

Tū Mai Rā! Te Whānau o Tāne¹

Growing the total
economic value
of our national
Māori forest.

He whakatupu i te
manawaroatanga mā te
mahi ngahere.



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Summary of the Consultation Document
National Māori Forestry Strategy 2040



RANGI-NUI Father Sky

Mai i te rangi ki te whenua.
Mai i te whenua ki te rangi.
Ko Tāne Mahuta i waenganui hei
tiaki i ngā tāngata katoa,
ko Papatūānuku kē.²



POU TANGATA/ POU NGAHERE
Guardian of the people & forest

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PAPATŪĀNUKU Mother Earth

Being firmly rooted to our forests, we unite under this draft consultation document as one **Ngā Pou a Tāne** voice to champion te mana o te wao tapu nui a Tāne (forest - the natural ecosystem of this land) and realise the rights and interests of tangata whenua and mana whenua as the first foresters of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Forest management in New Zealand presently pursues singular outputs from forests, by forest-type - pine for timber, native for conservation, exotics for carbon and so on. Ngā Pou a Tāne envisages a holistic system to enhance, sustain and regenerate the reciprocal relationship tangata whenua and mana whenua have with the life force and provisions of the forests on our lands. This has the potential to optimise material outputs in multiples of timber, fibre, food, medicine, landscaping, social health, ecosystem services, sequestering greenhouse gases, cultural experience and more regardless of forest type - as well as reconnect whānau, hapū and Iwi to place and culture over and over again. It is how our tupuna lived within te taiao (the natural world) and navigated te ao hurihuri (the interconnected and ever-rebalancing system of the natural world). This is the best outlook for us.

Ngā Pou a Tāne uses **Tū Mai Rā!** te Whanau o Tāne as a call to the family of Tāne to arise. 'te whānau o Tāne' refers to the first children of Tāne the trees and other life forms within the forest; as well as the second children which is us mankind, or descendants of Tāne the progenitor, who created and gave life to the first human form, Hine-ahu-one, the female. **Tū Mai Rā!** evokes strength in

numbers and kinship with our elder, the forest.

Built into our strategic vision and intent, is collaborative action. Through this consultation, we come together, we build jointly, and action a plan where the mana of Māori landowners with responsibility for forest drives forward collective rights and interests towards a more diversified and harmonious landscape, values-aligned production, and secure wood supply. This we bestow upon our tamariki and mokopuna.

For 75 years, ngahere Māori has been the uncelebrated golden thread in the fabric of New Zealand forestry - woven by land holders, labourers, supervisors, innovators, mill operators, and environmental leaders.

Handing knowledge and values down from generation to generation helped our ancestors to maintain responsibilities as tangata whenua, and to build relationships with industry and Government whilst growing a \$4.3B forestry asset-base.

In 2023 the Māori authorities contributed 100% of earnings to local spending and regional economies. In the last six years alone, we filled over 2,120 new industry jobs. Our landowners generated over \$25 million in forest additionality annually through

our native ecosystems. This is a proud legacy that we can build onto as we unitedly tackle the opportunities and challenges which are ahead.

Our strategic intent will advance the foundations of this forest heritage over 15 years, to spearhead our business interests towards 10 billion dollars of additional gross domestic product to attain critical mass and back ourselves into being powerfully equipped owners and managers of forests on our lands. By 2040 the forests we own will be even richer stores of carbon and biodiversity, thriving strongholds of ecological, cultural as well as social and economic prosperity.

More than just timber, our forests will endure as the customary space for te reo, tikanga, kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Māori. They must be the watersheds and leafy soils of

tomorrow, storehouses of biodiversity, as well as a vibrant canvas for our tech and eco-savvy mokopuna. We will nurture them as vital infrastructure for whanau ora, and a safe and prosperous adaptation preserve for journeys to 2040, and beyond.

This is an ambitious and challenging vision.

To realise it, the strategy demands collaborative action, fiscal responsibility, data culture, steady partnerships, technical leadership but most of all - mana Māori.

Tū Mai Rā! is a karanga, a call to action, an invitation to refine our collective path and stand up to unleash the immense total economic value of our forests for generations to come.

Ko au te ngahere, ko te ngahere ko au.

At present, 100% of the Māori spend in forestry remains in New Zealand. With average sales of \$78 million dollars on average over the five years between 2017 to 2022, and \$55 million plus per annum (2022) in local spending to the regions where we live and do business."




Tātaritanga Analysis

Land data provided by Whenua Oho, Interpine Innovations

> Current Position

 **Native forest in Māori ownership**
572,980 ha

All distinct sub-categories are aggregated: North Island lowland podocarp, North Island elevated podocarp, South Island beech, South Island podocarp, Regenerating bush on farm land, and Virgin native bush.

