



TE AO TŪROA

# Rūruku mai taku Waka Taurua

Exemplars and success factors  
of Waka Taurua research

**SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL  
SCIENCE CHALLENGE**

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:  
Waka Taurua



JUNE 2024



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## SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

**Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:**  
Waka Taurua

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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

Rūruku mai taku Waka Taurua

## Exemplars and success factors of Waka Taurua research

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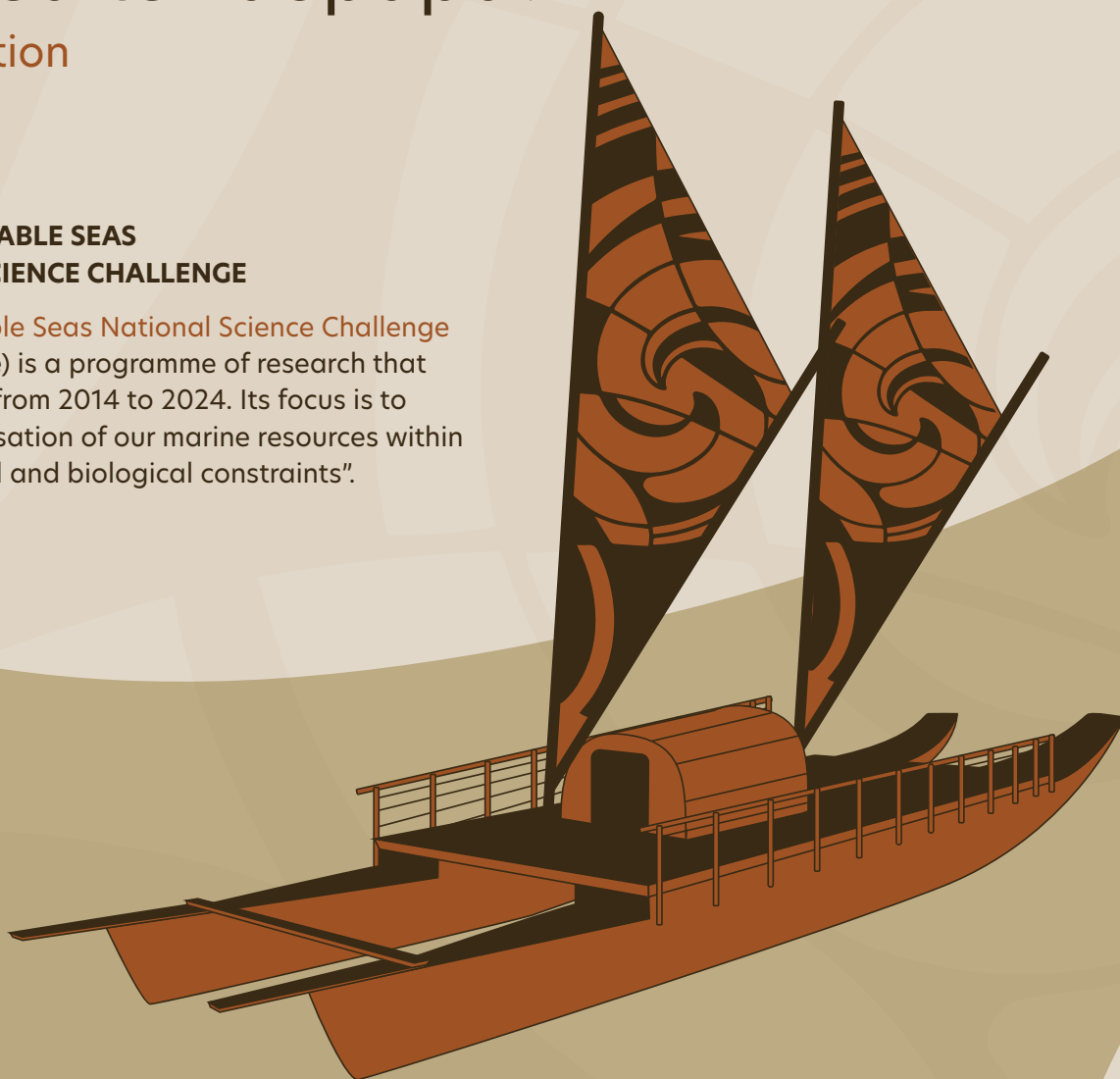
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# Nō hea te kaupapa?

## Introduction

### THE SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The *Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge* (the challenge) is a programme of research that has occurred from 2014 to 2024. Its focus is to “enhance utilisation of our marine resources within environmental and biological constraints”.



