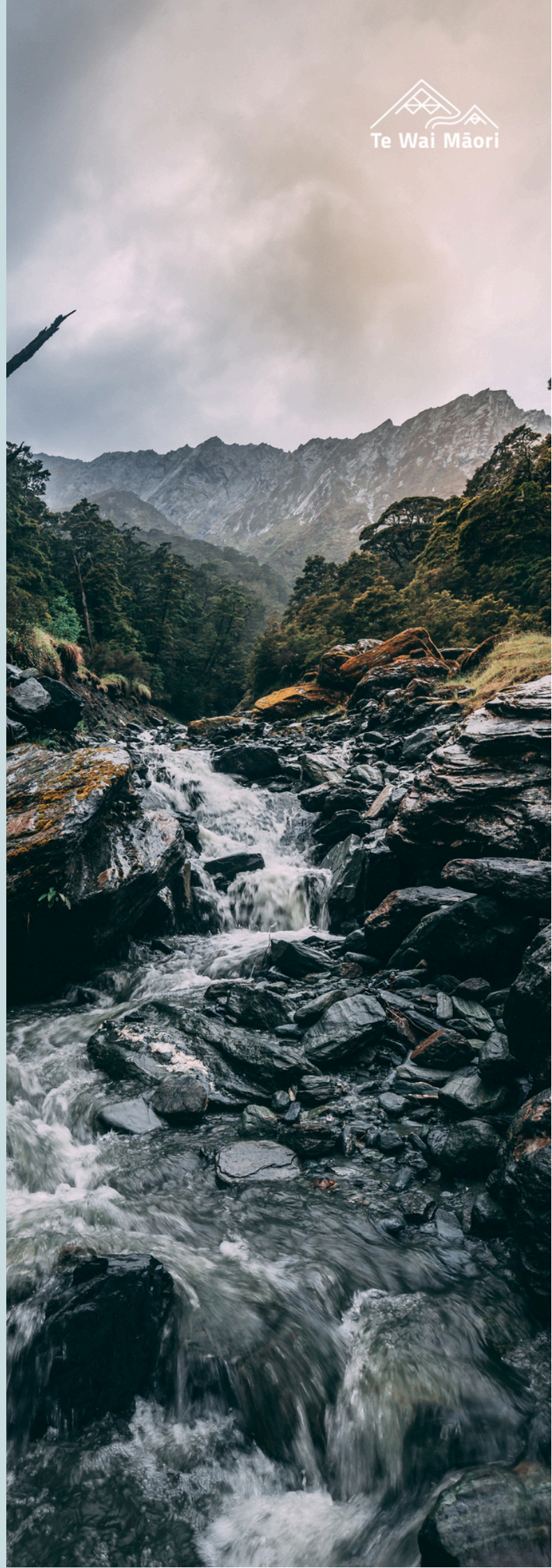


2023/24 Te Wai Māori Trust Q4 Report

HE REO TŌ TE WAI
HE REO TŌ TE TANGATA
KOTAHI TONU TE WHAKAPAPA
WHAKAKOTAHITIA!



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Karakia

Ko Rangi,
ko Papa,
ka puta ko Rongo,
ko Tane Mahuta,
ko Tangaroa,
ko Tumatauenga
ko Haumietiketike,
ko Tawhirimatea.

Tokona te Rangi ki runga,
Ko Papa ki raro.
Ka puta te ira tangata ki te whai ao, ki te ao
marama.

E Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga,
Kia Tina! Tina!
Hui e, Taiki e!

This is Te Wai Māori Trust's quarter four (Q4) report to iwi against the 2023/24 Annual Plan and covers the period 1 July to 30 September 2024.

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We are pleased to present to you our fourth quarter report of the 2023/24 financial year. There were a few key highlights from the quarter to share.

We recently promoted our Tiaki Wai Fund which is open year-round until allocated. It's the 'teina' to our Wai Ora Fund, offering grants of up to \$7,500. We're pleased to have awarded a grant to Te Kupenga Hōu Limited over this quarter and look forward to receiving further enquiries about Tiaki Wai.

