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New Zealand
National Commission

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

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He kōrero nā te Heamana |

Message from the Chair

As our borders reopened in 2022, we were able to reconnect with global colleagues and partners and build on the mahi we have undertaken during the pandemic-influenced past two years, where many relationships were sustained and built from afar.

Being able to participate in both national and international events this year, has seen us amplify our impact and influence across our work, particularly in our priority areas. Being able to meet face-to-face with colleagues at UNESCO HQ in Paris, has been a key component to this.

Our clear direction and purpose, and well-defined priority areas, have enabled us to deepen relationships within Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific and beyond.

Among the international connections we have built this year, is our relationship with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO who we have worked alongside to promote the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages. We were delighted to be able to share the recorded words of the countries two Governor-Generals (two inspirational indigenous wahine) on the importance of the Decade, and to join forces in Paris by presenting to other National Commissions our shared approach to implementing the Decade. We look forward to continuing this relationship with our Canadian colleagues throughout the terms of the Decade.

We have undertaken mutually beneficial mahi with our Pacific neighbours, in particular in our work promoting the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and in amplifying youth voice through our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders and young leaders within the Pacific community.

A strong focus for 2022 has been consolidating our oversight of Aotearoa New Zealand's work programme for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and beginning to shape our approach for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032). We are taking every opportunity to build strong interconnections between the work streams of the two Decades; promoting approaches that involve multidisciplinary, intergenerational ways where mātauranga Māori is central. This approach was clearly visible in the contributions of our Cultural Commissioner and Special Advisor Youth at the December High-Level Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages in Paris.

The UNESCO programmes in Aotearoa New Zealand continue to deepen connections domestically and internationally on the work of UNESCO. A highlight in 2022 was the progression made towards Aotearoa New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. With the borders reopening we were able to finally welcome UNESCO Geopark assessors to our country to review Waitaki Whitestone Geopark's application to become a UNESCO Global Geopark. In September this year, the UNESCO Global Geopark Council announced that Waitaki's application had been accepted, pending a final decision from the Executive Board of UNESCO, which is expected in May 2023. So, Aotearoa New Zealand looks set to have its first UNESCO Global Geopark in 2023. We also officially launched our fourth UNESCO Creative City, Whanganui City of Design, in November.

The reopening of the borders has also meant we have been able to support numerous New Zealanders to share their knowledge and expertise overseas, as well as to bring back knowledge from their overseas counterparts, to help inform our work here. One great example of this is UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Aimee Clark's attendance of the UN Ocean Conference Lisbon, Portugal. During her time at the Conference, she had the opportunity to speak on a panel with ten other young people addressing the UN Secretary General and the President of Portugal where she shared some of the solutions we were working on in Aotearoa, in this space. She was also able to learn from many other inspirational speakers and bring this knowledge and new connections back to Aotearoa.

Similar knowledge gathering and growing of ideas took place when representatives from our Creative Cities met up with their counterparts in Australia and when we supported Waitaki Geopark's to attend the 2022 Asia Pacific Geoparks conference. These in person meetings have been invaluable.

This is my last message as Chair having served for six years. It has been a privilege to be part of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO team and I am immensely proud of our collective achievements. We are a small team who are deeply committed to the goals of UNESCO and wanting New Zealanders to influence global thinking and action as well as benefiting from our membership of this organisation.

I have been lucky to work with such an informed and connected team - members of the Secretariat and Commissioners - and I am very confident that they will continue to do great work on behalf of Aotearoa New Zealand in the future.

ROBYN BAKER ONZM





Te Pae Tawhiti | Vision

**Toitū te māramatanga,
Toitū te ora,
Toitū te whenua**

Our vision speaks to the notion of a connected world underpinned with knowledges, our responsibility for kaitiakitanga and ensuring a sustainable future, and the enduring permanence of our land.

Te Pae Tata | Mission

Kia renarena te taura here i Ngāi Aotearoa me ngā whānau o UNESCO huri i te ao, mā te tiri whakaaro me te waihanga raukaha, e toitū ai, e ora ai, e taurikura ai tō tātou anamata haere ake nei.

Deepening connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

Te Mana Whakahaere | Mandate

The National Commission ensures the permanent presence of UNESCO in New Zealand. As a country founded on the Treaty of Waitangi and as a foundation member of UNESCO the Commission represents and promotes New Zealand's interests while contributing to the development of UNESCO strategic priorities and programmes. The National Commission contributes to the building of peace, equitable and sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue, paying particular attention to the needs and interests of the Pacific region.

Ngā Tino Tutukinga 2022 |

2022 Highlights

New Logo celebrates Aotearoa and UNESCO relationship

We were delighted to be able to launch a new logo which included a unique Aotearoa element designed by two leading designers from Whanganui UNESCO City of Design, Cecelia Kumeroa and Andres Salinas.

With UNESCO Paris updating the logo, we took the opportunity to add a new element to our logo which showcases the special contribution that we make to the UNESCO whānau, as well as the contribution that UNESCO makes to Aotearoa New Zealand.

As Whanganui had just been announced as a UNESCO City of Design, it made very good sense to approach a Whanganui designer to develop this uniquely Aotearoa New Zealand logo.

The design is derived from the kowhaiwhai design referred to as 'Māui'.



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**New Zealand
National Commission**

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

<https://unesco.org.nz/>



Global Geopark — one step closer to first NZ UNESCO Global Geopark

2022 saw Waitaki Whitestone aspiring Geopark take a number of large strides towards becoming New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark following a visit from UNESCO assessors and the recommendation from the UNESCO Global Geopark Council to accept their application. The next step is for the Executive Board of UNESCO to endorse the recommendation which is expected in May 2023.

Building Pacific Connections

Open borders enabled us to further grow relations with our Pacific neighbours, including funding two young Pacific Leaders to attend Festival for the Future in Wellington, and present on the Decade of Ocean Science, alongside our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders. We continued this approach when we supported a number of Pacific-based Ocean Science organisations to present their work on a global scale at the UN Ocean Decade Virtual Laboratories, in March and April, as well as working alongside Pacific Community Centre of Ocean Science (PCCOS) to support a number of Pacific researchers to present on the Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa and the Pacific stream, developed by us, at the NZMSS/NZFSS Conference.



Promoting the Decade of Indigenous Languages

2022 marks the beginning of the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32), which recognises the importance of revitalising and promoting indigenous languages and linguistic diversity around the world.

As one of our priority areas, we placed this Decade at the heart of our work. We teamed up with the Canadian National Commission and produced videos featuring the countries indigenous Governors-General giving their support to the Decade.

Our Culture Commissioner and Special Advisor Youth travelled to Paris to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the Decade's official launch in December, led by Minister Jackson and colleagues from Te Taura Whiri and Te Mātāwai.



