



TE AO TŪROA

# He Taura Here

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

**SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL  
SCIENCE CHALLENGE**

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:  
Taura Here Activity

JUNE 2024



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Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

## SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

**Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:**

Taura Here Activity

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T3: Ngā tohu o te ao: Maramataka and marine management

T4: Te tāhuhu matatau: Empowering kaitiaki of Tangaroa

2.3: Indigenising the blue economy in Aotearoa

2.14: Whakaika te moana

2.15: Thinking outside the can: engineering toheroa aquaculture

2.16: A novel approach to aquaculture in Aotearoa NZ

3.1: Perceptions of risk and uncertainty

3.2: Communicating risk and uncertainty

4.1: Tangaroa Ararau: Treaty relationships and EBM

4.4: Understanding and communicating the various implications of scale for EBM

S3: Synthesis of Tangaroa phase one research

S7: Ki uta ki tai: Estuaries thresholds and values

## He Taura Here

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# Kupu Whakauru

## Introduction

### SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The [Sustainable National Seas Challenge](#) (Challenge) is one of the ten National Science Challenges launched by the New Zealand government to address major scientific and environmental priorities across the nation. The Challenge spanned ten years of research, aimed at enhancing the management of marine resources to ensure their sustainability for future generations. It brought together scientists, stakeholders and communities to develop new approaches and technologies for maintaining the health and economic viability of the marine ecosystem.

Over its tenure, the Challenge brought together over 100 research projects, with researchers from a range of disciplines, including mātauranga Māori, ecology, biophysical sciences, social science, economy and policy.<sup>1</sup> Phase Two of the programme identified the opportunity to synthesise learnings across Challenge themes and research projects. As such, the **Sustainable Seas Synthesis** programme was developed with the aim of gathering collective insights across the Challenge to produce outcomes that would exceed the summation of individual contributions.<sup>2</sup>

The Challenge research generated a vast body of knowledge across a range of research disciplines, in various spaces, targeting a diverse scope of end-users. To ensure the practical and meaningful development and delivery of the synthesis programme, four focused Synthesis Strands (Strand) were identified: Ecosystem-Based Management, Blue Economy, Research Process, and Te Ao Māori. These four strands formed the basis for specific synthesis perspectives, each providing a unique position from which synthesis was conducted.

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<sup>1</sup> See 'Our Research - Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge' at [www.sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz/our-research](http://www.sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz/our-research). Available from Sustainable Seas Challenge: [sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz](http://sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz)

<sup>2</sup> For more information about the Sustainable Seas Synthesis Programme, see 'Synthesis Plan for 2022-2024, November 2021'. Available from: Our Research - Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge: [sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz](http://sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz)

# Te Ao Māori Synthesis Strand

In Phase Two of the Challenge, a range of steps were taken to embed Vision Mātauranga (VM) into the research. These included:

- building on the existing relationships and partnerships with Māori researchers, hapū and iwi developed during Phase One
- establishing the Manahautū (Deputy Director Māori) role to recognise and support the significant and distinct relationships and interests (both commercial and customary) that Māori have with the moana
- increasing support of Māori-focused initiatives, including the VM Leadership Group, Te Hononga Māori researchers collective, the Strategic Māori Advisory Group, targeted VM funding, and a Māori Communications strategy.
- creating the Tangaroa Theme to provide for Māori-led research that specifically aimed to deliver VM related innovations and outcomes, directly targeting the needs of iwi and hapū.

In alignment with the VM-focused initiatives, the Te Ao Māori synthesis strand was established as one of the four strands within the Challenge Synthesis programme. This strand presented a unique opportunity to develop a synthesis programme grounded in a Te Ao Māori worldview. Te Ao Māori broadly describes a cultural worldview that encompasses Māori cultural values, beliefs, and practices that are deeply connected to the natural environment and ancestral tradition. As a synthesis strand, it emphasises strengthening connections with the moana, drawing on the wisdom and knowledge of atua and tūpuna.

Te Ao Māori provided a distinct cultural lens that shaped all facets of the synthesis programme. This perspective guided the creation of the foundational framework, research ethics, programme workplan, data collection, and data analysis. It also offered clear directives on service delivery and impact. To ensure the synthesis programme aligned with and honoured Te Ao Māori principles and values, the synthesis team established clear, measurable guidelines for the programme. The synthesis programme must:

- be grounded in Te Ao Māori principles
- pursue lines of inquiry that are relevant and useful to Te Ao Māori
- elevate the voices and stories of Te Ao Māori
- ensure the synthesis process is safe for all involved
- produce outputs that are valuable, useful, and of service to Te Ao Māori
- be guided by Te Ao Māori experts, pūkenga taiao, mātanga reo, and tohunga
- be designed and delivered by a Māori research team.

These guidelines have been woven throughout the entire synthesis programme and will be detailed further in the report.

Taura Here refers to the concept of connection, emphasising relationships between people, places, and the environment. It symbolises the ties that unite individuals and communities, reinforcing social cohesion and mutual responsibilities. The title of this report, 'Taura Here', represents the rope that binds together the various components of the synthesis programme, highlighting the importance of coherence and unity throughout its development and delivery. This report is structured into six sections, each detailing an essential component of the programme. Each section offers insights into how these components were developed and interconnected to support the entire Te Ao Māori synthesis programme.

## 1. **Te Ao Tūroa** – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

### 1. Grounded in Te Ao Māori principles

This section aims to clearly define the foundational principles of the synthesis programme, providing the context in which it was developed and delivered.

## 2. **Ngā Aho** – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Activities

### 2. Pursue relevant and useful lines of inquiry

This section presents the four synthesis activities or lines of inquiry on which the synthesis programme was based: Taura Here, Waka Taurua, Te Ao Tūroa, and Tūhonohono.

## 3. **Te Puna Kōrero** – Te Ao Māori Collective

### 3. Elevate voices and stories of Te Ao Māori

This section provides an overview of the Te Puna Kōrero, a group of Challenge research projects upon which the synthesis programme was based.

## 4. **He Mahere** – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Workplan

### 4. Ensure a safe synthesis process

This section briefly outlines the research ethics and programme workplan, illustrating the three key phases of the synthesis programme that guided its delivery.

## 5. **Ngā Hua** – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Outputs

### 5. Produce valuable and useful outputs for Te Ao Māori

This section details the collection of outputs developed in the synthesis programme, each focused on a specific line of inquiry and targeted service.

## 6. **Te Kāhui Rangahau** – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Team

### 6. Guided and delivered by Te Ao Māori experts

This final section introduces the synthesis team, comprising Te Ohu Rangahau (Te Ao Māori Synthesis Activity Leads), Te Mātāpuna (Cultural Advisory Group), Te Kaiārahi (Te Ao Māori Synthesis Strand Leader), and Te Manahautū (Deputy Director Māori).



# Te Ao Tūroa – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

Grounded in Te Ao Māori principles

Te Ao Māori provides the broad cultural perspective from which the synthesis programme was developed. Although Te Ao Māori remains the core perspective, the synthesis team sought to align the synthesis programme more closely with the core objectives of the Challenge, as expressed in its name – Ngā Moana Whakauka, Sustainable Seas – and its vision to improve the health of the seas.

A considered approach was taken to create a synthesis framework grounded in Te Ao Māori knowledge and reflective of the work conducted in the Challenge. Three projects – Ngā Tohu o te Ao, Whakaika te Moana, and Tāhūhū Matatau<sup>3</sup> – were particularly noted for their concentrated efforts in exploring Te Ao Māori-derived concepts relating to indigenous aquaculture, marine monitoring, and digital repositories. From the work conducted in these projects, coupled with focused wānanga with the Mātāpuna, Te Ao Tūroa emerged as a focused perspective that not only aligned with the Challenge’s vision and objectives but also offered a distinctively Māori viewpoint.

