

**RESPONSE for FPH**

Annual Report for 2013-2014

THIS REPORT provides an overview of activities and financial position for RESPONSE from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Earth Law Conference

Paper for Philosophy of Education Journal

**RESPONSE**

RESPONSE is a Charitable Trust focussing on governance and responsibility working in partnership with tangata whenua/Māori. Governance and responsibility refers to support for the integration of social, environmental and economic areas to achieve sustainability. In keeping with the Oceania regional context RESPONSE has particular interest in water and aquatic ecosystems. RESPONSE is involved in education, research and initiatives relating to governance and ethics in Aotearoa NZ and Pacific countries.

RESPONSE is a member of an International Forum on Ethics and Responsibility (www.ethica-respons.net ) which is involved in over fifty countries. Responsibility is an ethics that relates to all dimensions of life from personal and community life to the large matters of global significance such as Climate Change. See [www.response.org.nz](http://www.response.org.nz)

**Highlights of 2012-2013 Activities**:

* International and New Zealand Conferences:
  + - Ecological Integrity Group, Costa Rica
    - The New Materialism and Response-ability, Edinborough
    - Kaarohirohi – Horizons for Principles of Responsible Management Education and the

UN Global Compact, New Zealand

* Management for Sustainable Business (Maria, Massey)?
  + - Asia Pacific meeting of UNU Regional Centres of Excellence, Kitakyushu, Japan
    - DEEP / Civicus – Building a Global Citizens Movement, Johannesberg, South Africa
    - Global Conference of UNU Regional centres of Expertise, Nairobi
    - Environment and Conservation Organizations – New Zealand
    - Earth Law Conference, New Zealand (January 2014)
    - Leadership Seminar on Fossil Fuel Divestment ( February 2014)
* Conclude a rain water harvesting project in Falelima, Samoa
* Continuing with the International Forum on Ethics and Responsibility
* Open pathways for collaboration with the Earth Charter
* Engagement with New Zealand organizations re responsibility and sustainable development
  + - ECO (Environment and Conservation Organizations Aotearoa NZ
    - Living Wage
    - Trans Pacific Partnership
    - The Common Good project
* Submissions for NZ Constitutional Review
* Collaborate with University of Waikato and other national and regional organizations for a UNU Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE Waikato)

## Preparation of UNU Regional Centre Of Expertise Waikato

Waikato Management school agreed to work with RESPONSE to make a proposal to become a UNU Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development.

Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE’s) are initiatives set up to implement the UN Decade for Sustainable Development. There are about 120 world-wide.

Features of the RCE’s include a collaborative network involving a University, non government organizations, schools, and local government. They include research, transformative education and practical programmes to address local sustainability challenges.

Professor Maria Humphries and Professor Frank Scrimgeour are the main personnel at the University of Waikato Management School working with RESPONSE. We are liaising with Waikato Tainui college. This is a Maori college which has an MOU with Waikato University Management School.

Preparations involved liaising with Faculty leaders in Law, Education and Maori and Pacific Studies and we expect to link with Environmental Science. We are in discussion with the University about an appropriate establishment platform. University leadership is advocating for the establishment of a cross disciplinary UNU Centre. We prefer to do this beyond the establishment phase.

The UNU proposal involved liaison with 50 or so organizations including local government, schools, local Maori communities, businesses, and non-government organizations in sustainability, environment, and social services. We also worked with sustainability academics and institutes in other Universities, including the Centre for Law and Sustainability at Auckland University.

Briefing and background papers were prepared to support our requests to meet with prospective collaborators. A discussion paper on Sustainable Development, Ethics of Responsibility, and Transformative Education was circulated. See [www.response.org.nz](http://www.response.org.nz)

RESPONSE and Waikato Management School hosted a meeting of collaborators in May 2013 with 25 representatives of organizations interested in collaboration. The main queries are caution about committing time and resources at the proposal stage, and funds to make the RCE Waikato function. A report of this meeting with initial work plans is at [www.response.org.nz](http://www.response.org.nz).

The proposal has involved a three stage process starting in June. We had eight or so collaborators contributing to the writing, to provide sections on different topics and questions such as identifying the sustainability challenges of the region, and sections on governance, ethics and research on sustainability with various components such as food security, water, and poverty. feed back There was fine tuning from the first iteration. The second requested greater focus on concrete actions including working with business and clarification of university commitments.

Prof. Frank Scrimgeour and Betsan visited the Sydney RCE as part of the preparations. This was beneficial for information on establishment and governance procedures, funding and project work. We await the outcome.

The potential for confluence with UN and other organizational leaders in sustainable development and climate accountability Is loud and clear. The UN Global Compact and PRME are approaching this through Management Education. Research on Earth Law, Human Right Law, Sustainability law and Corporate accountability are Global and local initiatives, UNESCO will consider the RCE,s as a model of education for transition to Sustainability for state endorsement.