### FOCUS OF THE WAKA TAURUA ACTIVITY

As part of that work, the Te Ao Māori (TAM) Synthesis programme focuses on pulling together the key insights and lessons from the research within the challenge that were:

- completed within the Tangaroa theme
- were kaupapa Māori led, or
- worked specifically with whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori businesses.

This research and the researchers involved were collectively referred to as the Puna Kōrero.

Waka Taurua is one of the four activities that make up the TAM Synthesis programme, and is specifically focused on developing the theory for the Waka Taurua Framework.

Please see the **He aha te Waka Taurua?** report for more information about the framework.



# Purpose of this report

This report is the second within the Waka Taurua activity.



## This report:

- 1 — Provides exemplars of Waka Taurua from the research conducted within the challenge.
- 2 — Explores factors such as the structure and set-up of research waka taurua partnerships.
- 3 — Explores the mechanisms that supported project success.

## PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE CHALLENGE AND THE PUNA KŌRERO

The challenge has funded more than 35 research projects during its second phase between 2019 and 2024. From the original 16 projects identified in the Puna Kōrero, 11 were available to participate in the TAM Synthesis activities. Those 11 projects have contributed their insights and learnings towards the application of the Waka Taurua Framework within the TAM research they completed throughout the challenge.

## EXPLORING THE TAM SYNTHESIS ACTIVITIES FOR INSIGHT ON WAKA TAURUA

The TAM Synthesis programme sought to:

- better understand what brought the different research waka taurua together
- explore how the various teams within the Puna Kōrero were set up
- demonstrate some examples of waka taurua in practice within the challenge research, and
- highlight the factors that this collective believed contributed to and exhibited success.

Each project showed various types of waka taurua in action, with projects involving research teams and whānau, hapū, iwi and/or Māori business research partners. In some instances, the kaupapa (research topic) also explored a conceptual waka taurua, through approaches to aspects such as governance, restoration, cultivation, management, policy, and planning.

E, ko wai tērā? Kia ora!  
Tēnā pea ka taea e tāua  
te mahitahi?

Hmm, I wonder who that is and if  
they can help us... Hello!  
Do you think we can work together?

He aha te take ka hono tāua? Kei  
a mātou o mātou ake mātauranga,  
mōhiotanga, tikanga, kawa anō hoki!

Can we agree on a purpose? We  
have some knowledge and tools  
that may be helpful

Kao, kei te pai mātou me a  
mātou ake mahi, mātauranga,  
māramatanga anō hoki! Kia  
haumaruru te haere

Ok, Goodbye - perhaps we can  
find common purpose and work  
together in the future

Me haere tonu ngā kōrero kia  
tau tika tātou ki ngā mātāpono,  
otirā ki te whāinga nui o tā tāua  
hono

Lets keep talking to see  
if we can find common  
purpose and agree on our  
approach

When core elements of arrangement are  
agreed by both parties, a collaborative papa  
(deck) may be constructed

## OVERVIEW OF THE WAKA TAURUA CONCEPT

The Waka Taurua Framework helps to set out a conceptual approach to working in partnership that actively seeks to ensure that different knowledge systems are respected as unique in research. **From the outset, every research partner has an opportunity to:**

- decide to work towards a waka taurua, or
- decide not to be in a waka taurua, and continue to navigate their own waka, whether the project is towards separate or shared goals.

If, after these initial engagements, each partner decides to work with others towards a shared benefit, they can lash together into a waka taurua, and build a papanoho (working deck) from which they can work.

# Types of research teams in waka taurua

The Puna Kōrero described many different types of waka taurua, including:

- different teams of researchers
- different knowledge bases that researchers, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori business partners brought to the kaupapa, as well as the kaupapa themselves.

Here are descriptions of three of the most obvious types of waka taurua that emerged.

## MĀORI RESEARCHERS WORKING WITH NON-MĀORI RESEARCHERS

Some teams from research projects in the Puna Kōrero included Māori researchers working with non-Māori researchers.

These waka taurua aimed to bring together mātauranga Māori and other knowledge systems to provide insights to concepts like risk and uncertainty, as well as scales and approaches to understanding impacts on, and restoration of, marine environments.

The collaborative nature of these projects required some initial negotiating to find common understandings of their purpose and goal. In some instances, much of the project work was used to grow a common understanding and trust in their research partnerships.