Te Ao Tūroa can be defined as the natural world and its regenerative potential. It goes beyond advocating for sustainable management and practices; it suggests that merely maintaining the current state of the environment is insufficient. Te Ao Tūroa insists that everyone must actively improve or restore the health of ecosystems and resources, enhancing their capacity to regenerate and thrive. Implicit in this is a long-term, intergenerational commitment to taiao and mokopuna.

With Te Ao Māori as the broad cultural worldview, Te Ao Tūroa, within the context of the synthesis programme, was the focused lens through which the programme perceived and interacted with the vast body of knowledge developed in the Challenge. Te Ao Tūroa served as the lens for gathering, extracting, and synthesising information. It was the foundation—the tuāpapa—upon which each layer, each lesson, and each insight was positioned. It embodied the perspective, core principle, aspiration, and foundational ethos of the synthesis programme.

<sup>3</sup> Mātāpuna, a cultural advisory group, comprising Māori cultural experts, formed to support safe navigation of Te Ao Māori synthesis. For more detail, see Ono: Te Kāhui Rangahau - Te Ao Māori Synthesis Team.

Te Ao Tūroa provided the synthesis programme with very clear positioning within Te Ao Māori. As a tūāpapa, we looked to further develop Te Ao Turoa as a framework that would support the facilitation and delivery of the synthesis programme. When developing the Te Ao Tūroa Framework, a considered approach was taken to ensure relevance and usability. As such, the frame was developed with these considerations in mind.

- Grounded in Te Ao Māori principles: These principles provide the foundational cultural perspective overseeing the whole synthesis programme.
- Focused: Draw on key concepts that are central to Te Ao Tūroa.
- Simple in design and description: Ensure the framework is simple in design and description, to facilitate clear communication, application and alignment with participating projects.
- Reflective: Draw from research conducted within the Challenge, to ensure that the framework reflects insights that have emerged from Challenge initiatives.

In addition to Te Ao Tūroa, six concepts were explored in depth. These are considered as the key domains of influence and fundamental integrity markers for achieving Te Ao Tūroa, and collectively form the basis of the Te Ao Tūroa framework.

It is worth noting that Te Ao Tūroa and its associated concepts are not new; they have simply been brought together in a way that provides guidance for the synthesis programme. These concepts helped to define Te Ao Tūroa and support its practical application as a working framework within the context of the synthesis programme.

This section outlines the three layers of the Te Ao Tūroa framework, detailing six concepts as they apply to the synthesis programme:

- Te Tūāpapa - Foundational Principle: Te Ao Tūroa
- Ngā Wao - Domains of Influence: Wao atua, Wao tāngata, Wao tūpuna
- Ngā Whiri - Integrity Markers: mauri, whakapapa, mana

**TE AO TŪROA FRAMEWORK**

Guiding framework for the Te Ao Māori Synthesis programme



## Te Tūāpapa - Foundational Principle

Te Ao Tūroa refers to the long-standing natural world, and the regenerative potential of natural environmental systems. Within the context of the synthesis framework, Te Ao Tūroa is both a descriptive and aspirational statement. Te Ao Tūroa as a descriptive speaks to the characteristic nature of taiao, and the ability of a functioning balanced taiao system to self-regenerate. Te Ao Tūroa is the product of mauri flow, when mauri is flowing, life is activated and energy is transferred, from which emerges a natural self-defined regenerative cycle of energy and life.

As an aspirational statement, Te Ao Tūroa implies a responsibility and obligation to future generations. It advises that for productive ecosystems to exist in perpetuity, mauri must be nurtured and nourished. From this perspective, Te Ao Tūroa dictates that actions of today must align with the natural flow of mauri and must ensure long-lasting unimpeded regenerative systems into the future.

## Ngā Wao – Domains of Influence

Te Ao Tūroa is the tūāpapa, the first layer of the framework, upon which each progressive layer is placed. The second layer draws attention to Ngā Wao – which comprises three domains of influence that illustrate essential landing points for Te Ao Tūroa synthesis. This section presents each Wao and provides a description from the perspective of applied Te Ao Tūroa.

### WAO ATUA

In the context of the Te Ao Tūroa framework, Wao Atua refers to systems of mauri – systems composed of life-giving energy lines, which are interconnected and interdependent. Wao Atua speaks to the spaces governed by Atua Māori, such as Te Wao Tapu Nui a Tāne and Te Wao a Tangaroa. Each Wao Atua, or system of mauri, has a unique natural logic of energy activation and transfer that ensures the ability of the system to exist, give, and create life. This function of Wao Atua serves as the foundation for life on earth.

Wao Atua are most obvious in remnant undisturbed natural taiao spaces (such as repo, ngāhere, puna and moana). These source points of mauri feed outward, activating lines of ecosystem productivity, ultimately providing for taiao and tāngata.

**Wao Atua** are source points of mauri, flowing, feeding, and igniting services to **Wao Tāngata**.

Wao Atua inform ancestral knowledge held in **Wao Tūpuna**.

### WAO TĀNGATA

Wao Tāngata describes the practical human-centric elements of the Wao Atua living system. Wao Tāngata are points of interaction with Wao Atua, encompassing all aspects of human-based activities, pursuits, and endeavours – both direct and indirect. Wao Tāngata positions humans within Wao Atua, carrying the inherent obligation and responsibility to ensure that interactions take account of, and respect, the whole system.

Wao Tāngata also includes human management systems and structures that govern and enforce appropriate interactions with Wao Atua. According to Te Ao Tūroa, any human activity or interaction with Wao Atua must support the permanent, long-term regenerative flow of mauri. Activities, policies or legislation that disrupt or inhibit the natural energy flow of mauri impede the ability of Wao Atua to provide quality services and violate the core principles of Te Ao Tūroa.

**Wao Tāngata** is responsible to **Wao Atua** to ensure mauri flows.

**Wao Tāngata** is responsible to **Wao Tūpuna** for ensuring that ancestral knowledge is actively practiced and preserved.

### WAO TŪPUNA

Wao Tūpuna refers to the ancestral knowledge of Te Ao Tūroa. Wao Tūpuna holds the ancestral knowledge of Wao Atua systems, a blueprint of the intricate tapestry of Te Ao Tūroa and the energy systems that give life. Wao Tūpuna refer to the repositories of ancestral knowledge, including but not limited to purakau, karakia, whakapapa, waiata, moteatea, and various cultural art forms.

Wao Tūpuna and Wao Tāngata are intricately linked, reflecting the interconnected nature of knowledge and practice as two parts of understanding. Wao Tūpuna therefore contains the knowledge that dictates appropriate interaction with Wao Atua systems, essentially providing the rules and conventions that govern the activities of Wao Tāngata.

**Wao Tūpuna** is responsible to **Wao Atua** to hold the intricate ancestral knowledge systems.

**Wao Tūpuna** is responsible to **Wao Tāngata** to guide and inform practice.

# Ngā Whiri - Integrity Markers

Te Ao Tūroa, as the aspirational guiding principle, forms the tūāpapa or foundation of the framework. The second layer, Ngā Wao, comprises three key components essential for Te Ao Tūroa synthesis. The third layer, Ngā Whiri, comprises three elements that serve as the binding threads tying Wao Atua, Wao Tāngata and Wao Tūpuna together, illustrating the interconnected and interdependent nature of the framework. Ngā Whiri were carefully and thoughtfully positioned to illustrate the key drivers and points of connection within Te Ao Tūroa. This section presents mauri, whakapapa and mana, and provides a description of each from the perspective of the Te Ao Tūroa framework.

