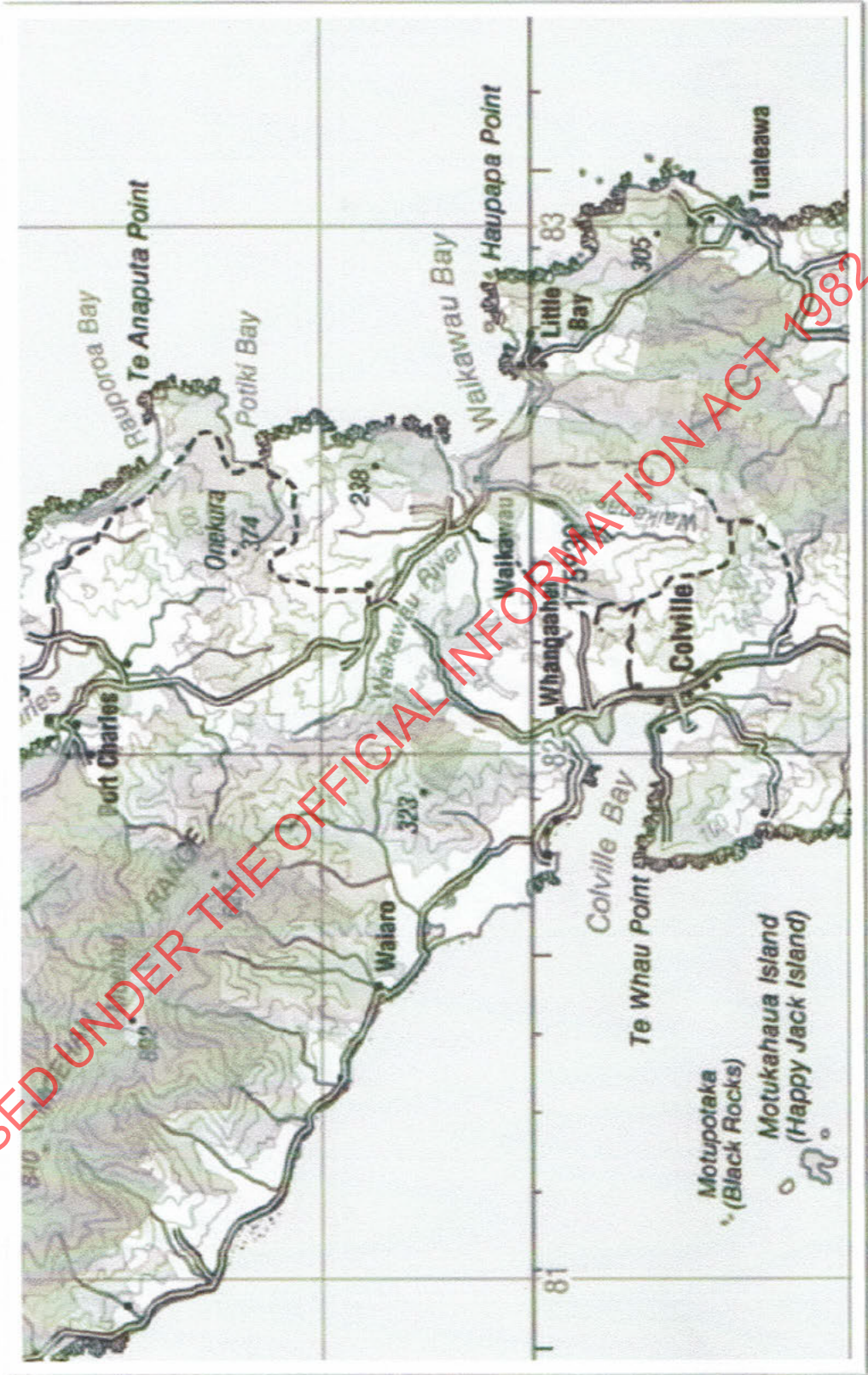
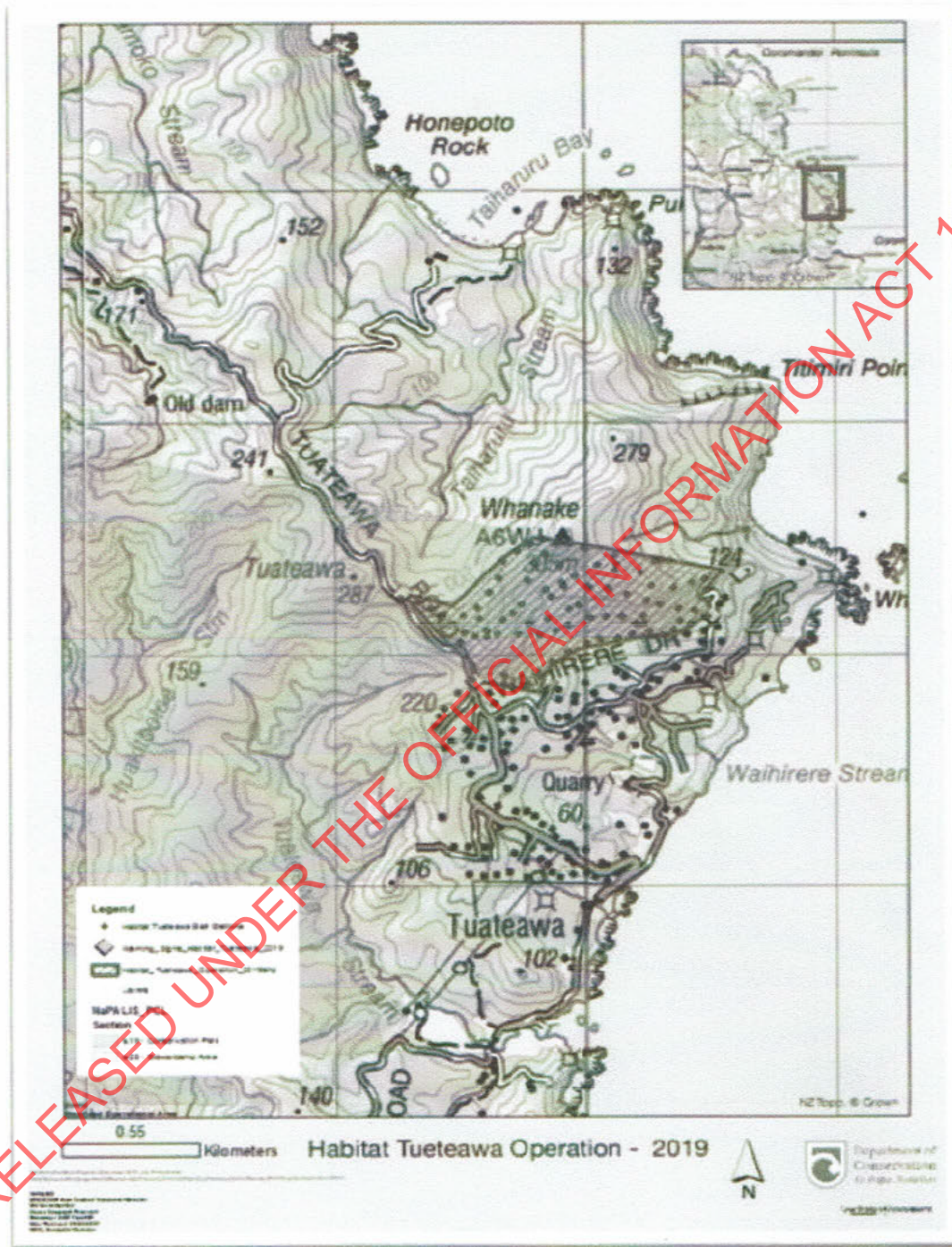


