

# RESPONSE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013 (DRAFT)

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### RESPONSE

RESPONSE is a Charitable Trust focussing on Governance and environmental responsibility working in partnership with tangata whenua/Māori. In keeping with the Oceania regional context RESPONSE has particular interest in water and aquatic ecosystems and is involved in education, research and initiatives relating to environment and governance in Aotearoa NZ and Pacific countries.

RESPONSE is a member of an International Forum on Ethics and Responsibility ([www.ethica-respons.net](http://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 Conferences:
  - Rio+20 in Brazil
  - IUCN World Congress, Jeju, South Korea.
- Completing a rain water harvesting project in Falelima, Samoa
- Continuing with the International Forum on Ethics and Responsibility
- 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
- Engagement with NZ Constitutional Review
- Initiate a proposal for a UNU Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

### International Conferences Rio+20 and IUCN

Rio+20 and the IUCN Congress in Jeju, Sth Korea are major events in 2012

Attending these international events is only the tip of the iceberg. Preparations provide excellent opportunities to work with local and regional organizations, and bring the significant aspect of giving a local mandate to attend these international fora. This in itself is a major exercise in putting Ethics and Responsibility on the agenda of organizations with whom we join for international engagement.

### Rio+20

Engaging local and regional organizations included preparing information and proposal papers, each tailored to address the sectoral interests of these organizations. Preparations included meetings with follow-up to agreed work, especially the task of advocating for

Responsibility in the NZ Foreign Affairs (MFAT) agenda for Rio+20. The negotiators did in fact do research to find Responsibility on the international State agendas, but it did not emerge as we hoped.

### Key activities

- Working with NZ Platform for Rio+20 ( Twenty national NGO's, agencies for sustainability from social and environmental organizations , academic institutes, UNICEF, UNESCO, Maori organizations)
- Engaging with NZ Government (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, letters to Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister; Dept. of Conservation.
- Letters with information to Helen Clark UNDP, Regional organizations (SPREP; SPI; UN Green Fund; AOSIS; Pacific Theological College, Fiji)
- Pacific Regional Governments: Vanuatu, Prime Minister of Samoa, Head of State of Samoa).

### Rio+20 Report

For the Report on Rio+20 see [www.response.org](http://www.response.org) under 'Resources'.

### Key Matters to report

The proposal for a Charter for Responsibility was applauded by NGO's, and was one of 3 topics the NZ Platform requested the NZ Govt to support (this support was not forthcoming).

Meetings with Pacific leaders and regional organizations (SPREP) brought a Charter of Responsibility to the attention of Pacific negotiators



Rio+20 exposed the incapacity of states to address interdependence and decisions for long term wellbeing of people and the planet. This catalyzed our aspiration for a UN Declaration for Universal Responsibility. It has given rise to excellent papers from Pierre and Edith which are reference texts for our work.

It was a remarkable experience of FER solidarity, companionship and strategic planning to be at Rio.

### IUCN World Congress

**IUCN Congress Jeju September 2012:** Betsan's presentation for the IUCN Congress, and participation was sponsored by Landcare Research and by Environment and Conservation Organizations of NZ. The Congress afforded the opportunity to contribute to the policy process by engaging in Motions on Ethics, Oceans, Indigenous Peoples, Fishing, Commons, with responsibility in policy for interdependence of humans & nature and climate responsibilities

The presentation on Responsibility at the Congress was followed by discussions on:

- Responsibility is an ethics and basis for accountability relevant to all sectors for intervening to reverse climate change.
- Legal development for responsibility
- Climate solutions that work with cultural traditions of stewardship are defined by responsibility in local contexts.
- Extended discussion on a new motion to give effect to the Earth Charter
- Taking forward a UN Declaration on Responsibility

IUCN has accepted the Earth Charter as a guiding ethical framework. This makes promising ground for engagement.

During the Congress Betsan was able to host a meeting of members of the IUCN Specialist Ethics to discuss collaboration with the Earth Charter. Those at the meeting were from US, France, Brazil, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia. The Chair of the Commission on Environmental Law, Antonio Benjamin, a Judge from Brazil, indicated his support.



These people are closely associated with the Earth Charter and they are familiar with, and supportive of the FER and FPH.

They were very interested in a UN Declaration and in proposals such as jointly hosting a meeting of jurists to begin textual work, a new Biosphere Ethics programme and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals. For a UN Declaration they were very positive that we could also include the Rights of Mother Earth people - with whom they have strong links, and perhaps the State of Bhutan. Bhutan is specifically advising the UN on Sustainable Development Goals. We should also consider Malta.

They invited Pierre and myself (and others) to a Global Ecological Integrity Network Conference in June 27-July 1 2013, in Costa Rica. The Ethics group are organizing the Conference. They propose day for meeting with FER to progress collaborative work.

There is potential for follow up with IUCN. Klaus Bosselmann (Lawyer, NZ) and Ron Engels (Ethicist US) are proposed we enter directly into negotiations with the Earth Charter and they have confirmed the invitation to participate in Global Ecological Integrity Network Conference. At this point they emphasize that this is an academic conference and it will be most appropriate to contribute to a discussion of the role and achievements of UN Declarations.

