

Ngāti Kahungunu iwi is a tribe located on the East coast of the North Island. They manage everything in their rohe from the mountains to the sea. Some of the resources which the iwi control are the sea, land, fresh water, plant (flora), animal life and fisheries. The mission for Ngāti Kahungunu is to enhance the mana and wellbeing for the iwi. This will be achieved by empowering the iwi to achieve success at the levels of whānau, hapū and taiwhenua. The Ngāti Kahungunu iwi has set up Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC) which is a separate organisation who co-operates and manages the fisheries asset. The iwi and the company both work together to sustain resources.

The KAHC have two main goals:

1. Their main goal is to maximise the financial return on the commercial assets of the KAHC, i.e. to make a profit for the iwi.
2. Their second goal is to make sure there is plenty of fish for the future generations. Some of the problems they have are depletion in the quantity and quality of fish by using up the amount of fish.

For this goal to be successful the KAHC have applied a set quota management system (total allowable catch) so that the quantity and the size of fish caught is protected. The development of a new fishing net that has holes big enough so undersized fish can swim away and not be caught supports this goal of maintaining fish stock in the future.

6

There is a strategic plan set up by Ngāti Kahungunu iwi for the health of our environment and influence on the health of our people the Kahungunu iwi are increasing the protection for our environment by preserving and protecting our air, water, lands and resources for the benefit and survival of the future generations to come.

One solution to protecting the environment is to train and educate our tamariki, the other is to set regulation standards and have environmental clean-up strategies in place for waterways, land management and contaminated land sites.

An example of an issue and solution occurring is in the Karamu stream where there was plenty of black flounder flowing through the stream and the local hapū of that area would use the black flounder as kai. Presently the increase of sewerage flowing through the stream caused by dairy farming and pollution has resulted in a decrease in the amount of black flounder left in the stream. The iwi are now planning to clean the stream so that the black flounder can be regenerated and the environment can be protected.

7

7

In conclusion I have learnt that Ngāti Kahungunu is a strong iwi with a unique cultural identity that controls a huge amount of resources and is highly aware of protecting these resources and developing solutions for the issues that iwi have to solve. The cultural values of the rohe are important and are developing so that the Ngāti Kahungunu traditional and contemporary culture and language will survive and achieve national recognition. The iwi have future plans for the success of Ngāti Kahungunu and are encouraging participation amongst whānau, hapū and iwi so that the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi is able to grow with a strong, healthy and positive attitude. The examples above are various strategies which the iwi are using to preserve their assets for the future.

8

Sources:

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