Growing our Youth Voice

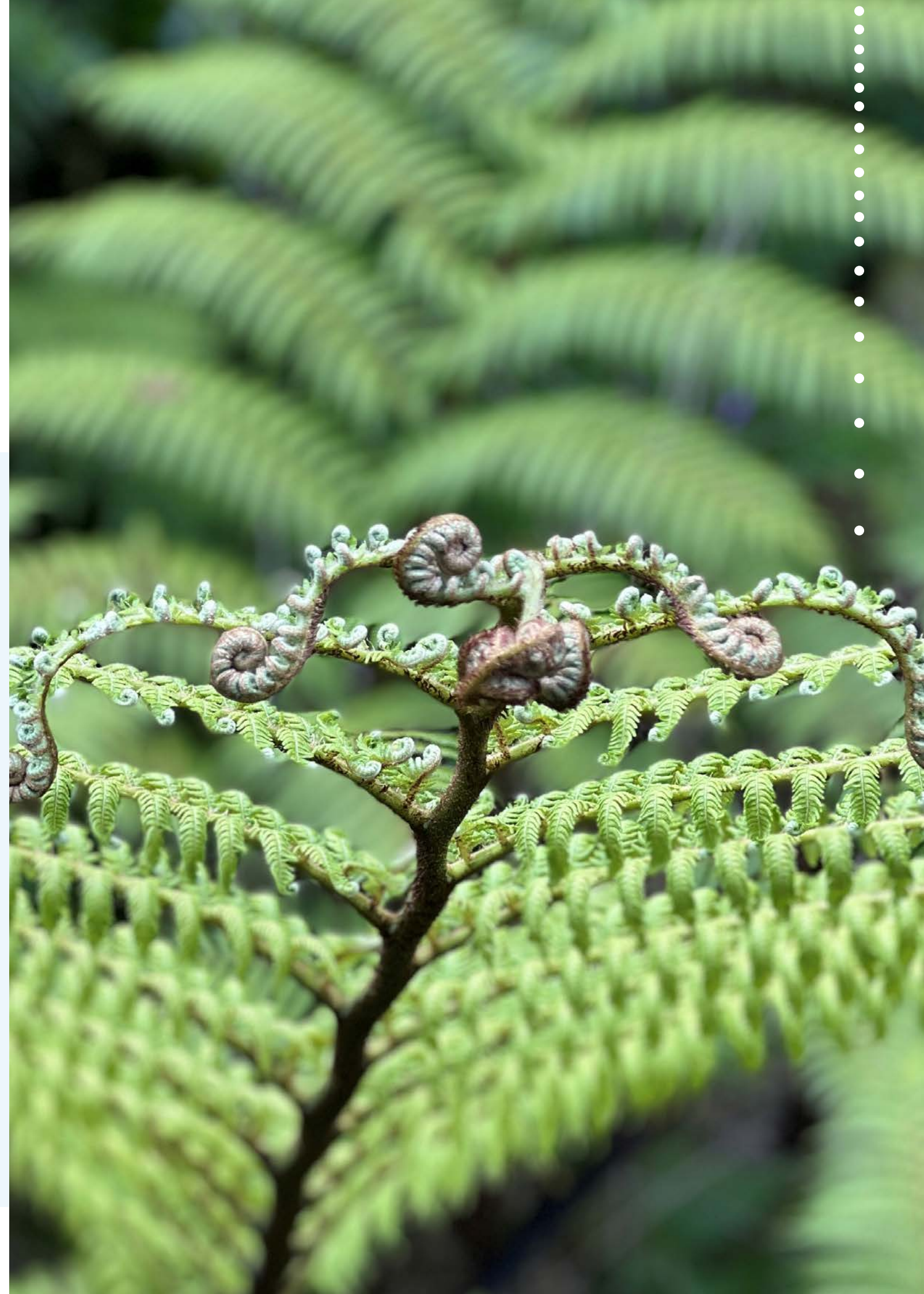
Six new youth leaders joined our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader whānau in 2022.

2022 was a busy and productive year for our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders who brought their individual and collective knowledge to all aspects of the National Commissions work. This began in January when they represented the Commission at Holocaust Remembrance Day celebrations across the motu, through to taking a leadership role at events such as Festival for the Future and Diplosphere Conferences and representing Aotearoa New Zealand at a range of national and international events, including the Paris launch of the Decade of Indigenous Languages.



Aotearoa and the Pacific Showcased at Virtual Ocean Labs

We supported Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific participation and engagement with the Virtual Ocean Laboratories: A Healthy & Resilient Ocean Laboratory (March 22) and a Safe Ocean Laboratory (April 22). Our work included developing and presenting (in conjunction with NIWA/University of Auckland) a panel discussion 'Catch of the Day'. We also supported a number of other New Zealand and Pacific satellite activities and gained valuable insight into a range of topics through our virtual participation in numerous other global Lab activities.



Decade of Indigenous Languages

High-Level Celebrations

Aotearoa representatives at the High-Level Celebration of UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages in Paris.



The High-Level Celebration of the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032) took place in Paris on the 13th of December 2022. It brought 700 participants comprising of indigenous and political leaders together to reflect on the critical situation of indigenous languages and foster greater international cooperation during the Decade.

Our Culture Commissioner Dr Dan Hikuroa and Special Advisor Youth Ethan Jerome-Leota travelled to Paris as part of a wider Aotearoa New Zealand delegation led by Minister of Māori Development, Hon Willie Jackson. The delegation also included Chair of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori and Pacific Representative on the UNIDIL Global Taskforce, Professor Rawinia Higgins, as well as Te Mātāwai Co-Chairs Bernie O'Donnell and Reikura Kahi.

The Minister spoke alongside other global political leaders about the journey of te reo Māori in Aotearoa and the work of the Maihi Karauna through Te Taura Whiri and Maihi Māori through Te Mātāwai to increase New Zealanders' use of te reo and the number of fluent speakers. He also talked about the connections between language, identity and hauora for Māori and people of the Pacific.

Dan Hikuroa and Ethan Jerome-Leota spoke at a roundtable on indigenous languages, culture and knowledge for climate action and environmental sustainability. Dan spoke of the links between indigenous languages, the work of the Languages and in particular, its importance for the UN Decade of Ocean Science. Ethan highlighted how Māori knowledge and traditional ways of being is being recognised as law in New Zealand and how important language is in his work as an UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader and for his iwi.

A landmark occasion, the launch was about bringing new hope and commitment, both of which are necessary for the preservation, revitalisation and promotion of indigenous languages.

The event gave participants a platform to tell their stories, share best practices, and voice their commitments to indigenous issues and global linguistic rights. Further, it constituted fertile grounds on which to foster lasting relationships and build familiarity and trust between the various stakeholders in this Decade, including Indigenous Peoples' organisations, UN system entities, and members of the private sector.

We invite every partner to continue working towards the implementation of the Global Action Plan in order to ensure a decade of action for indigenous languages and their users.

The National Commission wish to especially acknowledge Nigel Crawhall (Chief, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Section), Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg (Advisor for Communication and Information) and Jaco Du Toit (Chief of the Universal Access to Information Section at the Communication and Information Sector) at the UNESCO Headquarters for the invitation and arrangements for the Aotearoa New Zealand delegation.

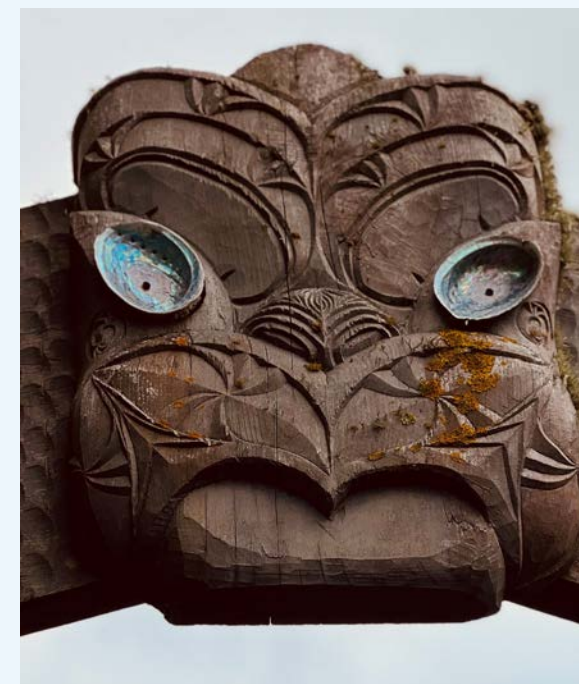


Our Priorities

We target our work to deepen connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future through targeting five thematic areas.

Our priorities include the four following areas, as well as our UNESCO programmes (see [page 20](#))

Ngā Mātauranga me ngā Reo Taketake | Indigenous Knowledge and Language



Our work in this area is underpinned by an understanding that indigenous knowledges, languages and practises including mātauranga Māori are a taonga and should be valued. We recognise the importance of te reo Māori for Aotearoa New Zealand and the shared whakapapa and links through language to the people of the Pacific.

The Decade of Indigenous Languages Kicks Off in Aotearoa



We worked together with the Office of the New Zealand Governor-General and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO on releasing video messages supporting the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Dame Cindy Kiro (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu) and her Canadian counterpart Mary Simon (Inuk), highlighted the importance of te reo Māori and indigenous languages in Canada, and the commitment to revitalise these. We launched these videos on Matariki and on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders also filmed a video about the importance of the Decade to them, which can be viewed on our website.

<https://unesco.org.nz/priorities/indigenous-knowledge-and-the-un-decade-of-indigenous-languages>

Representing Aotearoa at the Decade's Official Launch in Paris



Our Culture Commissioner and our Special Advisor Youth attended the official launch of the Decade of Indigenous Languages, which took place in Paris in December 2022. See [page 12](#) to learn more about their contribution to and experiences of the launch.

Te Manawhiri Whakaputa Kōrero Tūtika | Freedom of Responsible Expression

The Freedom of Responsible Expression priority area is driven by a vision of enhancing an appreciation of diversity and an increased understanding of human rights to support a more inclusive society for all. In 2022, we supported a variety of activity grants within this priority area.

Diplosphere and the first Māori youth foreign policy conference

We supported the first Māori youth foreign policy conference organised by Diplosphere with a major funding grant. This unique event was attended by a number of our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders, Commissioners and members of the Secretariat.

The Conference explored the whakapapa, trade and political links that have long existed between Māori and the Asia Pacific region, and what the future holds. Iwi, business, academic, and youth leaders stimulated public discussion on current affairs including the pandemic response, conflict, climate change, the rise of Asia, the role of rangatahi and manawhenua and the international system.