 **Exotic forest owned by Māori**
190,181 ha

 **Under 100ha**
54,562 ha

 **Between 100 & 1000ha**
78,175 ha

 **Over 1,000ha**
57,000 ha

Ex Crown Forest Land bought by Māori, covered in exotic forest owned by private companies.
511,817 ha

Ex Crown Forest Land bought by Māori, covered in native forest, under Crown-lwi co-management.
47,759 ha

Crown Forest Land to be bought by Māori (AIP) in years ahead
31,638 ha

Crown lease forest on Māori land
33,862 ha

Māori owned land in pasture
399,894 ha

Māori pasture in mixed ownership with Crown and others
21,903 ha

Bare Māori owned land appropriate for forest approximately
500,000 ha Holt & Bennett (2014)¹¹

> 2040 Goals


Māori forested land	1,600,000 ha
% of executives in forestry & wood processing	15% of national total
Annual income Māori authorities	\$1 billion
Value of Māori forestry assets	\$12.9 billion
Total contribution to national GDP	\$10 billion

> Current Returns

Value of Māori forestry assets \$4.3 billion <small>(BERL, 2018)¹⁴</small>	5-yearly average annual sales from Māori owned forests \$78 million <small>(average between 2017-2022)</small>	Annual sales from Māori forests in 2022 \$62.8 million <small>This was 1.02% of all forestry product sales of \$6.14B made by forestry companies Aotearoa in 2022 (Stats NZ, 2023)</small>
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Our annual spend in the regions in 2022 \$55 million <small>(Stats NZ, 2023)</small>	Employed in forestry, Approximately 13,600 Māori people, <small>This is 34% of the national forestry workforce (Te Uru Rākau, 2022)</small>
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Business owners/management roles
This is approximately 2% of all forestry industry senior management and executive roles (NZIER, 2021 and MPI, 2020)¹⁵.

10/497 people 

Forests on Māori freehold land accounted for 7.3 percent of the national forest area but only six percent of the net CO2 removal. This is due to a lower area specific rate of net CO2 removal: -1.39 kt CO2/ha across all forests on Māori freehold land compared to -1.71 kt CO2/ha across all forests at the national level. The lower area-specific rate of removal results from the greater proportion of pre-1990 forests on Māori freehold land (20 percent) compared to that proportion at the national level (15 percent). (BERL, 2021)¹³.

Ngā Kōrero Rangatira 2023 Summary

1

Collectivisation and mandate

- There was consensus and participants unanimously agreed that there was a benefit for taking a collective stance to advance national Māori interests in forestry and to advocate to Crown and industry.
- Participants agreed for Ngā Pou a Tāne to be mandated to provide the collective voice on forestry matters.
- In taking a collective stance, Participants highlighted that this would not be in competition with other collectives (e.g., hapū, iwi and land trusts/ incorporations) who will continue to carry their respective mandates.
- Advocacy would provide a collective uplift for Māori, including for smaller entities that do not have the capacity or influence of larger entities.
- The operational support of Ngā Pou a Tāne and the ITP implementations should be met by both the Māori forestry sector and the Crown.
- This will be attractive to the Crown as it provides a collective point of contact.

2

State of Māori forestry

- Māori are in different stages in relation to land use and forestry – some are reclaiming their land, others their forestry rights, and others are further along that spectrum or at different scales.
- There was an interest in providing information and guidance for landowners who are under lease and wanted to explore forestry and other land-use options.
- Often Māori do not know risks and threats until it is too late.

3

Te ao Māori forestry paradigm

- Participants talked about how they perceived forestry from a Māori perspective, which was underpinned by whakapapa, mātauranga, kawa and tikanga.
- A Māori forestry paradigm draws on tupuna aspirations and is focused on mana motuhake, which includes but is not limited to economic interests.
- Māori forestry includes health and wellbeing of the people, the forest and its inhabitants, and is about caring for the forest.
- Māori forestry has an intergenerational perspective, that management of the forest is for future generations.
- Implied that the mauri of the forest is important, as is the wairua and connection to the forest.
- Te taiao is the bottom line, it is not an add-on or added value (compared with the default approach to forestry).
- There is a tuakana-teina relationship to the forests and the management of forest health.



4

Mana motuhake

- The ultimate drivers for Māori from forestry were mana motuhake (independence) and wellbeing of our taiao.
- Participants emphasised nō mātou te whenua – that Māori have authority over their lands and forests and therefore the ability to manage their forests.
- The collective could position to unlock the regulatory regime, science, research, and markets to provide better pathways and opportunities for Māori land and forest owners.
- Relationships with research organisations needed to be reset, so that Māori-led research leads, rather than operating as an add-on to science.

5

ETS and biodiversity credits

- The design of the ETS system is not equitable for Māori participants or realities, it does not involve Māori appropriately, further disadvantaging Māori landowners with forest lands.
- The collective voice could advocate for Māori interests in the ETS system to prevent disadvantages and harms for Māori land and forest owners, and to better embed, reflect or support Māori needs and aspirations.
- There is a risk that the proposed design of the biodiversity credit system might unintentionally marginalise Māori further. Our collective voice must lead and inform solutions to prevent these sorts of perverse outcomes.

