgement on the probability that positive in situ biodiversity conservation impacts will continue in the long term.

The following may be an OECM:

- ⌘ *A site that has a secure legal or other form of recognition, that cannot easily be reversed or eliminated. Examples of such recognition are a regulation, some types of spatial plans or land-use plans, or indigenous or community rights that are formally recognised or long established and widely acknowledged.*
- ⌘ *A site where the governance and management arrangements that result in biodiversity conservation are expected to be sustained, for example because they are guaranteed by formal agreement, covenant or policies.*
- ⌘ *A site where governance and management arrangements can be expected to effectively respond to future threats.*

The following are unlikely to be an OECM:

- ⌘ *A site where anticipated future threats are so severe that they will result in the loss of the important biodiversity values of the site, and there is no reasonable chance that these threats can be mitigated.*
- ⌘ *A site where conservation of biodiversity values is dependent on a legal status, a funding mechanism or other form of recognition or support that is temporary or likely to be reversed.*

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CR.8 (info)

INFORMATION REQUIRED	SITE DATA/RESPONSES
Describe how and to what extent governance and management of the site recognise and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholder groups (where applicable).	IPLCs is the main stakeholder of the TCA as it is owned by traditional landowning families, therefore the rights of the landowners are recognized and respected by other stakeholders
Describe how and to what extent governance and management of the site enable the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholder groups (where applicable).	• The TCA is managed by the Takitumu Conservation Area Co-ordinating Committee which comprises representatives of the three customary land-owning families plus TCA workers on an ad hoc basis. • The caretaker is from one of the three families. • TIS is involved with carrying out predator control • NES has the mandate to protect, conserve and manage the environment, with a particular regard to terrestrial conservation in this case. • NZDoC conduct bi-annual censuses of the kākerōri population
Describe how and to what extent governance and management of the site encourage the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of conservation of the site's biodiversity values.	
List any recent or ongoing cases of abuse of individual or collective human rights involving the governing authority or other stakeholders (as identified in step 2), where these cases are connected to use, governance or management of the site.	Not applicable

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CR.8

TESTS	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	JUSTIFICATION
CRITERION 8: Governance and management arrangements address equity considerations	Do the governance and management arrangements include efforts to address the three aspects of equity (recognition, procedure, distribution), where applicable?	YES UNCERTAIN OR PARTIALLY NO	**Recognition: it is well-known that the landowners are the ones who have the rights to the land at the site** **Procedures: the Co-ordinating Committee comprises solely of the landowners. The landowners make the decisions** **Distribution: profits from eco-tours support maintenance of the site, as well as the caretaker/tour guide**

GUIDANCE ON CRITERION 8:

Application of the criteria:

⌘ *Consideration of equity is necessary at sites where there is more than one group of stakeholders (as identified in step 2). Therefore:*

- *At sites with a* single governing authority and no other rights-holders *(as identified in step 2), the issue of equity may not apply. In this case, assessors should respond 'yes' to this criterion and note that there are no equity considerations applicable to the site.*
- *At sites with more than one group of stakeholders, assessors should work with stakeholders to assess equity.*

Assessment of equity *is based on an understanding that:*

⌘ *Equity is a dynamic and context-specific concept. Therefore, it is not possible to establish a detailed, universal standard for equity.*

⌘ *At almost every site there will be opportunities for improvement in the equity of governance and management. Rather than being required to achieve a specific level of equity, a site should* demonstrate the potential for positive progress *to qualify as an OECM.*

⌘ *Therefore, assessors should respond 'yes' to this criterion if stakeholder consultation shows that the site meets three conditions:*

1. *Governance and management of the site include efforts to address equity (recognition, procedure and distribution – see above) for example through policies, mechanisms or actions.*
2. *There is, in the judgement of stakeholders and the assessor, a reasonable likelihood of increasingly equitable outcomes in the future.*
3. *There are no reports of ongoing or recent (and likely to recur) abuses of the individual or collective human rights of any stakeholders associated with the governance and management of the site.*

Additional guidance:

⌘ *Where progress toward equity is constrained by existing legal frameworks (for example, if national laws prevent formal involvement of local community representatives in a management board), this should not be a barrier to recognition of an OECM, and the assessment should consider the potential for positive progress, taking into account the constraints imposed by the legal framework.*

⌘ *Where there is a long-term dispute over rights (for example, between indigenous groups and the state over historic land rights), the dispute should not be a barrier to recognition of an OECM, and the assessment should consider the potential for positive progress, taking into account the constraints imposed by the dispute.*

The following are unlikely to be an OECM:

⌘ *Sites where there is evidence of recent or ongoing abusive practices by the governing authority or other stakeholders, involving, for example, infringements of individual or collective human rights.*

