

Waikato Information Forum

6 June 2008, Waikato University, Performing Arts Centre



Chair: Beat Huser, Manager Sustainability Projects, Environment Waikato
Carol Henry, Kaiwhakarite (Iwi Liaison Officer), Environment Waikato

Speakers: Stuart Jones, Statistics New Zealand (SNZ)
Justine Daw, Ministry for Environment (MfE)
Beat Huser, Environment Waikato
Nathan Kennedy & Richard Jefferies, FRST Project
Garth Harmsworth & Shaun Awatere, Landcare Research
Keir Volkerling, Consultant

Mihi Whakatau and karakia – Rama Ormsby

Following Rama Ormsby's introduction to the forum, the meeting was opened and facilitated by Beat Huser, Environment Waikato. Beat confirmed the order of speakers with some amendments to the original agenda. With flights inward to Hamilton delayed by fog, the order of speaking was rearranged slightly to accommodate the delayed speakers from MfE. Tim Manukau (Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust), who was scheduled to participate in the afternoon discussion, could not attend for personal reasons and sent apologies for the short notice.

Overview of WINFO

For those new to the forum, Beat Huser provided an overview of WINFO. Formed in 2000, the Waikato Information Forum (WINFO) is a partnership for the sharing and coordinated gathering of information that is of common interest to local authorities in the Waikato Region.

Morning Session 10am to 12.20pm

1. Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) – An Update (Stuart Jones, Project Manager Regional & Geography Statistics)

Manager of both the Geoframes & Geography and Regional Statistics teams, Stuart provided an update on his team's work programme and progress to date. The Geoframes and Geography maintains geographic frames (e.g. meshblock boundaries, area unit reviews), produces digital boundaries and Street link (now free), provides expert advice on mapping and GIS and works on the SNZ Draft Geospatial Strategy. The Regional Statistics team provides advice and statistics on sub-national data, produces the Quarterly Regional Review (QRR) and the Regional Economic Indicator experimental series (REI), produces the Local Government Connection newsletter and works with DIA to provide support towards community outcomes.

Following the May 2007 announcement from the then Minister of Statistics, a large range of SNZ data has been progressively made freely available. In addition to the "making more information freely available" programme of work, Statistics New Zealand continues to offer a customised service to clients for data that is not available on the website or to those who prefer SNZ to extract and format the data. Information from a small area population projection is as close to forecasting as possible.

Quarterly Regional Review (QRR)

The QRR is a report that brings together a range of indicators from data gathered in area units and covers business demography, employment (wage/income), real estate and so on. The next QRR could well be the last but is to be replaced by "The Local Insight", a web-based product, similar to the format of the "Quick Stats" product. It will not be a static product and will contain all of the latest information pertinent to local authorities and in the future hopes to contain an increasing range of indicators. It is expected that timing for release should coincide with the next due date for the QRR but this will be confirmed in due course.

Sustainable Development Project

Stuart covered the programme of work of the Sustainable Development Project now under way. The aim is to produce a framework on which SNZ can build to provide the Quarterly Review/Local Insight by building on previous work in the field of sustainable development, incorporating the work of the OECD/UNECE/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development and the linked indicators project (covering the four domains of social, cultural, economic and environmental indicators). Beat Huser (EW) is a member of the Advisory Group for the 'National Sustainable Development Project'.

Regional Stocktake

A joint initiative by Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs, the Regional Stocktake provides a clear guide to major or significant sub-national data of national datasets and is the first port of call for any potential user of sub-national information. Covering a wide range of topics e.g. water use, motor vehicle crashes, building consents, education etc. it was released at the end of March 2007 and later updated in October 2007. See <http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistics-by-area/regional-stocktake.htm>.

Published LEED (Linked Employer Employee Statistics)

Released quarterly, the focus is on "jobs" with measures including total filled jobs, worker turnover rates, total mean and median earnings. Regional and territorial authority statistics are available online via Table Builder.

Census 2006 – QuickStats About a Place

Key census facts about each region, city and district in New Zealand with dual data for Māori. Information about area units or communities are planned to be released by mid-2008.

Census 2006 – QuickStats About a Subject

Simple facts, tables and graphs about a range of subjects e.g. unpaid work, incomes, housing, culture and identity, pacific peoples, Māori, population mobility, national highlights.

