

PROPOSAL TO HOST

IMPAC6 Conference 2026

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Te Tākina o Ngā Hau (the encountering of the winds)

Te Ranga Kūteretere
The Fluid Group



WELCOME

MIHI

Patua te moana, rotua te moana
Kau ana te moana, hoea te moana
Nga hau o tai te pōkia,
Tēnā te ka popoki
Ko te hau o te ahiahi, ko te hau o te ata
Koia i moana nui
Koia i moana roa
Koia i moana tairangaranga
Homai taku hoe nei
Kai te rangi hikitia
Kai te rangi hapainga
Tōna heketanga, kai te puke i hikurangi
Mariri ngā ngaru nunui
Marara ngā ngaru roroa
Te hahau atu te kakau o taku hoe nei
Pūpū mai whaiao puta atu ra ki hikurangi
Ki te taiao ki te ao mārama
Ka tau mai ngā waka o tuatawhito ki kōnei, hai!

Ka tau hi! Ka tau ha!
Tahuri atu, Tahuri mai!
Tahurihuri kau ana te tai o te tangata, ki te
whakarongorongo kai whea te ahunga o te kōrero

Ka ūia kia Ranginui e tū nei, kia Papa-horo-nuku e takoto ake nei, tohia nga
hua o te tau

Ka rere te reo o te pūtātara ki ngā hau e toru ki te tautoko te hau tuawha i
kōnei, i te panepane o te ika nui o Maui-pōtiki, ki te paepae tapu o te upoko o
te ika

Me hoki ake nei au ki te tai o tini, ki nga tai o Tuhaepo i whakairiiri ki runga i
nga pakitara o hinengaro, ka tākaia te tai o mano ki te tohu o te rau kawakawa
ki kui mā, ki koro mā i te pō, i takahia ai ngā mate tuatinitini, ngā mate
tuamanomano nei, huri te pō, nau mai te ao.

Kei ngā matatini o te ao, kei ngā mata kanohi i mamao rawa, nau mai, haere
mai ki te Whanganui a Tara

Kei ngā kura o te hunga taketake pikau mai ou pukenga, ou mataura i ou
whare kōrero tūturu o tou ake ao ki te whangai nga manu hiakia, nga kai o te
rangatira, he kōrero, ngā mataura hoki. Piri tata mai ngā wānanga tūturu o
nehenehe nui me ona reo, me ona tikanga o te ranga kūteretere ma tātou ki te
hunga e tiaki ana ngā taonga nui mai Hine-moana raua ko Tangaroa

No reira, huri atu whakaaro ki te hunga i ruku tai pō, tahuri mai ana kia tātou
i kawē ngā wawata me ngā moemoea i ruku tai ao tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou,
tēnā koutou katoa.

WELCOME

*Troubles is the ocean, calm is the ocean
Cross the ocean, paddle the ocean
Inland winds overcome the winds of the sea
Then shall the winds be overwhelmed
By both the evening and morning winds
The great ocean
The vast ocean
On the oceans rolling waves
Give me this paddle of mine
Endowed with powers to uplift
Endowed powers to rise above all challenges
Powers that reach the final summit of the day
Calm the great waves
Smooth out the vast waves
That my paddle forces its way
To safety, quickly reaching the destination
To the world of being, to an enlightened place
The ancient canoes have reached here!*

*Have landed! Have landed
Pondering!
Reflecting about the multitudes of mankind listening
to the sources of the dialogue*

*Questioning universal space above and solid matter below dedicating the
fruits of the year*

*The language of the trumpets is sent to summon the three winds to support
the fourth wind here at the head of the great fish of Maui the last born, to the
sacred threshold of the house of the head of the fish.*

*I cast my memories to the tides of many, to the tides that cause pains and
reside in the vault of remembrance, joined the many amongst the symbol of
death, the loved ones who have passed unto the night, the many who traverse
the sacred pathway to join the ancestors, as nights passes so does day arrive*

*To the many faces of the world, to the distinguish guests from distant places,
welcome, welcome to the great harbour of Tara (Wellington)*

*To the indigenous treasured guests, brings your diverse skills, your vast
knowledge from you sacred house of dialogues of your unique world to feed
the hungry birds the food of chiefs being dialogues and knowledge also. Bring
your ancient house of knowledge, your terminology and customs regarding
the vast water bodies for all of us guardians and protectors of the many
treasures of the ocean maiden and the lord of all water tributaries.*

*Finally. I cast my thoughts and acknowledge our loved ones who have
trespassed unto the spirit world, whilst we carry the dreams and aspirations
of those before us in the physical realm, greetings once, greetings twice,
greetings to us all.*

Cultural Narratives

Te Ranga Kūteretere The Fluid Group



Cultural narratives are how we as Māori people, articulate our heritage, traditions, spiritual connections to the environment that act as powerful enablers in connecting our past to the present resulting in a platform for a sustainable future.

For organisations located within our tribal territories and embracing our cultural narrative represents a commitment to an enduring partnership built through open conversations consistent with the two worldviews of our indigenous worldview and the western world.

It also highlights that you acknowledge and recognise our authority over our tribal territories, our water domains, our worldview, our values, our indigenous knowledge, and our ways of being

Our core values are born out of our narrative that influence our ways of being and doing and therefore are pivotal pillars that inform how we conduct ourselves within the processes and protocols ahead.

Our values provide an insight into how we as the indigenous protectors of land and sea utilise our narrative to guide not only the contents of discussion, but how organisations conduct themselves whilst undertaking such processes and protocols within our tribal territories.

There are many narratives that connect indigenous nations

to the guardians of the oceans, of the sea, of water not only throughout the Pacific nations but also throughout Asia, Greece, Rome, India and the world over. Papatūānuku (earth mother) is the biggest waterbody planet known within our solar system. However, in saying that Papatūānuku is only a minute speck within the great ageless reptile residing deep in the cosmos casting its' shadow from Ranginui (sky father) to Papatūānuku (mother earth), which links both together, like a spiritual umbilical cord, a constant reminder of the period after creation when they clung as one in their procreational embrace sparking the heartbeat rhythm of life. From whence the great waters of Te Ira Wahine (Papatūānuku – the female water flows) and Te Ira Tane (Ranginui – the male water flows) formed life by unifying the unique water bodies “Te Hononga Wai” where the two water (wairua) bodies continue to nurture and formulate vessels of navigation. The western world has always informed the Pacific nations that the waters has separated the islands, whereas we the Māori nations have always been told by our ancestors that the water brings us closer to our Pacific brothers and sisters.

Like Ranginui and Papatūānuku united, the great ocean of Kiwa allowed our ancestors to navigate the high seas through the understandings of our customs, traditions and inter-generational learning throughout time. Having a deep and infinite connection to our indigenous eco-system Ranginui (celestial knowledge and understanding climate conditions), Tangaroa (understanding maritime conditions), and Papatūānuku (understanding their eco-systems). Their daily ritual bonding to the place, time and space was the accepted way of living, it was a way of life. Daily traditions that have now been suppressed through colonial pillaging and rape of land, air and sea, a struggle that is real for the indigenous nations of Aotearoa.

Gifting of a Name - Te Ranga Kūteretere

Te Ranga – group, clan, collective

Kūteretere – fluid, fluidity

Te Ranga Kūteretere – The Fluid Clan

Te Ranga Kūteretere acknowledges the collective water masses that brings about the continued connection of the transitional fluidity of water. The water bodies are perpetual and continuous in existence since time immemorial, continually inter-dependent interacting within the sequential cycle of water without conscientious.

At times soft and calm, whilst at other extremes, intense and violent constantly defending themselves against Tāwhirimātea (overlord of the winds). Te Ranga Kūteretere in its various forms of fluidity will at times be calm and tranquil, and then within seconds, violent and inexorable at the various sequential phases in its cycle. Challenging, calming, intrinsic and unforgiving, the mass water bodies throughout the world and the universe, complimentary forces within their distinctives spheres, inter-twining between the physical and metaphysical. They are not bodies that remain stagnant, but bodies that persistently evolve within the continued fluidity of the unique water masses.

Kura Moeahu

Kia Ora, Welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand, the city of Wellington, along with the Blue Cradle Foundation and Te Rūnanganui o Te Ātiawa welcomes the 6th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC6) to the country of open hearts, open minds and open spaces.

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NEW ZEALAND

3RD

OUT OF 139 NATIONS FOR
GLOBAL CREATIVITY

New Zealand ranks 3rd on the Global Creativity Index which measures a country's advanced economic growth and sustainable prosperity based on talent, technology and tolerance.

Source: Global Creativity Index, Martin Prosperity Institute, 2015.



[Watch our New Zealand Story video](#)

Waiwhetu Marae

Welcome to Wellington, New Zealand

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DESTINATION

**Wellington,
New Zealand**



PROPOSED DATES

**May or September
2026**



CONFERENCE VENUE

Tākina

plus a hub of CBD support venues

LETTER OF INVITATION

Blue Cradle and Te Āti Awa

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Te Ranga Kūteretere
The Fluid Group



TE RŪNANGANUI O TE ĀTIAWA

Dr. Felipe Paredes Vargas
IUCN Global Polar and Marine Programme
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear M. Felipe Paredes Vargas

The Blue Cradle Foundation, Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa, our partners at the Tākina Exhibition and Convention Centre team and the Wellington City Council are pleased to present our proposal to host the 6th International MPA Congress in our national capital Te Whanganui-a-Tara/ Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand in May or September 2026.

Aotearoa New Zealand, an island nation, where we all live within 170km of the sea, holds Te Moana - the ocean - deep in its heart, culture and identity.

The newly built convention centre, Te Tākina, meaning to invoke, to encounter the winds, sits in one of the Southern hemisphere's largest sheltered harbours, a place with strong mana (=elemental natural power). It is the ideal venue for intellectual, emotional and spiritual discussions about how to better care for our cradle, Te Moana. Furthermore, being anchored in Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview) and values of manaakitanga (welcome), whanaungatanga (human connections), and kaitiakitanga (stewardship), this Congress will be a gathering like no other, one remembered for generations. There will be a before IMPAC6, and an after.

Aotearoa New Zealand was founded upon the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) and many strive to live up to it. For Tangata Te Tiriti (Treaty People) this means collaborating with Tangata Whenua and Tangata Moana (people of the land and sea), the first peoples in New Zealand, the Indigenous Māori under the principles of partnership, protection and participation. Recognition of Māori Rights over the rohe (realm) of the Exclusive Economic Zone has enabled fishing sovereignty over resources, but also its protection. As a nation we are building capability to implement ecosystem-based management, and mātauranga Māori, (Māori knowledge) to strengthen marine management.

With support from the new central Government Oceans Secretariat (Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for Environment, Department of Conservation), we look forward to working with you and IUCN to host IMPAC6 and to welcome global delegates!

Ngā mihi nui, with kind regards,



Kura Moeahu,
Chairman,
Te Rūnanganui o Te Ātiawa



James Nikitine,
Director
Blue Cradle Foundation

LETTER OF INVITATION

Port Nicholson Block



TBC by Kura

IMPAC6 CONFERENCE 2026

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WELCOME

Māori and Acronym terms glossary

Ahuriri – Napier
Aihe – Bottlenose dolphin
Aotearoa – New Zealand
Atua – Gods, deities or personification of natural elements
Hāpū – Sub-tribe
Iwi – Tribe
Kaitiaki – Guardian
Kaitiakitanga – Stewardship
Kaupapa – Topic, policy
Kawa – Cultural practices
Kekeno – New Zealand fur seal
Kororā – Little blue penguin
Mahinga kai – Traditional gathering place
Mana – Elemental natural power
Mana whenua – People who hold authority over the land
Manaakitanga – Hospitality, welcoming
Marae – Communal or sacred meeting ground
Maramataka – Māori lunar calendar
Mātaitai reserve – Areas available for customary fishing purposes only
Mātauranga Māori – Māori knowledge
Mauri (or Mouri) – Life essence
Moana – The ocean
Pakaha – Fluttering shearwater
Pākehā – European origin, non-Māori
Papatūānuku – Earth Mother
Pou – Pillar
Pōwhiri – Invitation, to welcome
Rahui (or rā`ui) – A temporary ritual prohibition
Rangatiratanga – Chiefs, leaders. Also self-determination, self-management

Ranginui – Sky father
Rangitāhua – Kermadec Islands
Rohe – Realm, region
Taiāpure – A stretch of coast, reef or fishing ground set aside as a reserve for inland kinship groups to gather shellfish or to fish
Tangata – People
Tangata Moana – People of the sea
Tangata Te Tiriti – Treaty People
Tangata Whenua – People of the Land
Taonga – Treasures
Tapu – To be sacred or forbidden
Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika – Port Nicholson
Tawaki – Fiordland crested penguin
Te Ao Māori – Māori worldview
Te Hāwere-a-Maki – Goat Island
Te Ika-a-Māui – North Island
Te Moana o Atawhenua – Fiordland
Te reo Māori – Māori language
Te Riu-a-Māui – Zealandia
Te Taiao – The natural world
Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The Treaty of Waitangi
Te Waipounamu – South Island
Te Whanganui-a-Tara – Wellington
Teina – Younger sibling
Tikanga – Custom, correct procedure
To Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa – Pacific Ocean
Tohu – Indicators, signs
Tuakana – Older sibling
Tūtaitanga – A place for watching and monitoring conditions

Waka – Vessel, vehicle
Whakapapa – Kinship relationships, genealogical descent
Whānau – Family
Whanaungatanga – Human connections, kinship

