



ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE: CASE STUDY 15

INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO IWI ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

NGĀI TAHU KI MURIHIKU: TE TANGI A TAUIRA

NGĀI TAHU KI MURIHIKU

Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku are represented by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the four rūnanga Papatipu of Murihiku, as follows:

- Te Rūnanga o Waihōpai – the takiwā centres on Waihōpai. Murihiku Marae is situated in Invercargill, with the whareniui named Te Rakitauneke.
- Te Rūnanga o Awarua – the takiwā centres on Awarua. Te Rau Aroha Marae is situated in Bluff, with the whareniui named Tahupōtiki.
- Te Rūnanga o Oraka Aparima – the takiwā centres on Oraka. Takutai o Te Tītī Marae is situated in Oraka, and the whareniui is named Te Whare Moana.
- Te Rūnanga o Hokonui – the takiwā centres on the Hokonui region. O Te Ika Rama Marae is situated in Gore, and the whareniui is named O Te Ika Rama.



He nui maunga e kore e taea te whakaneke, he nui ngaru moana

Mā te ihu o te waka e wāhi

*A great mountain cannot be moved, but a giant wave can be broken by the prow of a canoe
(Do not give up too easily – some things are possible).*

Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku (NTKM) have developed an innovative approach to planning that recognises the significance of climate change. Their plan takes a comprehensive view of the Māori world and how NTKM fit within that environment as active kaitiaki. The aim is to provide a living, working document that can assist NTKM to effectively participate in natural resource and environmental policy and planning (*Te Tangi a Tauira*, 2008).

Their plan *Te Tangi a Tauira, The Cry of the People*, is the result of a ground-breaking relationship with local and regional authorities and the four rūnanga that represent the iwi of the lower South Island. The Iwi Management Plan (IMP) deals specifically with climate change and how these iwi will adapt for future generations.

WHAT IS AN IWI MANAGEMENT PLAN?

An IMP is a document developed and approved by hapū and/or iwi. These plans describe resource management issues of importance to them as tangata whenua. The plans may also contain information relating to specific cultural values, historical accounts, descriptions of areas of interest (hapū/iwi boundaries/rohe) and consultation/engagement protocols for resource consents and/or plan changes.

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

NTKM take a holistic view of the environmental issues it faces. They consider climate change to be so important that they have created a separate section for it within their IMP. Michael Skerrett of NTKM explains that recent communications, including on the Emissions Trading Scheme engagement, and the impact of climate change on taonga species has been a trigger for particular focus in this area.

Through better engagement, and robust policy development, NTKM believe they can better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In particular, the Titi and the Tio are seen as being threatened by climate change. These are important species to NTKM and have great significance to the iwi, they were also traditionally gathered by NTKM.

Michael says that oral history collected “over 800 years” has shown that these species are being threatened as their natural life cycles have changed. Conditions are changing and where once these species could recover naturally, the strong belief now is that this recovery will be below that usually expected.

In response to this, NTKM established a policy in their IMP that aims to ensure that sustainable management and climate change policy does not lead to adverse environmental effects on indigenous species and ecosystems. They have also advocated for the continuation of activities that encourage the restoration and sustainable management of indigenous ecosystems. Their research into this area provided the catalyst for change and continues to offer further information on how NTKM can support the species to adapt.

Another concern is increased erosion on coastal archaeological and wāhi tapu/taonga sites (including ūrupā) as a result of sea level rise and unpredictable weather patterns. These areas are culturally and environmentally significant to the people of NTKM and climate change has the potential to expose them.

The IMP outlines support for further development and the improvement of contingency measures for increased natural hazard risks. NTKM have identified their need to take an active role in the development of contingency measures and the education of local communities.

THE NGĀI TAHU KI MURIHIKU APPROACH

The way the plan has been compiled means that climate change will now be incorporated within submissions, consent issues and external plan development. This level of integration is very new but it is hoped that this process will assist in advancing the aspirations of the Murihiku community through effective environmental engagement and advocacy. An example of this will be in addressing water allocation issues, which will now consider the importance of climate change in the management of NTKM water resources.

THIS IS ONE IN A SERIES OF CASE STUDIES CALLED ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Published by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.
Freephone: 0800 008 333
Web: www.maf.govt.nz

DISCLAIMER

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) does not accept any responsibility or liability for error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, nor for the consequences of any decisions based on this information. MAF does not necessarily endorse any expressed view, opinion or methodology.

The plan itself addresses several climate change issues raised by the rūnanga. These included the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and other atmospheric pollutions, deforestation, increased risk of natural hazards, information sharing in the Murihiku community and the effects on seafood food chains. Within all of these policies, the iwi has taken responsibility for those things they can control. As a result, the plan is a realistic and responsible response to the impacts of climate change.

The plan also provides solutions for the future in terms of what NTKM can achieve. Developing tribal policy in respect to climate change is a first step and one that will ensure that the approach of the iwi is both collective and holistic while being true to the tikanga and kawa of their people. Policies are also pragmatic in that a balance must be struck between what can be achieved without compromising the ability of NTKM to develop and protect their taonga.

BENEFITS OF THE IMP

The IMP provides the vehicle for climate change adaptation. It has become a tool to prioritise these issues for the iwi and in particular identify how they will carry out the adaptation itself. Protection mechanisms to guard sites of significance from erosion and input into council processes will assist the iwi in effectively engaging to ensure that adaptation occurs not only in their realm of influence, but in the wider community.

Being more engaged and providing information to their own people is also an important outcome of the plan. Through their established communication processes NTKM are educating others on the impacts of climate change, particularly its impact on taonga species.

One of the plan's policies is to provide further information to their parent body, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu so they can build climate change issues into their planning framework and can influence all the rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu. NTKM also plan to share their views by actively engaging and contributing to appropriate nationally-led initiatives, policies, guidelines and programmes around issues affected by climate change, to provide them with a regional and national influence on these issues.

NTKM have taken a long-term view in their planning. However, with their adaptation and mitigation activities factored in, they have a clearer understanding of how to adapt to the impact of climate change on their people and taonga. Through better engagement, and robust policy development, NTKM believe they can better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For Iwi Management Plans visit www.mfe.govt.nz or www.qualityplanning.org.nz
- For climate change and sustainable land management visit www.maf.govt.nz