## UNU RCE Conferences and meetings

The RCE Kitakyushu hosted the Asia Pacific Conference. Attending this enabled us to meet the UNU staff and engage with RCE leaders of the region. A request was made to us to contribute to the Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity Theme because of our involvement with Maori and Indigenous knowledge in our work in Aotearoa NZ.

There are plans for Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity to be the theme for the 9th global RCE conference in Okayama, Japan 4-7th Nov. 2014. There will be an opportunity to feed in to the upcoming Global Conference in Nairobi, then to continue with this theme for Okayama 2014. This work will link the UNESCO Decade for Sustainable Development Conference in Yokohama Nov 9-10, 2014

We drafted a briefing paper on Indigenous Knowledge and discussed this with Waikato Tainui College. This paper will contribute to the Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity Theme for the 8th and 9th Global Conferences and to the discussions for beyond 2014 and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

A feature project of RCE Kitakyushu has been ‘ We Want Our Blue Skies Back’ and they have achieved reduction of pollution of the city, which was established as the centre of steel industry in Japan. Visits to industries in the city, the Ecocentre, ECO Park and the tidal area with a local school demonstrate effective initiatives in a local context. An Island project supports local fishing and growing, and encourage visitors there to support local production.

**The Global RCE Conference, Nairobi, Kenya**

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## Overview of Other International Engagement

## Ecological Integrity Conference and Earth Charter collaboration

* Communicating with Mirian Vilela, Director of the Earth Charter Secretariat and arranging for her to meet Pierre Calame, Nicolas Krausz and Edith Sizoo in Paris. (April)
* Pierre Calame prepared a paper for the Conference and Edith’s paper for the Ethics meeting in South Africa was also a valuable resource (See [www.response.org](http://www.response.org) under ‘Resources’) \*\*
* Betsan prepared and presented a paper for the Global Ecological Integrity Conference. It is being reworked for publication

## Key Matters to Report

Leaders of GEIG are lawyers and ethicists associated with the Earth Charter, some of whom are on the IUCN Commission for Law, and the Specialist Ethics group. There is strong support for linking with FPH initiatives on law for responsibility. The plans for preparing for Cop20 in Paris will be an avenue to keep open. Recommendations for contributors to Cop20 process are included in the **Ecological Integrity** report at [www.response.org](http://www.response.org) under ‘Resources’) \*\*

The purpose of attending the GEIG conference was to build further collaborative engagement with the Earth Charter and build on links with IUCN.

The Earth Charter Secretariat has a strategic focus on education. If the UNU Waikato Centre proceeds in Aotearoa there will be avenues for collaboration in the education field through this.

### Building a Global Citizen Movement – DEEP, FPH, Concorde

Angeline Greensill and Betsan attended this conference, thanks to support from the FPH and DEEP. Angeline and Betsan were able to made contributions on indigenous knowledge and ethics of responsibility for the transitions to sustainable development. Indigenous knowledge provides integrated world-views as well as frameworks of obligation and responsibility which are central to indigenous practice and philosophy.

## Angeline led a lively Side Event on Indigenous knowledge with fifteen or so participants. Betsan also led a group from the Open Space process on Responsibility and Priorities of the Planet.

## The open space process was extremely well led, and was a highlight and feature of the meeting, of which the main outcome was the Compass. For us this was a remarkable achievement , and it included key priorities for us, of indigenous knowledge, decolonization, responsibility and transition to an ecocentric world system. We would like to see a planned pathway to achieve transitions to ecological priorities identified in the Compass. There was not time to achieve a well developed plan of action.

There was a significant group of people connected to the FPH and we are entering into beneficial email communications as we week ongoing purpose and direction for this Global Citizens Movement

The Global Citizen DEEP process links with significant global movements – IUCN, UNESCO Education for Sustainable development, UN Global Compact and Principles for Social Responsibility etc. The DEEP process contributes to transitions from a state centric geo-political world to an eco-centric world.

## Local activities with Responsibility Theme

### UN Global Compact, Principles of Responsible Management Education, Kaarohirohi, Aotearoa NZ

The Kaarohirohi conference brought a combination of a major initiative of Waikato Management School working with Waikato Tainui College for regional support for the UN. global Compact and PRME. the Global Compact is about peace and environment and deepening interdependence. It was an opportunity to showcase Business initiatives which support responsibiility and to hear about academic commitment to support responsibility in management education. Curriculum development of this theme goes against the flow of profit-oriented business and students do not seem to be selecting MBA courses on the basis of ethics and sustainability.

Indigenous businesses were impressive. they all had a primary regard for land, for the taonga of natural resources, intergenerational commitments and an emphasis on good working conditions. They showed a range of straight business models with high quality product ad profit drivers, to management systems similar to cooperative models with Whanganui / extended family and community involvement in decision making. there was an emphasis on environmental enhancement, cutting edge intellectual property safeguards and innovative marketing using high end technology tools

Forencia ? From UN office fro PRME put emphasis on incentivising responsibility. PRME is voluntary and complementary to law. Incentive and sanctions.