Acronyms

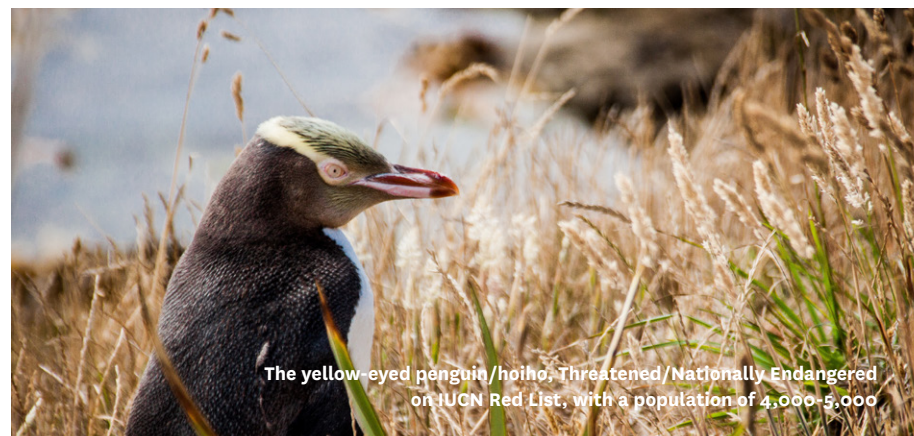
BE – Blue Economy
EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone
ETA – Electronic Travel Authority
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
IMPAC6 – International Marine Protected Area Conference
IPPA – International Public Policy Association
IUCN – International Union of Conservation of Nature
IUU – Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing and plastic pollution
IVL – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy
MFAT – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MPA – Marine Protected Area
NIWA – National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
NZ – New Zealand
OECD – Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
OPOC – Office for the Pacific Ocean Commissioner
PCCOS – Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science
UNCLOS – United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
WCPA – World Commission on Protected Areas



WELCOME

Aotearoa New Zealand Welcomes IMPAC6

An island nation, Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) lies in the south-western Pacific Ocean and has an enormous Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 4.2 million square kilometres, the seventh largest globally and 15 times larger than its land mass. With two major islands: Te Ika-a-Māui (North Island) and Te Waipounamu (South Island) are separated by the powerful Cook Strait. Over 700 smaller islands are scattered over what once was the world's eighth continent, Te Riu-a-Māui/Zealandia and which covers 4.9 million square kilometres, has 800+ seamounts and is almost entirely underwater (up to 94%).



A long nation, our climate ranges from subtropical in the North to sub-Antarctic in the South. The marine environment here is truly unique, with the highest proportion globally of native (endemic) species, including the known 1400 fish species, 1000 seaweed species, 1500 species of sponges, 3600 mollusc species, nine species of penguins. Six of the seven marine turtle species and half of the world's cetaceans visit or live here, including the critically endangered Māui's and endangered Hector's dolphins.

As a bicultural nation first settled by Polynesian Māori from the 13th century, then charted by Abel Tasman in 1642 and colonised by European settlers from 1769 after James Cook, the country has a strong navigation and sea-faring culture. We have a rich history of celestial navigation and wayfinding, competitive sailing, recreational fishing, and traditional waka (vessel) carving,

paddling and ocean voyaging. Throughout the population, there is a real sense of ocean pride and identity. From the passionate activism of the 1960s-1970s, both Māori and Pākehā (European origin non-Māori) have fostered the conservation and better care of the natural marine environment and Pacific Ocean (Te Moana-Nui-A-Kiwa), given our important Rainbow Warrior and Greenpeace nuclear-free legacy. Today, many New Zealanders remain uncompromising marine protection advocates, whilst also enjoying all the marine environment has to offer.

01. YOUR LOCAL HOST

Blue Cradle and Te Āti Awa

Blue Cradle and Te Āti Awa welcomes IMPAC6 to New Zealand in 2026.

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TE RUNANGANUI O TE ĀTI AWA

INTRODUCTION

Rationale for this Proposal

Without a healthy ocean, there would be no life and no stability of the Earth's climate and biosphere. Billions depend on the ocean for their livelihoods, and despite this, today ocean health is in decline. In proposing to host the 6th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC6) in 2026, we believe Aotearoa New Zealand can create significant positive momentum and generate lasting impact towards regenerating the health of the ocean.

Aotearoa New Zealand was one of the first countries in the world to create marine protected areas (MPAs), with the Cape Rodney-Okakari Point (Goat Island) marine reserve in 1971; and to pass significant MPA legislation through the Marine Reserves Act in 1975. Marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are specific areas of the ocean dedicated to the preservation and conservation of marine ecosystems and species.

They provide environmental, but also social and economic benefits, as they support fisheries, tourism, and the livelihoods of millions. There are over 10,000 marine protected areas around the world, and currently the scientific community agrees that up to 30% of the ocean should be protected by 2030. Every four years, the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and its partners convenes the International Marine Protected Area Congress, which welcomes, on average, a thousand delegates to discuss marine protected area design and management, with detailed sessions on the technical, scientific, economic and social considerations related to MPAs.

With four editions previously held in Australia, the US, France and Chile, this week-long meeting always comes at a crucial time to boost ocean protection advocacy and partnerships.

Today after lagging behind, we believe Aotearoa New Zealand's time has come, and that we have a key role to play. Our goal is to become an ocean leader again. Through scientific innovation, an Indigenous-led regenerative blue economy, a broad theme of decolonising conservation, emphasizing the importance of legal personhood for nature, and human dimensions, we propose a week-long event framed through the Te Ao Māori worldview.

Our view is that effective conservation starts with the right tools. No-take sanctuaries as well as local customary fisheries management tools (e.g., rahui, taiāpure, mātaītai) are essential to manage the marine environment, preserving mahinga kai (traditional gathering) practices. We recognise that the history of marine management and more modern marine protection have been fraught with challenge. Our Trustees, team and advisers are experienced and respectful of different perspectives recognising this diversity is a strength to be embraced.



INTRODUCTION

Working in co-leadership, the Blue Cradle Foundation is partnering with Wellington region based mana whenua (who hold authority over the land) Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa to host IMPAC6 in our capital city, Te Whanganui-a-Tara. The shared objective is to bring iwi and hāpū, communities, institutional stakeholders, nonprofits, the private sector and the general public to create significant local and lasting global impact from Aotearoa New Zealand.

IMPAC6 will welcome our Pacific island neighbours, friends and colleagues from around the world and beyond to exchange on ocean solutions and marine protection tools, to improve their design and management. Through Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori, our ambition is to build trust and foster collaboration, research opportunities and ocean literacy education.

Large and significant impact is expected to result from hosting this Congress.

- **Economic**, as many from overseas who will attend, stay in hotels, eat and shop in and around Aotearoa New Zealand and visit our beautiful country. Organised visits, marine and Māori culture-themed field trips will also have benefits for other regions.
- **Political**, as a high-level segment is expected between NZ and overseas government leaders to be held in Wellington where announcements and partnerships will be explored. The 4 years between the next IMPAC5 in September in Vancouver and 2026 will allow time for meaningful progress on strengthening our approach to marine health design, including through mātauranga Māori and other initiatives.
- **A Social**, cultural and education strategy will result in a new interest in the 'big blue backyard', helping raise awareness to oceanic issues, fisheries, and the potentially powerful value of Te Ao Māori and mātauranga-based approaches. The more regional, international, and global impact that will result is also significant and will be Pacific-wide, from the South Pacific Islands to Hawai'i to Asia and the Americas.

The next edition of the IMPAC series will take place in Vancouver, Canada in June 2022, hosted by the government of Canada, the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

We are already exchanging with the IMPAC5 Executive team to connect our two events, particularly through Indigenous exchanges and whanaungatanga (relationship building). Our goal is to attend IMPAC5 in September 2022 where we hope to receive the winning bid.

In the context of prolonged restricted travel caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and environmental concerns from airline related emissions, we have decided to offset all emissions from IMPAC6 and make the Congress inclusive allowing for virtual participation.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

To be confirmed after Ocean Secretariat meeting in March

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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*"Insert pull quote
Cusanim fugit an
voluptatior simol*

First Last Name

Position

Organisation

To be confirmed after Ocean Secretariat meeting in March

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

To be confirmed after Ocean Secretariat meeting in March

02. CONFERENCE INFORMATION

How we intend to bring IMPAC6 to Aotearoa New Zealand

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NEW ZEALAND

9TH

NEW ZEALAND HAS THE 9TH
LONGEST COASTLINE

New Zealand's coastline spans a total of
15,134 km and is the 9th longest in the world.

Source: Seafood New Zealand, 2020.



CONFERENCE THEME

Te Ao Māori Mātauranga Māori

- Indigenous transformation
- Breaching tribal boundaries / colonial boundaries
- Physical vs. spiritual world
- It's not about managing people
- People need to manage and understand the water creating mātauranga

Protection

High Seas, Seabed and the Commons

Southern Ocean and the Arctic

Health

Water / Te Mana o te wai

Pollution

Mountains to Sea

Connectivity

Ecosystem based management

Climate Change

Nature based solutions

Adaptation/mitigation

Solutions/Awareness

Legal personhood

Young People

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME & FORMAT

Conference Programme & Format



Sunday

2.00PM Registration

4.30PM Pōwhiri

6.00PM Cocktail

Monday

8:00AM – 5:00PM Protection

Tuesday

8:00AM – 5:00PM Health

Wednesday

8:00AM – 5:00PM Mountains to Sea

Thursday

8:00AM – 5:00PM Climate Change

Friday

8:00AM – 5:00PM Solutions /
Awareness

Ending ceremony

Handover to the next country

TIMELINE

Key milestones until IMPAC6

May 2022

- Submit the bid

Sept 2022

- Receiving the winning bid at IMPAC5

Late 2022

- Establishing of a body, and a board

2023

- Confirming sponsorships

Mid 2024

- Full programme and formation of the IMPAC6 team

2025

- Continuing sponsorships
- Communications

May / Sept 2026

- Start the Pōwhiri

LOCAL MARINE CONSERVATION

Marine Conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand

In 1971, the Marine Reserves Act was a pioneering piece of legislation globally in enabling creation of strict no-take protected coastal areas. Today, jointly with customary fisheries management tools rāhui, mātaimai and taiāpūre, there is an increased involvement by communities, whānau (families), hapū (sub-tribes) and iwi (tribes) in ocean conservation management, and consensus is made that local adaptive management works better, including using mātauranga Māori, working with Māori lunar calendar (Maramataka), and designing ecosystem-based management approaches.

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New Zealanders' attitudes to marine protection remain constant with polling conducted in 2005 and 2011 finding 90% support more marine environmental protection in reserves, and on average the proportion who feel it is right to protect areas in marine reserves has remained consistent at 36%. In 2020, a petition to ban bottom trawling collected 50,000 signatures and a Government enquiry into trawling on seamounts is underway.

As an UNCLOS signatory Aotearoa New Zealand committed to part XII - and Articles 192 and 193 related to the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, while being able to exploit natural resources in accordance with the duty to preserve the marine environment. We also ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, and are committed to reaching the goals and protected area targets as set out by the Convention.

Despite various efforts, Aotearoa New Zealand doesn't yet have a national MPA system. Some highlights include:

- The Governments' Marine Protected Area Policy Consultation (2007) produced a Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan with Classification and Protection Standard. It summarised the available legislation and guidance for establishing and implementing new MPAs through Marine Protection Planning Forums.
- The 2019 Ministry for the Environment first Our Marine Environment "state of" report, which recognized that both rāhui (a temporary spatial prohibition on harvesting) and marine protected areas provide refuge for species and potentially increase their resilience to future pressures.
- The 2020 Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Te Mana o te Taiao provides a strategic framework for the



IMPAC6 CONFERENCE 2026

NEW ZEALAND

1ST

FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

New Zealand's seafood industry has been ranked the most sustainably managed fishery in the world, twice.

Source: Seafood New Zealand, 2020.

LOCAL MARINE CONSERVATION

next 30 years and lays out the path forward to reform the approach to marine protection.

- Fisheries New Zealand is progressing implementation of Fisheries Act (1996) Section 9(c) re. Habitats of Particular Significance for Fisheries Management.
- The Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge is beginning it's synthesis phase of it's decade-long marine research into ecosystem-based management for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Politically, currently, the Green Party, in a Cooperation Agreement with the Labour government of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, supports the IUCN goal to reach 30% MPAs by 2030 as stipulated in its Thriving Oceans Plan. This also includes a 10-year deep sea mining moratorium, and measures to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and plastic pollution. Significantly, the new Labour Government's Minister for Oceans and Fisheries The Hon. David Parker has established an Oceans Secretariat with the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry for the Environment and other key government natural resource sector agencies.

This new coalition and united portfolio — that may in future consolidate into a more formal Oceans Ministry — aim to work closely with partners, commercial fisheries, nonprofits, iwi and hapū to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to protect the marine environment.



LOCAL MARINE CONSERVATION

Its vision is:

Ensuring the long-term health and resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems, including the role of fisheries.

Objectives

- Promote an ecosystem-based approach to research, monitoring and management.
- Establish a spatial planning framework that optimises the protection and use of marine space and resources.
- Support the development of a high-value marine economy that provides equitable wellbeing benefits.
- Principles
- Precautionary approach and adaptive management.
- Equitable allocation of costs and benefits.
- Give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, including through fisheries and aquaculture settlements and other legislation.
- Decision-making based on sound science and traditional knowledge.
- Consistency with international commitments.
- Transparent, inclusive and effective public participation processes.

