

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII) is an incorporated society and works together with others such as the Coastal Hapū Collective (CHC) and the Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC). The Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) job is to communicate on behalf of NKII with the hapū and other organisations. They oversee distribution of iwi funds from the fisheries settlement and write policies to bring to Government. There are six different areas called Taiwhenua Districts, they are Wairoa, Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, Heretaunga, Tamatea, Tamaki-nui-a Rua, and Wairārapa. The CEO communicates with these areas and with the people and community of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi.

1

The KAHC vision is to build intergenerational wealth for Ngāti Kahungunu and to obtain maximum sustainable returns on their commercial assets as seen in the table below there is growth in the value of the assets held by NKII between 2009 and 2011 of \$17.9 million and a change in the types of assets held for Ngāti Kahungunu. They base their objectives on their values that are consistent with tribal values to uphold the mana of Ngāti Kahungunu in all that they do so they may achieve their vision.

1

Fisheries Assets		Non-Fishing Assets		Iwi property Assets	
2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011
\$30.6million	\$47.5million	\$3.4million	\$3.4million	\$1million	\$2million
88%	90%	9%	6%	3%	4%

The three groups (NKII, CHC, and KAHC) work together and have developed a strategic plan to guide the use and management of renewable resources like marine and freshwater fisheries within the Ngāti Kahungunu areas. The strategic plan prioritises local management and the mana of hapū, protecting the fish species and preserving the ecosystem integrity to protect mauri (the life essence and life force possessed by living things). Ngāti Kahungunu hapū and whānau carry responsibilities as kaitiaki to ensure that the resources continue to flourish and grow so that they may be plentiful for Ngāti Kahungunu now and for generations to come.

2

The resources that Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi have to manage is everything within the rohe, from the mountains to the sea, including the sea and freshwater, flora and fauna, and the fisheries money. The area of the sea that they manage is 200 miles from the coast. It is important that these iwi communicate and co-operate with each other so that they may manage the resources sustainably.

2

Ngāti Kahungunu organisations work together to achieve their strategic plan as there is more concern about the decline of abundance of fisheries, especially iconic species like kōura, pāua, and kina. The organisations each have their own mana and responsibilities in respect of fisheries and this strategy is hoped to support the fulfilling of them. This strategy also aims to improve communication and integration between the organisations. These groups within Ngāti Kahungunu have come together because they are concerned about the current state of fisheries and ecosystems within the area and to achieve the strategic plan so Ngāti Kahungunu may continue to protect and preserve their resources.

2

One of the issues that Ngāti Kahungunu face is making sure that the fisheries will continue to grow and flourish so the resources will be plentiful for future generations. A solution to overcome this issue is to set a quota management system that restricts the amount of fish that each person or group is allowed to take. They could also apply some form of recreational licence that would contribute to controlling the number of fish and marine life taken. They also need to make sure that people are fishing the right size and are not taking any undersized fish. To support this goal a new fishing net is being developed which when pulled under the water increases the size of the holes in the net and allows the smaller fish to escape so that they may continue to grow and provide for future generations.

3

Another goal for Ngāti Kahungunu is continuing to protect the environment by keeping it healthy and upholding the health and wellbeing of the community. The organisations and Ngāti Kahungunu are trying to

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ensure the protection of the environment such as lakes, rivers, streams, and land so that the resources that we have now may be available for the future generations to come and that they will be clean and healthy.

A solution for the protection of the environment would be to develop better communication within the community so that the cleaning strategies could be introduced to help purify and uphold the wellbeing of streams and land and other waterways. Another solution to ensure our environment is protected is to set up regulations and standards used by the community that have to be met to prevent or help to clean the polluted waterways and contaminated land sites.

An example of this issue is the polluted stream of Karamu. The Karamu stream was once plentiful with black flounder which was used by the iwi to feed the visitors to the marae, over time the increase of sewerage flowing through the stream because of the farming and animals has resulted in the stream becoming polluted which has led to the depletion of the black flounder. The iwi has come up with a solution to clean the stream and find the black flounder so that they may be regenerated and be plentiful in years to come.

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From the investigation, I have learned that Ngāti Kahungunu manage very important resources in our community and have developed a strategy to try and protect them. I learned that the iwi organisations are very aware of the improvement of the environment especially the marine and freshwater fisheries and have put in plans and strategies so that future generations may be able to enjoy these resources. I believe by encouraging and educating the community about these strategies Ngāti Kahungunu will be able to achieve their goals and be successful in implementing their strategies which will result in the strong and plentiful resources that will be available for the people of future generations and communities. A Māori whakataukī that expresses this quotes that if the ocean and sea is plentiful and abundant the people will continue to thrive and grow in Ngāti Kahungunu. “Tangaroa a mua, tāngata ki muri”.

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Sources:

Guest speaker and <http://www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/>