Our Special Advisor Youth played an integral part in the organisation of this conference, and also presented alongside two of our Commissioners.



Race Unity Speech Awards



Communications and Information Commissioner Vanisa Dhiru and UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Adrianna Bird attended the 2022 Race Unity Awards Ceremony and Hui, which took place in Auckland in June. The calibre of speeches continued to impress, resulting in the first ever joint first place being given out.

UNESCO Paris Commission Papers from New Zealand Academic

UNESCO Paris commissioned New Zealand academic Dr Lida Ayoubi (AUT) to write two papers focusing on access to information laws and access for people with disabilities, which are featured on the Communications Sector of the UNESCO website, as well as on the knowledge hub section of the National Commission website.

Ko ngā Moana hei Oranga mō Papatūānuku me ōna Uri | Oceans for the Wellbeing of People and the Planet



In this priority area we support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which enables us to celebrate, nurture and value our oceans, and contribute to improving our ocean's health and thereby the wellbeing of people and the planet.

UN Ocean Decade Virtual Lab Series



We amplified New Zealand contributions to the UN Ocean Decade Virtual Laboratory Series. New Zealand based researchers and scientists contributed to webinars spanning topics such as: the scientific and local community response to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption; tsunami monitoring in the Southwest Pacific; mātauranga Māori framing of the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge; and the Moana research project based in Coromandel.

In collaboration with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), we developed a webinar called 'Catch of the Day' which brought together different aspects of the marine sector (academic, industry, science and youth) to discuss new approaches to sustainable fisheries management and the role of consumers in supporting this approach. As part of this we developed a new international data set on fish stocks and consumer behaviour.

Te Tini A Tangaroa Website Incorporates Māori design that reflects the kaupapa of the Decade



Our Ocean Science Decade website, www.tetiniatangaroa.org.nz was further enhanced in 2022 when we added the winning designs from our design competition to the site. The competition was won by James Edwards (Ngāti Porou, Tuhoe), a graduate from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington's School of Design who uses his winning design to communicate issues of importance for the oceans such as the impacts of climate change. James' design drew on whakairo designs that depict our oceanic tradition. The design has also featured on other Oceans Decade collateral in 2022, including on a new set of promotional banners.

UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader speaks at UN Ocean Conference in Portugal



Aimee Clark (UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader and member of the New Zealand National Oceans Decade Committee) was selected for the Global Youth Innovation Forum and as part of an intergenerational panel discussion at the Oceans Decade Forum. She was also a non-official member of the New Zealand delegation led by Minister Parker in his capacity as Minister for the Oceans. Learn more about Aimee's conference experience on [page 42](#).

Waiti Waita Conference



In partnership with the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) we developed and sponsored the *UN Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa and the Pacific* stream at the NZ Marine and Freshwater Science Societies' Waiti Waita Conference in Auckland in November.

The endorsed Decade Activity session was lively and well-attended with visiting Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) researchers from the University of the South Pacific and the University of Queensland adding invaluable insights on ocean and freshwater work in the Pacific. These included a diversity of topics such as microplastics level monitoring, regulatory failures in protecting environmental and community interests in mining licensing and supply chain value impacts based on the study of the local lobster industry.

Prior to the conference, our Senior Advisor together with two UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders, hosted the Pacific researchers in collaboration with the Marine Education & Recreation Centre (MERC). The programme included the Moana Mission sailing activity, and a Sevusevu (kava ceremony) led by the researchers as a beautiful tribute to honour the land they had come to. A visit to the innovative eco-hub Kaipātiki Project was also a highlight with a tour of the native plant nursery, the local reserve and streams and after dinner a night walk to see the glow worms.



**Te Whakamana Hapori
e Toitū ai te Anamata |
Empowering Communities
for Sustainable Futures**

This priority area builds on our initial insights gained under Global Citizenship Education mahi. We have an important role as a catalyst for New Zealanders to engage in intergenerational lifelong learning and to be innovative and responsible global citizens, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment was the driving force behind the decision to fund and/or participate in the following initiatives.

Transforming Education Summit

We supported Ellen Dixon from the Global Student Forum (GSF) and the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), to attend the UN Transforming Education Summit (TES) at the 77th UN General Assembly in September in New York.

The motivation for the TES was to convene an international discussion about transforming education for the rapidly changing future. While there are many complications on the journey to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 for quality education, the TES has provided a multilateral forum for collective action and commitment to improving future education.

Ellen noted that "The TES was an incredible experience, full of inspirational thoughts, hopes and dreams for truly intergenerational commitment to education. The Youth Declaration spells a new period in youth-based policy-work which Member States look like they will acknowledge and possibly integrate in several ways."

2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education



UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader, Adriana Bird attended the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) in person in Adelaide in September. Three other youth leaders attended the conference remotely.

Adriana was able to directly connect with delegates from around the world and listen to countless academics, historians, story tellers and changemakers dedicating their minds to the indigenous education movement.

Held on the lands of the Kurna nation, the original people of the Adelaide plains, WIPCE brought together indigenous representatives from across the globe to share successes and strategies for culturally grounded education; addressing the fundamental challenge of reconciling their own culturally transmitted learning within western systems of formal education.

Our Programmes

We support Aotearoa New Zealand's engagement in several UNESCO programmes. We provide oversight and support for these and ensure they are implemented in ways that align with UNESCO values.

Tāone Auaha | Creative Cities

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is made up of almost 300 cities around the world driven by an aim to support an international dialogue on cities that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable. The international network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music. The National Commission is proud to work with New Zealand's four Creative Cities.

Auckland UNESCO City of Music:



After two years of being heavily affected by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, 2022 was a year that Auckland City of Music was able to support in person events in the city that promote sustainability and creativity through music. Auckland's top three highlights for the year are below:

EQ Hui



Auckland staged a half-day hui and networking event to celebrate their EQ music video grant recipients, as well as create an ongoing network of female musicians and film makers. The project ideation is a result of UCCN inter-city collaboration and works towards Sustainable Development Goal #5 (Gender Equality).

Music In Venues

Through partnership with Auckland Council, Auckland City of Music were able to provide 25 \$5000 music grants for music events. As a condition of the grant, a minimum fee was to be directed to the grassroots music venues thereby providing a lifeline to premises that were affected by the pandemic.

Best Global Music City

Auckland topped off 2022 by winning the award for Best Global Music City at the 3rd Annual Music Cities Awards. The awards were held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Music Cities Awards is a global competition designed to acknowledge and reward the most outstanding applications of music for economic, social, environmental and cultural development in cities and places all around the world.



For more on events, project and news, go to:

www.aucklandcityofmusic.nz

Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature

2002 was a year of growing local connections and international collaborations for Dunedin City of Literature. Some of Dunedin's top highlights for the year include:

Community Connections

Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature South D Poet Lorikeet, Jenny Powell delivered a series of workshops to new entrants' classes across South Dunedin. Oral language, reading and writing were interwoven creating a magical experience for the children and producing a 'Teddy Poem' added to the excitement. All poems written by the children were curated into a book for every child to keep as a memento of the workshop.

Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature collaborated with the Retail Quarter Project team on its major upgrade of George Street, 'Totally Georgeous'. The design provides people-friendly spaces with new paving, street furniture, lighting, and public art with the goal of bringing more vibrancy to the central city. The celebration of Ōtepoti's literary mana is an integral and special part of the design. At each stage of the development, poems and excerpts from Dunedin writers are being etched into the bespoke pavers, so that locals and visitors can walk to the literary beat.

Among the poems George Street is proudly displaying:

*your seagulls glide up and down George Street
looking to greet all they happen to meet.*
David Eggleton, 2010

Imagination is a form of courage.
Janet Frame, 1988

*And the City seemed the same lovely woman I
used to know grown somewhat more ample more
assured with new baubles on display.*
Hone Tuwhare, 1993



International Collaborations

On World Environment Day, 5 June, Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature released The Heat is On: Young Writers on the Climate Crisis, a digital anthology of creative writing about the climate crisis facing our planet. Showcasing writers under 20 years of age from across the Cities of Literature Network, the anthology presents many thought-provoking submissions in first languages and in English.

Beautifully produced and enhanced by original artworks, collage and photography, The Heat is On was an opportunity for young people around the globe to highlight the perils facing the planet. Fifteen Cities of Literature around the globe joined together to create this special volume.

In a special collaboration between Dunedin and Lviv UNESCO Cities of Literature and OAR FM Dunedin, Bogdana Brynlynsk and Anna Khriakova share honest dialogue about the impact of the war from a city that is home to some 174 libraries and where literature is a significant part of the fabric of the community. Hearing about Ukrainian history, culture and passion for independence, and how continued support from UNESCO Literature Network enables some work to continue, was deeply moving for listeners. Lviv is the largest city in western Ukraine and referred to as 'the place of the unbreakable poet'.