“The challenges facing the oceans are complex and interconnected, and we need to take a comprehensive approach to dealing with them.”

— Minister for Oceans and Fisheries David Parker.

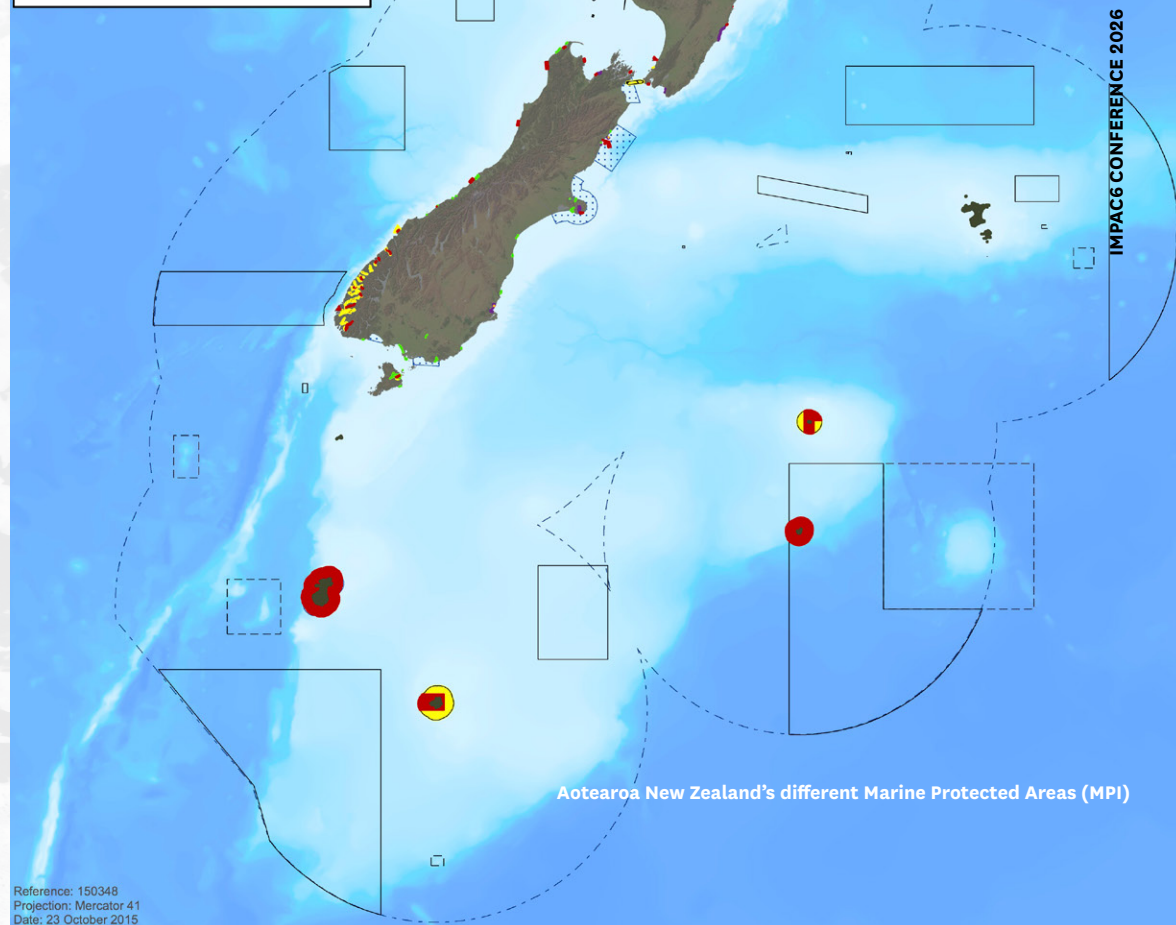


LOCAL MARINE CONSERVATION

Recognizing the country's internal political challenges associated with the nation's youth and Treaty of Waitangi issues arising from Crown oppression and domination over Māori interests, there is hope ahead, as the balance seems to be re-levelling, with a restructuring of the entire social and political landscape in favour of embracing rangatiratanga (self determination) for Māori, including in terrestrial and marine natural resource management. The legal personification of Te Urewera, Taranaki Maunga and Whanganui Awa with co-governance arrangements are world leading conservation arrangements with indigenous peoples. The Government has committed to having Te Ao Māori as a foundation to the nations' climate change response and the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge and Te Ohu Kai Moana are exploring this for marine governance.

Much of this is reflected in think-tank Environmental Defence Society's work through the Ocean Reform Project, commissioned by Minister Parker, which lays out possible futures for Aotearoa New Zealand's currently fragmented marine policy framework, into a possible unique Oceans Act incorporating Māori rangatiratanga, customary tools and hybrid MPAs.

Hosting IMPAC6 in Te Whanganui-a-Tara in 2026 would not only be beneficial for the ocean, but also help consolidate this ongoing process for institutions and all peoples. It would give a chance to showcase the pioneering work done in Aotearoa New Zealand through its decolonization process. This moment in time will reflect a commitment; to conservation and kaitiakitanga (stewardship), respect for indigenous knowledge, and also to investing in environmental and social justice.



LOCAL APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Māori

Centuries ago, the voyaging ancestors of Māori brought with them a worldview and knowledge system from the tropical latitudes of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa. Upon arriving in temperate Aotearoa and encountering mostly new biodiversity, there was a need to create new understandings and modify long-standing methods to doing things to survive people. This body of scientific knowledge, generated by trial and error and rooted in whakapapa (kinship relationships) framework is known as Mātauranga Māori.

This knowledge forms the basis of understanding Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview) which developed in isolation over some centuries, prior to the first Pākehā visitors.

At its heart, Mātauranga Māori is a holistic knowledge system based on whakapapa between Te Taiao (the natural world) and tangata (people) and which is governed by kawa (cultural practices) and tikanga (cultural principles). Through the union of Ranginui (Sky Father) and Papatūānuku (Earth Mother) came the atua (gods, deities, or personifications of natural elements) who in turn begat the many creatures and natural phenomena of Te Taiao, including Tangata Māori, or humans themselves.



A pouwhenua (land marker post) overlooking the entrance to Te Whanganui-a-Tara Harbour, Oruaiti Reserve



Pipitea Marae

LOCAL APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

One of the atua children from this primordial union is Tangaroa, the most prominent atua of the ocean and a common ancestor of the plethora of marine creatures. A brother of Tangaroa is Tāne, who is both the forest guardian, and an ancestor of humans through his marriage to Hine-ahu-one. Hinemoana is the female personification of the ocean. She is the wife of Kiwa, the Pacific ocean guardian from whom Te Moana Nui a Kiwa takes its name and she is the keeper of the marine environment, the home to Tangaroa, the creatures.

Therefore with these kinship relationships and nature necessarily being personified by its atua counterparts, Māori have a deep respect for and knowledge of the natural world. They recognise the reciprocal relationships they hold with each ecosystem and its respective biodiversity and which is enacted by mutual kaitiakitanga between humans and the natural world.

Māori have the concept of Mauri (life essence) as the vitality of ecosystems and phenomena (both animate and inanimate). Mauri is hard to define however it is something felt by Māori through their role as kaitiaki of a habitat or resource. A polluted coastline, with diminished biodiversity and a poor ability to provide ecosystem services would therefore be considered depleted of its mauri. With most Māori iwi being coastal, Mātauranga Māori developed accordingly to suit the more temperate climate of Aotearoa and includes marine resource management practices such as rāhui, mātaimai, and taiāpure, innate knowledge of nature's life-cycles and the uses of marine organisms, and a syncing of marine knowledge to the maramataka (lunar calendar), which identified suitable times for harvesting.

The colonisation of Aotearoa by Pākehā had a detrimental effect on Mātauranga Māori, and for a time policies were implemented by colonial administrations to suppress such knowledge. Since the late 20th century, the value of Mātauranga Māori has begun to be recognised by successive governments and the validity of its use is gradually returning to both terrestrial and marine management.



Taputeranga Marine Reserve, Wellington



A kai moana (seafood) gathering site near Te Kauwae-a-Māui (Cape Kidnappers), Hawke's Bay

CASE STUDIES

Conservation and sustainability initiatives

It is important to note that there are many tremendous examples of regional and bottom-up/community-based marine conservation and sustainability initiatives. Whilst there are far too many excellent initiatives to document here, we highlight a few below.



28

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Tikapa Moana O Hauraki

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is a primary example of Aotearoa's dedication to integrated management which aims to include the needs of both tangata whenua and a healthy ecosystem. A biodiversity hotspot, the Marine Park is home to a resident population of the endangered Bryde's Whale (*Balaenoptera brydei*) among many other marine mammals and birds.

Located on the east coast of Auckland and spanning 1.2 million hectares and including over 50 islands, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 aims to enable management of this vast, high-use marine environment through the Hauraki Gulf Forum which includes representatives from territorial local authorities, the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Development, and local iwi and hapu.

The Forum produces a regular State of Environment report assessing the marine park's including fishing impacts (both commercial and recreational), algal blooms, urban/ocean sprawl and biodiversity decline and providing a basis for prioritising action. The Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries are also working on Sea Change – Tai Tamu Tai Pari which aims to develop a Gulf marine spatial plan for improved health for future generations.



Kermadec Islands Rangitāhua

Located halfway between Aotearoa and Tonga lies a bed of over 2,400 volcanoes, only a few of which are visible above the water line. These volcanic islands are known as the Kermadec Islands — Rangitāhua. They have been scientifically identified as one of four pristine ecosystems on Earth that are fully protected. Because of this and their isolation, human impact has been scant, and biodiversity is high.

The islands host important bird colonies, and the surrounding water is home to large predators, five of the world's seven turtle species, large migratory mammals and many endemic species. Many of these endemic species are yet to be described by science. In 2020 the Auckland Museum and Ngāti Kuri, as well as partners University of Auckland, Massey University, NIWA, Manaaki Whenua and the University of Waikato, received an iwi-led research grant of \$13.3 million from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Their goal is to identify *tohu* (indicators) of ecosystem change within a kaupapa framework. This holistic approach to ecosystem management will strengthen ties between mātauranga Māori and science to create a resilient environment that can be a model for ecosystems around the world. It is expected the results of this work will pave the way for protection under a new legislative framework incorporating both the traditional knowledge and western science.

CASE STUDIES



Maitai Bay

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Maintaining the mana (power) and health of a rohe (region) is an important tangata whenua (people of the land) responsibility. Te Whānau Moana me Te Rorohuri, a hapū (family unit) of the Ngāti Kahu Iwi in Maitai Bay, took matters into their own hands when local fishing pressures were having a detrimental effect on their rohe.

Maitai Bay had been exposed to heavy fishing activities over multiple decades and this decimated predator numbers – namely snapper and crayfish. With no predatorial population control, kina (Evechinus chloroticus), an endemic species of sea urchin, flourished. Formally lush kelp forests were becoming extensive kina barrens with very little biodiversity.

In 2017 a traditional rāhui (no-take, prohibition) covering 384 hectares was implemented to allow kelp to re-establish and fish numbers to increase. Te Whānau Moana me Te Rorohuri, with support from the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, began monitoring habitat restoration over time. In turn, the hapū could adapt the rāhui in real time. The rangatiratanga (chiefs, leaders) of Te Whānau Moana/Te Rorohuri aim to restore the mauri and bring balance back to the rohe has shown how Te Ao Māori (worldview/knowledge) can produce tangible, positive results.



Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve

Established in 1975, Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve is Aotearoa's first marine reserve. It includes five kilometres of protected coastline and extends 800 metres out to sea. Safeguards have allowed a plethora of near-shore and reef-dwelling organisms, including 100-year-old sponges, pāua and grouper, to thrive where previously fishing pressures had limited the number of species able to establish populations. Goat Island Te Hāwere-a-Maki is also a part of the Reserve and is home to many breeding colonies of seabirds.

This Marine Reserve has enabled advances in marine science research, education and economic opportunity for Aotearoa. The Leigh Marine Laboratory, the University of Auckland's marine research base, has partnered with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Cawthron Instituted and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to provide resources to scientists and graduate students. At a prime location near the Reserve, the Laboratory gives researchers access to marine life relatively untouched by human influence. The adjacent Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre provides the public with interpretive, hands-on educational opportunities. The Reserve has over 375,000 visitors per year and provided \$18.7 million a year return in the region (Hunt, 2008).

CASE STUDIES



Wellington Harbour Islands – Mātiu, Mākaro, and Mokopuna

30

In the harbour of Aotearoa's capital city, Wellington Te Whanganui-a-Tara, are a group of islands awash in historical and ecological significance. The Wellington Harbour Islands, Mātiu, Mākaro and Mokopuna, were named by the legendary Polynesian navigator Kupe and are the physical and spiritual home for the iwi that make up Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika. In 1840 after the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the land was seized by the Crown and used by pākehā for quarantine facilities and defence.

In 2009, The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act began returning the land to the Taranaki Whānui. The Kaitiaki Board was formed along with an environmental plan to restore the islands' mouri (Taranaki dialect for mauri, or life force). The Wellington Harbour Island Kaitiaki Plan represents an Iwi-Crown partnership model that creates opportunities for Taranaki Whānui, the Department of Conservation and the general public to strengthen the cultural, ecological and financial sustainability of the islands. Mātiu, the largest island, for example, has become a predator-free scientific reserve, protecting kororā (little blue penguin) and pakaha (fluttering shearwater), among many other native seabirds. The island also welcomes visitors to learn about and experience the history and wildlife found there.