It was also rewarding to meet with our tuna advisory roopu, Te Mana o ngā Tuna in September. We discussed the strategy and priorities that will inform our work on the Tuna Strategy and Action Plan.

Our work programme supports the strategic priorities and long-term outcomes detailed in the Trust's Annual Plan. These include:

- Enhancing the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat
- Enhancing the recognition and status of indigenous species
- Providing better opportunities for the participation of iwi and hapū in resource management decision making processes
- Promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding
- Increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū
- Supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the structure and content of our reporting.

Nāku noa, nā,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rawiri Faulkner'.

Rawiri Faulkner,
Chair Te Wai Māori Trust

Wai Māori around the motu





Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited

Kaimahi at Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited monitor taonga species, including kanakana, at the Mataura falls.

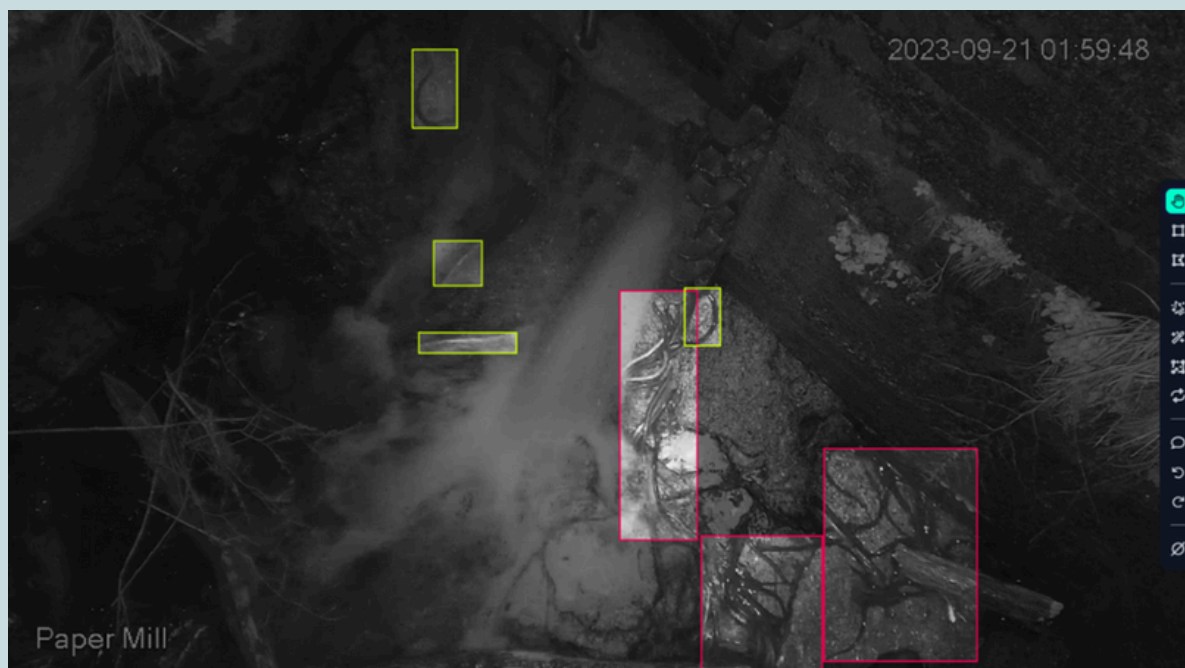
Serving as a site of cultural significance for local Māori due to traditional and contemporary food gathering practices, Mataura Falls or Te Au-Nui Pihapiha-Kanakana earns its customary name due to the mass volume of kanakana (Lamprey: *Geotria Australis*) known to have gathered there. Kaimahi at Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited monitor taonga species, including kanakana, at the Mataura falls using two cameras which ensure that health, safety and data quality are at the core of their processes. To assist in monitoring kanakana migration, Hokonui Rūnanga is developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool (Roboflow) that provides constant surveillance, allowing the gathering of robust data, reducing the need for staff to access the river (particularly in times of higher risk including hours of darkness), and aiding kaimahi in trapping and transferring kanakana above the Mataura weir.