<https://hail.to/dunedin-unesco-city-of-literature/publication/Pl6orjw/>



Wellington UNESCO City of Film:

2022 saw Wellington City of Film provide Wellingtonians with numerous cultural opportunities, with a particular focus on diversity, youth and tapping into Aotearoa's unique indigenous identity.

Diverse voices: Diverse voices an event celebrating the work of six emerging Wellington filmmakers took place in May.

Each film maker was awarded a \$3000 grant towards their work by Wellington UNESCO City of Film, at the event. Their work spans an Indian whaler's diaspora story, the impact of the dawn raids on a Porirua family, and a video game featuring the undervalued domestic lives of Turkish grandmothers.

The project is part of Wellington UNESCO City of Film's strategy to work together with partners, developing programmes and opportunities that inspire the filmmakers and screen creatives of tomorrow. Diverse voices is intended to become an annual event to help develop a growing cohort of local filmmakers and screen creatives.

Māoriland Film Festival: Wellington City of Film supported the Māoriland Film Festival through the addition of a free bus taking Wellingtonians to and from the Ōtaki based Festival. They also supported secondary school students to attend the festival, inspiring the next generation of film makers.

Wellington UNESCO City of Film also supported several other Film Festivals in 2022 including the Wairarapa Film Festival and the South Wellington Intermediate Film Festival.

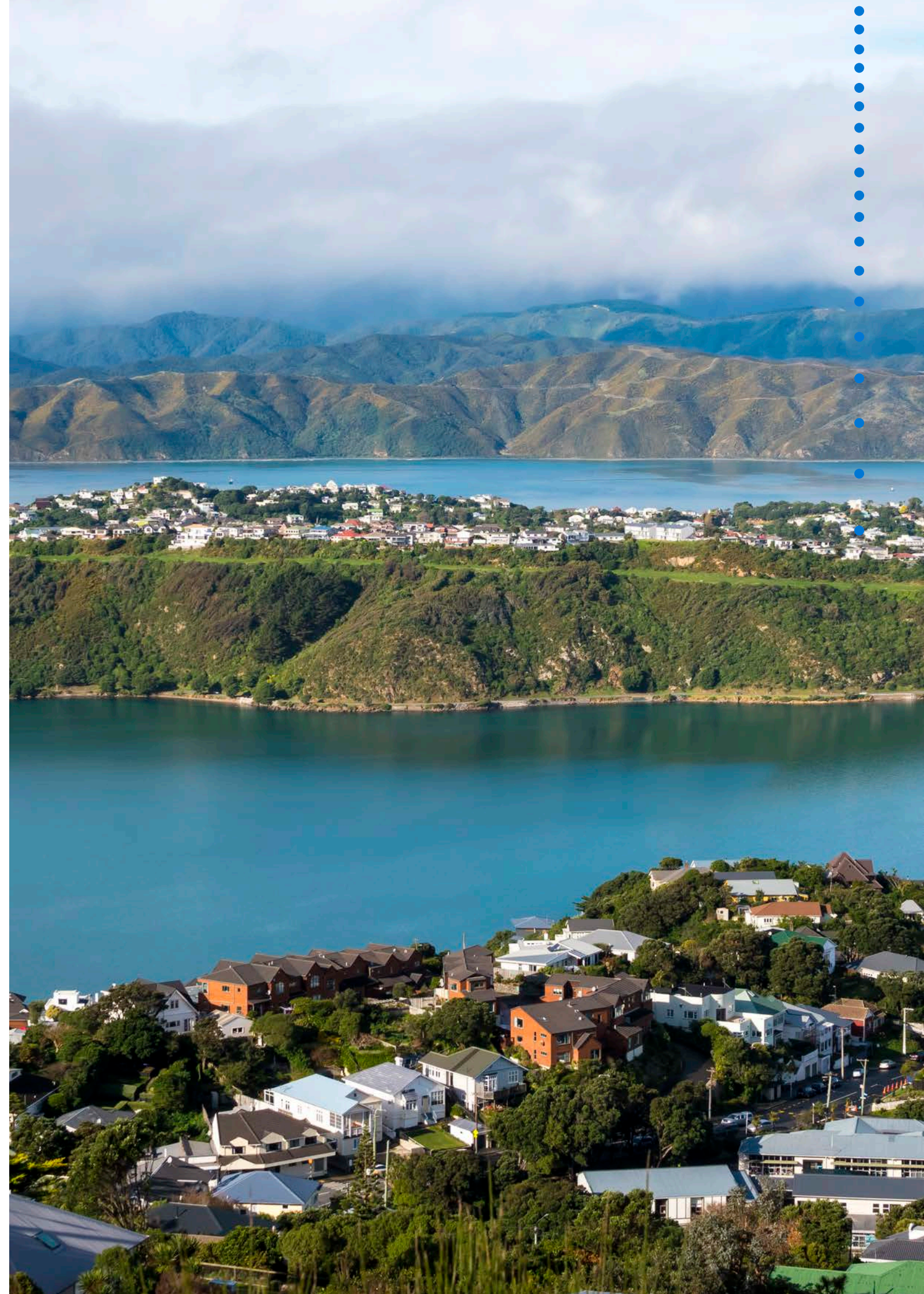


Raids: In July, Wellington UNESCO City of Film was pleased to partner with Te Herenga Waka and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to host a screening of the short film RAIDS alongside a Siva Afi dance performance by a Samoan Dance Group.

The film was made locally with strong support from the Porirua community, where it was filmed. Wellington City of Film recognises the importance of amplifying and providing a platform for diverse voices, particularly those of indigenous peoples during the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Find out more about the filmmakers motivation and the community where it was filmed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWNouXWHkyU>



Whanganui UNESCO City of Design

November saw Aotearoa’s newest UNESCO Creative City, Whanganui Creative City of Design hold its official launch. The launch included speeches from Minister Carmel Sepuloni, Mayor Andrew Tripe and National Commission Chair Robyn Baker. The launch highlighted the role that Whanganui’s cityscape, heritage buildings, modern architecture and Māori design elements played in its successful application as a UNESCO City of Design.



The launch also celebrated some great initiatives that had taken place in Whanganui’s first year as a UNESCO Creative City, including:

Italian Student Visit: In August Ngā Tangata Tiaki and Whanganui & Partners hosted a delegation of 10 Italian students from the UNESCO Associated Schools network as part of an international education programme. They came to Whanganui after experiencing the Te Awa Tupua exhibition at the New Zealand Pavilion at World Expo 2020 in Dubai. The students travelled from five Italian regions each representing and speaking on behalf of their own rivers with their aim to be a face and voice of nature and to create a dialogue between their respective rivers in Italy and the Whanganui River. While in Whanganui they spent time on, and learning about, the river, as well as participating in a problem-solving ‘hackathon’ with student representatives from Whanganui secondary schools.

The Whanganui Mūmū Exhibition: The Whanganui Mūmū / Whanganui by Design exhibition took place at the Whanganui Regional Museum in December.



Whanganui Mūmū / Whanganui by Design is a key activity for the Museum in its celebration of Whanganui’s UNESCO City of Design designation. It tells the stories behind key designs and objects in the region, both Māori and non-Māori, from the 18th century onwards. The exhibition includes carving, tukutuku, fashion, architecture and furniture design, jewellery, graphic design and historical imagery and so forth, all drawn from the Museum’s collections. It contributed to the education of school children and visitors about this rich legacy of design, as well as contemporary practice.

Masters students face Dragons in City of Design think-tank: In July, Masters business students from around the country turned their thinking to how Whanganui could leverage off its status as the country’s only UNESCO Creative City of Design. They faced panels of judges in a Dragons’ Den-style challenge with ideas on how the city could apply its new status to raise its profile and benefit local designers, business and industry, education providers and the community. An annual festival of design, a sustainability rebrand for the city and setting up as a haven for start-up enterprise were among the ideas from 69 students of Massey University’s Executive Master in Business Administration.

Australia/New Zealand Creative Cities Hui

Melbourne City of Literature and Geelong City of Design co-hosted the first ever Australasian UNESCO Creative Cities Network hui in September. The occasion was born from Melbourne’s hosting of their Literature subnetwork (42 cities in attendance, including Dunedin), which inspired a wider gathering of the Australasian network which now numbers 11 cities from Aotearoa and Australia representing six of the seven creative fields: Auckland, Adelaide (Music), Ballarat (Craft & Folk Art), Bendigo (Gastronomy), Dunedin (Literature), Geelong (Design), Launceston (Gastronomy), Sydney (Film), Melbourne (Literature), Wellington (Film) and Whanganui (Design).