“And while we hadn’t anticipated at the outset that we might try and tentatively explore waka taurua, with respect to the way we were proceeding, we did get into that space as a team.”

Note: Unless stated otherwise, all quotations in this report are from the Puna Kōrero of the Te Ao Māori Collective (TAMC) 2023.



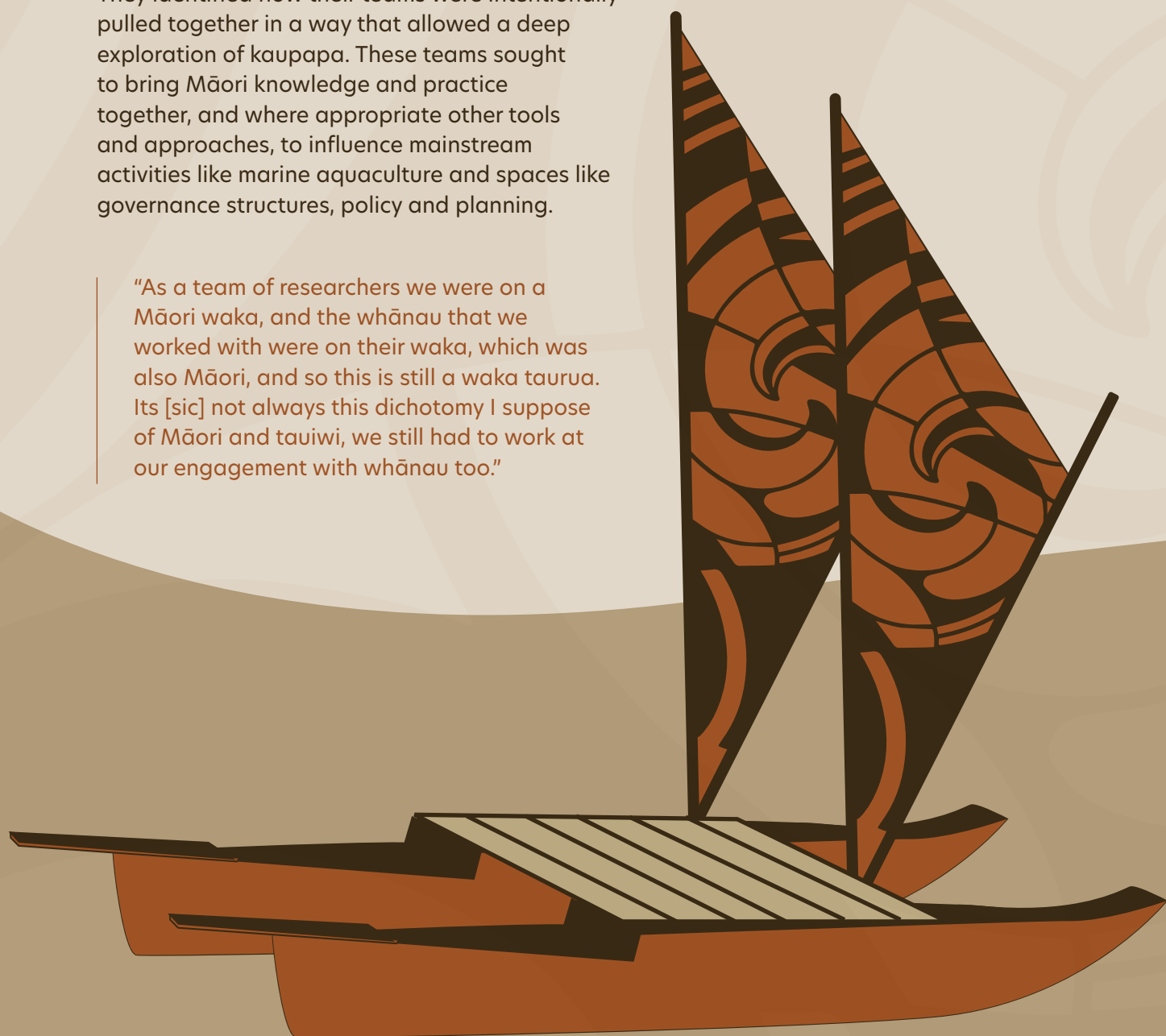
## MĀORI RESEARCHERS AND MĀORI PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER

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Other teams from research projects in the Puna Kōrero included Māori researchers and various whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori business research partners.

In these instances, the research team spoke of starting from more of a common understanding. They identified how their teams were intentionally pulled together in a way that allowed a deep exploration of kaupapa. These teams sought to bring Māori knowledge and practice together, and where appropriate other tools and approaches, to influence mainstream activities like marine aquaculture and spaces like governance structures, policy and planning.

