The Iwi Sovereignty Proposal

(For Iwi Trust Boards and Marae)

RECLAIMING KAITIAKITANGA: BEYOND THE BOUNTY

A Proposal for the Kaitiaki Shield

For too long, the **Department of Conservation (DOC)** has dictated how we relate to the land through a lens of toxins and "kill quotas." This industry-led model serves the profits of trap manufacturers—not the soul of Aotearoa.

The Kaitiaki Shield Model:

We propose that iwi reclaim their sovereignty over land management by adopting the **Kaitiaki Shield**. Instead of mass culling, we manage our cats humanely (Unwilding). Their mere presence acts as a **natural, non-toxic deterrent**, keeping invasive rodents in check and protecting our taonga birds.

Why Choose Stability over Slaughter?

- **True Guardianship:** Protects all life within the rohe, not just "approved" species.
- **Economic Independence:** Removes the dependency on government "pest grants" that keep our people tied to the business of killing.
- **Ecological Health:** Stops the "Rat Surge" that follows every cat cull.

We invite the [Iwi Name] to lead the way in **Compassionate Conservation**. Let us manage our land with mercy, for the benefit of all who live within it.