Census 2006 – Meshblock Dataset

A free supply of bulk data (excel and access files on CD) which contains data from 1996, 2001 and 2006 census variables.

Urban/Rural Profiles

An experimental classification, updated from previous 2006 data, is a different way of looking at dynamics (geographic boundaries vs community of interest). Data is sourced from Census data, building consents, business demography and the NZ income survey. Data is expected to be updated towards end of June 2008 (data tables available on the website).

Survey of Dynamics and motivation for Migration in NZ (DMM)

The primary focus of DMM is to provide an understanding of the drivers behind internal migration (rural to urban / urban to rural etc) and to give some understanding of the interaction between the drivers of those reasons. Information will be limited to regional council areas and will be available for groupings of the smaller regional councils. Information on moves between regions will be limited to higher populated regions or major groupings of regional council areas.

Census 2011 – Statistics New Zealand's approach

The focus for the 2011 census will be to achieve the best possible count. While 446 questions were changed for the 2006 census, Stuart noted that there will be minimal change to the 2011 questions and no new topics added. The consultation process on proposed changes is open from May 20 to July 14 2008. Documents and submission forms are available from www.stats.govt.nz/census2011

Looking forward – Domain Plans

The purpose of a domain plan is to provide a strategic document to determine how best to respond to the needs of official stats users. Stuart acknowledged that Māori and Local Government are seen as key stakeholders and encouraged forum attendees to contribute to the work at hand in order to strengthen New Zealand's official statistics system.

For further information please refer to the presentation from Stuart or make contact with him at (03) 964 8821 or by e-mail to stuart.jones@stats.govt.nz.

Concluding his presentation, Stuart demonstrated some of the stocktake data information which is available on the website using 'table builder' (Stuart noted that Stats NZ is reliant on input and encouraged attendees to continue to provide this information).

2. Ministry for the Environment – An Update (Justine Daw, Manager Analysis & Reporting)

Justine Daw provided an update on the key findings of the recently released Environment New Zealand 2007 Report. The Environment New Zealand 2007 report was commissioned partly in response to the 2007 OECD report on New Zealand's Environmental Performance and to provide vital background information for future SoE reporting. The report is based at a national level. While it was not possible to replicate the work at a local level, due to the size of the country and the resources available, it is Justine's hope that there will be more of a sub-national level breakdown in the 2012 report where this is possible, particularly thanks to the arrival of newer GIS and data technologies. An interesting observation is that the majority of people reading the report are 'just everyday kiwis'. Referring to 'Chapter 13' which, as the media reported, was omitted from the published report, Justine confirmed that this chapter is now available on the website and that the reason it was omitted was simply because there was insufficient time to complete it adequately and to the standard required due to very tight printing timelines.

Key to this report are the national environmental indicators, of which there are around 75 variables (combined into 19 indicators), to track environmental health at a national level, many of which are reported on annually. An example of an indicator provided was air quality in managed airsheds. However, some indicators will not be reported on until 2012 e.g. a land cover five-yearly review provides meaningful reporting for this indicator. The indicator set is representative. While there is some room for expansion, there are strict criteria for any additions to the core set of indicators and variables. In particular, the addition of new indicators and variables will be constrained by the availability of high quality, national-scale data.

While the 1997 national SoE report was mostly qualitative, the 2007 report relies on quantitative, national-level data. Three Universities in New Zealand are currently using it (the report) as course material. Justine noted that Kurt Janson's GIS mapping has received a national GIS award as well as the report itself receiving the 'Pride in Print' award for its environmentally friendly production and layout.

The report itself was formatted in such a way that it covered 'pressures' chapters and 'state chapters', in line with common practice in the OECD (in fact, like other OECD countries, New Zealand has committed to using the PSR model in its national-scale environmental reporting). Anticipating questions around why some topics were covered in one part of the report and not the other e.g. land use, Justine noted that not all land use is considered a pressure on the environment, e.g. 33% of NZ land is in conservation use.