## MAURI

Mauri is the life-giving property imbued in every living thing. Mauri flows with and within water: water is the carrier of mauri. When mauri is flowing, living cells are energised, and this energy ignites and activates life. This life energy moves and is transferred through the myriad of connections within a living system, with each transfer of energy mauri perpetuates life. Mauri is the connector of all living things – past, present and future. If mauri cannot flow, life cannot regenerate, and a system becomes unable to generate energy and realise the potential of life.

Mauri is positioned to the left of the framework, connecting Wao Atua to Wao Tāngata. This placement highlights the connection between Wao Atua, as the source point of mauri, and the living systems that Wao Tāngata rely on. The framework positions Wao Tāngata within the stream of mauri, emphasising that Tāngata both receive from, and contribute to, Wao Atua. With this privilege comes an inherent responsibility and obligation to preserve the quality of mauri and ensure the perpetual regeneration of Wao Atua.

## WHAKAPAPA

Whakapapa sits within Wao Tūpuna. Whakapapa in the context of Te Ao Tūroa describes in detail the flow of mauri – the natural energy transfer process within a Wao Atua system. By providing ancestral narratives of the natural logic of a Wao Atua system, whakapapa illustrates the key components that must be in place for mauri to flow, for energy to ignite, and for life to manifest.

Whakapapa is positioned to the right of the framework. This positioning illustrates the reflective nature of mauri and whakapapa. Whakapapa connects Wao Atua to Wao Tūpuna, demonstrating that whakapapa is a product, and a descriptive, of functioning Wao Atua systems. As a repository of ancestral knowledge, whakapapa sits within the realm of Wao Tūpuna.

## MANA

Mana is intricately linked with mauri, the life force or energy that binds all living entities. When mauri is flowing, life is ignited, and this life essence activates mana. Mana in the context of Te Ao Tūroa is a product of mauri. Without mauri, mana cannot be realised. Mana is the outward expression of mauri and is influenced by the condition of the mauri in the environment. The expression of mana can be observed in healthy ecosystems where mauri is flowing and flourishing.

Mana is positioned at the base of the framework, illustrating it as a product of functioning Wao Atua, aligned Wao Tāngata and a vibrant living Wao Tūpuna. If the Te Ao Tūroa system is working, then mana will be realised, enhanced and upheld.

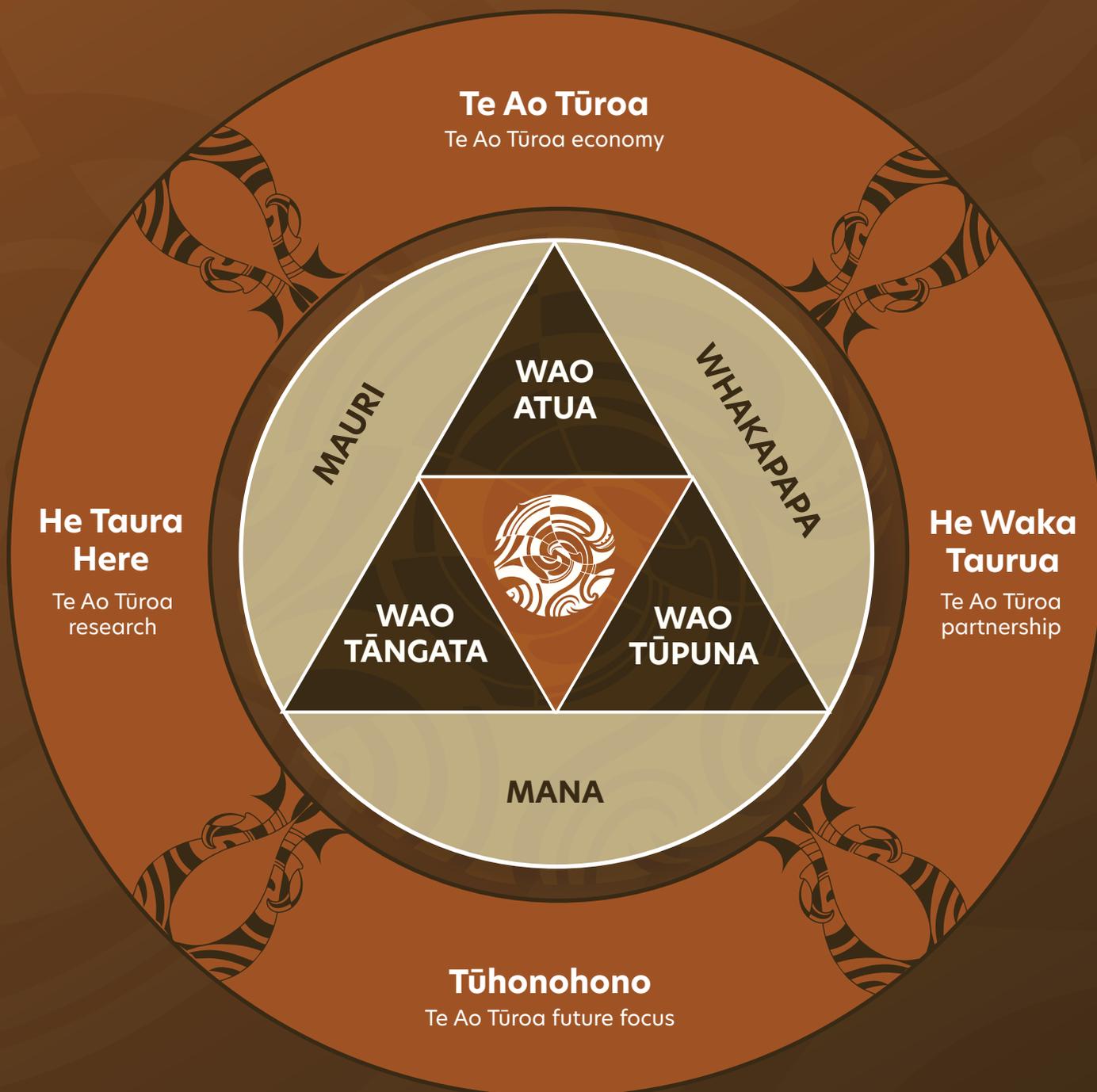
# Ngā Aho – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Activities

## PURSUE RELEVANT AND USEFUL LINES OF INQUIRY

Te Ao Māori offers a broad perspective that positions the synthesis within Māori cultural principles and values. Te Ao Tūroa provides a more focused lens, aligning the synthesis programme with principles of regenerative and enduring environmental systems. The synthesis activities were the focused lines of enquiry through which the synthesis was conducted.

The Challenge encompassed a wide array of research topics, creating an extensive body of knowledge from which to derive and consolidate lessons. To ensure a focused approach to the synthesis programme, it was important that the lines of enquiry were clear and defined. Four synthesis activities were identified as priority lines of enquiry: He Taura Here, He Waka Taurua, Te Ao Tūroa, and Tūhonohono.

Despite each activity focusing on a distinct line of enquiry, all four were designed to function collectively and work together as one. Throughout the project, the four activities collaborated to develop the synthesis programme, engage with participants, collect and analyse data, and present findings. This level of collaboration helped to ensure cohesive development and delivery of the overall programme.



