#### About the project's tohu (symbol)



The tohu is based on a traditional kohua (bailer) used in a waka and, in the context of this project, it symbolises the need to enhance our wellbeing by keeping our biodiversity afloat and to sustain it into the future.

We all have a role in doing this as kaitiaki (guardians) but especially our rangatahi (young people) as the future generation.

Our thanks to Ora Kihi for developing the logo and for gifting this taonga (treasure) to the project.

Please visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/Source2Sea to find out more about the symbolism in the design.





S Te Resto

Source to the Sea Te Puna o Waihou ki Tikapa te Moana

Restoring nature, connecting communities

A pilot project in the Waihou catchment will provide a "how to guide" for indigenous biodiversity restoration, that will be a catalyst for local economic and social opportunities.



waikatoregion.govt.nz/Source2Sea Waikato Regional Council Freephone 0800 800 401



waikatoregion.govt.nz/Source2Se Waikato Regional Council Freephone 0800 800 401



#### **Biodiversity loss in our region**

In our region, loss of our forests and drainage of wetlands has reduced the extent of habitats by 75 percent, and 223 species of native plants and animals are threatened with extinction.

This rate of loss began to occur following the first arrival of humans in New Zealand, but accelerated between the 1840s and 1970s. We are continuing to suffer incremental losses of our native flora, fauna and ecosystems today.

# Why indigenous biodiversity is important

The natural environment provides us with a range of benefits – including food, water, materials, flood defences and carbon sequestration – and biodiversity underpins most, if not all, of them.

For local Māori and marae, this biodiversity decline is significantly impacting the availability of traditional species for a variety of uses. This erodes cultural practices that hapū need to maintain their traditions and health.

Moving down the Waihou catchment, the water quality and associated aquatic biodiversity become wai mate (degraded) without its mauri (life principle), making it difficult for waterways to function in a healthy way.

The good news is that it is possible to stop this degradation and to help restore our region's biodiversity. Doing so will enhance the native plants and animals that only live here, as well as enhance our economy, social and cultural wellbeing.





#### What we're doing

A pilot project in the Waihou catchment will test a new way of working co-operatively with mana whenua (initially focused at Hinerangitawhiki Marae), and landowners and land managers.

To ensure the project's outcomes become 'business as usual', we'll also be working with local councils, iwi, landowners and other key stakeholders.

Improved coordination of the many people and organisations who have a role in biodiversity management is an important part of the pilot.

Ultimately this project will provide a "how to guide" for territorial authorities on how to successfully work with their local communities to develop and undertake actions which help to protect and reinstate indigenous biodiversity while also providing a catalyst to diversify local economic and social opportunities.

This project is due to end in June 2016. It will be used to inform a three year programme of local indigenous biodiversity strategies across the region.



## Why we're doing it

This photo shows fingers of forest extending from the Kaimai Range. Through this project, and the work of our region's communities, we want to extend these fingers so they reconnect with other existing patches of native forest and along waterways.

In this catchment, planting of native plants along waterways provides the best opportunity for reconnecting native forest fragments, which will weave across the landscape to create a series of green fingers.



### **Biodiversity champions**

We know there's already a lot of great work going on to protect and improve biodiversity. We want to share these stories and support these "eco-champions". By sharing their stories, we also hope to provide other people with learnings to make it easier for them to do this work themselves.