Appendix A: Overview of the Tuataewa Region, Northern Coromandel



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Appendix B: Habitat Tuateawa – Area of operation (including PCL)



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Community Agreement doc – DOC-6060754

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Appendix C: Community Activity Template – Animal Pest Control

WTZC-GRP-CAT Habitat Tuateawa Pest Control – DOC-6060876

Appendix D: Health and Safety Plan v2

WTZC-GRPHS Habitat Tuateawa Safety Manual v2 DOC-3245297

Appendix E: Group Context

Significant progress:

Personal observations and more formal reports over the last 8 years, in particular, show that significant progress has been made. Highlights include:

Pest control

Coordinated and systematic animal pest control programmes targeting priority pests (Ship rats, possums and stoats) have been maintained for nearly 20 years. Feral goats were eradicated from Tuateawa by DOC in the late 1990s. Dialogue was established with neighbouring farmers to reduce cattle incursions. Ferrets and weasels have been included, along with stoats, as target pests in recent years as they have become more abundant. We have promoted community support for DOC's dog kiwi aversion programme and encouraged residents to become pet-cat-free. The kiwi aversion programme has been remarkably successful with a large proportion of Tuateawa dog owners enrolling their dogs. Many local pig hunters have also included their dogs with the support of hunting clubs.

Our pest control area has expanded (currently a core of nearly 300 hectares, with adjoining areas included as funds have allowed) and the frequency and intensity of control efforts has been increased. With funding from DOC's Community Fund and WRC's Environmental Initiatives Fund we have employed a part-time Pest Control Coordinator. Nicky Baumgaertner, a long-term local resident, has provided consistent and effective support, advice and coordination for more than 8 years. Her inputs have been central to the maintenance of our pest control and monitoring programmes and she has been a consistent contact point for the various organisations involved.