Three models are currently being developed and are at various stages of functionality:

Night Vision Model: As kanakana are considered nocturnal, often remaining active until sunrise and reemerging during sunset, the night vision model is currently the most developed version with a total of 466 images in the dataset including augmentations. While this model is functioning well, there are some inconsistencies with identification which will require more footage from future kanakana runs.

Augmentations: Once uploaded to the AI programme, images are processed and augmented where possible to provide a dataset to train the AI model. Augmentations include changing the scale and rotating the image. This improves accuracy through pulling the model away from familiarity with the site and specific camera angles, allowing it to function across a wider range of environmental situations.

Daytime Model: The daytime model is still under development, however a dataset of 323 annotated images have been created, with augmentations yet to be applied. With a large dataset already developed, this model has great potential and will be able to detect kanakana at dawn and dusk when the cameras are not using night-vision.



Lamprey Reddening Syndrome (LRS) Detection Model: The third model is an experimental model to test if Roboflow is sensitive enough to detect signs of lamprey reddening syndrome (LRS) in kanakana. LRS is a disease of unknown aetiology marked by reddening of the body and is believed to eventually kill the fish. The exact mortality rate is not yet known. A model like this may be used to monitor the health of captive kanakana and provide insight into the progression of LRS.

Hokonui Rūnanga aim to utilise the knowledge and expertise gained from this project to offer training to other Māori entities to develop their own AI monitoring programmes. These programmes may be employed for a broader range of taonga species, including tuna, with the potential to expand the breadth of its capabilities beyond freshwater taonga species to monitoring native bird species.