“As a team of researchers we were on a Māori waka, and the whānau that we worked with were on their waka, which was also Māori, and so this is still a waka taurua. Its [sic] not always this dichotomy I suppose of Māori and tauwiwi, we still had to work at our engagement with whānau too.”



## MULTIPLE TAURUA BETWEEN MĀORI RESEARCHERS AND MĀORI PARTNERS

Most projects within the Puna Kōrero demonstrated in their work multiple taurua between Māori researchers and whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori business (such as multiple whānau or hapū case study groups).

In these instances, each separate whānau, hapū, iwi or Māori business waka was lashing to a core research team at different times during the research. At other times, all waka came together to form a larger collective in shared space. This approach required multiple layers of partnership and relationship building – both individually with each waka, and across the multiple waka in the collectives.

“Our waka taurua, was not really a tau-rua, there were four kind of main groups within our project, we had a waka tau-whā”





# Types of research kaupapa waka taurua

As with the varied research team waka taurua, the work completed by our Puna Kōrero demonstrated many examples of different research kaupapa waka taurua.

## RESEARCH BROUGHT TOGETHER VARIED SYSTEMS AND CONCEPTS

In the research context, bringing together mātauranga Māori with other knowledge systems is very familiar. Throughout the Puna Kōrero, instances emerged of research kaupapa bringing together the concepts within Ecosystem Based Management (from policy, legislation and decision-making and scales) with the ideas of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, kawa and tikanga Māori. Examples were:

- understanding scales of Ecosystem Based Management from jurisdictional, spatial, temporal and Te Ao Māori perspectives
- deepening understanding of how applied tikanga Māori can begin to change and shape the way policy is written to better support whānau on the ground.

## RESEARCH BROUGHT TOGETHER MANY TYPES OF DATA AND METHODOLOGIES

Research also emerged that sought to bring together multiple types of data and methodologies with the aim of supporting whānau, hapū and iwi in their work on the ground (such as restoration, monitoring and indicator development). Examples were:

- linking the use of data collected from observational techniques and tūpuna understandings of cycles within maramataka to the data collected using institutional science tools
- managing tūpuna knowledge within digital data management systems.

## RESEARCH BROUGHT TOGETHER DIFFERENT FACETS OF MĀTAURANGA AND PRACTICE

Some research kaupapa focused specifically on layering understandings from within one of the waka, such as tūpuna knowledge layering together with contemporary knowledge in the Waka Māori. This was demonstrated in the bringing together of maramataka and current observed knowledge and practice to understand environmental tohu (indicators). In some instances, the work also sat within a broader context of the current 'Crown-Māori' governmental system. One example of this broader context was developing understanding around what the concept of 'Blue Economies' might mean specifically to whānau, hapū, and iwi in place, and using this as a starting point for any future conversations within the context of Aotearoa's national aquaculture agenda.

"We had this... element in our project with the bigger scope being a taurua between Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Taiwi in terms of aquaculture, but then we created our own waka too... which was based on the question of what does an authentic Māori waka look like in space?"





# Introduction to success factors

Each of the projects in the Puna Kōrero exemplified the varied and vast ways that we can begin to understand the Waka Taurua Framework. Each project has broadened our understanding of how the framework has been applied in a research setting.

## SHARED PURPOSE WAS PIVOTAL TO WORKING TOGETHER SUCCESSFULLY

What united our Puna Kōrero projects was generally that the purpose for being in a waka taurua was clear and the most important factor in them working together successfully.

Where the purpose for coming together was less clear, the road through the research often proved harder.

One objective of this activity was to understand the collective lessons and insights that contributed to the success or otherwise of the research that waka taurua exemplified in the challenge.

“Success is always highly contingent, and it’s difficult to make it, but on the other hand, you can identify absences, which if they weren’t there, you wouldn’t be able to make progress.”

## FACTORS FOR SUCCESS IN WAKA TAURUA

While the Puna Kōrero identified that the term ‘success’ is relative and evolving, the individual project workshops, and collective online wānanga, identified a range of factors that may help in developing and delivering future research opportunities. The key success factors identified are generally grouped into three main categories:

1. The disposition and character of the individuals in each waka
2. The way in which each waka was set up (before engaging in a waka taurua)
3. The mechanisms and approaches used on the papanoho (once in a waka taurua)

# Disposition of individuals on your waka

## KO TE WAIRUA O TE TĀNGATA – THE DISPOSITION OF THE PEOPLE

One key factor that all the projects revealed was the idea that success of research waka taurua must be built on relationships, and that relationships were founded in the disposition and character of each person.