Key findings

Key findings and trends would not be surprising to those who knew the issues well. For example:

1. Consumption is growing at a faster rate than the economy, people own more cars. But use of public transportation is increasing. We are using more energy but energy needs are growing more slowly than the economy. Waste to landfill is decreasing and waste management has improved but we are still throwing away potentially useful materials (however, it was noted that the dataset is partial in that we don't monitor cleanfills);
2. Air Quality received a generally good bill of health; however, 53% of the population lives in areas that experiences air pollution. PM₁₀ appears to be falling in some areas and other air pollutants are decreasing. However, in one region there is a slight trend to

- increasing levels of NOx. There was a correlation in this increase with changes in legislation around the import of SUVs and second-hand diesel vehicles;
3. Water Quality. Water quality in urban areas was the worst in New Zealand, with that in farming areas the next worst. Overfishing is an issue;
 4. Biodiversity – the perception that this is mostly about habitat being destroyed, when, in fact, it is more about managing pests and weeds.

What it all means

The importance of sustainably managing New Zealand's national resources not only spiritually but culturally. Justine noted that there are historic legacies reported in the Environment New Zealand 2007, e.g. contaminated land such as sheep dips etc for which we have yet to see good information or widespread management response.

Short-term priorities

- A review of the 2007 report will feed in to the 'blueprint' for the 2012 framework;
- A new Reporting Framework will include a schedule of indicator and variable updates (0 – 5 years);
- A data stocktake will be undertaken (at national level only) for indicators and variables;
- July/August: a pilot State of the Environment Reporting Forum will be hosted with the aim of sharing views and expertise. One topic for discussion could be the emerging trend towards reporting on the four pillars of sustainability (and for Local Government to report towards community outcomes and well-beings as part of the LTCCP process), rather than just environmental sustainability.

Comment: "Having participated in the State of the Environment evaluation group, this is an excellent report. I use it all the time and I believe that the criticism related to Chapter 13 comes from those people who haven't actually read it".

Comment: 'Land-use' is not covered in the 'pressures' chapter, yet it is mentioned in a separate 'land chapter' as in the area of land used by humans. Using the example that 33% of NZ land is in conservation, it should be considered that just because this land is owned by DoC it does not mean that it is not in use by humans e.g. for recreational purposes.

Response: Justine acknowledged this point but noted that this percentage would be still quite minimal in the overall bigger picture.

Comment: With regard to water quality improving, it was recalled that some years ago you could readily drink the water in our national parks, however, these days you would think twice about this but yet our water quality is considered to be improving.

Questions and Answers

Referring to the question as to whether better information can be given around decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, Justine noted that MfE are looking at the OECD set of de-coupling indicators currently and that while it is hard to get that data at the moment, it is hoped that there will be more information available on this for the 2012 report.

In response to the question around the planning of MfE led Industry Liaison meetings in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, Justine noted that there could certainly be an opportunity to expand those meetings to more locations in order to increase the debate needed.

In response to the question about why heritage was not reported on even though it is a matter of national importance Justine replied that Ministry of Culture and Heritage had responsibility for reporting on this issue at the national level, although there was certainly a lack of available information at the national-scale and some question as to what appropriate indicators might be. She said that was an area for further consideration by central government.

3. Community Outcomes Monitoring & Reporting (MARCO), Beat Huser, Environment Waikato (see <http://www.choosingfutures.co.nz/indicators/>)

Monitoring and Reporting on Community Outcomes, or MARCO, is a working group comprising corporate, strategic and community planners from Environment Waikato, Hamilton City Council, several district councils, the Waikato District Health Board and the Department of Labour.

Out of an inventory of indicators in excess of 200, the project team has compiled a core set of 75 community indicators, and are currently looking at where gaps exist and how these gaps can be filled, e.g., collecting missing data and making it accessible via the web.

An example of the MARCO indicator inventory as a searchable database web-based tool with options for downloading raw data, result tables, graphs, metadata, report cards etc was shown.

Questions and Answers

In response to a question on how the two groups are working together, Beat noted that, with more information becoming freely available, MARCO can now put more Stats NZ hyperlinks on its website. MARCO is also working with Stats New Zealand to put the local perspective into the work by taking a bottom up approach to deliver to the public.

Responding to a query around what types of indicators may be expected from DHBs or other local agencies, Beat confirmed that the indicators will be inclusive. Waikato District Health Board is an active member of the MARCO group. When MARCO expands on the 75 current core indicators it will expand in 2008/09 to prioritise additional indicators of common interest to local authorities across the Waikato.