Further Information:

⌘ *A tool for assessing the governance of PAs or OECMs, the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE), is available at* https://www.iied.org/site-level-assessment-governance-equity-sage

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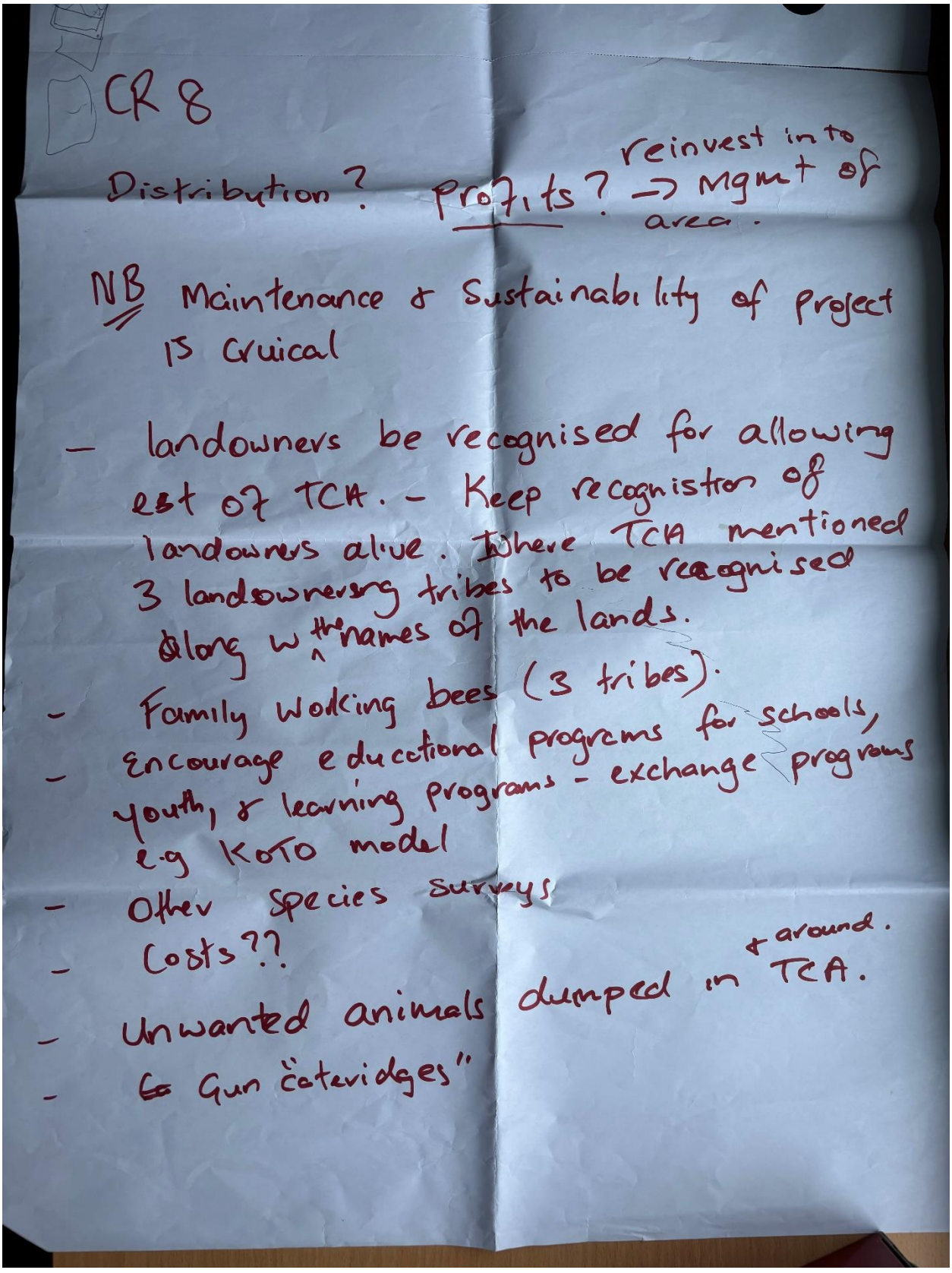

CR 8

Distribution? Profits? reinvest into → Mgmt of area.

NB Maintenance & Sustainability of project is crucial

- landowners be recognised for allowing est of TCA. - Keep recognistion of landowners alive. Where TCA mentioned 3 landowners tribes to be recognised along w the names of the lands.
- Family working bees (3 tribes).
- Encourage educational programs for schools, youth, & learning programs - exchange programs e.g KOTO model
- Other species surveys
- Costs??
- Unwanted animals dumped in & around. TCA.
- & Gun "cotevidges"

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