Best practice techniques have been employed and dialogue maintained with DOC, WRC and other groups to ensure new techniques and approaches are applied as appropriate to improve our effectiveness and efficiency. We have declared our intention to only use control techniques that meet international humaneness standards and to reduce our use of toxins as soon as effective alternatives become available. We have a strategy of progressively increasing the number of traps deployed, and reducing bait stations, as well as trialling new devices as they become available.

With support from WRC and DOC a pest plant control plan has been prepared which identifies our weed control priorities – wild ginger, pampas and woolly nightshade. Like so many weed control initiatives progress has been variable. A sub-group focused on controlling ginger on the

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boundary of the sub-division has recently been formed, involving up to 20 volunteers on half-day working bees. Another sub-group is focused on controlling wasps within the sub-division.

Measures have also been put in place by Habitat Tuatēawa volunteers to minimise the risk of Kauri Dieback Disease in our area. Hygiene stations have been established at key track entrances and are maintained by our volunteers. Rata seeds have also been collected and stored as a measure to reduce the risks associated with Myrtle rust incursions.

Pest control results and ecological outcomes

Measuring the effectiveness of our pest control prior to and following control measures using standard techniques has shown that significant reductions in possum and ship rat populations have been achieved, frequently meeting our 5% RTC/RTI targets. A local resident has worked tirelessly over the years to collate our monitoring data. Records of observations by local residents of notable pests such as mustelids and feral cats are collated by our Pest Control Coordinator and used to better-focus control measures.

A program of quarterly 5-minute bird counts undertaken by a team of volunteers is in place to confirm what residents already know - that bird numbers and diversity have increased markedly as a result of our pest control. Native birds are now a feature of the area that few people can fail to notice, and are a source of considerable pride for all those involved. Kaka, kereru, tui, and korimako are now common with permanent flocks of up to 17 garrulous kaka being a feature, day and night! Remote sensor monitoring of kiwi calls suggest kiwi numbers are also increasing. It is not uncommon now for residents to report hearing kiwi calling from their homes. Recent observations of pateke, kakariki and karearea suggest previously extirpated species may now be returning to Tuatēawa. Ironically a declared Key Performance Indicator that people will begin complaining about being woken by the morning chorus of bird song has been achieved!

While not formally monitored, observations by residents over the years suggest there have been marked changes in other environmental attributes including increased forest canopy and understory density, and flowering and fruiting. Lizards and large invertebrates are also now seen more often, suggesting population increases presumably as a result of reduced predation and improved habitat condition.

Ecological Restoration

Our strategic plan includes a vision to restore Tuatēawa ecosystems to something like what they must have been prior to human colonisation. This will involve re-introducing selected species, with a focus on 'keystones'. Our current focus is on restoring a titi (grey faced petrel) breeding colony on the steep coastal slopes, recognising that seabirds were a key component and part of a number of important ecosystem functions. Proposals to re-introduce other species such as tuatara and tusked weta have also been discussed by the committee.

Social outcomes

While harder to measure, social outcomes have also been significant. Membership of Habitat Tuatēawa has grown to over 100 members; and continues to grow. In addition to the establishment of a formal governance structure and procedures a committee consisting of 15 members meets bi-monthly to address pre-set agenda items. Sub-committees are in place to guide communications, fund raising and pest control. Sub-groups focused on controlling wild ginger and restoring an estuarine wetland at the mouth of the Tuatēawa Stream have also been formed.

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A website has been created and regular newsletters keep members, residents and others informed. A large measure of community and landowner support suggests our activities are widely supported. The committee has also responded to requests for local inputs, including commenting on DOC's Coromandel brown kiwi taxon plan and presenting at a TCDC Hearing about the status of a Protected Area at Tuatēawa managed by TCDC. Habitat Tuatēawa members have also participated in surveys of Northern Coromandel brown kiwi and Australasian bittern coordinated by the Moehau Environment Group. A Habitat Tuatēawa representative sometimes attends MEG committee meetings or AGMs, and MEG representatives reciprocate indicating a close relationship between these neighbouring groups, which we value.

In response to feedback suggesting social interactions are valued Habitat Tuatēawa has put further effort into organising community barbeques, bric-a-brac markets, quiz evenings and other social events which have become important fixtures on many peoples' calendars. It is clear people value these social dimensions which contribute to the Tuatēawa community. Recognising these dimensions is important given that Tuatēawa continues to grow.

Health & Safety and Civil Defence

A Health & Safety plan is in place and education and training days organised by the H&S Coordinator for volunteer field crews. Civil defence and fire service representatives have contributed to several of these training and education days. The Health & Safety plan has recently evolved to include wider civil defence measures for events including floods and fire, and has involved a wider cross-section of Tuatēawa residents. A defibrillator has been purchased and sited at a strategic location. These developments may be seen as indicative of the growing social dimensions to an organisation initially created specifically for environmental purposes.

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