# He Taura Here

## Te Ao Tūroa research

He Taura Here drew insights from the Challenge to deepen understanding of Māori research epistemologies and methodologies, focusing specifically on Kaupapa Māori research. The activity developed a synthesis process anchored in Kaupapa Māori principles, which aimed to elevate Kaupapa Māori research methods and indigenous technical science as crucial components of the Challenge research.

### Research Goals

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1. Deepen understanding of Māori ways of knowing, thinking, and doing through a focused exploration of Kaupapa Māori research methodologies.
2. Enhance the integration and recognition of Kaupapa Māori research within national research, science, and innovation (RSI).

### Research Aims

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1. Develop Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework. Advance theory and practice around the Te Ao Māori synthesis method, including developing a framework grounded in Te Ao Tūroa principles to guide the synthesis programme.
2. Enhance understanding of applied Kaupapa Māori principles in research. Synthesise findings from across the Challenge to enhance understanding of applied Kaupapa Māori research. This effort also sought to explore new and emerging Kaupapa Māori research methods that arose from the Challenge research.
3. Increase Māori participation and impact in future national RSI. Identify critical success measures for applied Kaupapa Māori research, providing directives for future national science research funding strategies and systems. The intent being to elevate Kaupapa Māori research methods and indigenous technical science as integral components of research, science and innovation.

### Targeted impact

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He Taura Here aimed to centre Kaupapa Māori and Te Ao Tūroa principles as essential knowledge systems for developing and delivering research across the Challenge. This initiative focused on developing a synthesis framework to guide future projects focused on Te Ao Māori. Additionally, it sought to exemplify Kaupapa Māori research and indigenous technical science as crucial to the development of national science research.

# He Waka Taurua

## Te Ao Tūroa partnership

Waka Taurua sought to bring forward a framework developed during Phase One of the Challenge, to enhance understanding of its implementation in a research capacity. It also sought to bring light to the development and preparation of the 'Waka Māori' for engagement in negotiated spaces. The Waka Taurua framework offers a conceptual model for informing effective engagement in spaces, such as environmental research and marine management. The framework can accommodate diverse worldviews, values and knowledge systems, and outlines a process for these diverse worldviews to operate both independently and, when appropriate, collaboratively towards a common goal.

### Research Goals

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Enhance the understanding of the principles and values that underpin the Waka Māori, providing a clearer pathway for successful implementation of the Waka Taurua approach.

### Research Aims

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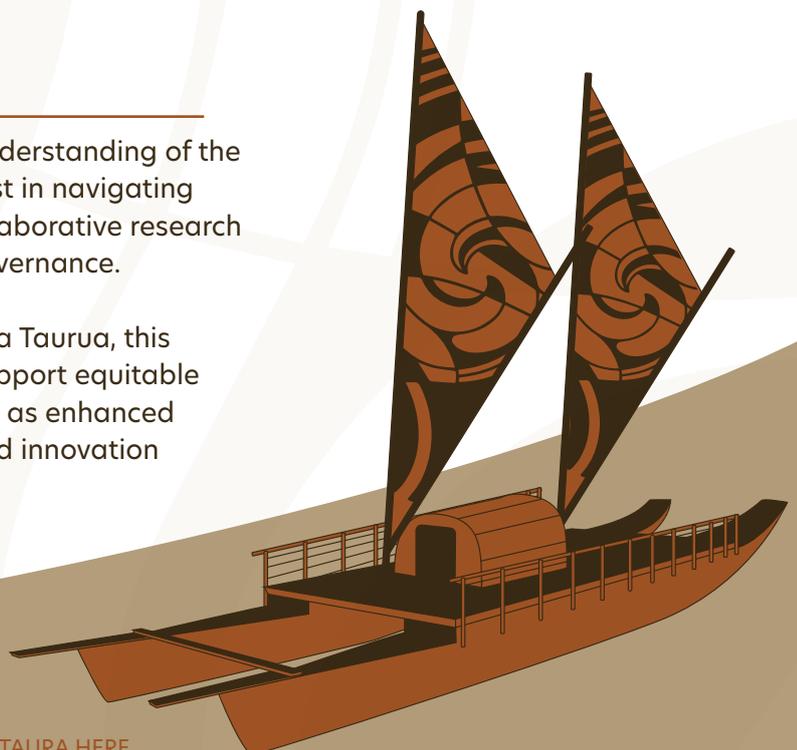
1. Advance understanding of concepts that form the Waka Māori.
2. Describe the foundational concepts that constitute the Waka Māori and explore how Te Ao Māori principles inform these concepts.
3. Advance theory around the implementation of the Waka Taurua model.
  - Examine how the Waka Taurua model has been applied in Challenge research initiatives.
  - Identify critical success factors that contribute to the successful implementation of the Waka Taurua.

### Targeted impact

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Waka Taurua activity aimed to enhance understanding of the Waka Taurua and the Waka Māori, to assist in navigating the complexities of negotiated spaces, collaborative research arrangements, co-management and co-governance.

Through focused enquiry into applied Waka Taurua, this activity aimed to provide directives that support equitable engagements, and shared benefits, as well as enhanced Māori participation in research, science and innovation and in marine management.



# Te Ao Tūroa

## Te Ao Tūroa economy

The Te Ao Tūroa activity sought to elevate Te Ao Māori values and perspectives by presenting alternative indigenous perspectives of the marine economy, framed around the principles of Te Ao Tūroa. The activity drew on research from across the Challenge to provide practical examples of Te Ao Tūroa economies, aiming to further advance theory around the potential for developing Te Ao Māori aligned blue economies.

### Research Goals

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Elevate Te Ao Māori perspectives in the development and management of the New Zealand marine economy.

### Research Aims

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1. Explore principle of a Te Ao Tūroa economy  
Elevate Te Ao Tūroa principles as core drivers in the development of Māori marine economies.
2. Showcase exemplars of research focused on Te Ao Tūroa economies  
Showcase Te Ao Tūroa principles in action through case studies drawn from current research in the Challenge. Use these examples to inform and refine theoretical development of applied Te Ao Tūroa economies.
3. Inform the transition to a Te Ao Tūroa economy  
Leverage insights from Te Ao Tūroa to provide strategic guidance for appropriately positioning of Te Ao Māori principles and values into the development of appropriate policies and practices for a Te Ao Tūroa economy.

### Targeted impact

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Te Ao Tūroa elevates Te Ao Māori values and perspectives as cultural standards for developing and implementing Te Ao Tūroa aligned economies.

The central focus was to empower those at grassroots levels, decision-makers, and those in marine industry sectors in a way that drives momentum towards behaviours and practices more closely aligned with Te Ao Tūroa principles.

# Tūhonohono

## Te Ao Tūroa future focus

This activity sought to understand and enhance the impact of the Challenge research from the perspective of Te Ao Tūroa. The programme was impact-focused, aimed at defining Te Ao Tūroa impact, and developing four outputs designed to ignite, activate and stimulate lasting impact to both Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Tūroa.

### Research Goals

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Deepen the integration and understanding of Te Ao Tūroa within various research and community sectors, with the intent of creating an enduring legacy and a solid foundation of Te Ao Tūroa knowledge and practice.

### Research Aims

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1. Understand the collective impact to Te Ao Tūroa.  
Advance understanding around key lines of impact and key enablers of service to Te Ao Tūroa.
2. Deliver legacy impact into Te Ao Tūroa.  
Develop impact pieces and organise events to ensure the long-term influence and sustainability of the outcomes achieved through the synthesis programme.
  - **He Wai Māngaro:** Stories of Connection to Wai  
Create a platform for Māori researchers and communities to share stories in a meaningful way, enabling a unified voice that encapsulates the wisdom, intentions and experiences of Challenge research.
  - **Wānanga Tūhono:** Emerging Te Ao Tūroa Practitioners  
Empower a new generation of practitioners who are motivated and passionate about integrating and implementing Te Ao Tūroa principles in various spaces of influence.
  - **Te Ao Tūroa:** Principles and Concepts of Te Ao Tūroa  
Provide a forum for sharing perspectives and understandings from cultural practitioners about the core principles and concepts of Te Ao Tūroa, enhancing the potential for application across various areas of influence and practice.