Fiordland Marine Guardians

Holistic management plans that consider the needs of the community are imperative to success. This is deeply understood by the Fiordland Marine Guardians. Appointed by the Minister for the Environment according to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, the Guardians are community members chosen to represent all stakeholders impacted by environmental management decisions. Their role as kaitiaki empowers their responsibility to advise government agencies, monitor the health of the marine environment and assess the impacts of activities or threats to the area.

The Fiordland marine area they manage includes 14 fiords and 10 marine reserves which include "China Shops", i.e. special areas where fragile corals or sea pens are found and protected. Species such as aihe (bottlenose dolphin), kekeno (New Zealand fur seal) and tawaki (Fiordland crested penguin) are also monitored by the Guardians.

CASE STUDIES



Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve

31

Jacques Cousteau once rated the Poor Knights Islands as one of the top ten global dive locations and it is no wonder why. These volcanic islands, Aotearoa's second marine reserve contain diverse habitats including sponge forests, gorgonian fields, kelp beds and black coral. Nautilus, giant salp, stingrays and many species of fish also thrive and compete for space in these nutrient rich waters.

Two main factors contribute to this reserve's uniqueness. First, it is adjacent to the East Auckland Current which brings warm water and nutrients to an otherwise temperate region. A quarter of the fish species found in the Reserve are not common elsewhere in Northland which is typically one degree cooler. Second, are the underwater rock formations which were shaped during the previous ice age – arches, 100 metre cliff walls and the world's largest sea cave are characteristic of the reserve.

The Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve was first established as a marine reserve in 1981. Commercial fishing was banned, however, regulations still allowed recreational fishing. In 1998 under pressure from the diving community and conservationists regulators banned all fishing. A rapid increase in fisher's target species, such as snapper, soon followed, further solidifying the high biodiversity of the Reserve.



Te Rohe o Te Whānau Puha – The Kaikōura Whale Sanctuary

Whales are ecotourism's marine life crown jewel. Tourists from around the world will travel far to have an encounter with these majestic creatures. As a result, there is an intrinsic economic need to keep these creatures safe - and predictable. As a part of a larger piece of legislation which also protects fur seals, traditional Māori fishing sites and which created Kaikōura's Marine Guardians group, the Kaikōura (Te Tai ō Marokura) Marine Management Act 2014, as part of the Kaikōura Marine Strategy, established the Te Rohe o Te Whānau Puha – the Kaikōura Whale Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary protects Kaikōura's whales by reducing or eliminating the risks of seismic surveys, a common tool used in mineral and petroleum exploration and some scientific research. Seismic surveys are known to change the behaviour of whales who could leave the area, which is not only detrimental to the ecosystem but also to tourism operations.

Kaikōura's whale watching industry grew from the number of the iconic cetacean species that tourists can see relatively close to shore. Blue, humpback and right whales regularly move along the coast at various times of the year during their great migrations. Kaikōura is one of the few places in the world where sperm whales are present year-round as they live and feed in the Kaikōura Canyon - a 3 kilometre deep underwater ridge close to shore. They chase the giant squid known to be there in the nutrient rich current system, thus sustaining a high trophic level food chain. The creation of the Reserve ensures that whales will continue to visit the Kaikōura coast for future generations to enjoy.

CASE STUDIES



Kapiti Marine Reserve

32

Located on the North Island southwest coast, Kapiti Island is a hive of activity. Two currents, the warm salty u'Drville from the north and the cool Southland, converge around the island and bring species of animals together that would not normally live in the same region. This unique characteristic is why the Kapiti Marine Reserve was established around Kapiti Island in 1992. The island itself is an important bird sanctuary, and under the surface are many threatened species, from mammals (orca) to fish (e.g. longfin eels).

Each side of the island is distinct with the western coast rocky and home to seals, sea anemones and a diverse array of fish whilst the east is sheltered and has a soft seabed. It is home to rhodoliths, an unusual free-living red seaweed with a calcium carbonate skeleton that shelters juvenile fish.

Kapiti Marine Reserve is also one of two locations for the Department of Conservation's Marine Sentinel Sites Programme. Sentinel sites are areas that can provide early warning signs of threats to our ocean. In te reo Māori, they are called tūtainga, or a place for watching and monitoring conditions. Projects are conducted hand in hand by scientists and citizen scientists with mana whenua, and government. These collaborative projects ensure that the essence of kaitiakitanga is present in both the ocean and the community.



Sub-Antarctic Islands

New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic Islands are five isolated, pristine island groups in the Southern Ocean. Isolation has allowed life to evolve adaptations specific to the distinct sub-antarctic climate, and as such, many species found in the region are endemic. Despite some of them having been used historically as bases for sealing and whaling, biodiversity has recovered. The islands host 126 bird species including 40 seabirds with five of those only breeding here. Over 95% of the New Zealand sea lion, the world's rarest, also breed here and many southern right whales also gather here and are recovering their population numbers. The combined factors of the isolation, their history of overexploitation and recovery, and the high biodiversity – are why Aotearoa's Sub-Antarctic Islands were named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998.

Along with this World Heritage status, these Islands have the highest level of protection available in Aotearoa as National Nature Reserves and entry is by permit only. Visitation by tourists or researchers is strictly controlled, as any visitation presents risks. The Department of Conservation manages the islands and work with the guidance of Ngāi ai Tahu ki Murihiku as kaitiaki of the region. Their prepared management plan, Te Tangi a Tauira (The Cry of the People) establishes the values, knowledge and perspectives on natural resource and environmental management issues.

CASE STUDIES



Hawke's Bay Te Matau-a-Māui

33

The rich taonga of Te Matau-a-Māui strongly connects the mana whenua of Napier Ahuriri to Tangaroa and the moana. For example, Pānia Reef, located 4 nautical miles offshore, holds cultural significance as the embodiment of Pānia, a beautiful sea maiden who is the subject of Napier's oral history. It is also an important mahinga mātaītai for the gathering of kaimoana. Maintaining the strength of the mana and the health of the marine ecosystem are interlinked – which is the framework for The Marine Cultural Health Programme Tangaroa Tohu Mana, Tangaroa Tohu Mauri. By monitoring and increasing the mauri of the moana, the tangata moana can protect the health of the sea.

The Programme has two main components, the Mana Moana Pou (the marine environment and all things that live there) and the Mana Tangata Pou (the connection of the people to the sea). Pou means pillar in Te Reo Māori (the Māori language). These then have further categories with tangible indicators and monitoring and management initiatives. For example, a category under



the Pou of Mana Moana is Taonga (treasures, in this case native species), with little blue penguins (Kororā) as an indicator species. The population number, habitat health, and local knowledge of the penguins is then monitored to factor the mauri. The collective results of these indicator species contribute to understanding the overall mana, mauri and health of the taonga and moana.

In 2019 Napier Port Te Herenga Waka o Ahuriri began expanding number 6 Wharf. They knew mana whenua were key stakeholders and Napier Port began supporting the Programme to fulfil resource consent requirements. Local hapū members work with the port, developers and marine scientists to protect, monitor and assess the cultural health of the marine environment. With the community working together to strengthen the mauri while also increasing the economic capabilities of Napier Ahuriri through port expansion, they can ensure the richness and sustainability of future generations is intact.

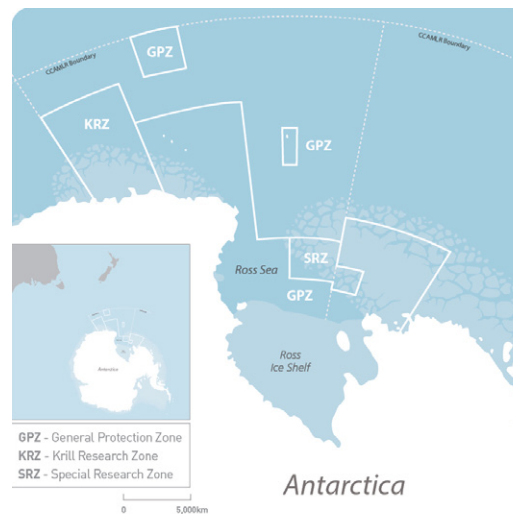
SOUTHERN OCEAN PROTECTION IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Southern Ocean protection

One of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest successes in marine conservation is the 2017 establishment of the Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area (MPA), 3000 km due south of Wellington. As one of the five Antarctic Gateway nations, Aotearoa New Zealand has strong links to the Southern Ocean through exploration, scientific research, and history, and is firmly committed to regional stewardship. Whales and seabirds commute between New Zealand and the Ross Sea, and whales are regular visitors, and leopard seals are occasional ones to Auckland and Wellington Harbours.

The Ross Sea is one of the last marine ecosystems globally that retains its full complement of top predators, penguins, flying seabirds, seals, and whales, including special Antarctic types of killer whale. The deep sea is home to the colossal squid, with the only specimen on display worldwide housed at Te Papa Tongarewa. Enormous, long-lived Antarctic toothfish fill the niche of sharks and in turn provide a rich food source for sperm whales, killer whales, and Weddell seals. Due to its high fat content, toothfish is prized by chefs, and was at risk of overexploitation. However, under the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Ross Sea toothfish fishery, which started in 1996, is strictly regulated and MSC-certified. International consumers can be assured that their prized toothfish comes from this fishery.

Grounded in the Māori concept of kaitiakitanga, New Zealand worked with the USA to protect the Ross Sea and proposed a vast new MPA to CCAMLR, the international body that manages Southern Ocean fisheries. The Ross Sea region MPA is the largest protected area on land or sea, six times the size of Aotearoa New Zealand and equivalent to seven percent of the Southern Ocean. It sets a powerful precedent for how countries can agree to protect the vast areas of the world's ocean that lie beyond national jurisdiction.



THE BLUE ECONOMY IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Blue Economy

There are many definitions for 'Blue Economy', including from the World Bank which defines it as the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem".

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the blue economy (BE) refers to and recognises the importance of a sustainable maritime economy including in shipping, commercial fishing, offshore minerals, tourism, innovative technology and renewable energy. It also includes non-market values such as recreational and cultural uses. This latter definition guides the emerging New Zealand oceans policy to focus on true sustainability, and environmental and societal well-being which are core to SDG14 - the Life Below the Sea Sustainable Development Goal.

In 2017, the direct New Zealand BE was estimated at \$3.8 billion (1.4% GDP), employing approximately 21,000 people and achieving a full national economic value estimated at \$7.0 billion (2.6% GDP) and sustaining nearly 70,000 jobs.



Through the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Settlement (1992), Māori were returned significant rights to commercial, and all their customary, fisheries which underpins the modern Māori economy. Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd was created through the Settlement and remains the only commercial entity owned by all iwi. Now called Moana New Zealand, it is a major seafood supplier nationally, exports globally, has returned \$126 million to iwi since it was created, employs over 300 people, and has a deep commitment to kaitiakitanga for example lightning it's harvest and aquaculture footprints. Māori fisheries quota assets overall are worth \$653m (2018) and the combined value of these assets as well as other Māori commercial fishing entities is \$859m.



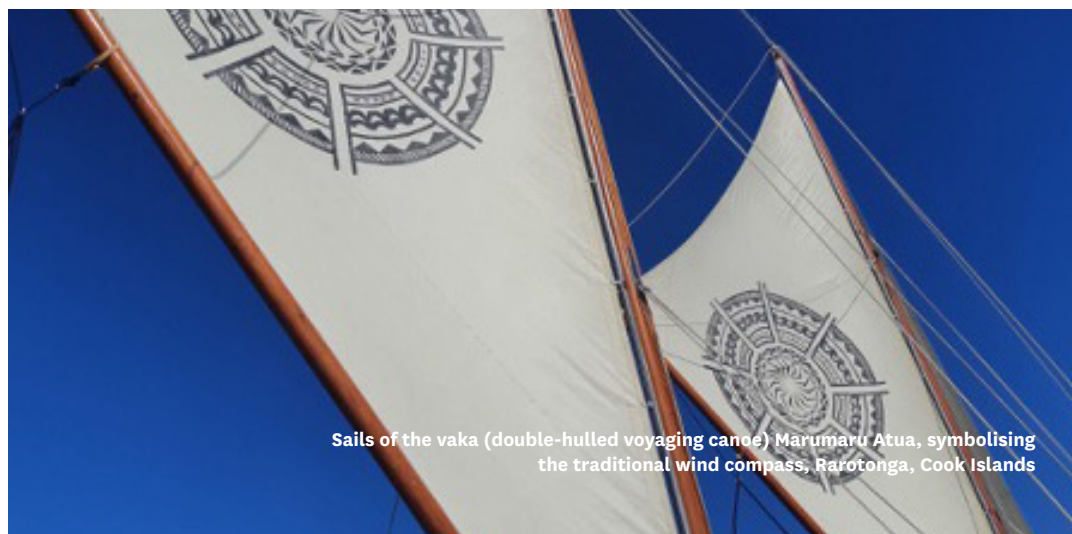
Aotearoa New Zealand's critical challenge is to integrate ecosystem-based management with maritime activities in a climate changing world and in a way that results in ecosystem regeneration and builds resilience to climate change. A refreshed and energised approach to spatial management is essential. IMPAC6 will provide a forum to showcase how better understanding and bringing Te Ao Māori to life in practice locally contributes to strengthening marine management. Being inclusive with all of NZ's blue economy sectors (industry, shipping, research, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture) will provide for a successful summit, as we need everyone around the table to make informed decisions.

