

Patui

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9729	LENZ:	F7.2a At risk
Ecological District: Matemateaonga		F1.1d Not threatened
Land Tenure: Private	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
Area(ha): 260		Priority 2 – Sand Dunes and Wetlands
GPS: 1736635X & 5647024Y		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Habitat: Forest Remnant	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland	Regional	At risk 20-30% left
Ecosystem Type: MF7.2: Rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest	Ecosystem Loss:	Less reduced >50% left
MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest	Protection Status:	Local Government
	Catchment:	Patea (343)

General Description

Patui forest remnants are located on privately owned land approximately 22 kms east of Stratford near Makahu in east Taranaki. The site lies within the Matemateaonga Ecological District and Patea River catchment. The remnants cover approximately 260 hectares and are a mix of original and cut over lowland old growth forest with smaller areas of modified regenerating native vegetation, (mainly manuka), in places. The forest is typical of remnant habitats found in the eastern Taranaki area. At the western end, the site connected to adjacent areas of native forest including the Tututawa Conservation Area and Tututawa Local Purpose Reserve. Other nearby protected areas include the Waitiri Scenic Reserve and Popuanui Conservation Area. Two constructed wetlands are also present on the forest margin and provide a small area of wetland habitat at the site.

Ecological Features

Flora

The main canopy is dominated by mature tawa and rewarewa mixed with miro, matai, totara, maire, northern rata and hinau. Occasional large emergent canopy trees, such as rimu and kahikatea, are also present. Lower stature vegetation includes pigeonwood, mapou, mahoe and tree ferns, although is sparse in places. The block also contains some areas of regenerating native scrub in relatively good condition. Notable species include five species of rata, kanuka and manuka.

Fauna

Birdlife at the site is reasonably diverse and includes notable species such as brown kiwi, bush falcon, North Island robin and whitehead. Other forest birds present include the grey warbler, silvereye, pied tomtit, tui, bellbird, fantail, kotare and morepork. Wetland birds include the New Zealand dabchick, greyduck (notable) and paradise shelduck. Long-tailed bats are confirmed present and are notable for the site. The site provides habitat for and will contain other notable fauna including reptiles, native fish and invertebrates.

Ecological Values

Sustainability - Positive	In good vegetative condition and large in area. Key ecological processes still influence the site. Under appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.
Representativeness - Medium	Contains ecosystems listed as 'At Risk' and 'Less Reduced' MF7.2: Rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest (Less Reduced) and MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest (At Risk). Over 70% of 'At Risk'

	forest has been lost in Taranaki and remnant areas remain under threat from introduced predators and browsers.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - High	Contains a range of notable fauna including the North Island brown kiwi, North Island robin, whitehead and long-tailed bat. A range of other notable fauna will be present. Also contains notable flora species such as five species of rata, kanuka and manuka.
Ecological context - High	The site is moderately large (260 ha) and connected to other existing native habitats in the area including the Tututawa Conservation Area and Tututawa Local Purpose Reserve. Other nearby protected areas include the Waitiri Scenic Reserve and Popuanui Conservation Area.

Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - Medium	Parts of the forest have been subject to historical logging. The underlying geology of the area also increases the risk of natural erosion.
Herbivores - High	Forest regeneration and the sustainability of palatable species are at high risk from browsers such as possums, goats and stock in this area. Occasional goat control is undertaken on the forest margins.
Predators - High	Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.
Weeds - Low	Weeds, such as Himalayan honeysuckle, are occasionally present in places.