### Targeted impact

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The Tūhonohono activity was designed with a focus on legacy impact, ensuring that the principles and insights developed through the synthesis programme have enduring influence.

This initiative targeted a broad audience, including whanau, hapū, iwi, Māori researchers across various disciplines, Māori industry and businesses, as well as local and central government agencies involved in marine management.

The goal was to create accessible impact pieces to support uptake of Te Ao Tūroa principles within these communities and systems, promoting long-lasting applications and benefits.

# Te Puna Kōrero - Te Ao Māori Collective

## Elevate voices and stories of Te Ao Māori

As noted in this report's introduction, the Challenge spanned 10 years, and encompassed over 100 research projects. Given the extensive body of knowledge and the complexity of those involved in the programmes, the synthesis aimed to establish a collective of projects from across the Challenge to participate in the synthesis programme. A collective would ensure a more manageable approach for both the synthesis team and the participating research projects.

To begin, the scope was narrowed to include only Phase Two projects (2019-2024). Projects delivered in Phase One of the Challenge were integrated through the Synthesis of Tangaroa Phase One, research project.

From the outset of the synthesis programme, a core goal was to elevate the voices and stories of Te Ao Māori. Therefore, the approach to forming the collective involved identifying projects within the Challenge that could contribute to shaping a unified Te Ao Māori voice. To this end, specific criteria were developed, and a recruitment plan was established to ensure alignment with the synthesis objectives.

Projects that met one of the following criteria were invited to participate in the synthesis programme:

- Tangaroa Themed: projects that sit within the Tangaroa Theme
- Kaupapa Māori: projects that are led by or have Kaupapa Māori principles embedded in the research programme
- Māori Co-partners: projects that include Māori practitioners, marae, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations, or Māori businesses as research co-partners

The recruitment plan was based on self-appointment, enabling project leads to assess if the synthesis programme aligned with, and could benefit, their research efforts. Participant recruitment for the synthesis programme was carried out in three stages to ensure a comprehensive and informed process.

1. Data Scan - To provide the synthesis team with an overview of the ongoing research across the Challenge, a broad data scan was conducted of all Phase Two projects.
2. Scoping Questionnaire - Phase Two project leads received an online scoping questionnaire aimed at understanding the scope of Te Ao Māori-aligned research, gauging interest, and determining the best times for wānanga and engagement strategies.

3. **Project Lead Hui** - Project leads who aligned with the criteria and expressed interest received an invitation to an informal meeting where the Te Ao Māori synthesis programme was presented - the Te Ao Tūroa framework, the four synthesis activities, and the workplan. This meeting provided an opportunity for project leads to ask questions, seek clarifications, and discuss their involvement and the engagement strategies for their teams.

Of the 35 projects involved in Phase Two of the Challenge, 13 projects agreed to participate in the programme (see Appendix 1 - Te Puna Kōrero for a full list of contributing projects). These projects formed the Puna Kōrero and were the primary sources of information, insights, and lessons which became the basis for the synthesis programme.

The synthesis programme aimed to generate a broad perspective of Te Ao Māori, incorporating insights from all individuals involved in the research as well as encompassing a variety of perspectives and experiences. With the goal of elevating the voices and stories of Te Ao Māori, the programme drew on the expertise of academic and non-academic researchers, community members, whānau, hapū, and cultural practitioners, each bringing a diverse range of experiences and insights.



# He Mahere – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Workplan

## Ensure a safe synthesis process

This section of the report briefly outlines the programme workplan and research ethics framework. Each component of the workplan was carefully considered to ensure:

- a safe and effective synthesis process
- delivery was grounded in Te Ao Māori principles
- the creation of safe and culturally appropriate spaces
- provision for collaborative exploration and examination of learnings and impacts across the Puna Kōrero.

## Te Mahere – Te Ao Turoa Synthesis Workplan

The workplan consisted of three main stages, as noted in this table (see Appendix 2 – Te Mahere for a detailed workplan).

### Te Tuapapa

Develop the Te Ao Māori synthesis framework, the synthesis workplan and the research ethics framework.

The **synthesis framework and workplan** were thoughtfully crafted to ensure each component was grounded in Te Ao Māori principles. This stage involved a series of wānanga with Mātāpuna and Te Ohu Rangahau. The synthesis framework and the workplan were reviewed by project leads to ensure alignment and feasibility of delivery.

A **research ethics framework** was developed that was complementary to the workplan. This framework outlined ethical considerations and principles to guide the delivery of the synthesis programme. A key component of this framework was the Kawa Whakaritenga - Agreement of Engagement which guided engagement and interactions throughout the programme (see Appendix 3: Kawa Whakaritenga for a full description)

### Ka Kohi

Collect data for the synthesis activities - Data collection was facilitated through various methods, tailored to each activity and its specific line of inquiry. These methods included desktop data scans, literature reviews, clustered workshops, in-person wānanga, and semi-structured interviews.

### Ngā Hua

Develop and deliver synthesis outputs - The collected data was collated, analysed, and formed into a series of outputs, including infographic reports, video podcasts, an online book, and a three-day wānanga.



## Ngā Hua – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Outputs

Produce valuable and useful outputs for Te Ao Māori

A key directive for the synthesis programme was to produce valuable and useful outputs for Te Ao Māori. Each synthesis activity involved reaching across the breadth of research conducted in the Challenge to draw together insights and learnings. The overall goal was to weave these lessons into something meaningful and useful, thereby making a valuable contribution to Te Ao Māori.

## Taura Here

### He Taura Here - Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

- » An operational framework designed to guide the delivery of the Te Ao Māori synthesis programme.

### Kōtuia - Exploring Applied Kaupapa Māori research

- » An infographic that explores applied Kaupapa Māori research methods used in the Challenge research.

### Ngā Aho Rangahau - Key success measures for applied Kaupapa Māori research

- » An infographic outlining critical success measures for applied Kaupapa Māori research, offering directives for future national science research.

### Ngā Aho Kōrero - Insights from Te Ohu Rangahau

- » A podcast featuring discussions with synthesis activity leads about the insights gained from developing and delivering the synthesis programme.

## Waka Taurua

### He Waka Taurua: What is the Waka Taurua?

- » An infographic that outlines the key concepts and principles of the Waka Taurua and Waka Māori.

### He Waka Māori: A cultural practitioner's perspective

- » A podcast series that delves into the key concepts and principles of Waka Māori from the perspectives of cultural practitioners.

### Rūruku mai taku Waka Taurua: Exemplars and success factors of Waka Taurua research

- » An infographic report examining how the Waka Taurua model has been applied in Challenge research.

### Whakarite mai taku Waka Rangahau: Preparing our research waka for working in partnership

- » An infographic report identifying critical factors that contribute to the successful preparation and implementation of a Waka Taurua.

## Te Ao Tūroa

### Concepts and principles of a Te Ao Tūroa informed economy

- » A podcast that describes the principles of Te Ao Tūroa and discusses how they relate to, and can inform, the development of Māori economies.

### Applied Te Ao Tūroa

- » A podcast series showcasing Te Ao Tūroa principles through case studies drawn from current Challenge research.

