

Protected Areas Aotearoa

The reality of Maori Land

Aotearoa/New Zealand

- Known for its record on human rights, indigenous rights and environmental protection, but how much of this is reality?
- A look at the protected areas system of Aotearoa

Land Area

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Total land mass of 27,053,000 Ha

Originally all Maori Land

- Total land Mass
- 27,053,000
- Protected Areas cover 24.4% Land based
- Water areas take it to nearly one third of territory
- Indigenous forest Cover of 23.4%



Land of diverse landscape

Total population of around 4,100,000

Of which around 15% ARE MAORI

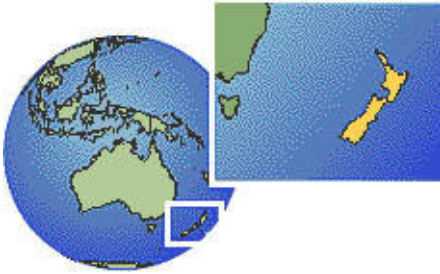
Chronology of deforestation

- Pre Maori forest cover of 80% plus
- Maori settlement well established by 900 ad
- European settlement starting late 1700s
- At start of European settlement forest cover at around 65 to 70%
- In around a thousand years of occupation by Maori deforestation was contained at this rate

Deforestation and European

- At arrival in late 1700s forest cover of 65 to 70%
- Current forest cover of 23.4% indigenous forest of which around half can be described as virgin. The figure of 23 to 24% has been relatively stable for several decades.
- In around 150 years deforestation was four times the level of deforestation under Maori occupation (1000 years)

Images of Aotearoa



Treaty Of Waitangi Article two

Her Majesty the Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and to the respective families and individuals thereof the full exclusive and undisturbed possession of their Lands and Estates Forests Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess so long as it is their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession

Article Two continued

- ; but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs yield to Her Majesty the exclusive right of Preemption over such lands as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to alienate at such prices as may be agreed upon between the respective Proprietors and persons appointed by Her Majesty to treat with them in that behalf.

Treaty

- Signed in 1840
- Subject to much protest and Maori petitioning over non compliance
- 1970s Treaty of Waitangi Act sets up tribunal to hear and recommend on land settlements
- Continuing disputes and protest over Government action including Foreshore and Seabed Act

Foreshore and Seabed Act

- Government rationale that it was to confirm that the foreshore belongs to all NZers
- Act was primary motivation for formation of Maori Party
- Maori Party holds four of seven Maori seats in Parliament
- Mainstream parties talk about abolition of Maori seats

Comparative forest reduction

Maori occupation(Pre European)

- Well established by 900 ad
- Forest reduction from 80 to 85% to 65 to 70%
- Around 1000 years of occupation
- Around 15 to 20% of original forest cover lost in 1000 years. Including to habitation, agriculture, hunting

European occupation

- Small beginnings late 1700s
- Well established by 1820
- Forest cover pre contact at 65 to 70%
- By 1960 forest cover reduced to 23.4% and further reduced if only considering virgin content
- In 150 years of occupation forest loss of a further 60%

Te Urewera “National Park”

- Signed over to Government for conservation after long and very fraught period of stand off over land area.
- Covers around 216,000 ha
- Heartland of Ngai Tuhoe people
- Contested today as part of the Tuhoe land claim with claims of Government harassment having been central to signing over

Indigenous plant species found in Te Ureweras

- Government website lists 563 species of vegetation found in Te Urewera national park along with status in terms of endangerment
- Several species listed as highly endangered
- Government lists Te Urewera as one of the most significant and important protected areas in NZ



Ruatahuna Meeting House

Carving at Ruatahuna meeting house in Te Urewera

Te Urewera

- **Te Urewera**
- The land of the Tūhoe people, occupying most of the Huiarau, Kahikatea and Ikawhenua ranges and adjacent rugged country in the main dividing range. In 2006 the total population (including Rūātoki) was 2,022.
- Te Urewera was penetrated by government forces in 1869–72 in the quest for the resistance leader Te Kooti (who eventually took refuge in the King Country).
- For a number of years the district, which was rugged and inaccessible and had only a small Māori population, was left alone. The Urewera District Native Reserve Act 1896 made provision for ‘the Ownership and Local Government of the Native Lands in the Urewera District’. But it also facilitated extensive land sales to the government.

The National Park

- **A national park**
- Crown-acquired lands had proved unrewarding for either farming or mining, and those lands, consolidated by 1925, formed the basis of Te Urewera National Park, which was established in 1954. It was enlarged in 1957, 1962, 1975 and 1979. The total land area is 212,673 ha. Rich in birdlife, it holds the largest remaining population of kōkako, as well as kiwi, kākā, yellow-crowned parakeets and blue ducks.
- The national park is popular with hunters and trampers. Besides Ruatāhuna and Maungapōhatu, present-day Tūhoe settlements and meeting houses are found particularly along the course of the Tauranga River (Waimana in its lower reaches).

Ruatahuna

- **Ruatāhuna**
- Principal Tūhoe settlement in the heart of Urewera, on State Highway 38, 116 km south of Rotorua.
- The settlement is famous for its association with the spiritual leaders Te Kooti and Rua Kēnana. The meeting house Te Whai-a-te-Motu (the pursuit through the island) was built there in 1888 by the Tūhoe people to honour the leadership of Te Kooti

Rua Kenana

- **Maungapōhatu**
- The settlement was built at the base of the mountain by the prophet Rua Kēnana from 1907, with support from both Tūhoe and Te Whakatōhea, as a 'city of God'. The government was uncomfortable with Rua's claim to exercise independent authority.
- On the grounds of a breach of the liquor laws an armed expedition was sent in 1916, in the course of which two Tūhoe were killed. Rua was tried, found guilty of resisting arrest and imprisoned. From his release in 1918 until his death in 1937 Rua remained an important figure among Tūhoe, and continued to work for the economic security of his peoples