The hui provided a chance to connect or reacquaint with colleagues for the first time since the pandemic. Each city shared overviews of their work, projects initiated and ideas on future collaborations. The groundwork was laid for many future meetings where the member cities have pledged to work together in a spirit of collegiality and cooperation.



UNESCO Chairs Programme

UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Livelihoods



In 2022 UNESCO and Massey University formally approved the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Livelihoods.

Chair, Professor Stuart Carr from the School of Psychology, believes that the Chair on Sustainable Livelihoods, like all UNESCO Chairs, is about friendship, human relationships, and working together to make a contribution to meeting humanitarian goals like the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly those promoting social inclusion.

UNESCO Chair Global 30th anniversary

The UNESCO Chairs programme celebrated its 30th anniversary with a conference entitled transforming knowledge for just and sustainable futures, in October. While our newest Aotearoa New Zealand Chair attended virtually, their presence was felt through a special video promoting the Chair and project GLOW. Across more than 30 countries, GLOW asks: Is there a global living wage that enables people, organisations and communities to prosper and thrive? GLOW determines this living wage by depicting human experiences along the spectrum of wage and wellbeing.

Ngā Puna Mahara o te Ao | Memory of the World



Three new inscriptions were added to the New Zealand Memory of the World Register in 2022, bringing the total number of inscriptions to 49.

"The inscriptions added to the Register span two centuries and many documentary heritage formats," says Jane Wild, Chair of the Memory of the World Aotearoa New Zealand Trust. "These three inscriptions from four institutions include unique taonga comprising archives, letters, photographs and film."

A special event was held at the National Library in December to officially honour the new inscriptions.

The new inscriptions are:

This is New Zealand, nominated by Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga

A unique, technically sophisticated portrayal of our national identity. Produced to showcase New Zealand at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, *This is New Zealand* is one of the National Film Unit's crowning achievements, showcases its creativity and is a joyous summation of who we were as a nation in 1970. The film was structured around two major aspects: The Land and The People. Filming was undertaken by three different crews over six months in 1968-69, with the idea to cover impressions of all the four seasons.

This is New Zealand proved to be an astonishing success to an overseas audience and, later, an opportunity for New Zealand audiences to enjoy an affirming, visually delightful and uplifting portrait of Aotearoa.



<https://unescomow.nz/inscription/this-is-new-zealand>

Clendon Papers, jointly nominated by Heritage New Zealand Nga Pouhere Taonga and Auckland Libraries Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau

The papers include personal, business and official correspondence and papers, letterbooks, registers, journals, memoir, ephemera, photographs and inscribed books. Some material is in te reo Māori, including letters, land leases and a manuscript copy of the Treaty of Waitangi in Māori.

From the 1830s to the 1850s they show the importance of family and financial links with England, Australia, and the United States for the early traders. The development of government in New Zealand is seen through James Reddy Clendon's sale of land at Okiato, his part in the Northern War and his lifelong administrative roles. Thereafter the papers reflect the changing bi-lingual, bi-racial society of the Hokianga through the Clendon family's correspondence, business and leisure affairs and their administrative roles in government.



<https://unescomow.nz/inscription/clendon-papers>

The letters of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, nominated by the Sisters of Compassion Nga Whaea Tapu Pūaroa

Suzanne Aubert, intelligent and observant, was a prolific letter writer. Through her letters, she reached out to others, offering encouragement, support and friendship, advocating on their behalf and expressing appreciation and friendship.

Her letters convey much of the social and political context in Aotearoa New Zealand from the mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth century, covering war and settler influx with their traumatic consequences for Māori, and a developing country still lacking social welfare provisions.

About 825 letters written by Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert have been gathered and preserved in the Sisters of Compassion archives. Suzanne Aubert copied most of her letters in case of loss, in a few instances a draft is all that remains. Much of her writing was in French, especially in the earlier period. Since her death, people to whom she wrote letters in her old age have generously donated original documents or copies.



<https://unescomow.nz/inscription/the-letters-of-meri-hohepa-suzanne-aubert>



Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark nears reality

Taiao Ahurei Huriao | Global Geoparks

2022 has been a massive year in Waitaki
Whitestone Geopark's quest to become Aotearoa
New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark.

The Visit



With borders finally open a long-awaited trip from UNESCO Global Geopark assessors Nikolaos Zouros (from Greece) and Anchel Belmonte (from Spain) took place in July.

Their three-day evaluation started with an official welcome from mana whenua at the Moeraki marae, followed by the delegation (including representatives of the National Commission) visiting Moeraki Boulders, Palmerston, Devil's Bridge Wetland, Takiroa Rock Art and the Kurow Museum. The assessors also took a helicopter flight to provide an aerial perspective to the geography of Lake Ohau, the Ahuriri Valley and the Clay Cliffs.

They rounded out their assessment by visiting Anatini, Elephant Rocks, Duntroon, and Vanished World, where they observed a geo-educator take a programme with Duntroon School pupils. Their final stop was Oamaru with a visit to the Waitaki Museum & Archive.

During their time Dr Zouros and Dr Belmonte said they were looking at much more than just the geological heritage of the area - community education, sustainable development and conservation efforts were also very important.

"A Geopark should have geological heritage — this means sites which can be used in order to tell the history of our planet," Dr Zouros said.

"But the question is not if the heritage exists ... the question is, how much we understand the value of this heritage, and how we treat this heritage, how we use this heritage in order to improve the living conditions of the communities living in the place, and ... [how] the community will take care of this heritage and will safeguard the heritage for the generations to come."

The Outcome



During the annual UNESCO Global Geoparks Council meeting in September, the Council members assessed and considered nine new applications for UNESCO Global Geopark accreditation. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council proposed to forward the nomination of seven new UNESCO Global Geoparks to the Executive Board of UNESCO, for its endorsement during the 2023 Spring (European) session with Waitaki Whitestone Geopark being one of the cohort.

That decision meant Waitaki had taken its most significant step towards becoming Aotearoa New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark.

"This is a massive achievement and the result of years of hard work," says National Commission Chair Robyn Baker.

"Designated UNESCO Global Geoparks are known to bring in increased visitor numbers, both domestically and internationally. These visitors want to experience the natural environment through an educational and sustainable lens, which is a great way to value and share the unique attributes of the Waitaki region and Aotearoa New Zealand."

What does it mean to be a UNESCO Global Geopark?

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

The Global Geopark Network aims to enhance the value of geoparks while at the same time creating employment and promoting regional economic development.

UNESCO Global Geoparks offer opportunities to:

- raise awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society
- give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with their community
- stimulate the creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high-quality training courses as new sources of revenue are generated through sustainable geotourism
- protect geological features of the area.

Members of the Network are entitled to use the registered 'UNESCO Global Geopark' brand as a mark of quality. Members benefit from the use of common promotional tools and have a forum for finding new partners for international cooperation, exchange of experience and for funding.

APN geopark conference

Every two years one of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) hosts a symposium to share and exchange information, experience and knowledge among UNESCO Global Geoparks and professionals in the Asia Pacific Region.

This year's symposium was held in the Satun UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand in September with the theme "UNESCO Global Geoparks Building Sustainable Communities". It was the first in-person symposium since the pandemic.