Aotearoa NZ's Role in the Pacific Oceanscape

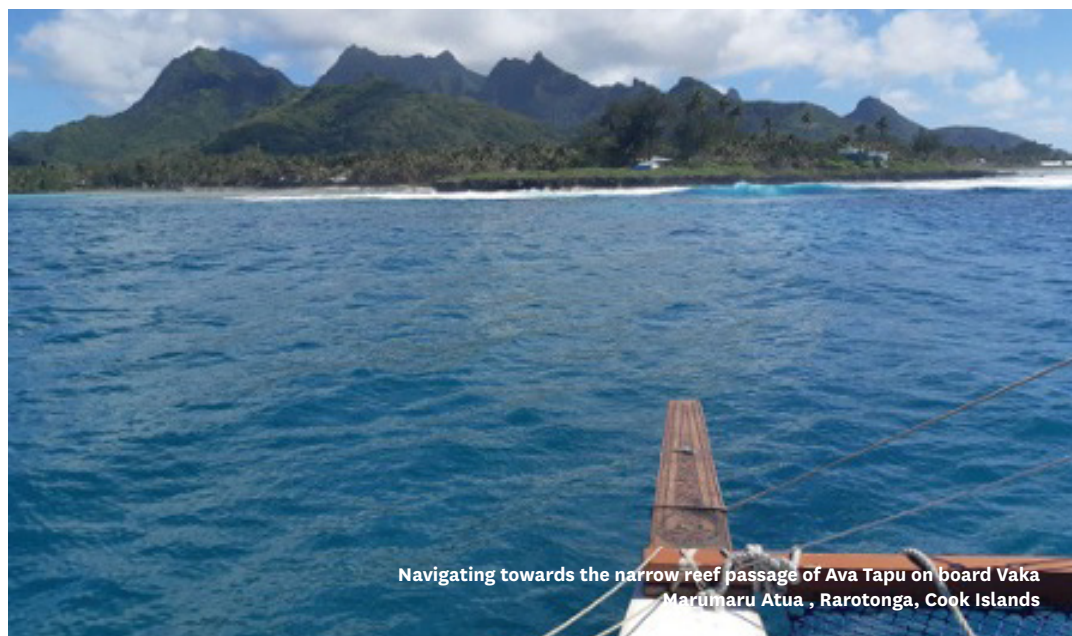
Aotearoa New Zealand also has an important role in the stewardship of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa. Being the southernmost island regionally and an important aid partner for Pacific nations, our links to the broader Pacific are cultural, historical, economic and political. Māori voyaged here from the Pacific and continue to maintain close links across the Pacific, and especially to the other Polynesian peoples, the Cook Island Māori, French Polynesian Mā'ohi, and Kanaka Maoli of Hawai'i.

Here are the origins of mātauranga Māori, prior to the voyaging ancestors of Māori. Polynesian people, like all Pacific Indigenous communities, have formed intimate knowledge of how to live in harmony with their fragile marine ecosystems, how to steward resources, and how to adapt when natural disasters strike or climate change occurs.

Throughout much of Polynesia, Indigenous groups perceive their connection to the Moana as a whakapapa, a genealogical descent, with the ancestors of humans as well as those of the ocean sharing the same primordial parents – the Earth Mother



Sails of the vaka (double-hulled voyaging canoe) Marumarū Atua, symbolising the traditional wind compass, Rarotonga, Cook Islands



Navigating towards the narrow reef passage of Ava Tapu on board Vaka Marumarū Atua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

AOTEAROA NZ'S ROLE IN THE PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE

and Sky Father. These kinship connections deeply motivate kaitiakitanga in Indigenous Pacific communities. The marine environment is considered a tuakana-teina (elder sibling-younger sibling) relationship, and through reciprocal attention to each others' needs, both are able to thrive.

Practices such as rā'ui (rāhui mentioned above) are still implemented on marine populations throughout the Pacific, where they are governed by the supernatural condition of tapu (something sacred or forbidden).

The modern nation-state of New Zealand also has special political relationships with many countries of the Pacific, tracing back to the country's short-lived aspirations of empirical expansion (1883-1948). For a time, Sāmoa, The Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau were all territories of New Zealand. Sāmoa gained full independence in 1962 while Niue and the Cook Islands entered "Free Association Status" with New Zealand in 1965 and 1974 respectively, and Tokelau remains a dependent territory of New Zealand.

As a result, New Zealand has strong obligations to support the development of these nations to govern their marine resources, particularly their EEZ's in face of the challenges of IUU fishing, climate change, and how to approach the rapidly increasing interest in seabed minerals regionally.

Today, Aotearoa New Zealand supports Pacific nations in areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, monitoring of national and international waters, and marine research. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has a strong regional Overseas Development Aid fisheries programme regionally. This supports financial, technical and capacity building for a number of Pacific regional and national organisations and governments including the Office for the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS), the Forum Fisheries Agency, and The Pacific Community.



CARBON AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

Toitū Envirocare

Toitū Envirocare is a New Zealand organisation leading and guiding positive change with a system of environmental programmes. One of these is an event certification programme — allowing clients and events to reduce carbon emissions and demonstrate commitment to the future.

Event certification with Toitū will assist in identifying efficiencies in procurement, managing waste and reducing costs. The Toitū certification programme can help manage, measure, reduce and offset the carbon produced through the event, with support every step of the way. As an independent partner, Toitū helps verify that your carbon footprint measurement is accurate and in line with international best practice.

Toitū can provide all the tools and technical guidance required along the way; from comprehensive measurement to independent audit and third-party certification.

Event certification with Toitū shows the world that IPPA is taking action on climate change. Become part of the collective journey to sustain the life of this place, our people and our future.



TIMING

Hosting IMPAC6 in 2026

We believe 2026 will be a pivotal year for the international ocean agenda and for multilateral partnerships in general.

Past the halfway point of the mid-2020s, we expect to give the international community a chance to build momentum to succeed in accomplishing the 2030 Agenda, meeting targets both biodiversity, climate, for scientific research and data, including work under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We propose to host the IMPAC6 event either in May or September 2026, avoiding the peak tourism seasons of December to March. Located in the Southern hemisphere, Aotearoa New Zealand has very distinct seasons, with a temperate climate for most of the year. May is the last month of Autumn, and September is the first month of Spring. In renowned windy Wellington, temperatures range from 8 - 15 degrees Celsius, and it is expected there will be some rainfall, but also fine spells, with 11h hours of daylight in September or 9h in May. We will organise compelling field trips as part of the Congress and the Tourism Industry Association will advise on opportunities to see this amazing country and its wildlife.



—
"... we expect to give the international community a chance to build momentum to succeed in accomplishing the 2030 Agenda..."

Explore Aotearoa New Zealand



Ngāti Kuri/ Te Rerenga Wairua



Cape Reinga offers the ultimate northern New Zealand experience. See two oceans collide and discover the place of leaping, where Maori spirits begin their final journey.

At the Cape, the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean in a spectacular swirl of currents. At the northernmost tip of the Cape is a gnarled pohutukawa tree, believed to be over 800 years old. According to Maori oral history, the spirits of deceased Maori leap from this tree into the ocean to return to their ancestral homeland of Hawaiki.

While it's not quite the most northern point of New Zealand (North Cape is further north, but it's a scientific reserve and not open to the public), Cape Reinga is definitely the end of the road.

[Visit website >](#)



Treaty Grounds



In one day at Waitangi, you'll learn a huge amount about Māori culture and the early history of New Zealand. Waitangi, one of New Zealand's most significant historic sites, is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the British Crown and more than 500 Maori chiefs. The treaty agreed the terms by which New Zealand would become a British colony.

Today the Treaty Grounds are an opportunity to learn about Maori culture and the historical events associated with the signing of the treaty. Visit the Treaty House itself to see a replica of the original treaty; marvel at the fully carved Maori meeting house and one of the largest Maori war canoes in the country; and visit the two museums Te Kongahu and Te Rau Aroha. Live cultural performances are also held regularly and there's a hotel located within the reserve that has a restaurant and bar.

[Visit website >](#)



Poor Knights Diving

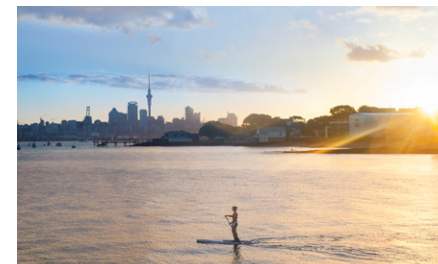


The Poor Knights Islands in Northland are one of the world's top dive locations.

Beneath the waves at the Poor Knights Islands, an ocean of diving has been compressed into a relatively small area. The Poor Knights are home to the Rikoriko Cave, one of the largest sea caves in the world.

From turbulent sunlit waters and kelp forests on the upper reaches of the tumbling 'giant staircase' to the dark waters of the islands' many caves, the Poor Knights offer an extraordinary variety of underwater experiences.

[Visit website >](#)



Ngāti Whatua/ Tāmaki Makaurau



Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland is an urban oasis. It's where sparkling waters and lush landscapes meet city sophistication.

World-class shopping and phenomenal dining are never too far from harbours, islands, native bush and black-sand beaches. Go sky diving or whale watching, hike an ancient volcanic cone, sip local award-winning wine, or star gaze from the International Dark Sky Sanctuary of Great Barrier Island.

[Visit website >](#)

PRE-CONGRESS AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD TRIPS



Rotorua



Rotorua is known for bubbling mud pools, shooting geysers and natural hot springs, as well as showcasing our fascinating Māori culture.

From crystal-clear streams and magical forests, to epic biking trails and thermal mud pools, Rotorua has it all. The city offers a raft of attractions and experiences for everyone from adventure-seekers to those just looking to unwind.

Sitting within the Pacific Rim of Fire, Rotorua is a geothermal wonderland with bubbling mud pools, clouds of steam, and natural hot springs perfect for bathing and relaxing in. After marvelling at the distinctive landscapes and volcanic activity within a geothermal park, enjoy a simple soak in a natural hot stream or indulge in a wellness getaway at a luxurious spa.

[Visit website >](#)



Wairarapa vineyards



The picturesque town of Martinborough is the winery hub of the Wairarapa region. With inviting cellar doors and annual food and wine events you won't want to leave.

Take the scenic drive over Remutaka Hill from Wellington to Martinborough. It's well worth spending a long weekend or a short getaway in the Wairarapa region.

[Visit website >](#)



Whale watching Kaikōura



The picturesque coastal town of Kaikōura is the perfect place for marine life encounters, coastal walks, and tucking into a plate of crayfish.

Kaikōura is a base for wildlife experiences of all kinds – it's also a great place to eat crayfish (opens in new window) (in the Māori language 'kai' means food, 'kōura' means crayfish). An easy two-hour drive north of Christchurch, Kaikōura makes for a great day trip or a fun stop on your way to Marlborough.

Kaikōura's environment is truly spectacular – the village is caught between the rugged Seaward Kaikōura Range and the Pacific Ocean. In winter the mountains are covered with snow, adding to the drama of the landscape.

Kaikōura's special talent is marine mammal encounters – whales, fur seals and dolphins live permanently in the coastal waters. Whale watching trips leave the town several times a day and the local seal colony is always entertaining.

[Visit website >](#)



Fiordland



Carved by glaciers over 100,000 years the landscape is one where waterfalls cascade hundreds of metres into deep black fiords; where ancient rainforest clings to mountains and where shimmering lakes and granite peaks look as they did a thousand years ago.

Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Site and includes Milford, Dusky and Doubtful Sounds. Milford Sound was described by Rudyard Kipling as the Eighth Wonder of the World; take a scenic flight over it and you will understand why.

Some of the fiords can be explored by kayak but if you'd like to see the less accessible fiords, eco-tours can be arranged.

