



Principles for effectively co-governing natural resources

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Co-governance initiatives

Name	Type
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes	Joint council committee under Local Government Act 2002, confirmed by Treaty settlement legislation (2006)
Waikato River Authority	Independent statutory body, Treaty settlement (2010)
Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust	Charitable Trust (2012)
Te Waihora (Canterbury)	Voluntary co-governance agreement (2012)
Ngāti Whatua Orakei Reserves Board	Reserve Board, Treaty settlement (2012)
Ngā Poutiriao o Mauao (Tauranga)	Joint administration board, memorandum of understanding (2013)
Parakai Recreation Reserve Board	Reserve Board, Treaty settlement (2013)
Tūpuna Maunga Authority	Statutory entity, Treaty settlement (2014)



Five main principles

- build and maintain a shared understanding of what everyone is trying to achieve;
- build the structures, processes, and understanding about how people will work together;
- involve people who have the right experience and capacity;
- be accountable and transparent about performance, achievements, and challenges; and
- plan for financial sustainability and adapt as circumstances change.



Practical lessons

1. Develop good relationships.
2. Be prepared to work together, listen and learn from each other, and go the extra mile to understand each other's perspective and reach compromise where needed.
3. Work out a shared understanding of purpose and check understanding from time to time.
4. Agree how to work together, including deciding what form of governance will work best.
5. Take the time to plan and set up processes.



Practical lessons (cont'd)

6. Understand the extent of decision-making powers and clearly define roles and responsibilities.
7. Find people with the right experience and capacity, such as strong leadership skills, and governance or management experience, and who have the time to be involved.
8. Keep the public informed of progress and what is being achieved.
9. Provide assurance that finances are well managed.
10. Plan how the project can be sustained through its lifetime.