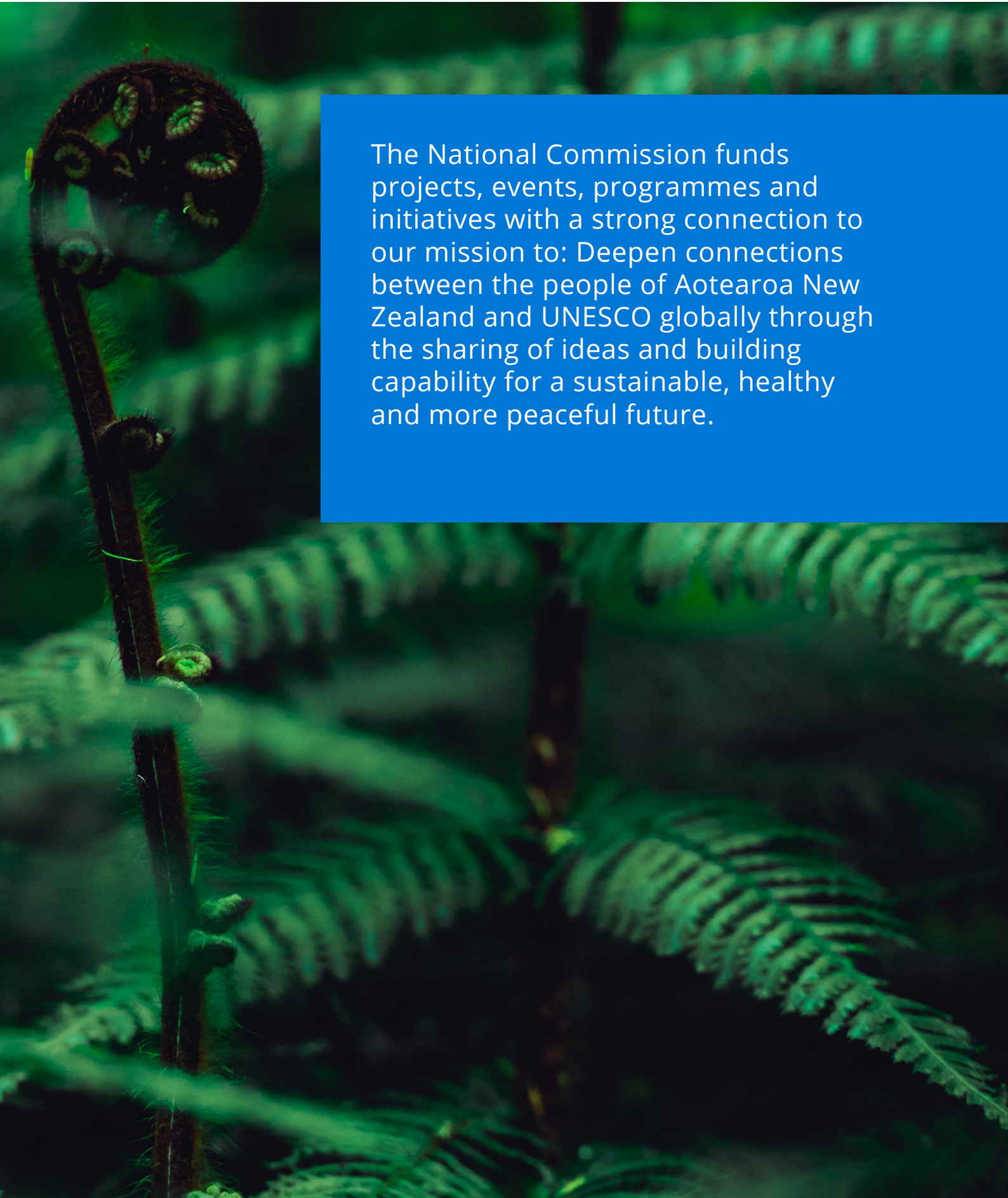
We were pleased to provide an activity grant to support Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark manager Lisa Heinz (pictured with GGN president Nickolas Zourous) to attend the symposium. The conference included an exhibition of Geoparks, an excursion to some local Geosites and a range of presentations.

"It was an extremely inspiring and rewarding experience and we all learned a lot! The head is buzzing with ideas and opportunities. It was lovely to finally meet so many of our colleagues in the Asia Pacific Network and beyond," said Lisa.



Ngā kaupapa i tautokona e mātou |

Projects we Supported



The National Commission funds projects, events, programmes and initiatives with a strong connection to our mission to: Deepen connections between the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

Special Projects

In 2022 the National Commission awarded special project grants to three projects that will help shape a more sustainable future here in Aotearoa, in the Pacific and globally. Each project promotes ideas sharing and knowledge building in an area aligned to our strategic priorities and programmes, including oceans, indigenous knowledge and youth leadership.

Organisation: Polynesian Panthers

Project: This grant supported the production of a documentary which shows that what we saw come together in 2021 with the Dawn Raids apology was “not a 2021 thing, it was a 50-year thing.” Filmed and produced by Benji Timu, and with project support by Josiah Tualamali’i this documentary picked up the threads of the 2021 Dawn Raids apology and looked forward.

It provided an opportunity for audiences to gain an understanding of who the Trustees of the Polynesian Panther Party Legacy Trust are and the ways they have sustained the kaupapa. The documentary reflected on how movements are started and maintained, including alongside Tangata Whenua one of the very unique threads of the story of the Polynesian Panthers.

Organisation: NZ Marine and Freshwater Sciences Societies’ Waiti Waita Conference



Project: In partnership with the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) we developed and sponsored the UN Decade of Ocean Science in Aotearoa and the Pacific stream at the NZ Marine and Freshwater Science Societies’ Waiti Waita Conference in Auckland in November.

Major Grants 2021 outcomes

In 2021 three major grants were issued to projects planned for 2022.



Organisation: Ngāti Kuri Trust Board

Project: ‘Give our ocean a voice’

Summary: In March ‘Give our ocean a voice’ brought young people to Ngāti Kuri’s ancestral lands to visit special sites in their rohe to share their spiritual, cultural, and environmental connection to these sites. Knowledge exchange sessions were held, including a symposium with young marine scientists, young people who are leading ocean action projects, indigenous leaders and knowledge holders, tarai waka practitioners and navigators.



Organisation: The University of Auckland
(UNESCO Chair on Dance and Social Inclusion)

Project: ‘The Dancing Ocean’

Summary: The Dancing Ocean project brought together four institutions, in four different locations in the Pacific, to collectively explore and share indigenous pedagogical approaches to dance, within an 18-minute dance documentary film. Facilitated through the UNESCO Chair in Dance and Social Inclusion, this project established an equitable partnership between Vou (Nadi, Fiji), the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (Port Moresby, PNG), National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association - NAISDA (Darkinjung land, Australia) and Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland Ngā Akoranga Kanikani Dance Studies Programme Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. Their collaborative work on the film established a platform for knowledge-sharing and is contributing to the critical review and development of new educational outcomes, curriculum and pedagogies in ways that respond to the needs of indigenous students and their future professional contributions to, in and with their communities.



Organisation: Diplosphere

Project: ‘Navigating a Stormy World: Te Ao Māori Perspectives’

Summary: Diplosphere’s Conference “Navigating a Stormy World: Te Ao Māori Perspectives” was held in July in Wellington. The conference saw Iwi, business, academic, and youth leaders contribute their views on current affairs such as the pandemic response, diversity and inclusion, conflict, climate change and geo-political changes. The keynote address was delivered by Minister Mahuta with Culture Commissioner Dr Dan Hikuroa, Communications and Information Commissioner Vanisa Dhiru and Special Advisor Youth Ethan Jerome-Leota, also presenting. Education Commissioner Professor Carol Mutch and Social Sciences Commissioner Professor Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop were also present.



Activity Fund Grants

In 2021/22 the National Commission supported 18 initiatives across Aotearoa through our activity grants fund. Each was aligned to our mission and strategic priorities, and all provided opportunities for New Zealanders to engage with UNESCO’s work. Here are some of the initiatives we supported:



Verb Readers and Writers Festival - Toi Te Kupu: Toi Te Kupu brought together a wide range of talented and inspiring poets at Te Papa in Wellington for an evening of poems reflecting on contemporary Aotearoa. The event promoted cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, reflected through the poets, their kupu, and the audience in attendance. Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature also supported the event which featured a number of Dunedin poets, reflecting on language, culture and identity.



Whanganui Jazz Day: International Jazz Day uses the living tradition of jazz music to initiate conversations about how we can contribute to making the world a better place for all. Whanganui is the first place in the world to officially celebrate International Jazz Day. Whanganui celebrated with a number of workshops as well as a concert that brought together some of New Zealand’s best jazz musicians, with young aspiring jazz musicians in a concert that celebrated the connection between jazz and education and culture.



Blue Cradle World Ocean Day: On World Ocean Day we supported Blue Cradle Foundation’s two-day World Ocean Day Commemorations which took place in Christchurch. The main event was a Panel Discussion aimed at students, professionals and the general public, featuring experts and leaders in the marine science and ocean stewardship space, including our Education Commissioner.

From climate change impacts to ocean finance, indigenous knowledge, ocean literacy education, conservation, regeneration, and the Blue Economy, the evening explored how to grow awareness and revitalization for our oceans.

Holocaust Remembrance Day: Our Secretary General, and a number of our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders attended events across Aotearoa New Zealand honouring UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our Secretary General spoke on behalf of the Commission at an event held at Parliament to mark the day.

“The day enabled us to reflect on our history and to honour Holocaust victims, the survivors and their families. The day serves as a reminder that we must continuously research and educate people so that the Holocaust can never be repeated,” said UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Shahin Najak.



Manukura Mātātahi |

UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders

With the opening of borders and lessening of restrictions our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders were once again able to participate in face-to-face national and international activities, sharing their skills and knowledge at a number of local events and programmes, as well as contributing to a number of global initiatives.



Festival for the Future

Our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders were the face and voice of the National Commission at Festival for the Future, held in Wellington in August.