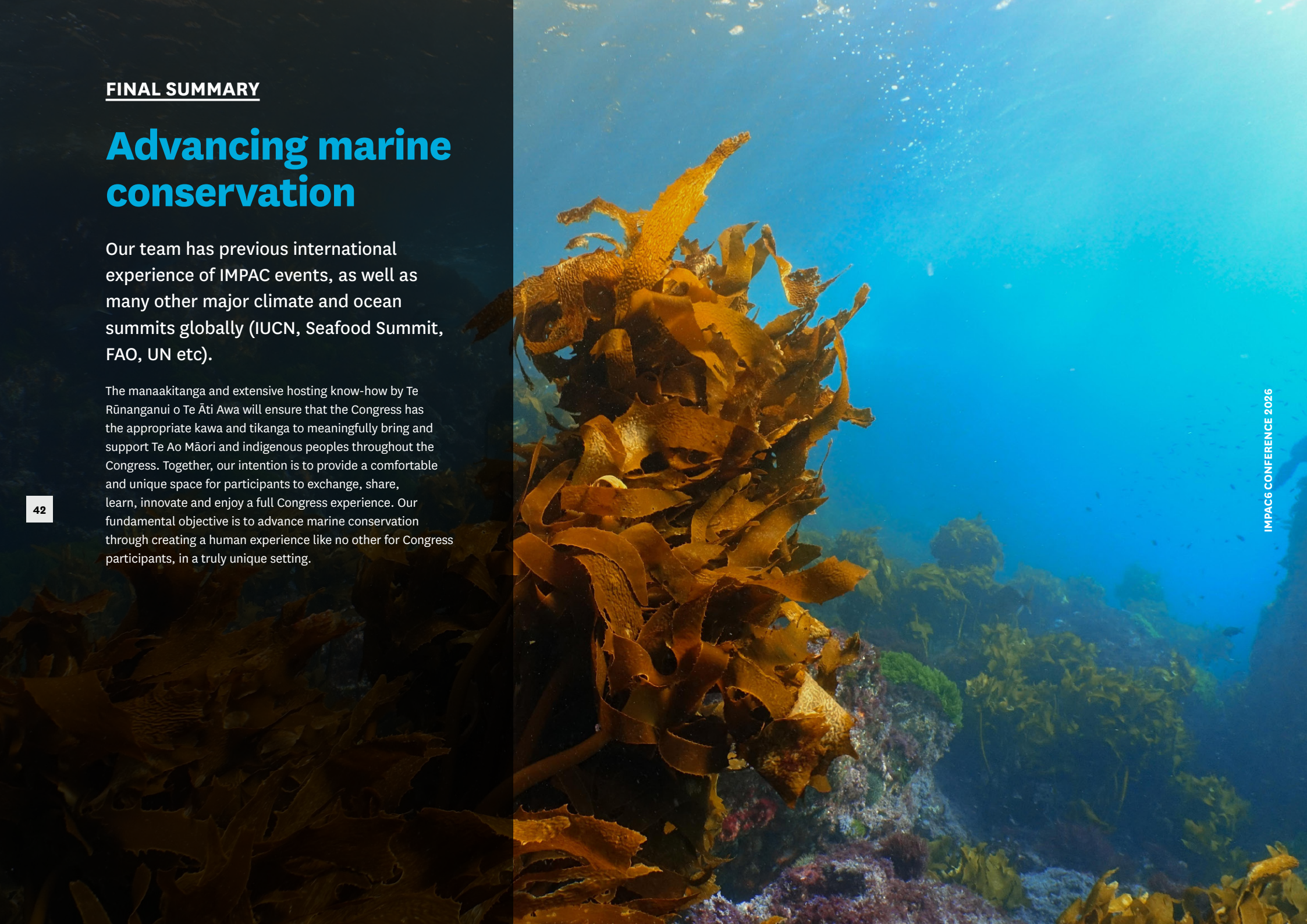
[Visit website >](#)

FINAL SUMMARY

Advancing marine conservation

Our team has previous international experience of IMPAC events, as well as many other major climate and ocean summits globally (IUCN, Seafood Summit, FAO, UN etc).

The manaakitanga and extensive hosting know-how by Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa will ensure that the Congress has the appropriate kawa and tikanga to meaningfully bring and support Te Ao Māori and indigenous peoples throughout the Congress. Together, our intention is to provide a comfortable and unique space for participants to exchange, share, learn, innovate and enjoy a full Congress experience. Our fundamental objective is to advance marine conservation through creating a human experience like no other for Congress participants, in a truly unique setting.



03. CONFERENCE DESTINATION

Wellington, New Zealand

New Zealand welcomes IMPAC6 to explore the opportunity in Wellington.

43



NEW ZEALAND

1ST

OUT OF 191 COUNTRIES FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE READINESS

The Global Adaptation Country index summarises a country's economic, governance and social readiness and its exposure, sensitivity and capacity to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

Source: University of Notre-Dame, ND-GAIN Index, GDP adjusted, 2017.



Wellington Business Events Video

YOUR DESTINATION

Why Aotearoa New Zealand

With scenery that takes your breath away, world-class venues and unique visitor experiences, New Zealand is the perfect location for business events beyond convention. Find out why successful organisations and associations choose New Zealand for their business events.

New Zealand is home to world-renowned experts, driving innovation in key industries



Seek inspiration from New Zealand's spirit of innovation and invention. New Zealanders have brought many 'firsts' to the world, from splitting the atom to creating the disposable syringe to developing the jaw-dropping bungy jump.

New Zealanders are exceptional hosts



Feel the spirit of manaakitanga—the uniquely New Zealand way of giving and making people feel welcome. Discover a place where friendly people and professional service come together to make every event memorable.

New Zealand is an affordable luxury



Enjoy watching your money go further in New Zealand. New Zealand's exchange rate is generally favourable against most other currencies. Be spoilt for choice with New Zealand's wide range of venues, accommodation and activities for every taste and budget.

New Zealand delivers unbeatable events



Sophisticated meeting spaces, stunning scenery and the warmest welcome on earth—New Zealand has it all.

Inspirational experiences are never far away in New Zealand



Take in everything 100% Pure New Zealand has to offer, with a wide variety of memorable activities and landscapes in close proximity.

New Zealand is accessible



Explore gloriously uncrowded, but lively, cities and sceneries. New Zealand is a small country, similar in size to Great Britain or Japan, with a population of just five million people.

New Zealand, a safe destination



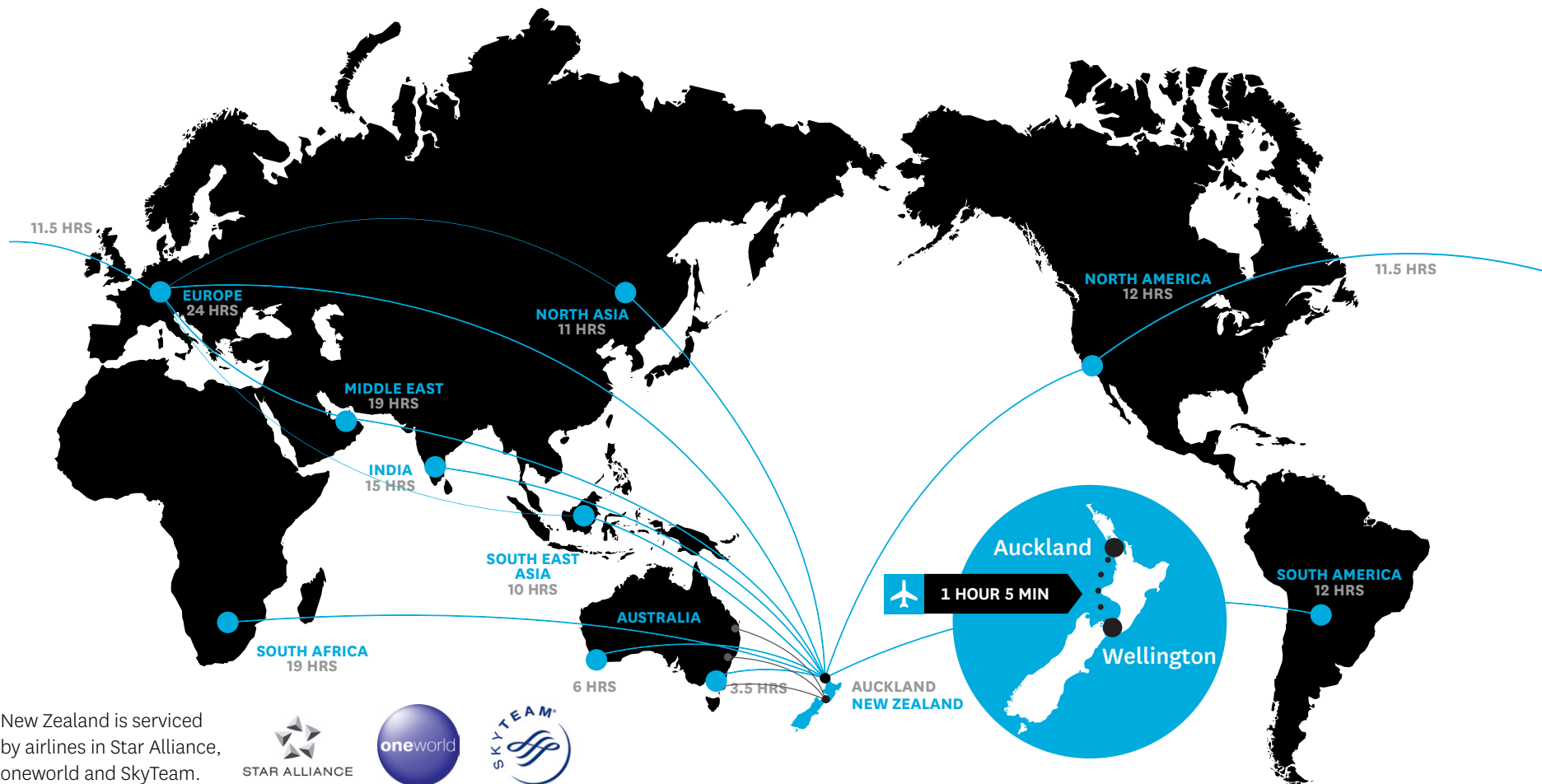
New Zealand is generally a very safe place to visit with a relatively low crime rate, few endemic diseases, a great healthcare system and a politically stable government. The 2018 Global Peace Index compares 136 countries for the risk of personal violence and rates New Zealand as the 13th safest country in the world.

Relax, getting to New Zealand is easy. It's only a 9 – 12 hour flight from other countries on the Pacific Rim and is serviced by more than 330 international flights every week. What's more, passport holders from more than 50 countries do not require a visa for short stays.

ACCESSIBLE NEW ZEALAND

Travelling to Wellington to attend a conference

Accessible from anywhere in the world, New Zealand is just a meal, movie and a sleep away for delegates. With stunning landscapes, welcoming locals and so much to see and do, New Zealand is the ultimate conference destination that is worth the extra air miles.



YOUR HOST CITY

Meet in Wellington

Aotearoa New Zealand's Vibrant Capital

46



[Watch our Wellington video](#)

IMPAC6 CONFERENCE 2026

The Beehive, Wellington

HOST CITY

Good reasons to choose Wellington

Wellington is a destination where all the best things in life come together in one compact and cutting-edge city. Whatever you're planning, you can rest assured that Wellington offers the goods and the good times to make your event a success. Home to the nation's decision-makers, there's no doubt that New Zealand's political centre is also a convenient and sophisticated place to do business.



Easy Access

The capital is easily accessed, by air with direct connectivity from all over New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Singapore, across a variety of airlines. If coming from further afield delegates are less than an hour's flight from New Zealand major international arrival hub and frequent domestic services are available.

Wellington International Airport is a scenic 15 minute drive from the central business district. Taxis, shuttles and an Airport bus are all on hand to transfer delegates to the central city.

With a city centre just two kilometres in diameter, Wellington is also seamlessly and cost-effectively navigated once on the ground. No need to arrange transport — all the facilities delegates will need are within easy walking distance.



The Wellington Experience

Wellingtonians are masters of excellent dining, with plenty of great restaurants, night markets and food trucks — the city is said to have more eateries per capita than New York. Renowned for its creative craft brewers, Wellington was recently named the best beer destination in Oceania by Lonely Planet. Wellington combines big city chic with small village charm and is a fantastic conference destination. Hugged by a natural amphitheatre of hills and harbour, Wellington is also celebrated as the country's cultural and creative hub. The region is known as New Zealand's cultural heart, with more than 55 art galleries, plus interactive national museum Te Papa Tongarewa and the national orchestra, ballet and opera. The city's long-established coffee culture can be experienced on every corner of the compact central city. Wellington is a capital city right on nature's doorstep, with a peaceful walk through native bush or along a golden sand beach never far from the urban hub. In Wellington, your delegates can exercise and see the sights at the same time. A hike up Mount Victoria for panoramic views of the city or a stroll through the Botanic Garden are just a few minutes' walk away from the inner-city hotels.



CONFERENCE VENUE

Tākina — Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre

Opening in mid-2023, Wellington's new Convention and Exhibition Centre, or "Tākina" as it has locally been named, will deliver worldclass conventions at the heart of city's vibrant cultural precinct.

10,000

SQUARE METERS OF
CONFERRING AND
EXHIBITION SPACE

13

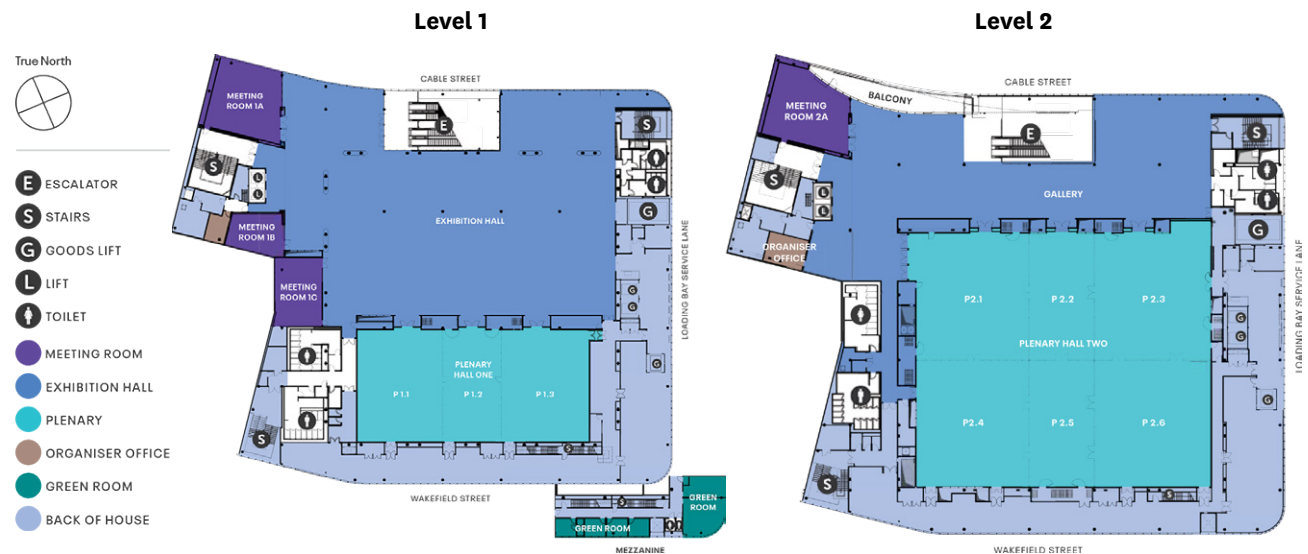
FLEXIBLE
MEETING SPACES

CONFERENCE VENUE

Inspired by Wellington's dramatic landscape and environment, the centre is designed with the delegate experience in mind. It balances flexibility and functionality with the built-in technology, food and beverage that showcases the region, and cutting-edge contemporary design.