### Strategic directives toward a Te Ao Tūroa informed economy

- » An infographic that provides strategic guidance for integrating Te Ao Tūroa principles into marine economy policies and practices.

## Tūhonohono

### Tūhonohono - Impact in Te Ao Tūroa

- » An infographic illustrating the key lines of service and spheres of influence enabled through Challenge research.

### Te Ao Tūroa Principles explored

- » A series of video podcasts that delve into Te Ao Tūroa principles – mauri, whakapapa and mana – from the perspective of cultural practitioners, informing the progression towards indigenous marine management.

### He Wai Māngaro – Stories of connection to wai

- » A digital book compiling personal stories from Māori researchers, sharing their insights and learnings from Challenge research.

### Te Ao Tūroa Wānanga: Exploring Te Ao Tūroa Principles and Whakapapa o te Wai

- » An in-person wānanga focused on exploring Te Ao Tūroa principles and the whakapapa o te wai, with an emphasis on legacy and succession.

# Te Kāhui Rangahau – Te Ao Māori Synthesis Team

Guided and delivered by Te Ao Māori experts

A key consideration in setting up the synthesis programme was assembling a diverse and skilled working team. Bringing together a range of expertise was important to broaden the perspective and approach needed for such a substantial task. Team members brought specialised knowledge and skills, with each member contributing to the overall objectives. The project team included Te Ohu Rangahau, Te Mātāpuna, Te Kaiārahi and Te Manahautū.

## Te Ohu Rangahau - Te Ao Māori Synthesis Activity Leads

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The Ohu Rangahau comprised three lead researchers who oversaw the development and delivery of the four synthesis activities. Their role was crucial in steering the specific objectives and methodologies of each activity. Each research lead ensured their respective areas of focus adhered to the defined lines of enquiry and aligned with Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Tūroa principles. Working closely on all aspects of the programme, the activity leads collectively developed the programme, engaged with participants, collected and analysed data, and presented findings in a unified way. This collaborative effort ensured the overall programme was cohesive and impactful.

## Mātāpuna - Cultural Advisory Group

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The Mātāpuna, a Māori practitioner-based advisory group, was formed to support safe navigation of Te Ao Māori synthesis. Composed of pūkenga taiao (environmental experts), mātanga reo (language experts), and tohunga whatu (weaving experts), the group brought together knowledge of Te Reo Māori (language), kōrero tuku iho (heritage knowledge), and mōhio (practitioner-based understanding) to inform and guide each component of the synthesis programme.

The Mātāpuna played a crucial role in developing three foundational components of the synthesis programme: the Te Ao Tūroa framework, the research ethics framework, and the synthesis workplan. The group also contributed to developing the data analysis framework, which helped streamline the analysis process. Making the most of their various expertise, the members of the Mātāpuna ensured broad consideration in how outputs were developed, to effectively serve both Māori and non-Māori end-users.

## Kaiārahi - Te Ao Māori Synthesis Strand Leader

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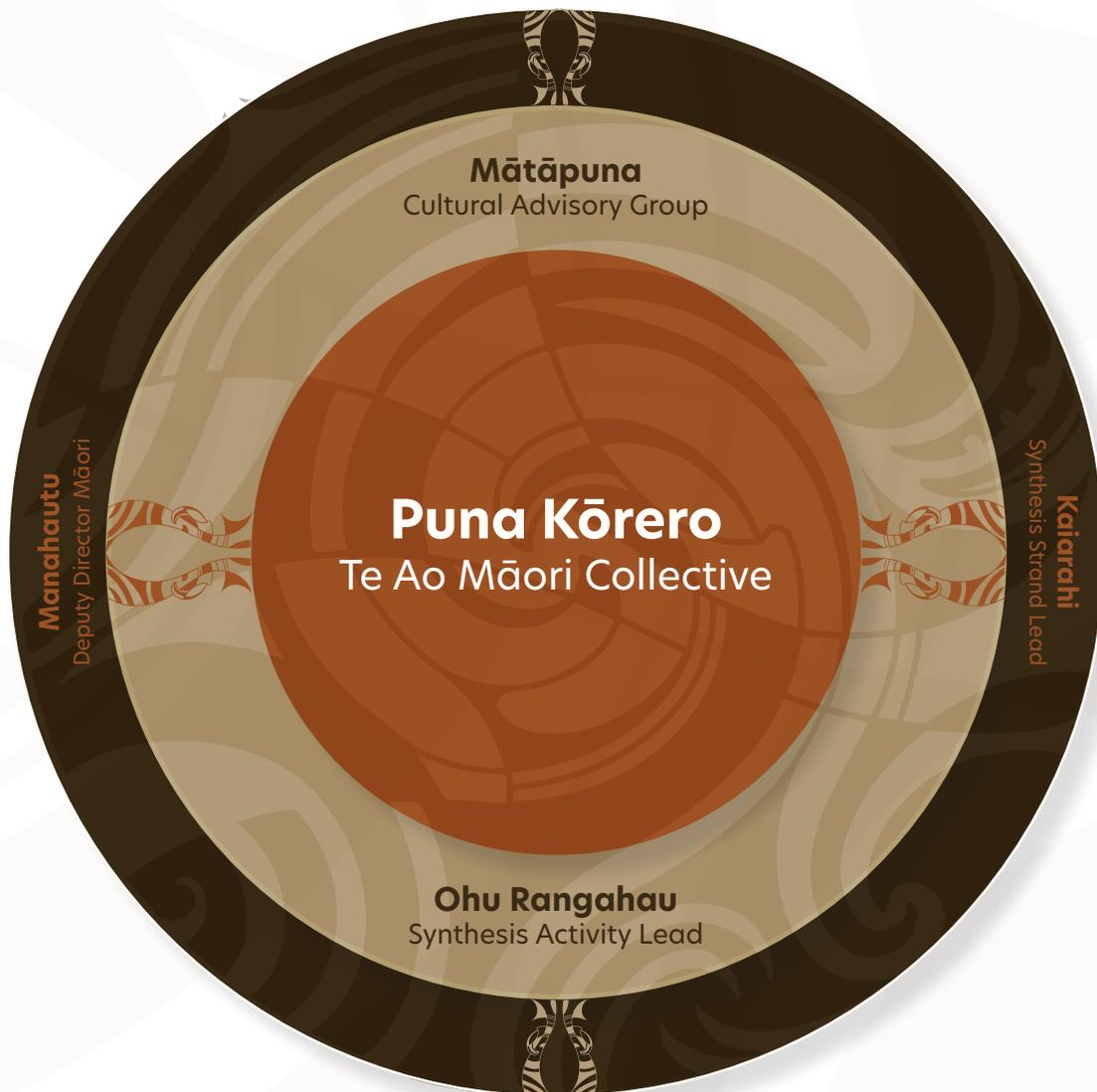
The Synthesis Strand Leader was instrumental in steering the direction of the programme, ensuring it progressed smoothly and stayed aligned with its goals. The Kaiārahi worked closely with Te Ohu Rangahau, shaping each stage of the programme and facilitating communication and collaboration between the activity leads, the broader challenge leadership teams, and the other synthesis strands.

## Te Manahautū

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The Manahautū – Deputy Director Māori – played a vital role in overseeing the development and delivery of the synthesis programme, providing essential guidance and direction. Like all initiatives with a Vision Mātauranga focus, the Manahautū created and maintained space for the synthesis programme to be conducted in a culturally authentic manner, steering the programme towards successful outcomes for Māori.

