

# HE TOKA TŪ MOANA DECLARATION

## A rock standing firm in the sea

### A MARINE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE FOR AOTEAROA

World Ocean Day, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023



*Ko rātou ngā toka tū moana. Ka ākina rātou e ngā ngaru o te moana. Ka ākina e te tai, ka ākina e ngā hau. Engari ahakoa pēhea ka tū tonu, ka tū tonu.*

*They are the rocks standing in the sea. They are bashed by the waves of the ocean. They are dashed by the tide. They are struck by the winds. But no matter what hits them, they stand, and they stand.*

**We need healthy marine and coastal ecosystems, to build climate resilience for future generations.**

Māori have practised traditional guardianship over the marine realm in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) for hundreds of years. However, because of colonisation, ecological balance has been fraught with significant challenges. From Bill Ballantine's work in developing the Marine Reserves Act in 1971, to numerous legislative tools and Acts, including customary fisheries management tools, Aotearoa has gone from global leader in protecting the ocean to global spectator. For many decades now, our fragmented legislation has been significantly outdated, not reflecting *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* enough or the urgent need for protection. Right now, we recognize the critical need for marine policy reform - which is gradually getting underway - and we welcome initiatives and roadmaps proposed by others.

**But in the meantime, as communities we must mobilize to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.**

Aotearoa New Zealand currently only has 0.4% of its waters fully protected. Last December, at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conference of the parties, the international community committed to protect 30% of the planet by 2030. Up until now, our key national marine policies have been repeatedly left in "the too hard basket" by unambitious governments, stuck in bureaucracy, slow legislation, and captured by lobbies. We believe the real work is being done by community groups, iwi, hapū and non-governmental organisations. "30 by 30" needs to be pressingly and creatively co-designed, co-monitored and co-governed, bringing mātauranga Māori and western science together as two hulls of a double waka to achieve mutually beneficial ecological, social and economic objectives.

**Therefore, we must come together now to address the government's inability to reform marine management.**

We propose to form a **National Marine Conservation Alliance** of all those who care for the ocean to agree on common goals and objectives. Along with these groups, we invite national and international philanthropy donors to support an increase in marine conservation initiatives, their coordination, cooperation, and collaboration across Aotearoa New Zealand. This in turn will bring about change as we advocate to and lobby government to form a high-level **Sustainable Blue Finance Roundtable**.

**What we are calling for:**

- **A National & International Marine Philanthropy Strategy**

We propose a hui/gathering with community groups, civil society organisations, Trusts, iwi and hapū, to agree on an ambitious marine conservation agenda to bring clarity to funders and donors.

- **A National Marine Conservation Alliance**

We propose to form a national **Marine Conservation Alliance**, with a board of advisors, working on a voluntary basis to support a professional secretariat to shepherd and cohere the agenda and priority setting for marine protection in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- **A Sustainable Blue Finance Roundtable**

We propose to form a high-level Sustainable **Blue Finance Roundtable**, with the newly established Marine Conservation Alliance, the Iwi Leaders Marine Working Group, blue economy industry representatives, the banking, finance and insurance sectors, and government Ministries, to create blended mechanisms with scalability to stimulate public-private partnerships in marine conservation. We propose this be co-chaired by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries and a community member.

**HE TOKA TŪ MOANA DECLARATION is a call by civil society organisations across Aotearoa NZ to commit to a healthy marine and coastal environment, to build climate resilience for future generations.**

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**We invite all community groups, Trusts, Foundations, iwi, hapū and non-governmental organizations to support this call to action by sending us their logo. These will be added to the He Toka Tū Moana page on our website. *Immensely respectful of previous mahi/work in this space (and subsequent failures) and while taking a humble yet determined position, Blue Cradle acknowledges that it will take a collaborative and transparent effort to bring these brave ideas to life. We invite any individuals, community organisations, Trusts, Foundations, iwi and hapū supportive of their intent to join us in advocating for them and working to make them happen, wherever, and whenever possible.***

**Send your logo to: [contact@bluecradle.org](mailto:contact@bluecradle.org)**

**This Declaration will be published on World Ocean Day, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**