The IMPAC6 Conference will have exclusive use of the 10,000 square meters of flexible conference and exhibition space at Tākina. The conference will have a dedicated plenary space on level two of Tākina with 9 additional forum and break out rooms. The centre also offers the conference a dedicated conference organisers office, speaker green rooms, secretariat office and media room.

Located in the heart of Wellington's cultural precinct, the centre is within easy walking distance of key transport links, over 4,000 accommodation rooms, entertainment and recreation options. It is also right on the doorstep of the capital's vibrant culinary scene and majestic waterfront, making it the perfect location for your delegates.

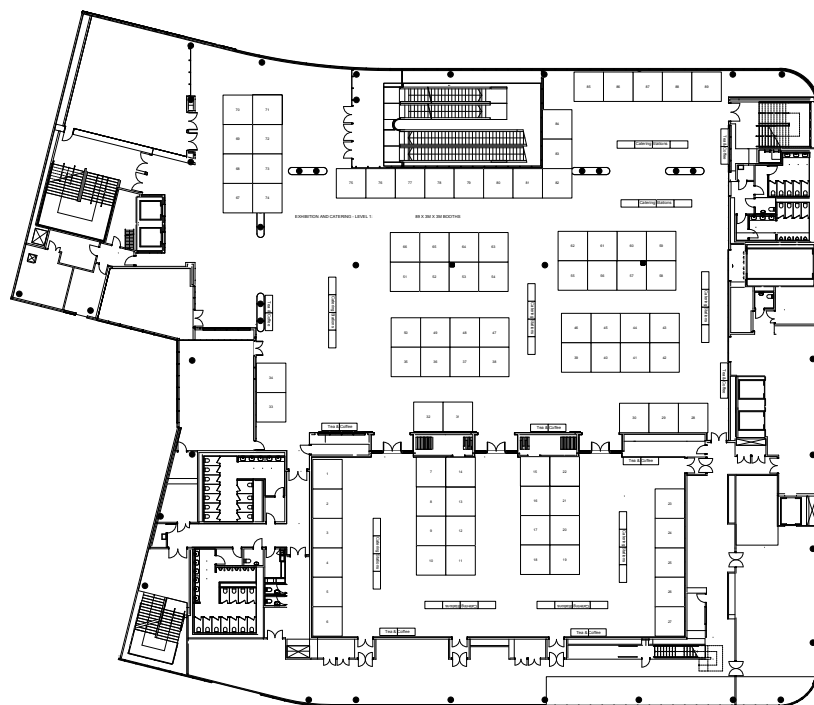


CONFERENCE VENUE

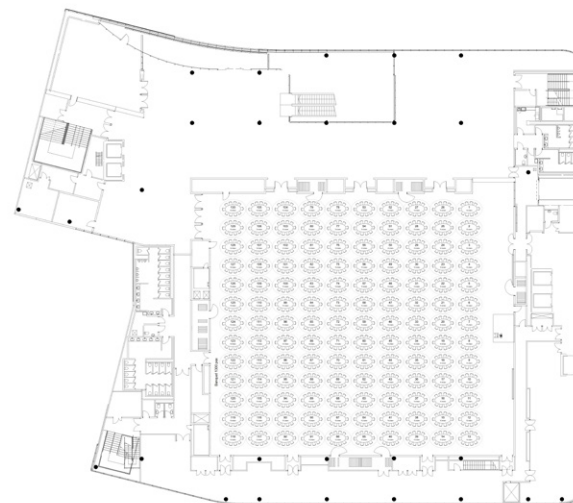
Tākina

Floor plans

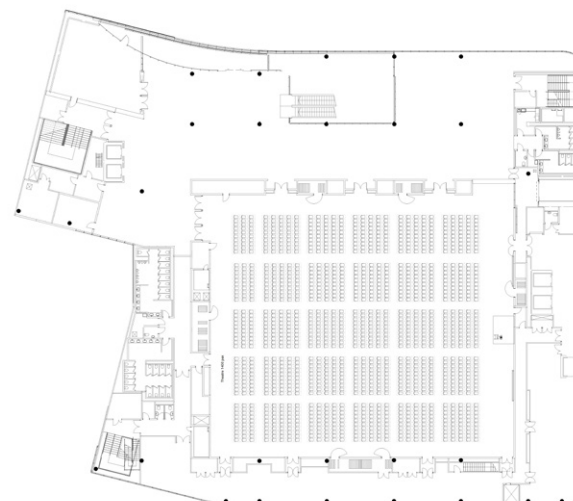
Exhibition and Catering – Level 1



2026 Bid Banquet 1300 pax – Level 2



2026 Bid Plenary Theatre 1400 pax – Level 2



SOCIAL VENUES



Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Capacity: 600 banquet, 5,000 cocktail

Te Papa is New Zealand's bold and innovative national museum and a recognised world leader in interactive and visitor-focused museum experiences. As well as being a six-level museum that showcases New Zealand's national art and treasures, it is also a unique conference and events venue that combines serious business with outstanding hospitality.

The stunning waterfront location puts Te Papa at the heart of Wellington and provides plenty of natural light and lovely harbour views. Te Papa is close to all major hotels and public transport and offers plenty of on-site parking, so your guests will find us easy to get to.

Features:

- 15 dedicated meeting rooms and a variety of exhibition spaces
- Catering for 20 to 5,000
- Flexible venues seating 20 to 700
- Purpose-built theatre with tiered seating for up to 328
- 519 m2 of trade display space in a single room
- Seated dinner for up to 600
- Cocktails for up to 5,000

Distance to Venue: 🚶 01 min 🚗 01 min

[Visit website >](#)



TSB Arena & Auditorium (Shed 6)

Capacity: 1200 banquet, 2800 cocktail

A truly multi-purpose venue, comprising the TSB Arena, TSB Arcade and TSB Auditorium (Shed 6). The TSB Arena is the largest flat floor, pillar-free space in the Wellington CBD and will work wonderfully well for your exhibition and catering space and as a purpose-built auditorium for your main plenary.

The TSB Arena is a large flat-floored venue, with a 2186m² floor space that can fit a standing crowd of up to 6000, while tiered and loose seating accommodates up to 3568 seated guests.

Floor-to-ceiling black drapes frame the space for exhibitions, awards dinners, and other special events.

Distance to Venue: 🚶 06 min 🚗 02 min

[Visit website >](#)

SOCIAL VENUES



Te Wharewaka Tapere

Capacity: 230 seated, 500 standing

The Function Centre, located on Wellington's waterfront, is a purpose built-function centre, capable of hosting conferences, events, meetings, dinners and functions for 10 to 500 guests.

Boasting four beautiful function spaces, coupled with full on-site food and beverage operators. This venue can offer a great experience, underpinned by cultural values – you will be well looked after.

This venue, along with the Pipitea Marae and Function Centre in Thorndon, is managed by Wellington Venues.

Distance to Venue: 🚶 02 min 🚗 01 min

[Visit website >](#)



Michael Fowler Centre

Capacity: 2200 auditorium capacity

The main auditorium is home to the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and is Wellington's main stage for leading performing artists. This much-loved part of the Wellington skyline sits right at the heart of the capital city's civic and cultural precinct. A striking three-level glass facade fronts a magnificent interior space, finished with Italian marble and native timbers. The architecture has seen the venue win numerous architecture awards.

The Michael Fowler Centre is within an easy stroll of major hotel accommodation, culinary delights, quirky cafés and boutique shopping in Wellington's arts, culture and entertainment precinct.

Distance to Venue: 🚶 05 min 🚗 01 min

[Visit website >](#)

ACCOMMODATION

Wellington, New Zealand

Manaakitanga is a powerful way of expressing how Māori communities care about each other's wellbeing, nurture relationships, and engage with one another. Manaakitanga also extends to the whenua that needs care in order to ensure sustainability for future generations.

The value of Manaakitanga is often expressed through the responsibility to provide hospitality and protection. Manaakitanga derives from two words - 'mana' and 'aki'. Mana is a condition that holds everything in the highest regard. Aki means to uphold or support. Extending Manaakitanga requires respect, humility, kindness and honesty.

Accommodation Options in Wellington

Hotels

Hotel accommodation provides a range of facilities which will generally include restaurants/cafes, bars, gyms, and services including valet car parking. New Zealand hotels are of a consistently high standard. Make sure you book a Qualmark star rated property if quality, good service and facilities are important to you.

In New Zealand you'll find the top international hotel chains, such as Hilton, Accor, Rydges and InterContinental.

Stay with whānau – whanaungatanga (importance of connecting with people)

Homestay accommodation in a New Zealand home is always comfortable, with friendly hosts who are happy to introduce you to friends and other locals.

Homestays are an excellent choice if it's your first visit to New Zealand and you want a little home comfort, with the added benefits of hosts to help with information on what to see and how to get around.

You share all domestic facilities with the family, including the bathroom/s, and you eat meals together too, often including dinner. Homestay hosts are naturally genial characters and your stay with them will be enjoyably social.

Backpacker hostels

Backpacker hostels are the perfect option for those on a budget. You'll meet like minded travellers and make new friends.

In New Zealand you'll find backpacker hostels in all the major cities and most towns, and the best part is you won't break the bank finding somewhere to sleep after a massive day of adventuring.

They are the ideal environment for backpackers. You're sure to meet people who are keen to swap their stories, and who can offer you advice on your next New Zealand experience. You might even make some new friends, and find someone new to share your next adventure with.

With everything being so close no matter which hostel you stay at you'll find an amazing experience near by.

Apartments

Apartment accommodation is ideal for New Zealand travellers who want the quality of a hotel stay combined with the flexibility of self-catering facilities.

Apartments are a great option when you're staying in a major city or resort town. You can cook your own meals, do your own laundry and enjoy the feeling of having your own space while on holiday.

Many are similar in price to a high quality hotel suite with daily or regular servicing and they're perfect for couples, groups or families. Some even have access to gymnasiums and swimming pools.

ACCOMMODATION

Proximity Map


4,000
HOTEL ROOMS

Wellington Harbour/
Te Awa Whanga
o Pōneke

Tākina
Wellington Convention
and Exhibition Centre

Hotels

STARS / ROOMS

1	Brentwood Hotel	3.5	/	116
2	Grand Mercure Wellington	5	/	111
3	Liberty Apartment Hotel	4.5	/	43
4	Oaks Wellington Hotel	4.5	/	226
5	Courtenay Village	3.5	/	10
6	QT Wellington	5	/	180
7	Bay Plaza Hotel	3	/	76
8	Ohtel	4.5	/	10
9	Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay	4	/	118
10	Rydges Wellington Airport	4.5	/	134
11	Mercure Wellington Abel Tasman	3.5	/	73
12	Mercure Central City Apartments	3.5	/	54
13	Astelia Apartment Hotel	4	/	75
14	Willis Village Urban Garden Apartments	3.5	/	21
15	West Plaza Hotel	4	/	102
16	Boulcott Suites	5	/	114
17	CityLife Wellington	4	/	70
18	James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor	4.5	/	260
19	DoubleTree by Hilton Wellington	4	/	106
20	InterContinental Wellington	5	/	231
21	Ibis Wellington	3.5	/	200
22	Novotel Wellington	4.5	/	139
23	Aspect Apartments	3.5	/	21
24	Quest on Johnston	4.5	/	62
25	Park Hotel Lambton Quay	4	/	136
26	Sofitel Wellington	5	/	129
27	Rydges Wellington	4.5	/	280
28	Thorndon Hotel by Rydges	3.5	/	108

Average hotel rates

PRICE RANGE

3 star	NZD\$139.00 – NZD\$169.00
4 star	NZD\$170.00 – NZD\$229.00
5 star	NZD\$230.00 – NZD\$269.00

ATTRACTIONS

The Best of Wellington/ Te Whanganui-a-Tara

Surrounded by nature and fuelled by creative energy, Wellington is a compact city with a powerful mix of culture, history, nature and cuisine. Fuel your visit with strong coffee and world-class craft beer, visit stylish designer boutiques, wander through hidden lane-ways, experience Te Papa's interactive museum magic, be inspired by theatres and galleries and go behind the scenes at Oscar-winning film studios.