## TE KĀHUI RANGAHAU - Te Ao Māori Synthesis Team



## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1 : TE PUNA KŌRERO - TE AO MĀORI COLLECTIVE

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Te Puna Kōrero, a group of Challenge research projects upon which the Te Ao Māori synthesis programme was based.

- T1: Awhi mai awhi atu: Enacting a kaitiakitanga-based approach to EBM -  
Kura Paul-Burke and Richard Bulmer
- T3: Ngā tohu o te ao: Maramataka and marine management -  
Waiaria Rameka and Caine Taiapa
- T4: Te tāhuhu matatau: Empowering kaitiaki of Tangaroa -  
Caine Taiapa and Kelly Ratana
- 2.3: Indigenising the blue economy in Aotearoa -  
Jason Mika and John Reid
- 2.14: Whakaika te moana -  
Te Rerekohu Tuterangiwhiu and Kelly Ratana
- 2.15: Thinking outside the can: engineering toheroa aquaculture -  
Phil Ross and Taoho Patuawa
- 2.16: A novel approach to aquaculture in Aotearoa NZ -  
Simon Muncaster
- 3.1: Perceptions of risk and uncertainty -  
Paula Blackett and Shaun Awatere
- 3.2: Communicating risk and uncertainty -  
Joanne Ellis and Fabrice Stephenson
- 4.1: Tangaroa Ararau: Treaty relationships and EBM -  
Beth Tupara-Katene
- 4.4: Understanding and communicating the various implications of scale for EBM -  
Joanne Ellis
- S3: Synthesis of Tangaroa phase one research -  
Lara Taylor and Jason Mika
- S7: Ki uta ki tai: Estuaries thresholds and values -  
Drew Lohrer

## APPENDIX 2: TE MAHERE - TE AO MĀORI SYNTHESIS WORKPLAN

The Te Ao Māori synthesis programme extended over two years, beginning with the establishment of the Kāhui Rangahau, the dedicated research team. Once formed, this team collaboratively crafted the synthesis work plan. Structured in three main stages—Te Tuapapa, Ka Kohi, and Ngā Hua—the work plan steered the implementation of the programme through all four synthesis activities.

### TE TUAPAPA - Develop the Te Ao Māori synthesis framework

Kaupapa	Matua	Whāiti	Kawe
<b>Develop Te Ao Māori Synthesis framework and workplan</b>	<b>Develop a framework and workplan grounded in Te Ao Tūroa principles to guide the delivery of the synthesis programme.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine the key concepts, guiding principles and reference points for the Te Ao Tūroa framework.</li> <li>Define enquiry lines for each synthesis Activity (Taura Here, Waka Taurua, Te Ao Tūroa and Tūhonohono).</li> <li>Develop a workplan to guide the delivery of the synthesis programme.</li> <li>Develop a research ethics framework and agreement of engagement.</li> </ul>	Series of wānanga and workshops alongside the Mātāpuna.
<b>Review framework and workplan</b>	<b>Ensure the proposed Te Ao Tūroa framework aligns with the Puna Kōrero research.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce the synthesis programme, and the Te Ao Tūroa framework to the Puna Kōrero project leads.</li> <li>Review and refine the Te Ao Tūroa framework with the Puna Kōrero project leads.</li> </ul>	Online hui, with individual Puna Kōrero project leads.

**KA KOHI** - Collect data for the synthesis activities

Kaupapa	Kaupapa	Whāiti	Kawe
<p><b>Puna Kōrero</b> Project Data Scan</p>	<p>Collate project data, to inform appropriate design of synthesis activities, including wānanga, workshops, and interviews.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and collate background data for each of the confirmed Puna Kōrero projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Desk-top exercise, scanning all publicly accessible publications related to Puna Kōrero projects.</p>
<p><b>Puna Kōrero</b> Project Lead Meetings</p>	<p>Present clustered workshop plans and determine appropriate engagement with full research teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present the Tūhonohono, Te Ao Tūroa and Waka Taurua cluster workshop plans.</li> <li>Confirm initial project data gathered through the project data scan.</li> <li>Collect project-specific data, including project scope, research team and targeted impact.</li> <li>Confirm appropriate engagement with project teams, including researchers, advisors and co-partners.</li> </ul>	<p>Online and in person meetings with each project leader.</p>
<p><b>Tūhonohono</b> Workshop Series</p>	<p><b>Whakawhanaungatanga:</b> Develop relationships with full project teams, lead researchers, research partners, and project advisors.</p> <p>Advance understanding around key lines of impact and key enablers of service to Te Ao Tūroa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm project teams.</li> <li>Identify key external relationships and partnerships developed through the project.</li> <li>Scope key lines of targeted impact.</li> <li>Determine how impact was created within the project and among wider end users.</li> </ul>	<p>Tūhonohono workshop series – online workshops, and in-person wānanga with individual project teams.</p>
<p><b>Te Ao Tūroa</b> Cluster Workshop</p>	<p>Gather learnings and insights to inform and refine the development of Te Ao Tūroa theory and practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present Te Ao Tūroa concepts in relation to developing theory around Te Ao Tūroa aligned marine economies.</li> <li>Explore key enablers of Te Ao Tūroa economies.</li> <li>Investigate how ancestral knowledge can inform Te Ao Tūroa economies.</li> <li>Explore temporal and spatial aspects of Te Ao Tūroa economies.</li> </ul>	<p>Te Ao Tūroa Cluster – online workshop with the collective Puna Kōrero, researchers and co-partners.</p>
<p><b>Waka Taurua</b> Cluster Workshop</p>	<p>Gather learnings and insights to examine how the Waka Taurua model has been applied in Challenge research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the core components and principles that make up a Waka Taurua.</li> <li>Define the key factors that contribute to the successful implementation of a Waka Taurua.</li> <li>Detail the necessary preparations for engaging in a Waka Taurua.</li> </ul>	<p>Waka Taurua Cluster – online workshop with the collective Puna Kōrero researchers and co-partners.</p>
<p><b>Taura Here</b> Interview Series</p>	<p>Gather learnings and insights to understand applied Kaupapa Māori research principles and methods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore applied Kaupapa Māori research principles and methods across the Challenge system.</li> </ul>	<p>A series of semi structured interviews with selected lead researchers. In person and online.</p>
<p><b>Puna Kōrero</b> Review</p>	<p>Review and refine findings from across all four synthesis activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present initial findings and insights from the Tūhonohono workshop series, Te Ao Tūroa and Waka Taurua clustered workshops, and the Taura Here interviews.</li> <li>Collectively review and refine emerging themes.</li> </ul>	<p>Te Hononga wānanga, in person wānanga, facilitated workshops based on synthesis activity clusters.</p>