During the three-day event our Youth Leaders engaged with participants about the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages through our marketplace stall and a workshop 'Te Au o Te Moana - the Voice of the Ocean' which was co-designed with the Pacific Youth Council.

The workshop focused on investigating the intersection between oceans, language and identity and included a breakout-session on how youth can further contribute to the Decades.

The National Commission also supported two young community leaders from the Pacific (Karalaini Basaga and Fredrica Nagan) to participate in the Festival and speak at the workshop, alongside our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders.

Diplosphere

Diplosphere's Navigating a Stormy World: Te Ao Māori Perspectives conference, which was held in Wellington in July, provided plenty of thought-provoking takeaways for our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders.

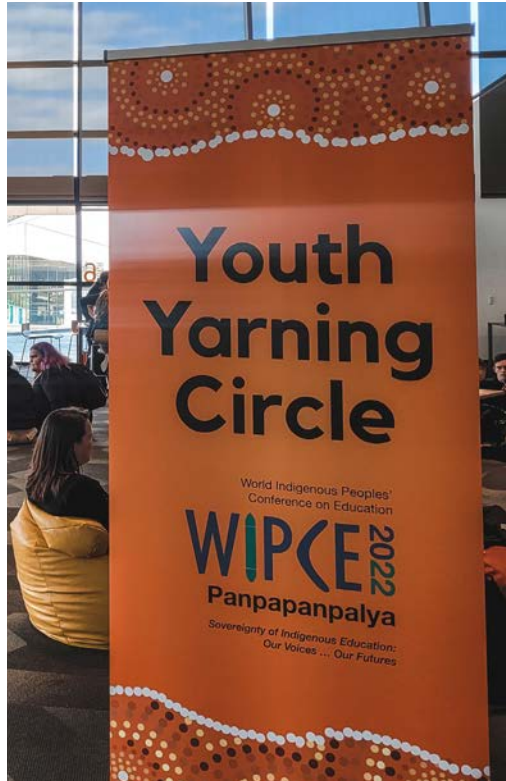


Sabrina Manu, Deputy Chair, UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders sums up her Diplosphere experience in two words - Refreshed and Grounded.

Refreshed - to be in the presence of such mana-enhancing speakers, attendees, groups and communities. To have conversations led by Māori, presenting diverse perspectives rooted in mutual Te Ao Māori values. To be in a safe space that allowed those present to challenge with grace and be challenged respectfully. This feeling could also be a response mechanism to the lack of authentically Māori-led spaces being resourced for our communities, and a desire for more similar events moving forward.

Grounded - by the wealth of indigenous knowledge and expertise shared, including that of our UNESCO New Zealand Secretary General, Vicki Soanes, and our 2022 UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Chair, Ethan Jerome-Leota. Through the reminder of our ranging collective responsibilities as kaitiaki, iwi, hapū or diaspora, from protecting the whenua, to actively practicing Te Ao Māori values and aligning our actions with mātauranga Māori. Grounded in the hopes and dreams of our tupuna.





World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education

In September UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Adriana Bird attended the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE), held on the lands of the Kurna nation, the original people of the Adelaide plains.

WIPCE brought together indigenous representatives from across the globe to share successes and strategies for culturally grounded education, addressing the fundamental challenge of reconciling their own culturally transmitted learning within western systems of formal education.

"The biggest challenge I found from the WIPCE conference was being spoilt for choice. Each day the programme consisted of two plenary sessions and five workshop sessions in which up to 16 workshops ran concurrently, followed by multiple different performances in the evening. It was overwhelming to say the least but puts into perspective the scale of this event and the scale of the global movement."

UN Ocean Conference and Youth Forum

In June, UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader and National Decade Committee member, Aimee Clark, attended the UN Ocean Conference and the Youth & Innovation Forum in Lisbon, Portugal.

The overall aim for the Forum was featuring youth-led solutions to address the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on Life Below Water targets and building connections between young people to drive change.

Aimee also spoke on a panel with ten other young people addressing the UN Secretary General and the President of Portugal about some of the solutions they were working on and the importance of intersectionality in dealing with ocean issues.

"Overall, the best part of attending the Forum was connecting with the other amazing young people that were also involved. Attending events like this where there is so much youth energy for change and action is inspirational, and I know that the relationships I have built will be very impactful in the future."

Highlights for Aimee during the main conference were discussions around deep sea mining and the Ocean Decade Forum where she participated in a panel focusing on the interactions between the UN Ocean Decade and the Decade of Indigenous Languages.



"It was a privilege to represent the National Commission and National Decade Committee on this panel and to bring the importance of indigenous knowledge to the forefront of these discussions."



Promoting the Decade of Indigenous Languages

Together with Commissioner Professor Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop some of our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders were filmed for a video expressing the importance of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to them, and their thoughts on why the Decade should be embraced by everyone.

View the video here:

<https://youtu.be/E-XwVw2U0z4>



Constitutional Kōrero

In November, UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders Kauri Tearaura, Lotima Vaoleti, and Raiyan Azmi attended the Constitutional Kōrero. The conference provided a very insightful experience.

"It was interesting to see the variety of perspectives through the different speakers from around the world, namely the Pacific Islands perspective on constitutional law, and the way in which entrenchment and bill of rights operate in their constitutional frameworks. My highlights also included the 'Visions for Māori Constitutionalisms' which featured Supreme Court Justice Joe Williams. While the experience could have been heightened had there been opportunities for roundtable discussions, the experience was well worth it to listen and learn from experienced legal academics." said Raiyan.

Farewell and Thank You

As 2022 came to an end, so did the tenure of two of our youth leaders: Chair, Ethan Jerome-Leota and Raiyan Azmi. It has been an honour to work alongside these outstanding young people over the past two years. Each youth leader has brought a unique and valuable perspective to the table, which in turn has strengthened our work at the Commission and our impact across the motu and internationally.



Ethan

The National Commission sincerely thanks outgoing Chair, Ethan Jerome-Leota who joined us in 2020, spending a year as Youth Leader, Deputy Chair, before stepping up into the role of Chair and Special Advisor Youth, in 2022.

“A previous youth chair shared that “you get what you put into this role as a youth leader” and I couldn’t agree more. I’ve learnt so much, met some amazing people and been given opportunities of a life-time. For me personally, it’s been an honour to lead a passionate, diverse and hard-working group of youth leaders who are always willing to contribute and humble in their approach to our mahi as youth leaders.

“Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi - As an old net withers another is remade”

Among Ethan’s highlights from his time as a UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader are:

- Presenting on behalf of the National Commission and co-designing with Diplosphere (one of our major grant recipients) a one-day conference held in Te Whanganui-a-Tara which discussed a Te Ao Māori perspective on foreign affairs issues.
- Festival for the Future - an annual event for youth leaders to regroup, whakawhaanaunga and be ambassadors on behalf of the National Commission. This year the youth leaders had the privilege of hosting Karalaini Basaga and Fredrica Nagan from the Pacific Youth Council at Festival. “This was an opportunity for us to co-present an interactive workshop about both UN Decades and strengthen our relationship between both youth groups”.
- Travelling overseas to Canberra Australia to attend the Blue Talks event and in December to Paris, France for the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages high-level launch event. On both trips Ethan participated in panel discussions highlighting the National Commission’s contribution to both UN Decades.



Raiyan:

“Being an Aotearoa Youth Leader has been an immensely rewarding responsibility and line of work. The ability to provide input, perspective, representation, and advocacy for myself and my community is a tough feat, but one that all youth leaders are greatly supported in being able to not only support the mahi within our communities, but also within the NZ National Commission for UNESCO. The past two years as a youth leader have broadened my perspectives, supported my personal development, diversified my networks, and made some great friends along the way.

My highlights within the role have been twofold. Primarily, being able to provide policy input on the priorities that influence the UNESCO NZ work programmes where meaningful change can be implemented to truly speak to the work being supported by a plethora of organisations and communities alike. Furthermore, the ability to network with fellow youth and industry professionals at events such as Festival for the Future, TUANZ, and Diplosphere; the opportunity to connect on a personal level with the leaders of such work is an unbeatable highlight of my time with the NZ National Commission for UNESCO.”



Ngā piringa huriao |

International Connections:

Bringing Aotearoa to the world and the world to Aotearoa

After two years of connecting mainly through virtual platforms, once again being able to meet face-to-face with international colleagues and partners has been a reminder of how useful in-person meetings are for building a shared view on key issues, as well as promoting our, and other relevant work taking place in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Working with our Colleagues in Paris



In May our Chair and Secretary General travelled to Paris to meet with high level UNESCO officials. They were accompanied in these meetings by New Zealand's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Nikki Reid, and her deputy Isabelle Barrientos. Of particular significance were meetings held with the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) teams. These meetings reflected on common values and goals, recognising that the complex work we need to do requires deep expertise and interdisciplinary and intergenerational teams.