Tuawhenua Trust

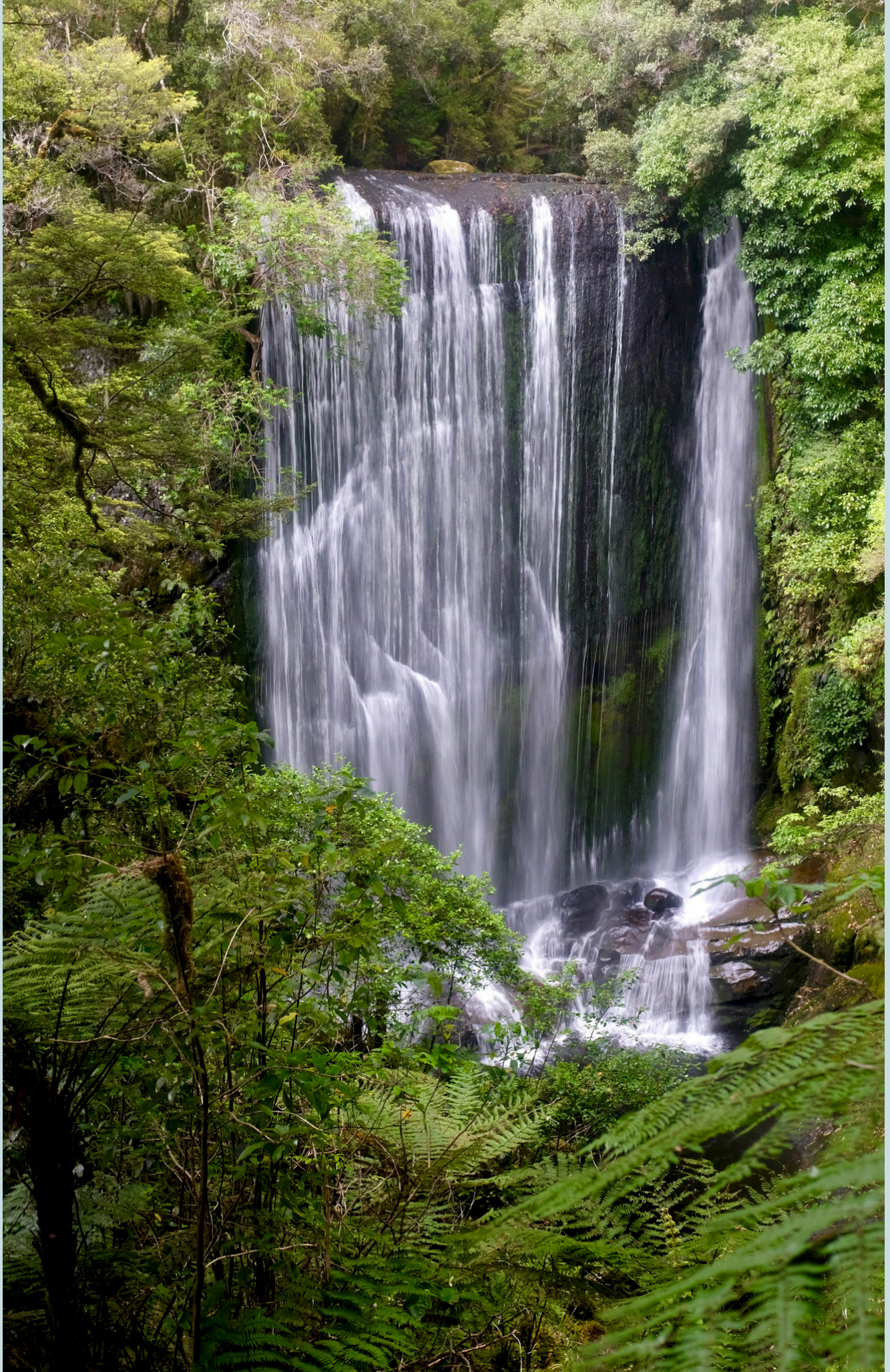
Tuawhenua Trust has conducted a number of interviews and wānanga with kaumātua and kuia on freshwater as part of a wider research programme on the forest and region of Tuawhenua, Te Urewera.

Thanks to dedicated hours by kaumātua, kuia, and kaimahi, and with funding from the Wai Ora funding programme, Tuawhenua Trust has conducted a number of interviews and wānanga with kaumātua and kuia on freshwater as part of a wider research programme on the forest and region of Tuawhenua, Te Urewera.

The impetus for the research programme extends beyond just sustaining species that live in te wai māori but also includes how te wai māori sustains life for Tuawhenua whānau & hapū, their lands and their forests - our economy and well-being. Understanding history and mātauranga relating to wai was identified as an essential first step to gain a profound understanding of traditional principles and practices.

Once the interviews are transcribed and translated, Tuawhenua Trust will have created a foundation for future research and knowledge transfer on te wai māori relevant to Tuawhenua people, awa and ngāhere. The mātauranga will inform other Tuawhenua programmes, particularly Te Whare o Rehua and Nga Whare Maire, which focus on passing on to younger generations traditional disciplines and practice in te taiao.





Performance against Annual Plan



Enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat

Fish Futures Working Group hui

The Fish Futures Working Group last met in Wakatū on 2 September 2024. The hui was hosted at the Cawthron Aquaculture Park and included a tour of the aquaculture facility. A key component of the hui was a workshopping session where rohe partners and roopu members identified their top three priorities for the remaining two years of the work programme. The priorities, work, and opportunities for collaboration, will be addressed in more detail in upcoming hui.



Enhance the recognition and status of indigenous species

Te Mana o Ngā Tuna

This quarter we met ā-tinana with Te Mana o Ngā Tuna in Auckland on 27 September 2024.

The purpose of the hui was to provide a re-set of the group's strategy and priorities that will inform the draft Tuna Strategy and Action Plan. The roopu has also set quarterly meetings for the next 12 months that include hīkoi to see tuna-led initiatives being undertaken by iwi and hapū within their respective rohe.