**NGĀ HUA** - Develop and deliver synthesis outputs

<b>Kaupapa</b>	<b>Kaupapa</b>	<b>Whāiti</b>	<b>Kawe</b>
<b>Data Analysis</b>	Collate, process and analyse data collected during the data-collection stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate and transcribe the collected data.</li> <li>Undertake thematic coding of collected data to identify common themes, patterns, and significant findings.</li> <li>Work alongside Mātāpuna to draw insights aligned with Te Ao Tūroa.</li> </ul>	Desk-top exercise and workshop with the Mātāpuna.
<b>Infographic Reports</b>	Develop and deliver synthesis products. Collate findings into reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present significant findings that have emerged across the Te Ao Māori synthesis programme in relation to the synthesis activities.</li> </ul>	Desk-top exercise.
<b>Te Ao Tūroa Video</b> Podcast Series	Compile a collection of Māori narratives that describe the core principles and concepts of Te Ao Tūroa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevate Te Ao Tūroa principles as key informants for Māori marine economies.</li> <li>Showcase Te Ao Tūroa principles in action through case studies drawn from the Puna Kōrero.</li> <li>Describe and document the foundational concepts that constitute the Waka Māori.</li> </ul>	Video podcast with individuals and groups within the Kāhui Rangahau and the Puna Kōrero.
<b>He Wai Māngaro:</b> Stories of Connection to Wai	Present a collection of Māori narratives that exemplify Te Ao Tūroa principles and share experiences and lessons from Challenge research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemble a collective of kaituhi (authors)</li> <li>Developed storylines alongside Mātāpuna</li> <li>Create space for Indigenous scholarship</li> </ul>	Wānanga Kaituhi - two-day writing retreat with the kaituhi collective and the Mātāpuna.
<b>Te Ao Tūroa Wānanga</b> - Development of Te Ao Tūroa Practitioners	Build a critical mass of Te Ao Tūroa practitioners to encourage integration of Te Ao Tūroa principles in various spheres of influence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore Te Ao Tūroa principles and concepts with rangatahi Māori from various professional backgrounds.</li> <li>Develop a deep connection and understanding of Whakapapa o te Wai.</li> <li>Explore Te Ao Tūroa in relation to cultural practice (pure - water rituals).</li> </ul>	Noho marae - three-day wānanga with rangatahi and the Mātāpuna.
<b>Final Review</b>	Ensure validity and reliability of the synthesis activity analysis and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a final review of synthesis products by the Puna Kōrero and the Mātāpuna.</li> </ul>	Digital copies of each output presented for review. Online workshops with the Puna Kōrero and the Mātāpuna.

A key component of the research ethics framework was the Kawa Whakaritenga (Agreement of Engagement), which guided engagement and interactions throughout the synthesis programme. The Kawa Whakaritenga was not a legally binding contract, but rather a mutual pledge of goodwill and respect, affirming a commitment to adhere to the following principles of engagement.

- Ma te tāutuutu e ea ai te hono: Reciprocity
- Te Ūkaipōtanga o te Mātauranga: Protection of Collective Wealth
- Mana Motuhake: Self determination
- Ngā Whāinga Matua: Purpose and Goals
- Kia hou te rongō mau: Good Faith

The Kawa Whakaritenga was written in Māori, translated to English, and presented as part of the initial engagement with project leads. By agreeing to participate, the Ohu Rangahau (synthesis research team) and the Puna Kōrero (participating projects) agreed to honour the intentions of the programme and principles of engagement.

#### Kawa Whakaritenga - Te Whakaaetanga Tikanga

Ko te kawa whakarite nei e tohu ana i te whakaaetanga o ngā tikanga whakahaere i ngā hui, ngā whakawhitinga whakaaro, me te tohanga o ngā rauemi i roto i te umanga TAM o Ngā Moana Whakauka. Mā te whakaae ki ēnei tikanga, ka whakaae te rōpū rangahau me ngā rangahau whānau o te kaupapa nei ki ngā tikanga ka horaina iho nei. Ehara tēnei kawa whakaritenga he whakaaetanga ā-ture, engari, he whakaae nō ngā rōpū katoa kia mahi ngātahi i raro i te utenga tapatahi.

#### Ngā Whēako:

- Me whai whakaaro ki ngā māramatanga o Te Reo Māori me Te Ao Māori.
- Me noho whakaiti i roto i te ngākau aroha ki te tangata, ki te kaupapa hoki, ahakoa te aha.
- Wero i te kaupapa kava ko te tangata.

#### Ngā Mātāpono

- **Mā te tāutuutu e ea ai te hono:** Ka whakaae kia wawe te whakawhitiwhiti whakaaro, te tohatoha i ngā hua o ngā mahi, me te pono hoki o te arotake kaupapa a ngā tira rangahau me te rōpū TAM. Ka whakapau kaha ki te mahi tahi, te whakanui i ngā whakapeto ngoi a ngā taha katoa ki te whakatūtuki i tēnei kaupapa.
- **Te Ūkaipōtanga o te Mātauranga:** He maha ngā kohinga mātauranga ki tēnei kete wānanga, kava e whānako i ngā mātauranga a ētahi atu. E taea rawa te kawē i ngā akoranga a ētahi atu, engari, me whakanuia, me whakamōhio atu nā wai, nō hea rānei ngā mātauranga.
- **Mana Motuhake:** Me whakatūte i te mana motuhake o te tangata, whānau, hapū, me te iwi, kia huraina i ngā ritenga whakahirahira o ngā reo katoa o tēnei hāpori rangahau.
- **Ngā Whāinga Matua:** Ka whakatāpui tātou kia motuhake ai te whakatiki i ngā whāinga rangahau nei, me ngā aronga o te mōhio, o te mahi ngātahi hoki, i runga i te whakaae a te katoa. Ko reira tātou wānanga ai i ō tātou whakaaetanga mō ngā hua ka puta i tēnei kaupapa.
- **Kia hou te rongō mau:** Ka whakaae ki te mahi tahi i roto i te rongō pai, ka whakapau kaha ki ngā mātāpono o te pono, te ngākau tapatahi, te manaakitanga. Ahakoa he aha te whāinga, te nawe rānei, me whakaae kia ū te rongomau me te wairua ngāwari whakaea take.

Ko ngā pou o ēnei mahi ko te kawa, ngā tikanga, te reo, me te whakapapa. Ka whakaae mai koe ki ēnei kawa whakarite hei kōkiri ngā huarahi e whai hua ai ngā pūtake o ngā tini o Te Moana Whakauka ki ngā iwi Māori o te motu.

## Agreement of Engagement

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This agreement of engagement is intended to guide our collective engagement and interactions throughout the synthesis programme. We acknowledge that, by agreeing to this document, both the research team and the project whānau pledge to honour the intentions and principles outlined herein.

This Kawa Whakaritenga is not a legally binding contract; rather, it serves as a mutual pledge of goodwill and respect. We, as a collective, affirm our commitment to adhere to the principles and aspirations mentioned in this document throughout the course of our work.

### Principles

**Reciprocity:** We recognise that a fruitful collaboration will require the active participation of both the research teams and the TAM team. We shall strive to work cooperatively, valuing the input and contributions of all parties.

**Protection of Collective Wealth:** We value and respect the collective intellectual and cultural wealth generated within the wānanga. We pledge not to misuse, misrepresent, or share any information or insights obtained without appropriate permissions. We also expect the same respect and adherence to this principle from all participants.

**Self-determination:** We commit to respecting the independence, self-determination, and unique perspectives of each party.

**Purpose and Goals:** We will maintain a specific focus on creating space for the richness and depth of Māori ways of knowing, being, and doing. We will work collaboratively within the wānanga, always keeping our agreed aspirations at the forefront.

**Good Faith:** We commit to working together in good faith, staying true to the principles of honesty, integrity and cooperation. We aspire to foster an environment of trust, respect and mutual growth.

**Respect for Time:** We acknowledge the busy schedules and time constraints of everyone involved. With this understanding, we will endeavour to make efficient use of our collective time and work diligently towards achieving our shared goals.

We acknowledge that, by agreeing to abide by this kawa whakaritenga, we aim to create an environment of respect, trust and collaboration that will allow us to accomplish our shared goals and aspirations. We understand that the journey may be challenging, but we are committed to embracing these challenges together, guided by the principles we've agreed upon in this document.



TE AO TŪROA

HE TAURA HERE

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Framework

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**SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL  
SCIENCE CHALLENGE**

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:  
Taura Here Activity