The discussions with the IOC focused on the Decade of Ocean Science, particularly activities within the Pacific and increased opportunities for the National Commission to work with the Pacific Community Centre of Ocean Science (PCCOS) in the Pacific Community (SPC) who are the designated regional hub for the Decade. We also had a positive meeting with the UNESCO team responsible for youth programmes and the team responsible for National Commissions who recognised the contribution of our work and leadership in the Pacific region.



Formal meeting of National Commissions: In October the Secretary General attended the formal meeting of National Commissions held in Paris. Together with the Canadian National Commission we shared our approach to recognising and promoting the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Our presentation was very well received, particularly in relation to the work our youth leaders do and how we see the work of the two Decades (Indigenous Languages and Ocean Science) intrinsically linked around identity, knowledge and culture. The visit also provided further opportunities to engage with key partners in the Communications Sector and Natural Sciences Sector ahead of the official launch of the Decade.

Working with our Pacific Neighbours



The NZ National Commission for UNESCO enjoyed collaborations with our Pacific neighbours on a range of UN Decade of Ocean Science related projects throughout 2022. Multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships are essential pillars during the Decade to overcome the challenges our oceans are facing and to find solutions for sustainable development.

The Virtual Laboratory Series continued into 2022 and featured a contribution from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) around the science projects proposed in the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030.

Throughout 2022 we met regularly on virtual calls with the Pacific Community (SPC). Most recently the National Commission collaborated with the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) on the pre-programme for the NZ Marine and Freshwater Sciences Societies Waiti, Waita Conference. Five postgraduate Pacific researchers from the University of the South Pacific visited Auckland and were hosted by the Sir Blake Marine Education & Recreation Centre. They enjoyed water and land-based activities during the weekend-long programme prior to attending and presenting their research at the conference.

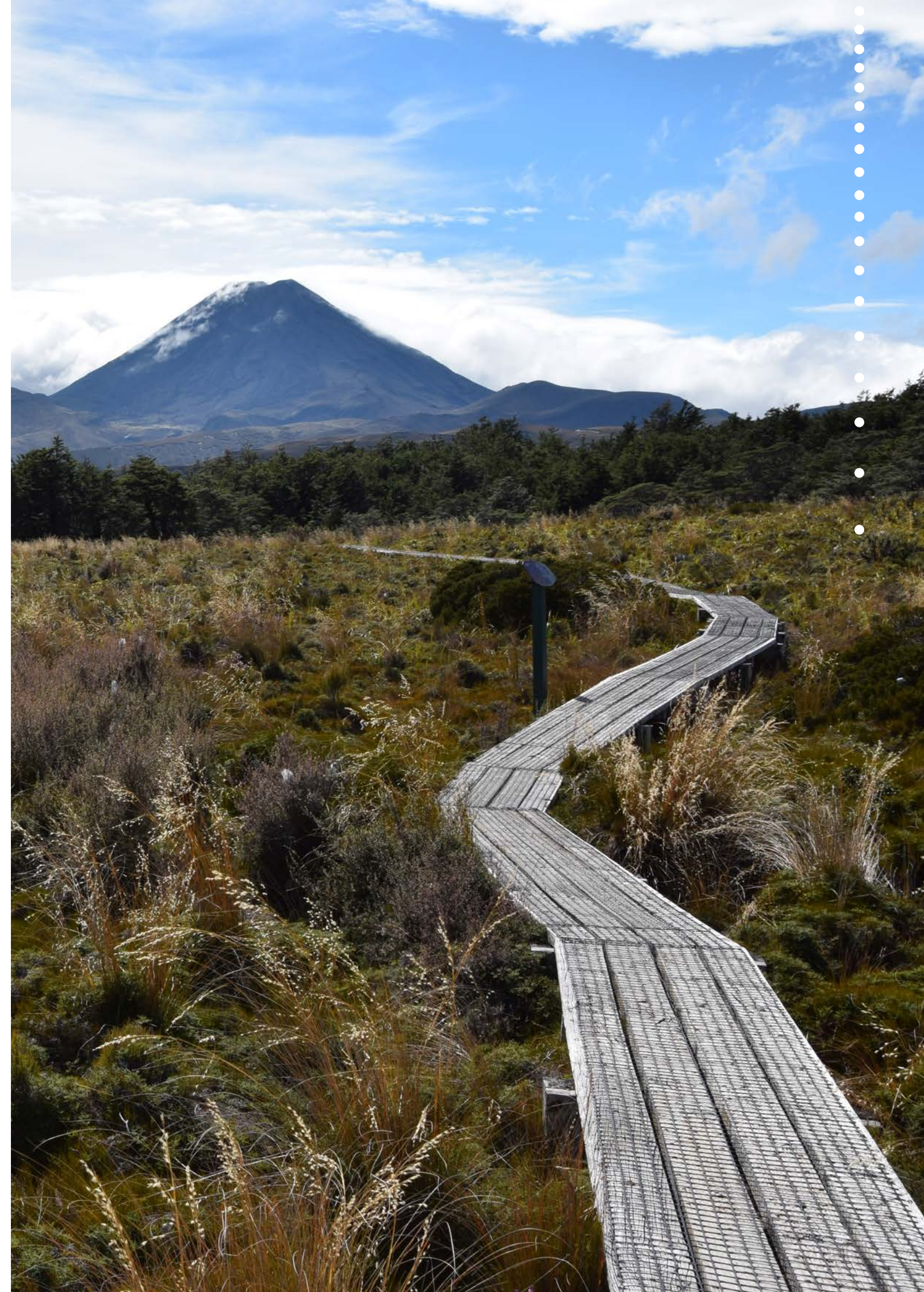
We also worked closely with our colleagues from the UNESCO Pacific Office in Apia to collectively promote the regions concerns and priorities to the Executive Board of UNESCO.

Visiting our Neighbours



Blue Talks — Our UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leader Chair and Senior Advisor travelled to Canberra in June to participate in Blue Talks — informal UN talks on the Pacific and Oceans issues.

Blue Talks was attended by approximately 80 people from across the Pacific. Pacific Heads of State (President of Palau, Prime Minister of Samoa and Prime Minister of Niue) talked of the Big Ocean States in the Pacific and the importance of better addressing the impacts of climate change that were already being felt. We also contributed to a panel discussion alongside the EU Ambassador to the Pacific, Oceans Sherpa to the Australian, showcasing the New Zealand approach to implementing the Oceans Decade, weaving together knowledge including mātauranga Māori, links to the IDIL and the importance of deepening relationships with the Pacific.



Farewell and thank you to Dr Geoff Hicks

After six years as the National Commission’s Natural Science Commissioner, Dr Geoff Hicks tenure has come to an end.

We want to extend the largest thank you to Geoff for the incredible work he put into his role, especially his unrelenting commitment to bringing the Global Geoparks Programme to Aotearoa New Zealand and supporting Waitaki Whitestone Geopark in its application to become Aotearoa’s first Global Geopark. A long campaign, with much hard work, which has seen amazing success this year.

“The endorsement of Waitaki Whitestone as a Global Geopark is the culmination of a long-term effort by the Commission, and particularly the vision and drive of Geoff as our Science Commissioner. Geoff, I can’t thank you enough for the work you have done with us; you have left a great legacy.”

Robyn Baker, Chair, New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO.



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- Special Advisor Youth:**
Ethan Jerome-Leota

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Romeo Tevaga
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Silke Bieda
- Communications Advisor:**
Gabi Tankersley
- Senior Support Officer:**
Bryan Lavoie

UNESCO Youth Aotearoa Leaders

- Ethan Jerome-Leota (Chair)
- Sabrina Manū (Deputy-Chair)
- Raiyan Azmi
- Aimee Clark
- Sophia Newton
- Adriana Bird
- Katja Phutaraksa Neef
- Lotima Vaioleti
- Kauri Tearaura

UNESCO offices and links

- UNESCO Headquarters Paris
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UNESCO Bangkok
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UNESCO Jakarta
www.unesco.org/new/en/jakarta/

New Zealand Ministry of Education
www.education.govt.nz

UNESCO Memory of the World, New Zealand
www.unescomow.org.nz
- UNESCO World Heritage, New Zealand
www.doc.govt.nz

Dunedin: UNESCO City of Literature
www.cityofliterature.co.nz

Auckland: UNESCO City of Music
www.aucklandcityofmusic.nz

Wellington: UNESCO City of Film
www.wellingtoncityoffilm.com

Whanganui: UNESCO City of Design
www.discoverwhanganui.nz/news/unesco-city-of-design

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