Provide better opportunities for the participation of Iwi and hapū in resource management decision-making processes as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat

Resource Management Reform

Staff continue to work with the Freshwater Iwi Advisory Group regarding the swathe of legislative changes underway. This included an ā-tinana hui at Te Wai Māori offices on 10 July 2024. Staff will be reviewing the Primary Production Committee and Environment Committee's Final Reports on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill and the Fast Track Approvals Bill once they are released.



Promote and share indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.

Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference

Preliminary planning continues for the next conference to be hosted by Maniapoto.



Support Iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

Wai Ora Fund

This quarter, the Trust closed the 2024 funding round on 17 July. The Trust received a greater number of applicants than previous years, totalling 56 applications. The Trust is working on entering into agreements with successful recipients. The Trust concluded funding agreements with Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited; Te Wai Mauri Charitable Trust; Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust; and Waikawa Lands Trust. The Trust continued to support projects from the 2023 funding round: Tuawhenua Trust; Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated; and Maungataniwha ki Rangaunu Trust.

The Trust continues to support one funding recipient from FY 21/22 to complete their project milestones - Te Ani Waata Whānau Trust.

Tiaki Wai Fund

This quarter, the Trust entered into an agreement with Te Kupenga Hōu Limited and continues to support Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust.



MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund

The Te Mātāpuna o te Wai fund has a pool of \$12.8 million to develop the capability and capacity of hapū and iwi in their aspirations for their freshwater taiao. Te Mātāpuna o te Wai offers a three-year investment through planning support for Te Mana o te Wai/Taiao System approaches and supporting the capacity of hapū and iwi by resourcing kaimahi (full time employees).

The management of funding agreements and deliverables under the Te Mātāpuna fund was the focus for the quarter (led by subcontractors Poipoia Limited).

Financial performance against plan

The following table summarises each area of work identified in the 2023/24 annual plan by presenting the forecasted year-end position and comparing actual to forecasted expenses for the year to date.

Te Wai Māori Finance Report to 30 September 2024

	YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL	FORECAST	VARIANCE	FORECAST	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Projects						
Responding to legislative reform and policy	2,309	2,132	(177)	2,132	2,500	(368)
Indigenous freshwater species	42,032	46,986	4,954	46,986	52,891	(5,905)
Targeted research	13,996	34,144	(20,148)	34,144	49,999	(15,855)
Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference	171,857	168,969	(2,888)	168,969	160,000	8,969
Supporting iwi and hapū through freshwater funding	320,684	335,151	(14,467)	335,151	323,951	11,200
MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund	5,205,597	709,526	(4,496,071)	709,526	672,000	37,526
Outreach and Relationship Building	-	20,000	(20,000)	20,000	20,000	-
Operations						
Governance	119,338	143,608	(24,270)	143,608	141,524	2,084
Operations	510,439	563,895	(53,456)	563,895	564,521	(626)
TOTAL	6,386,253	2,024,411	(4,361,842)	2,024,411	1,987,386	37,025

NB: the figures shown in the tables above have not been audited.

Comments on financial performance

- Te Wai Māori have incurred \$6.386m of costs in the 2024 financial period.
- The majority of spend has been for the MfE fund, including \$4.2m of grant payments that were mainly paid in the fourth quarter and \$925k of subcontractor costs.
- A comprehensive reforecast was performed at midyear / 31 March 2024, which has been adopted for reporting purposes.
- Operational and governance savings of \$78k were realised for the year. Mostly for administrative and vacancies earlier in the year.
- Excluding MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund, project costs were \$57k underspent against forecast, mostly in Outreach and Relationship Building as well as Targeted Research.
- MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund delivered significant grant payments in the second half of 2024. These were not reflected in the mid-year forecast due to contracts not being in-place at the time however the full schedule of contracts has been incorporated into budget 2025.



Photo credit: Department of Conservation