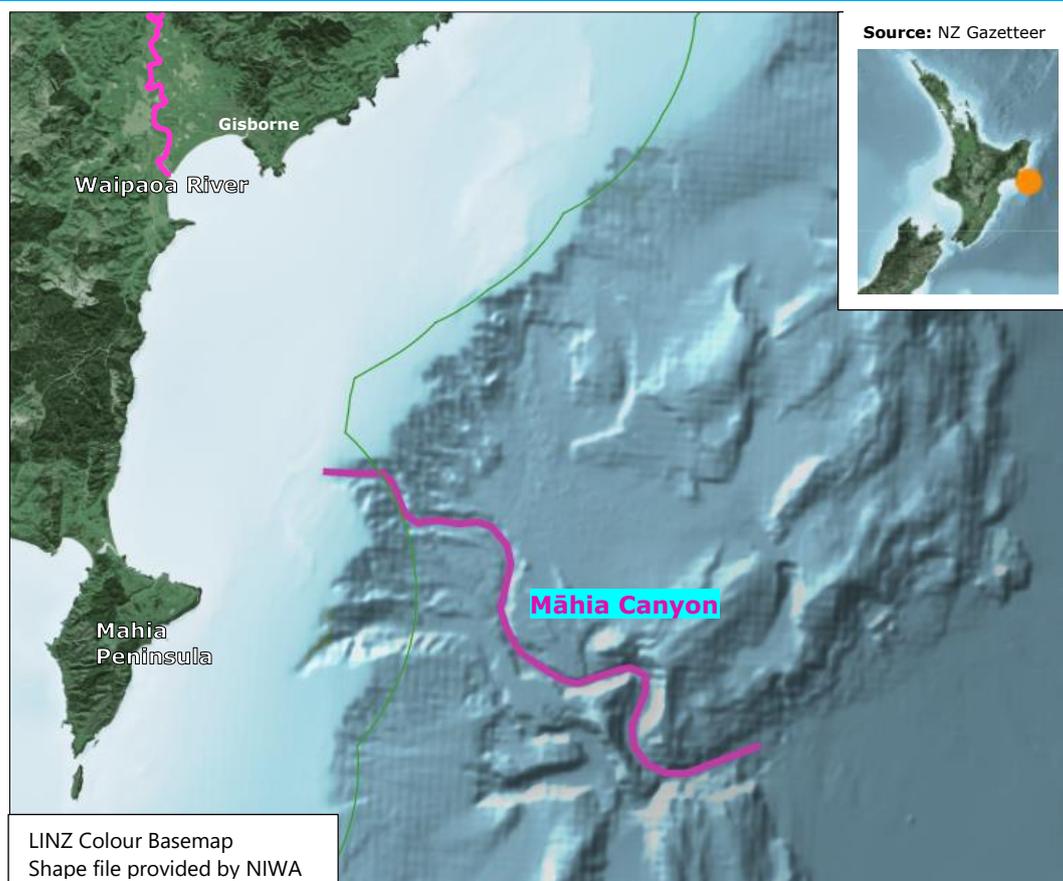


Proposal considered by the NZGB on 2 April 2020 for: Māhia Canyon [altered from Poverty Canyon]



Summary

At its hui on 18 October 2019 the NZGB requested that the UFNC¹ consider a proposal to alter the recorded (unofficial) undersea feature name Poverty Canyon to Waipaoa Canyon.

At its hui on 3 February 2020 the UFNC agreed that the proposed ancestral name is not appropriate as the canyon is not hydrologically connected to Waipaoa River. The UFNC noted a smaller tributary to the main canyon and agreed that using a name associated with a nearby onshore feature clearly indicates that there is a link. The UFNC agreed that it would be more appropriate to name the feature Māhia Canyon in association with Mahia Peninsula², which is a significant feature on nearby land.

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator has confirmed that Māhia is the correct orthography³. Three unofficial 'Mahia' names are included in the orthographic standardisation project – see agenda item 15.2.

Approximately 5.5km of the canyon's ~72km extent is within New Zealand's 12NM territorial limit, so a proposal to alter would be publicly notified for submissions.

If Poverty Canyon is altered to Māhia Canyon it is recommended that the NZGB makes a full proposal to SCUFN⁴. No international consultation would be

¹ Undersea Feature Names Committee

² Mahia Peninsula has the long form 'collected' Hawaiki name Te Māhia mai Tawhiti, *lit.* Māhia from afar

³ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

required as the feature is not in an area of mutual interest.

UFNC's recommendations to the NZGB

At its meeting on 2 April 2020 the NZGB resolved recommendations 1 and 2.

Recommendation 1 That the NZGB **accepts** the proposal to **alter** the recorded (unofficial) undersea feature name Poverty Canyon to an official undersea feature name **Māhia Canyon** based on:

- the desire to remove 'Poverty' from the name⁵,
- Mahia Peninsula being a significant feature on nearby land, and
- 'Māhia' being the correct orthography.

and
That Māhia Canyon be **notified** as a proposal to alter for one month.

and

Recommendation 2 That if the NZGB alters Poverty Canyon to **Māhia Canyon** as an official undersea feature name that it makes a full proposal to SCUFN.

Supporting information

1. UFNC report to alter Poverty Canyon – 2020-02-03

⁴ Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names

⁵ Secretariat note: the current name is associated with Tūranganui-a-Kiwa / Poverty Bay