



Conservation of Rongoa Maori Native biological Resources.

Te Kahui Rongoa Trust Hui Taumata 2013.

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Conservation of native rongoa resources.

- Maori collecting medicinal raw materials : Rongoa Maori (Wai, Kai, Rakau etc), practitioners, individuals, domestic commercial enterprises, herbalists, research scientists.
- Resources harvested : Genes and micro-organisms to logged trees. Aquatic, marine and terrestrial biological material. Estimate 200 species of potential 600-1000 terrestrial species. (excluding marine , aquatic, invertebrates, bryophytes etc, genes and micro-organisms.)
- Types of legitimate harvest access to biological resources :
- Maori access to harvesting Rongoa resources :

- DOC owns or is responsible for one third of NZ land.
- The “General Policy for National Parks” is not a successful model of access and harvest rights with Tangata Whenua. Likewise “The Customary Use of Indigenous Plants, Animals and Traditional Materials” policy guidelines 2006.
- The principles of the Treaty as defined by the courts and Waitangi Tribunal, are not reflected in DOC policies.
- An ideal NZ future ? : Sustainable biological material harvesting standards and best practices guide, harvest legislation and policy, (incorporating Maori values) and national environmental monitoring and reporting, (NERF.)
- Maori kaitiakitanga / monitoring and G.I.S spatial mapping of biological resources.

• **The reality ? :**

Environment 2010 Strategy Statement.

- 90% of our wetlands have been drained or degraded.
- Lowland forest areas have been reduced to 15% of their pre-Maori extent.
- Only 10% of the tall tussock grassland that existed in 1840 still remains
- About 500 species of animals and plants are now threatened.

MfE- Current state of Native Biodiversity 2012.

- About 800 of New Zealand's known animal, plant and fungi species and 200 subspecies are considered threatened.
- NZ's once continuous range of unique ecosystems is now a patchwork of isolated fragments.
- Relatively undisturbed habitats are found at high altitudes in the mountains or a few ecological islands, some of these real offshore islands.

Example of naturally uncommon and threatened Kumeraho species.

- *Pomaderris amoena*. Non-threatened.
- *Pomaderris apetala* subsp. *Maritima*. Nationally critical.
- *Pomaderris edgerleyi*. Non-threatened.
- *Pomaderris hamiltonii*. Naturally uncommon.
- *Pomaderris kumeraho*. Non-threatened.
- *Pomaderris paniculosa* subsp. *novae-zealandiae*. Naturally uncommon.
- *Pomaderris phyllicifolia*. Nationally endangered.
- *Pomaderris rugosa*. Naturally uncommon.

Show audience plants :

What can we do?.

- Use the diversity of the rakau Rongoa species available.
- Rediscover, share TK, trial and learn about more native species.

Use Makomako as example : Fact Sheet, show seedlings, dried leaves etc

- Establish Rongoa resource gardens.
- Support the Te Kahui Rongoa Trust to engage with the conservation Minister over Wai 262 recommendations.
- Support our Maori cabinet ministers who champion for Rongoa Maori.

Wai 262 Recommendations.

- Wai 262 Recommendation : Partnership, co-management of customary use, Wildlife Act amended, so no-one owns protected wildlife and a degree of preference to Tangata Whenua for commercial activities.
- Only non-binding recommendations from Wai 262 Report.

Comparison with India and New Zealand.

In India across the country, there are: 87 “Forest Gene Banks” of 200-500 hectares, which are funded as “Permanent Medicinal Plant conservation Areas” as repositories of medicinal resources (flora, fauna, metals and minerals).

There are :

- Rapid threat assessment for medicinal resources.
- Strategies for sustainable wild harvesting.
- An herbarium which has collected 70% of the medicinal plants of India.

The NZ Comparison.

- No Ethnobotanical Interpretive centre in NZ (repository of Rongoa Traditional Knowledge and resources).
- No DOC focus on Rongoa conservation.
- No rapid assessment mechanisms for Rongoa resources.
- No Rongoa resources conservation risks identified and mitigated.
- Landcare have a modest herbarium and medicinal database.
- No Maori partnership role with co- management of natural resources. (Aquatic, marine and terrestrial)

Summary

- The Crown has suppressed Rongoa Maori and failed to adequately support conservation of Rongoa resources.
- As Kaitiaki our role is to provide outcomes for Rongoa environmental resource management which will sustain Rongoa resources indefinitely.
- Physical activities of Tangata Whenua exercising Ahi kaa and Kaitiaki of Rongoa resources is a demonstration of Mana Whenua and Mana Moana.