Tēnā koutou,

A new research paper by Motu Economic and Public Policy Research has found that Many challenges hinder Māori to realise their aspirations for native forestry on their land.

High costs and restrictive governance are just some of the roadblocks that stop Māori landowners from establishing native forestry on their land. The paper looks at the extent to which land-use decision-making processes such as funding programmes and afforestation incentives from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme enable them to progress native forest aspirations for their whenua.

You can find the full Working paper on our website at: <http://motu-www.motu.org.nz/wpapers/20_13.pdf>The paper is **embargoed until 5am Firday 4th December 2020**

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* Although support programmes are available, challenges hinder the ability of Māori land-use decision-makers to realise their aspirations for native forestry on their land, especially in relation to governance and limited access to advice and support
* There is a desire for native afforestation support that promotes the broader goals and needs of Māori land-use decision-makers, giving appropriate weighting to the delivery of social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits
* Additional support, access to expertise and effective communication with shareholders, trustees and government could better enable Māori land decision-makers to realise their aspirations

**Objectives/ Research question**

* We explore the decision-making processes of Māori landowners in Te Tairāwhiti to understand the extent to which funding programmes and afforestation incentives from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme enable them to progress native forest aspirations for their whenua.

**Methods**

* We conducted semi-structured interviews with a sample of Māori land-use decision-makers who act as trustees or chairpersons for their respective land blocks

**Conclusions**

* Decision-makers share a kaitiaki relationship with the land they administer. All land blocks aspired to native forestry in some respect, but a decision to establish native forestry was often difficult to reach. Few successfully applied or were eligible for central and local government funding programmes and schemes. Key challenges hinder progressed at every stage of the land-use decision-making process, in particular: restrictive governance, limited access to resources, expertise and finance, untimeliness and ineffective communication. The perception by our sample of Māori landowners that native forestry for carbon income is an untested and risky endeavour contributed considerably to the low uptake of native afforestation and the registration of eligible native forests in the NZ ETS.

**Implications**

* Additional support, access to expertise, effective communication and more finely tuned policy could increase the uptake of afforestation opportunities and better enable Māori land decision-makers to realise their aspirations for their land in the future

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