Our interests in legal possibilities was eloquently considered by senior law academic Margaret Bedggood, who noted the reluctance of states to make law to bind companies with binding codes of responsibilities. This is surprising because companies are constrained by la and corporations are legal entities so can be brought under the law.

and non binding codes for responsibility. emulations against corruption. human rights law is binding only on states, not corporates and non state actors. There is interest in making human rights legally binding on non state actors.

The attempt to achieve binding agreements for Human Rights have been prevented by politics; States have refused to agree to legally binding principles of human rights.

### Lawyers and Jurists

Discussions on a UN Declaration have led to a proposal to amend the NZ Bill of Rights Act with clauses on Responsibility in order to establish a legal basis for Responsibility and create a legal precedent. This would be a long, intense and concentrated undertaking. We have made a request for a legal search on achieving a legal provision for Responsibility and a UN Declaration. We may pay for some legal advice.

Jurists for contributions to a UN Declaration include Antonio Benjamin (Brazil), Klaus Bosselmann and Catherine Irons (NZ legal academics), Brendan McKay (Australia ); Duncan Currie Globe Law and GreenPeace, Margaret Bedggood and Sir Eddie Taihakurei Durie (New Zealand).

## NZ Constitution

The NZ Constitution Review presented an opportunity to develop thinking and proposals for law on responsibility. It involved hosting forums on the constitution, meetings with leaders and lawyers for discussions and working with a network of lawyers and academics who are members of 'The Common Good' think tank.

We had legal advice on the development of constitutional responsibility for our submission. Our proposals included extending the BIll of Rights to a BIll of Rights and Responsibilities and law on ecological integrity and climate accountability. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Rights of Mother Earth are key references, within the limits of the rights framework.

Along with a RESPONSE submission we drafted a submission for The Common Good, a Methodist church submission and a Pacific People's submission. These RESPONSE submission is at: [www.response.org.nz](http://www.response.org.nz)

## Living Wage

The Living Wage campaign is linked to the UK, Canada and has big momentum in NZ . This is a platform for workers to be paid enough for housing, food, schooling. At present 2/3rds of low income households have someone in work 60% of the time. The local government elections brought commitments from major Councils (including Wellington, Auckland, Nelson) to implement the Living Wage.

## Environment and Conservation Organizations Aotearoa NZ

An umbrella organization comprised 50 or so environmental organizations. ECO has adopted a Charter for Responsibility. Work in 2013 includes liaising and collaborating with partner organizations on matters of public interest, including the Trans Pacific Partnership, Mining, Water policies, the Resource Management Act. Organizational work includes contributions to a Strategic Plan and a Code of Ethics.

# Collaboration and Partnering

Collaboration means voluntary work with organizations and through professional contacts.

## Codes of Ethics

Organizations of which we are members, ECO and Council of International Development have developed Codes this year. RESPONSE has contributed to these and in particular has included an ethics of responsibility and Treaty of Waitangi / indigenous provisions in the codes.

The initiative to collaborate with the Earth Charter awaits a specific project . We have recommended involving Earth Charter /IUCN lawyers in 2014 for the COP21 preparations.

## Membership of Organizations

ECO – Environment and Conservation Organizations, Aotearoa-New Zealand

CEESP (Council for Environment, Economic and Social Policy) IUCN

CID (Council for International Development)

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## Papers and Presentations

Hoskins, Te K and Jones (2013) Conference on the New Materialism, Edinbourough, UK

Martin, B (2013) ‘Response-Ability – A Paradigm for Transitions to Sustainability’ Global Ecological Integrity Group. June, San Jose Costa Rica

Martin, B. (2013) Ethics of Responsibility in Sustainable Development’ Kaarohiroihi, PRME Conference, November Hamilton, NZ

Verbos, A. K. & Humphries, M. T. An illusion of inclusion? Indigenous rights and the PRME. Presented at the Midwest Academy of Management Meeting, October 10-12, 2013, Milwaukee, WI. Presenter: Amy K. Verbos.

RESPONSE Working Committee members:

Betsan Martin. Director, RESPONSE Trust and Researcher

Te Kawehau Hoskins. School of Education, University of Auckland

Maria Humphries. Management and Social Enterprise, University of Waikato

Victor Grbic, Film Studies, UNITEC, Auckland

Diana Shand. ECO Executive, IUCN Council, Environmental consultant

### Networks for a Charter for Universal Responsibilities

Environment Conservation organizations (ECO)

University faculties

Māori communities and professional networks

Enviroschools

CEESP. IUCN

Biodynamics and Organics sectors

Social Services (NZCCSS)

Sustainability Aotearoa NZ

Environmental Policy and Science sectors

Afeafe o Vaetoefaga Academy for Culture,

Research and Development (Samoa)

NZ Aid /Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT)

Council for International Development (CID)

Leaders Forum in a Climate of Change

Collaborating organizations for the UNU Centre are listed on RCE Waikato proposal