Referring to the observation that there is a lack of Maori/iwi-based indicators, Beat added that these gaps have been identified and the next step is to work towards filling those gaps, for example by looking at both a narrative and scientific approach rather than just purely using quantitative data to evaluate progress towards (Maori/iwi-specific) Community Outcomes.

Afternoon Session – 1.10pm to 3.30 pm

Matauranga Māori - Knowledge, Information and Indicators

5. Planning under cooperate Mandates (PUCM), FRST Project Nathan Kennedy & Richard Jefferies

Mihi whakatau whakautu – Richard Jefferies

Introduction and Overview

Following an introduction and video clip featuring an interview with Arthur Black from a recent TV series on Māori Land Development, Nathan Kennedy noted that like Arthur Black, today's WINFO attendees comprise a gathering of experts with a wealth of knowledge and understanding. He added that Arthur's field is Matauranga Māori but yet it is unfortunate that for most of the attendees, that knowledge remains hidden and unshared. As a field, there has been little opportunity to conduct research and so we need to find a way to unlock that knowledge, not just for Māori but for others.

The title of today's presentation "Viewing the world through a wider lens" reflects the challenge is to find a way for Māori and Pakeha to share knowledge in terms of the way we live. Indigenous people can offer a lot to assist with sustainable development yet have been forced to work to western paradigms. Māori look at the world through a different lens. Matauranga Māori provides a unique perspective on the world and yet there is little written work in this field and what has been written is subject to interpretation. Unfortunately things often get lost in translation and the challenge for researchers is to lift the level of understanding and to develop

a methodology so that we can share the knowledge without fear of misuse or abuse or misunderstanding of what is being translated. For example, the word “kaitiaki” is not used now in the way it was originally meant to be used – the term has been changed or altered from its original intention. It goes without saying that intellectual property rights are the next steps to protect what is used once it is in written form.

Noting that in terms of the research work, when defining ‘Matauranga Māori ’ there is a fundamental link between person and space in that we, as a people, are bound to a particular place. This is an important paradigm in terms of identifying core indicators.

Planning under cooperate Mandates (PUCM), FRST Project

Planning under a Cooperative Mandate (PUCM) is a FRST funded research project which commenced in 1995 and which tracks the quality and effectiveness of statutory plans under the RMA from a Māori perspective. With a team of external reference groups, including an iwi reference group, as a check in balance for the work, the project team (comprising planners, Māori environmental practitioners, and academics from various organisations listed in the document), looked at the three phases of the project:

1. Phase 1 - the quality of RMA plans;
2. Phase 2 - plan implementation; and, over the last four years;
3. Phase 3 - the environmental outcomes resulting from plans and their implementation.

Each phase of the research has included consideration of Māori provisions. Now at phase three of the research, there are four main objectives:

1. Environmental outcomes from District Plans – the development of methodologies for plan effectiveness monitoring;
2. Assessing outcomes from Long-Term Council Community Planning under the LGA;
3. Evaluating environmental outcomes for Māori under both the RMA & LGA;
4. The development of a practice development programme with which to apply lessons learned.

The PUCM Objective Three research project has developed a theoretical framework that is based on kaupapa Māori. The structure adopted is as follows:
Kaupapa > Tikanga > Outcome > Multiple indices > Multiple Indicators > Multiple measures.

Nathan and Richard believe that these tools are currently “unique in terms of their potential to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of statutory plans, and also assessing the effectiveness of works and actions of councils, iwi, and other agencies in terms of environmental results”.

Over the next twelve months, the project team plan to work with other iwi and councils to evaluate the framework and trial several outcomes and indicators as well as finishing and publishing the work completed. Concluding the presentation, attendees were encouraged to read the presented document and make contact to discuss further.

Please see the attached document for a full overview of the PUCM project entitled “A Kaupapa Māori Outcomes and Indicators Framework - Planning Under a Cooperative Mandate (PUCM)”, by Richard Jefferies (Ngāti Tūkorehe) and Nathan Kennedy (Ngāti Whanaunga).

6. “Matauranga – Māori Knowledge, Information and Indicators”, Garth Harmsworth & Shaun Awatere, Landcare Research (Te Arawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Raukawa)

Garth Harmsworth began by explaining that his work over the past 25 years has focused on the need to bring together science and Matauranga Māori and build iwi capacity [examples included - Māori values for land use planning (1994-98); Māori community goals for enhancing ecosystem health (1998-2003)]. Relationship building and establishing that mana with people

and agencies has been fundamental to the work of the projects he has been involved in. He added that it is good to see that Beat's work is along the same lines and recognises the importance of these relationships.