Diana Shand is a strong ally and advocate in these networks as she holds senior positions in IUCN. Diana and Betsan are on the National Executive of ECO.

### **IUCN Jeju World Congress Report**

Report on the Congress was sent to FER team. See [www.response.org](http://www.response.org) under 'Resources'.

## 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. It is proposed we meet with former Human Rights Commissioner Ros Noonan with whom we had earlier engagement, and also a senior Human Rights Conciliator Joris de Bress. We have made a request for a legal search on achieving a legal provision for Responsibility and a UN Declaration. We may agree to pay for some legal advice.

Jurists with whom we have made overtures on advancing a UN Declaration include Antonio Benjamin (Brazil), Klaus Bosselmann and Katherine Irons (NZ legal academics), Brendan McKay (Australia); Duncan Currie Globe Law and GreenPeace. **This could be readily pursued given resources for this purpose.**

## Local activities with Responsibility Theme

### NZ Constitution

NZ has a Constitutional Review in process. We are one of 3 countries in the world that does not have a written Constitution. A proposal for the review will prioritize responsibility and environment. The submission will involve working with NGO networks, academics and lawyers and include community workshops on the Constitution.

### Living Wage

The Living Wage campaign is strong in 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. In NZ an assessment of a Living Wage is due to be released this week (probably \$18 per hour) the present the NZ Minimum Wage is \$13.5 per hr.

The emphasis is on the responsibility of employees to pay Living Wages. We have to work on many fronts to achieve wellbeing for workers and beneficiaries!

## Environment and Conservation Organizations Aotearoa NZ

An umbrella organization comprised 50 or so environmental organizations. ECO has adopted a Charter for Responsibility. In 2012 the annual conference theme was on Responsibility in Governance. I am on the National Executive of ECO, along with Diana Shand and others. This is a very strategic alliance. I gave a presentation on responsibility to a 2013 Summer Conference the photo is of a legal presentation, with Diana and Betsan listening.



The main avenue for follow up is to work responsibility into organizational policies and environmental practice.

### **Proposals in Process**

**Research:** Maria Humphries (RESPONSE colleague) and I are working on a large research proposal for a research project called ‘Roundtable Decision-Making in a Response-Ability Frame for Navigating our Common Future.’ Work is big. Chances are small!

**A Centre for Responsibility:** Maria Humphries and Betsan began negotiations with Waikato University to make a proposal for a UNU Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainability. This is designed as a collaboration between a University, NGO’s, Local Government. Progress is slow in clarifying procedures and an MOU agreement with the University. We have a pro-active strategy to progress this collaboration.

### **Methodology Notes**

The interest in methodology for FER from Nina’s report helps reflection on our methodology.

**Methodology re Call on Governments and List of Jurists:** we have not contributed significantly to these. Although this was presented to the NZ Rio+20 Platform, our negotiations seemed the most effective way forward. We think that a Call on Govts. needs a significant civil society movement for systemic change to be effective. We also consider that in the present ‘non-sustainability’ policy environment means that we have to work on specific issues associated with responsibility, such as child poverty, living wage, environmental responsibilities in the context of proactive mining policies.

We will contribute to the Jurists list as our work in this field takes shape. We are in early stages and this request will come out of further engagement. We would need to ask permission of Sir Eddie – perhaps this opportunity will present itself.

### **Collaboration and Partnering**

Collaboration means working with organizations and through professional contacts and on a voluntary basis to gain support for the Responsibility agenda. For example, Betsan is on the National Executive of Environment and Conservation organizations. They support a Charter for Responsibility as an ethical framework. They are members of IUCN, and keen for collaboration with the Earth Charter. Through them, along with Landcare Research Betsan was able to present a paper at IUCN.

We could do much more with IUCN (made up of government and NGO members) by joining the Specialist Ethics Group in addition to the Commission on Environment, Economy and Social Policy. In particular Diana has a leading role in the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy and the working Group ‘Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector (TSEAPRISE)’.

Maria Humphries has a leadership role locally and internationally in the Global Compact and in the Principles of Responsible Management Education. Maria is teaching and publishing in the field of ethics and responsibility in Management Education. Internationally she is supporting academic commitments to the development of indigenous scholars.

Te Kawehau Hoskins Post Doctoral research on Indigenous Governance . Te Kawehau's engagement with Responsibility is with indigenous knowledge and western philosophy. It involves teaching and research in Education, with political and tribal commitments.

All of us have contributed to academic conferences. These include\*\*

Our interests in a Centre would significantly advance our capacity to actively engage with major organizations such as IUCN to give status to a Declaration of Universal Responsibilities both in NZ, in the Pacific and globally.

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## 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)

## Papers

Hoskins, T.K., Martin, B. & Humphries, M. (2011). The Power of Relational Responsibility. EJBO, Vol. 16, No. 2, p. 22-27. **EJBO** *Electronic Journal of Business Ethics and Organization Studies*. <  
<https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/37277>>

Hoskins, T.K & Jones, A. (2012) (Eds.) *He aha te kaupapa? Critical conversations in kaupapa Māori*. Spec. issue of *New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies*, 47(2).

## 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

## 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