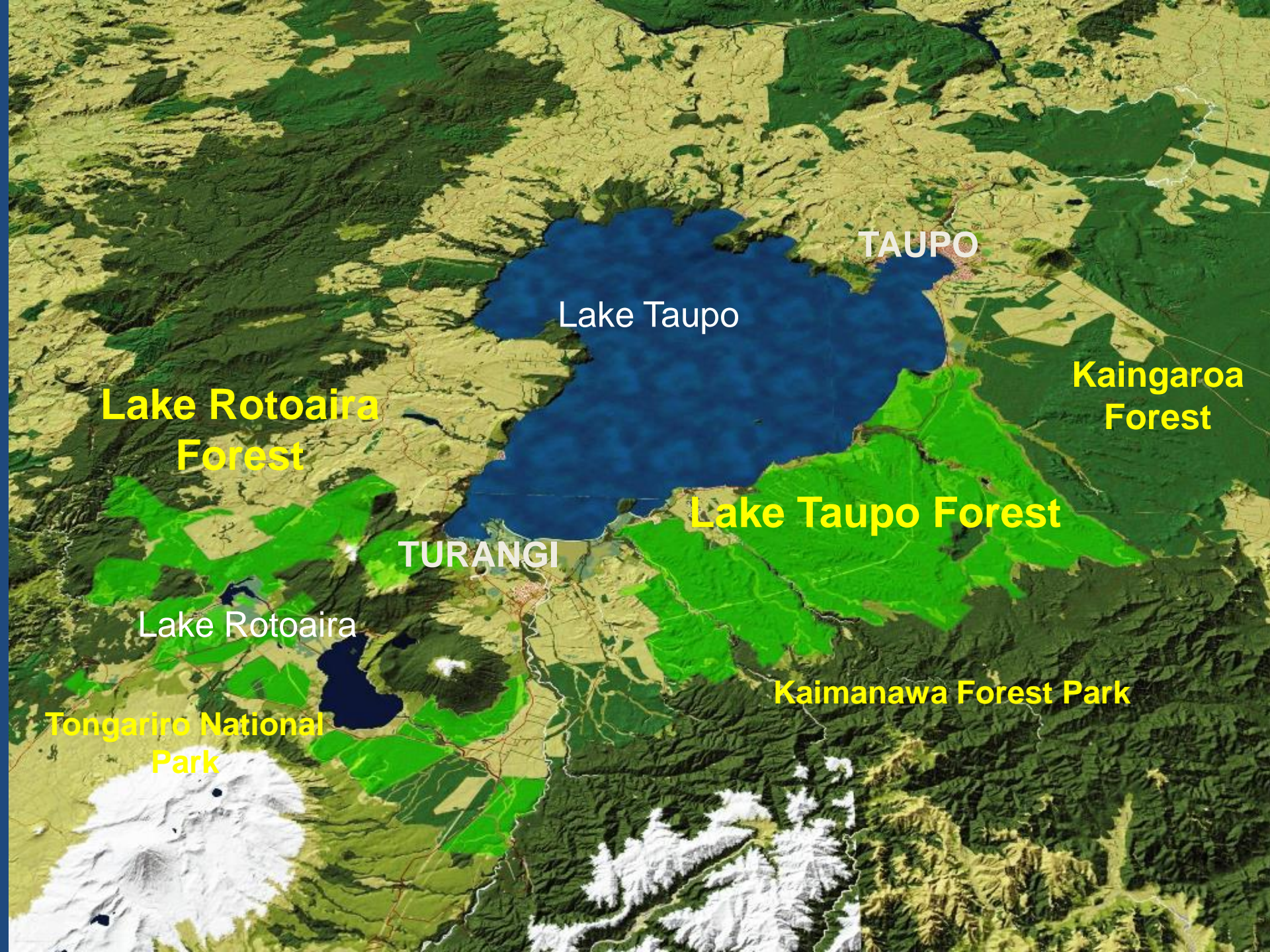




Forestry on Maori Lands: The Challenges

George Asher
CEO

Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira Forest Trusts



TAUPO

Lake Taupo

**Lake Rotoaira
Forest**

**Kaingaroa
Forest**

Lake Taupo Forest

TURANGI

Lake Rotoaira

Kaimanawa Forest Park

**Tongariro National
Park**

The Challenges for Maori Forest Owners

- There are many good things happening in the Maori Forestry space
- Significant challenges exist for current and prospective Maori forest owners and many of these are no different to those challenges faced by other forest owners in NZ
- The important point of difference for us is that we are owners of Maori land

Challenges

- Vision and values
- Land availability and suitability
- Regulation
- Scale
- Capital
- Governance
- Planning and Risk Management
- Multiple Owners
- Owner benefits
- Growth and value add
- Collective Iwi Opportunity

Achieving Our Long Term Visions

- Maori land is held in perpetuity . Is our vision for flexible land use realistic?
 - Regulations impose limits to flexibility – ETS penalties lock in forest use, Nitrate emission constrains future uses and favours forestry and reserves
- Under the circumstances is our aspiration for 100% forestry ownership achievable?
 - Borrowing capital may delay future crop ownership and reduce owners proportion of equity
 - Accepting a land rental creates immediate cash flow but prolongs self-ownership – reviews may be messy/costly
 - Taking a share of stumpage may delay meaningful income but reduce the period for gaining total ownership.