Garth's exploration of the many definitions of Mātauranga Māori determines that history is intrinsic to Māori in terms of understanding the knowledge base and values (history going back more than 5,000 years). He added that it is good to see that we are now exploring what that knowledge is and agrees that there is certain urgency in doing so. Garth's experience is that this knowledge is an integral part of Māori life – everything from the knowledge itself to the systems for getting and reporting that knowledge.

One of the important aspects of Garth's research projects has been to realise that a lot of this knowledge is specific to individuals, places and groups so it can take a long time before you talk to the right person. It is also equally important to embrace the whole community, so that the knowledge is developed around the whole demographic e.g. getting the community involved in their own environmental monitoring, goal setting, selecting relevant indicators. Garth referred to the title of the previous presentation agreeing that in order to fully understand Mātauranga Māori one needs to realise that it is not a subset of western knowledge; it has its own ethics and cosmology and is not set in stone but evolves and is "invisible to those who live in it". It is vital to look at the world through a multi dimensional "wider lens" in order to understand that indigenous perspectives are constantly evolving process and should be considered in symmetry with western paradigms in order to truly see the 'big picture'.

Research into the community indicators has shown a trend towards the quantitative, however these measures are found to be insufficient in measuring Māori perspectives. Qualitative data is recommended to enhance the quantitative data however, this does come with a warning – once the knowledge system is separated from the people and saved there is little reason to pay much attention to the people themselves.

In conclusion, the tools from western science are excellent but what is equally important is that meaningful and concerted efforts to involve Māori are adopted right from the outset.

7. Tangata Whenua Indicators for the Hauraki Gulf Management Plan

Keir Volkerling,

Keir has worked with iwi natural resource management, principally with Ngatiwai, but also at national level.

Keir is a member of the Technical Officers Group (TOG) to the Hauraki Gulf Forum in support of the tangata whenua representative, Laly Haddon of Ngatiwai. The main objective of the Forum is to advise on the integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf. The TOG, including officers from the various councils and government departments, as well as tangata whenua TOs, has provided a valuable opportunity to address kaitiakitanga and matauranga in environmental management, and through this capacity has achieved much in its work. Keir's presentation was in the form of a discussion of integrating the subjects covered at today's meeting with his work experiences and research into and how to integrate Mātauranga Māori into environmental management, and leading to work developing tangata whenua indicators. He noted that the section two definition of environment, and section five (sustainability) of the RMA are a great help in progressing kaitiakitanga and matauranga Māori.

Keir discussed some of the issues around holistic sciences and the lack of effective tools. He clarified that the tools can be sought within traditional environmental knowledge, but there is a need to show how they can be used so as to mediate the reductionist approach. Partly as a result of his involvement in the HGF State of Environment Report, Keir asked the forum to look at an environmental indicators programme with the intent of addressing major environmental issues needing to be managed, for example, the possibility that effects of global warming may be detected early through application of Mātauranga Māori knowledge and values. The millennial assessment process was discussed – it provides a global state of environment

reporting; and one of the tools used is 'scenario building' – a potentially useful mechanism for determining how traditional knowledge may be applied to indicator development.

In summary, Keir noted that the importance of realising, when researching Mātauranga Māori, that if you try to 'colonise' it you may learn nothing; but if you see something, learn from it and use it appropriately, then you have gained something valuable. Another step when collating the data is to find the wisdom in it and learn from it. Another aspect is the complexity of the data received and how to match the tools to western paradigms which is essentially a two-way process to get people in different silos working together.

Closing

Beat thanked the speakers for their contribution to an informative forum and noted that 'viewing the world through a wider lens' was an important learning for everyone present and that the next step is learning to do just that and not just talk about it. Of other issues discussed, it was clear that there remains a gap in terms of resourcing for Maori Mātauranga research. Building the capacity to bridge the gap between a Maori perspective of the World and taking a western science approach will take time and patience. However the first step has been acknowledged in the form of today's gathering in that we recognize that we can learn from each other and Beat encouraged attendees to take that message back to their respective communities and organisations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15.25pm

He korero whakakapi and closing karakia – Carol Henry