

# COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL POLICY (CEESP)

## Aroha Te Pareake Mead, New Zealand

### Personal

Name: Aroha Te Pareake Mead  
Date of birth: 1 September 1955  
Nationality: New Zealander of Maori descent from the tribes of Ngati Awa, Ngati Porou, Tuhoe, Tuhourangi and Ngati Tuwharetoa

### Education

Educated in New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Masters in International Relations from Victoria University of Wellington (1997)

### Current position

Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy  
Senior Lecturer, Maori Business, Victoria Management School, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

### Professional background

Aroha has been involved in indigenous cultural and intellectual property and environmental issues for over 30 years at tribal, national, Pacific regional and international levels.

Aroha previously worked as the National Policy Director for Te Tau Ihu o Ngā Wānanga – the National Secretariat for the three Māori/tribal universities: Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and Te Wānanga o Raukawa, and before that she held managerial positions in Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Māori Development. She led the organization of the conference that developed the 1993 Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the 1994 Roundtable of Indigenous Peoples and Self-Determination; and the 6th International Conference of Ethnobiologists as well as numerous, national, regional and international conferences on traditional knowledge, cultural and intellectual property rights, biodiversity and genetic resources. The most recent conference she led was Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development held in Whakatane, New Zealand, January 2011. A multi-disciplinary conference that explored de-centralisation in the governance and management of bio-cultural resources; enabling indigenous peoples and local communities to have greater rights and responsibilities in governance and management of the landscapes and ecosystems they live in and near; and looked at alternatives to the current capital based economic model that has created social and economic inequities and large scale environmental damage.

Aroha has published widely on Maori and indigenous issues, particularly on traditional knowledge, indigenous values and conservation, cultural and intellectual property policy.

A full list of Aroha's publications, appointments and research interests can be located at:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vms/about/staff/aroha-mead>

### Experience and past involvement with IUCN

I was appointed by the IUCN Council to be an appointed Councillor with special responsibilities for indigenous issues 2000–2004. I was re-appointed in the same role after the WCC-Bangkok to the IUCN Council for a second term 2004–2008. During my terms as an IUCN Councillor 2000–2004, 2004–2008 I served in a number of capacities including; Gender and Biodiversity Task Force (foundation member), Focal Point for Extractive Industries (2004–2008), Council Motions Committee (2004) and Co-Chair of WCC Resolutions Committee (2008).

In 2008, I was elected as Chair of CEESP at the WCC in Barcelona. I continued to be an active member of Council (Private Sector Taskforce, Gender and Biodiversity Task Force, Programme and Policy Committee and the Congress Preparatory Committee). I have also served as Chair of the six IUCN Commission Chairs.

It has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of CEESP over the past four years and I look forward to continue working with the diversely skilled membership of CEESP for the next four years.

### **Future Priorities of the Commission**

The issues CEESP promotes and advocates for are more critical than they have ever been. The vision statement of CEESP enables me to remain focussed on what we are striving to achieve.

- A world of diversity, productivity and integrity of natural systems
- A world in which production and consumption patterns are sustainable.
- A world where cultural diversity is intertwined with biological diversity and together generate abundant and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.

The world is facing challenges at multiple levels, environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources, increased threats to peace and security, economic collapse and the continued erosion of human rights of individuals and communities, particularly indigenous communities. Governments of the world are poised to make decisions now to prioritize resource extraction and privatization over resource protection and many of these decisions will be difficult to reverse. How CEESP positions our advice and actions in such a complex landscape requires a strategic approach, to work collaboratively with others, to develop and maintain a reputation of providing credible expert advice and to continue with what has always been a core strength of CEESP, to work directly inside and alongside communities so our advice is well grounded.

The priorities of the Commission are articulated in the new mandate 2013–2016 and implementing these will be the priority for the next four years.

1. Development and promotion of a conservation ethic that supports diverse knowledge systems and values, delivers rights-based and equitable conservation with improved governance of natural resources and tangible livelihoods benefits, and links biological diversity with the cultural dimensions of nature conservation with a focus on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
2. Increased use of rights-based approaches to natural resources management and governance that promotes social and cultural equity, indigenous people's self-determination, community governance, sustainable livelihoods and human security.
3. Nature-based solutions to global challenges — such as climate change, conversion of forests and farmland to monocrops, including biofuels projects, food insecurity, poverty, inequitable economic and social development — are underpinned by economic policies that reinforce sustainability, social equity and environmental integrity.
4. Enhanced capacity of civil society, governments and the private sector to ensure corporate social and environmental accountability and reduce the negative impact of industries on climate, bio-cultural diversity and food security.

The major challenge will be to implement these in tangible ways.

### **Institutional support**

When I was nominated as a candidate for CEESP Chair at the WCC-Barcelona in 2008, I negotiated with my employer (Victoria University of Wellington) to load all my teaching commitments into one trimester (July-October) in exchange for their full support of my voluntary role as Chair of CEESP. This arrangement has enabled me to fully meet my paid work obligations as an active academic and researcher, as well as my voluntary work and travel on behalf of CEESP. My employer has agreed to extend this agreement for another four years if re-elected as Chair of CEESP in Jeju.