We need to reconcile Values

- As Maori land owners we often have to balance economic objectives with social, cultural, and spiritual values
 - In LTFT and LRFT these values were embodied in the leases with the Crown and became an integral component of the forest plan
- Reconciling indigenous peoples rights and values is now an established global standard
 - FSC – Maori Chamber, National Standard
- Conversion of scrublands to planted forests is a problem
 - Exacerbated by the adoption of the Forest Accord 1991
 - Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee
- Refer Extracts

Extract 1: LTFT & LRFT Lease Objectives

- a) Preventing soil erosion, reducing pollution of the waters of Lake Taupo and of the streams and rivers flowing into and out of the said Lake and minimising adverse changes in river and lake waters **(=environmental protection)**
 - b) Conserving and protecting fish and wild life habitat and other natural resources of the area **(=environmental, biodiversity protection)**
 - c) Preserving and safeguarding the graves of the Maori people and all historic and sacred places in and around the said land and the areas of natural beauty and scenery and of unique vegetation **(=cultural protection)**
 - d) Consistent with the above purposes establishing managing and protecting a forest or forests thereon and appraising selling realising removing and utilising the produce thereof in a manner consistent with good forestry practices so as to achieve the maximum financial yield **(=Commercial objective)**
- Over 30% of the land is unplanted
 - Less commercial return but meets all objectives

Extract 2: FSC (Forest Stewardship)

Principle 2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

Criterion 2.1: Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

Criterion 2.2: Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Criterion 2.3: Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.

Extract 3: FSC (Forest Stewardship)

Principle 3 - The Organization shall identify and uphold indigenous peoples' legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by management activities”.

Criterion 3.1: Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Criterion 3.2: Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.

Criterion 3.3: Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.

Criterion 3.4: Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.

Extract 4: FSC (Forest Stewardship)

Principle 4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

Criterion 4.1: The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.

Criterion 4.2: Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.

Criterion 4.3: The rights of the workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Criterion 4.4: Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultation shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

Criterion 4.5: Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

Extract 5: NZ Forest Accord

“when establishing plantation forests, **will exclude from land clearing and disturbance all areas of naturally occurring indigenous vegetation** with the following characteristics:

- i. any area of 5 hectares or greater which has an actual or emerging predominance of naturally occurring indigenous tree species of any height.
- ii. any natural indigenous forest vegetation of between 1 and 5 hectares in area with an average canopy height of at least 6 metres which is practical to protect. This recognises that in some instances small pockets of native vegetation within a commercial forest cannot practically be protected from disturbance. However, viable stands will be excluded from clearance and every reasonable effort made to ensure such areas are not damaged in subsequent forestry operations.”

FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples' Committee (PIPC)

- Approved at 2011 FSC General Assembly
- The goal of the Permanent Indigenous Peoples' Committee (PIPC) is to strengthen indigenous involvement in FSC.
- The Committee will advise the FSC International Board of Directors and will proactively champion FSC's commitment to affirming indigenous people's rights and customary values
- Committee membership confirmed by 4 regional meetings – Africa only continent to complete the membership

Maori Land availability & suitability

Bringing undeveloped Maori land into production is difficult:

- There is ~1.5M ha of Maori land in NZ
- Over 900,000 ha is undeveloped or under utilised
- 550,000 ha doesn't even have a structure
- Many blocks very small (average 54ha)
- Finding owners & holding hui is a challenge
- Reaching agreement isn't always easy
- Getting finance is difficult
- Many Maori today find their undeveloped lands have by default become free ecosystem services for the nation
- Is there a role for the Crown? (mutual benefits)

Characteristics of Maori Land - NZ

Land Area	1.5 million ha
No. of land blocks	26,500
Average size of land blocks	54 ha
Total number of owners recorded	2.3 million
Average number of owners per block	86
Owners listed but known to be deceased	50%
Owners listed but contact details unknown	75%
Administered by a Trust or Incorporation	950,000 ha (60%)
No formal administration	550,000 ha (40%)

Multiple Owners – Small individual benefits

- Trusts often have 1000s of owners
 - LTFT 11,000 owners, 68 blocks/LRFT 10,000 owners, 69 blocks;
 - Owner numbers expanding
 - Computerised data base essential
- Distributions (LTFT = \$47m since 1997)
- Shareholdings and financial distributions are small -
When LTFT distributes \$3M:

Distribution	0	< \$10	\$10 - < \$100	>\$1000
Owners	28%	32%	34%	6%

- Unclaimed dividends are increasing - Income provides owner benefits

Owner Benefits

- Paying annual grants and distributions is not normally a key output for a forestry venture but it's a primary focus for the owners
 - In addition to distributions
 - grants are paid for education, health, marae, kaumatua, tangihanga
- Expectation to maintain the connection between the owners and their whenua
 - exclusive access for hunting, fishing, firewood
 - protecting waahi tapu
- High expectation for employment opportunities

Kia ora Tatou!

The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this is a large, faint, stylized Maori koru design. The koru is a traditional Maori symbol representing a fern frond that has just unfurled. It consists of a central stem with several large, curved, spiral-like shapes branching out from it, creating a sense of movement and growth. The design is rendered in a lighter shade of teal, making it subtle against the darker background.