56



Oriental Bay, Wellington

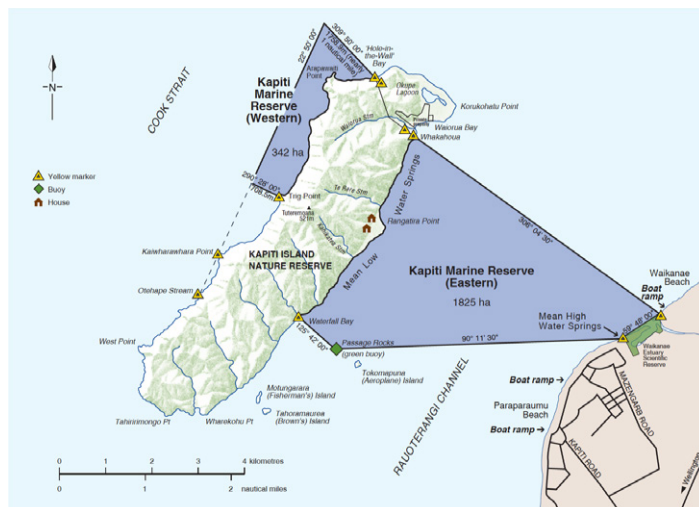
WELLINGTON MARINE FEATURES

Local Marine Education

Experience the wonders of Wellington's coastal marine environment and unique biodiversity with the Mountains To Sea Wellington Trust (MTSW).

Two Department of Conservation (DOC) marine reserves sit on Wellington's doorstep, one right in the city, Taputeranga marine reserve, and the other just north on the Kāpiti coast, with the two Kapiti marine reserves bordering Kapiti island on the East and West.

Established in 2008 (Taputeranga) and 1992 (Kapiti), these exceptional sanctuaries are visited every year by thousands of students, community and visitors through MTSW's Experiencing Marine Reserves programmes and events. Visitors to IMPAC 6 will be hosted by Mountains To Sea on guided snorkel days around Wellington's spectacular temperate underwater sites.



WELLINGTON MARINE FEATURES



Mountains To Sea Wellington also works in both freshwater and estuarine environments – making the connection between land and sea and the health of our ocean. They are currently pioneering a seaweed restoration project- Love Rimurimu – which IMPAC 6 attendees will be able to learn about, and visit during their stay.



Love Rimurimu

This community-led project is pioneering the restoration of seaweed forest in Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington, and empowering community, mana whenua, researchers and industry to work together to strengthen the health and well-being of our harbour and people.

Attendees at IMPAC 6 will be invited to meet with project collaborators and learn about our Rimurimu (seaweed) forests through events, talks and hosted seaweed snorkel experience.

ATTRACTIONS

Wellington Waterfront

Read a book in the sun, absorb some culture in the galleries and museums, or dine casually or in style. Party into the night, join the crowd at a sporting or cultural event or take the family for a picnic with a four-wheel cycle ride. You'll find this and more on Wellington's Waterfront.

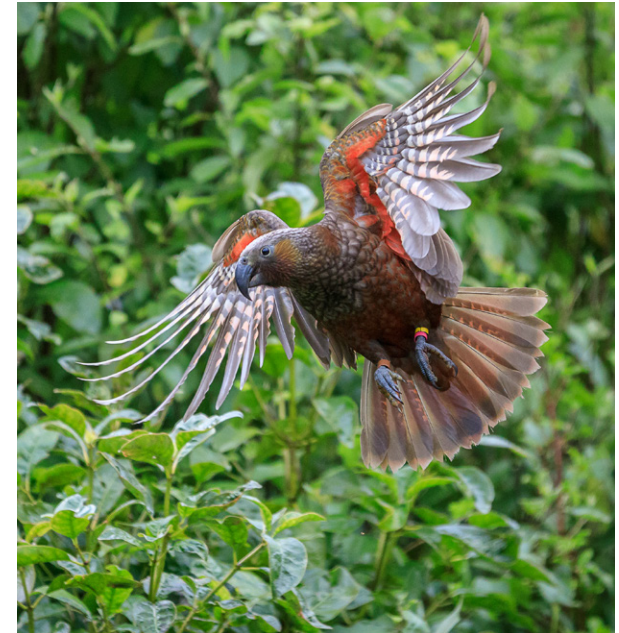
Wellington Botanic Garden

Wellington Botanic Garden spans over 26 hectares. It encompasses unsurpassed views of Wellington, a unique landscape, exotic forests, native bush, colourful floral displays and gorgeous specialist gardens. It is classified as a Garden of National Significance by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and is a Historic Places Trust Heritage Area.

Zealandia

Imagine a lush forest full of rare native animals. Discover ZEALANDIA – an ecosanctuary home to over 40 rare native species. Explore the outdoors on your own or with an expert guide who will show you the best places to spot wildlife like kākāriki, tuatara and takahē.

Visit the valley after dark on a ZEALANDIA By Night tour and search for thousands of glow worms and over 150 kiwi by night. Experience this world-renowned conservation success that lies only minutes from Wellington's CBD. As a not-for-profit, your visit helps us ensure the future flourishing of New Zealand's native wildlife.



ATTRACTIONS

City Gallery Wellington

City Gallery Wellington provides visitors with captivating art from some of the world's most exciting artists. Whether it's the latest exhibition of New Zealand's avant-garde artists, an international collection visiting the gallery or just the gallery's renowned café Nikau, there are plenty of reasons to visit.

Walkways

There are six major walkways in the Wellington region. The tracks take in scenic views of the city and coast and cover a wide range of landscapes. Walkers can hike through the changing forests of the city's town belt, windswept farmland on the coast of Makara or through Wellington's Botanic Garden.

Food and Wine

Discover Wellington's vibrant food scene with Zest Food Tours. Their experienced guides will introduce you personally to their favourite Wellington gourmet food stores, coffee roasters, cafés and restaurants. A Zest Wellington food tour is for people with an appetite for culinary adventure and discovering new places through food and wine. They explore this city, known for its love of great coffee and food, finding culinary treasures that visitors often miss. Connect with like-minded local food lovers, meet top Wellington restaurant and food professionals and uncover culinary treasures as you enjoy a Zest food and wine tour.

Explore islands and coasts around Wellington.



ATTRACTIONS

Weta Workshop

Get ready for your first-ever, behind-the-scenes look at Weta Cave! From humble beginnings in the back room of their flat in Wellington, Richard and Tania have built Weta Workshop to be a world-leading design and effects facility servicing the world's creative industries. Watch interviews with co-founders Peter Jackson and Richard Taylor, and check out their mini-museum. You will come face-to-face with some of the characters, props and displays from your favourite movies.



Weta Cave

Kapiti Island

Kapiti Island is a nature reserve hosting some of New Zealand's most endangered birds. Its protected waters are home to an abundance of marine life.

Creating a place where endangered species can once again thrive has also created a rare experience for the small number of people who are allowed to visit Kapiti Island each day.

Kapiti Island Nature Reserve is ten kilometres long and two kilometres wide. Visitor numbers are strictly limited - access is only by licensed launch and a landing permit from your tour operator is required. Licensed tour operators are shown below.

[Visit website >](#)



View of Kapiti Island

PRE AND POST TOURING

Travelling through Aotearoa New Zealand

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IMPAC6 CONFERENCE 2026

Milford Sound

Aotearoa, New Zealand



PRE AND POST TOURING



1. Northland/Te Tai Tokerau

Considered the birthplace of New Zealand as a bicultural nation, a visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds—set in an extensive park-like reserve with stunning sea views—is a must. Stroll along golden sandy beaches, explore some of the 144 islands in the Bay of Islands by boat, drive along Ninety Mile Beach or visit Cape Reinga, where the Tasman Sea and mighty Pacific Ocean crash together beneath an iconic lighthouse.

[Explore region >](#)



2. Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau

Shop for designer clothes, scale New Zealand's tallest building (The SkyTower) and savour fine food and wine in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. Situated alongside three sparkling harbours and flanked by black sand beaches and native forest to the west, this multicultural hub offers the perfect mix of urban chic and outdoor excitement.

[Explore city >](#)



3. Hamilton/Kirikiriōa

Meander through themed public gardens and along riverside trails in Hamilton. This heartland city offers an eclectic mix of metropolitan culture and rural charm and is famed for its proximity to must-do attractions like the Hobbiton™ Movie Set and Waitomo Caves.

[Explore city >](#)



4. Rotorua/ Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe

Immerse yourself in Māori culture and exhilarating outdoor adventure in Rotorua. Built amidst a geothermal landscape of steaming geysers and bubbling mudpools, this tourist hotspot is home to many quintessential Kiwi experiences, from white water rafting and offroad 4WD to spine tingling Māori cultural performances.

[Explore city >](#)

PRE AND POST TOURING



5. Napier/Ahuriri

Enjoy a guided wine tour through the celebrated vineyards of Hawke's Bay. The city of Napier is New Zealand's Art Deco capital and has fantastic heritage, a picturesque shoreline and just the right climate for delicious orchard fruits.

[Explore city >](#)



7. Nelson/Whakatū

Explore the long golden beaches, alpine lakes and enchanting forests of the Nelson region by kayak, car or bicycle. Home to three national parks, this region is a favourite holiday spot for New Zealanders and so beautiful you'll never want to leave.

[Explore city >](#)



8. Marlborough/Tauihu

Discover the many coves of the magnificent Marlborough Sounds on a cruise, or cycle through vineyards on a wine tasting tour. With its glorious sunshine, delicious food and luxurious resorts, any visit to Marlborough is a pure joy.

[Explore city >](#)



8. Christchurch/Ōtautahi

Relax in the picturesque Garden City. Christchurch offers something for everyone – from golf and hot-air ballooning, to punting on the Avon River, to relaxing in its stunning Botanic Gardens.

[Explore city >](#)

PRE AND POST TOURING



9. Queenstown/Tahuna

Find inspiration amongst the unforgettable landscape of Queenstown. This four-season resort is known as the adventure capital of the world. It also offers plenty of opportunity for lakeside dining, boutique shopping and tours of the region's rich gold-mining history.

[Explore city >](#)

10. Dunedin/Ōtepoti

Broaden your mind in Dunedin, home to grand old buildings and New Zealand's oldest university. See penguins, sea lions and albatross on the nearby Otago Peninsula and experience one of the great scenic train journeys on the Taieri Gorge Railway.

[Explore city >](#)



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Aotearoa New Zealand: what you need to know



Climate

The far north of New Zealand is subtropical, whilst the south is more temperate. The warmest months are traditionally December, January and February, and the coolest are June, July and August. In summer, the average maximum daytime temperatures range between 20–30°C and in winter between 10–15°C. You can check weather conditions in New Zealand on the New Zealand MetService website:

www.metservice.com.



Internet and Wi-Fi access

If you're looking to stay connected to the internet everywhere you go, it's recommended that you purchase a plan from one of New Zealand's main networks. Purchasing a plan from a network will allow you to access a mix of data, calling and texting throughout your trip to suit your communication and connection needs. You will find that free Wi-Fi is available in most hotel accommodation and hospitality outlets.



Healthcare

New Zealand's public and private medical and hospital facilities provide a high standard of treatment and care. Medical services are not free to visitors. It's recommended that you purchase travel and health insurance before you visit. No vaccination certificates are required. There are no snakes or dangerous wild animals in New Zealand.



Mobile telephones

Like most countries, New Zealand operates on a 900 or 1800 MHz network. However, some mobiles cannot use international roaming on this frequency. Check with your phone company before leaving home about international mobile roaming facilities available in New Zealand. Alternatively, you can hire or buy mobile phones or SIM cards in New Zealand. Note that signal is not available in all rural areas.



Money

New Zealand's currency is the dollar (NZD). You can use all major credit cards in New Zealand, with Visa and MasterCard accepted most widely.



Electricity

New Zealand's electricity supply runs at 230/240 volts, and we use angled two or three-pin plugs (the same as Australia).



i-SITE Visitor Information Centres

i-SITE New Zealand is our official visitor information network.

There are over 80 i-SITE Visitor Centres around New Zealand, which provide international visitors, domestic travellers and locals with comprehensive, up-to-date information and a New Zealand-wide booking service for activities, attractions, accommodation and transport.



IMPAC6 CONFERENCE 2016

Te Papa, Wellington

VISA INFORMATION

Hassle-free travel

Having the right passport and visa organised is the key to a trouble-free entry for delegates into New Zealand.

Passports, visas and electronic travel authority (NZETA)

When you arrive, your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended departure date, and if required, have a valid New Zealand visa.

New Zealand is visa free from 60 countries and territories.

Visitors from visa-waiver countries must request an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) prior to coming to New Zealand. You may also have to pay an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). For more information on the ETA and IVL, visit Immigration New Zealand.

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Visa Waiver Countries

Andorra	Ireland	Qatar
Argentina	Israel	Romania
Austria	Italy	San Marino
Bahrain	Japan	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Korea (South)	Seychelles
Brazil	Kuwait	Singapore
Brunei	Latvia (citizens only)	Slovak Republic
Bulgaria	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Canada	Lithuania (citizens only)	Spain
Chile	Luxembourg	Sweden
Croatia	Macau (Macau Special Administrative Region passports only)	Switzerland
Cyprus	Malaysia	Taiwan (permanent residents only)
Czech Republic	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Denmark	Mauritius	United Kingdom (must have the right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom)
Estonia (citizens only)	Mexico	United States of America (includes USA nationals)
Finland	Monaco	Uruguay
France	Netherlands	Vatican City
Germany	Norway	
Greece	Oman	
Hong Kong (residents with HKSAR or British National (Overseas) passports only)	Poland	
Hungary	Portugal (with the right to live permanently in Portugal)	
Iceland		

 www.immigration.govt.nz

CLOSING STATEMENT

Nau Mai, Haere Mai – Welcome!

We look forward to welcoming you to Wellington/Te Whanganui-a-Tara. for the IMPAC6 Conference in 2026.

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