6

Natives and/or exotics

- Native forests are important to preserve whakapapa, and (endemic) taonga species. They also fit with ideas of low impact multiple uses in forestry.
- Native afforestation is sometimes viewed as non-viable for revenue generation, so landowners want to find ways to make them more broadly viable through tikanga enlightened policy, and (outside the box) Māori innovated market mechanisms and options.
- Participants saw benefit in supporting both exotics and native forests for their collective range of benefits.
- Exotics were important as they provided revenue and enabled forest and landowners to progress toward mana Motuhake.
- Landowners have aspirations from exotic, to transition forests, to native forests.
- High enthusiasm for developing ecotourism, commercial recreation, forest schooling (multi-kaupapa) options for both native and exotic forests.

Ngā Whāinga Whakatutuki

Strategic imperatives



These strategic imperatives worked into a national plan of action have been repeated by Māori forest landowners and Māori forestry industry leaders across the motu.

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Te mana o te wao tapu nui a Tāne

 - Mana ōrite relationship for Aotearoa New Zealand forests
 - Forestry adaptation plans for climate risk zones – business model climate scenarios.
 - Grow public awareness of our native forest whakapapa including duty of care and responsibilities
 - Exemplary forest on pre-1990 erodible lands.
 - Climate and nature smart supply chains (proof of origin).
 - Close-to-Nature Continuous Cover Forestry Management.
 - Transition Forestry Management.
 - Native Seed Improvement Initiative.
- 

Own the forests on our land

 - Forge strategic partnerships with forest owners.
 - Total Economic Value Framework for Māori Forests.
 - Added protection for special nature Māori property rights in national forestry and landuse change decisions.
- 

Grow our people

 - Māori Forest Professionals' Industry Partnership - developing our leaders.
 - National programme of vocational excellence enhances delivery by hapū/Iwi and Māori SMEs
 - Tautoko and value our kaimahi - training, leadership and safety pathways.
 - Equitable contracting and monitoring framework for kaimahi.
 - National enhancement of forestry operations - strengthening relationships with landowners and tikanga.
 - Māori Forestry 101 workshops
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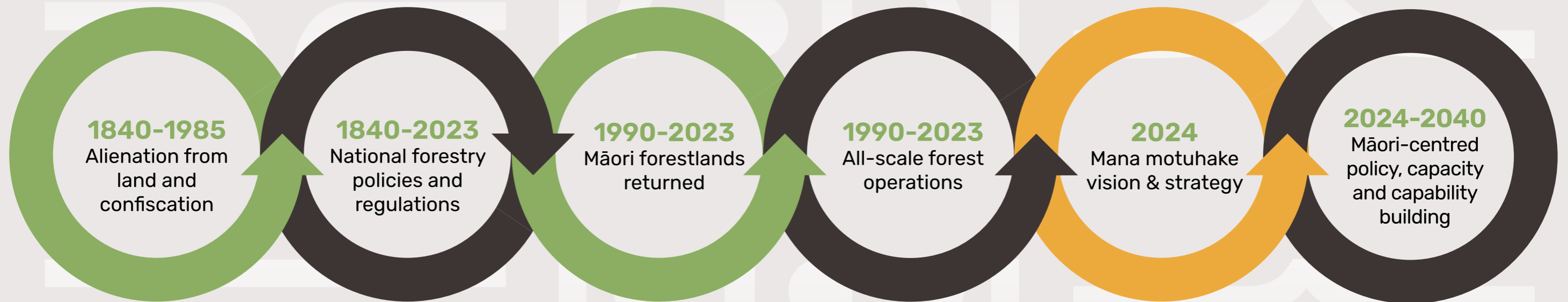
Optimise the national Māori forest inventory

 - Strengthen ngā kaupapa-a-rōhe business models.
 - Māori Nature Positive and Carbon Commodity.
 - Māori forestry data managed like a strategic asset
 - Transition to diversified (resilient) national Māori forestry portfolio.
 - Grow new investment - vertical integration, value optimisation, R&D.
 - Māori forest service.
 - Ecosystem services register and payments for whenua Māori provisions to the public.
 - Total Economic Value Māori Forest financing options.
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Te tū a Ngā Pou a Tāne, hei māngai

 - Membership services and benefits.
 - Resource to develop effective delivery and engagement model.
 - National forestry sector leadership and advocacy.

Mai i te rangi ki te whenua.
 Mai i te whenua ki te rangi.
 Ko Tāne Mahuta i waenganui hei
 tiaki i ngā tāngata katoa,
 ko Papatūānuku kē.



“This is why we need a Māori forest strategy – because we don't go anywhere, our whenua is here, our people are here, our mokopuna are going to come up, so the one constant in the forest industry - mai rā anō - is us.¹²”

A causal loop report on the complex nature of the Māori Forestry Paradigm in 2024 has been prepared by Scion Te Ao Māori Capability Group and Ngā Pou a Tāne. It can be accessed at www.ngapouatane.maori.nz.