Each person identified that trust and respect for the pūkenga (expertise) that they brought, and the pūkenga of others was essential.

*“If one person holds back what they know or their skills, it doesn’t work. So it’s just finding a group of people who all have the same three skills, kind-hearted, open ended, and respectful... we don’t always have to agree, but we give our honest and respectful opinions and our best efforts.”*

Some key elements of disposition that many Puna Kōrero pinpointed as important were being kind and like-hearted, and being able to actively listen for understanding and remain open to clarification. This included a person acknowledging gaps in their knowledge and leaning into the expertise of every other person in their team.

## TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS HELPED STRETCH UNDERSTANDING IN NEW WAYS

The Puna Kōrero also identified that developing trusted relationships allowed a person to work alongside experts from other fields, stretching their understanding in new and exciting ways.

*“The waka taurua that we created with experts outside of our space... stretches us, which is great.”*

*“Build a team that have those skills, and you build trust and respect, and you can actually put different points of view on the table to be challenged and tested.”*

*“Everybody was open to engaging in reflective and forward looking discussion, mindful of the fact they may not have known particular things and was seeking elaboration and critical discussion around key points.”*

The expertise described by the Puna Kōrero included specific scientific or social science understandings as well as the depth of tacit, experiential and tūpuna knowledge that partnering whānau, hapū, and iwi provided.

One research partner identified that they found seeking understanding to “help, not tell”, particularly important to support addressing whānau, hapū and iwi needs.

“You have to be really honest and build trust... follow through, and be willing to... put yourself outside of your comfort zone.”

“Seeking people who have a kind heart to put the kaupapa first.”

## KIA MĀIA – BE BRAVE

Many within the Puna Kōrero identified that no matter what waka they sat on, working in a waka taurua required a need to be brave and step into the unknown, and to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. This was echoed by all Puna Kōrero researchers working with whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori businesses. This was reiterated by the researcher partners, who often felt a sense of trepidation when entering the research space for the first time. Many found that having relationships with people with the right disposition and character was the most important factor in supporting them to find comfort after first entering that research space.

The genuine disposition and character of those involved in the waka taurua examples within the Puna Kōrero showed their ability to:

- be brave
- complement each other’s skills and expertise
- test and stretch thinking inside a trusting relationship.

These abilities emerged as the key to creating ongoing successful partnerships that enriched learning and resulted in the type of co-learning that those involved felt was most beneficial.

“I think being brave... because you probably can relate to the storms and the struggles that we have been through in the project. You know... it’s not straight sailing, it’s not clear roads, and sometimes it’s just the big haze of clouds and we don’t know where we are. But you know, ka whakapono and be brave, and know, that although what you’re doing is not the same as what has been done, you can do it.”

“Even if you’re unsure, just do it... definitely the building of relationships in the beginning and throughout... that’s definitely a key component to move as a group for anything.”

“What helped was the people around me,... we all had the same goal to move forward.”



# The way your waka was set up

## KO NGĀ KAIWHAKATERE – THE TEAM

Another key element identified by many within the Puna Kōrero was the way in which their team's waka was set up before entering into a taurua, and the careful consideration given to this process.

One uniting theme across all projects was the aspect of having the right team.

"My automatic whakaaro was 'who to partner with?' because I knew that I didn't have all the skill sets, the skills that was [sic] needed to do this by myself. So I suppose just then... identifying the who, who would sit in that waka taurua with me."

The Puna Kōrero highlighted that the process for pulling their team together was intentional and well thought out, and that often it came down to trusting that the people around them worked well together, and were able to get the job done with integrity and aligned intention. This trust, ability, integrity and alignment were linked to the ability of a team to interrogate a kaupapa collectively within those strong relationships.

"I think the reason why our waka was prepared was that we had... an awesome team. We pulled together... a real tight working team, who were able to do what needed to be done."

"You bring together a team of people that you know, that can get on and do the work."

"We all had different roles and they came together seamlessly."

"We also had in each waka ... a very strong collective of genuine hearts, who absolutely carried the kaupapa in each of their different case study areas"

"We said, we need people that come in with skills and experience, real world experience that compliments each other, but also will test each other"

## KO NGĀ PŪKENGA – THE EXPERTISE

Along with having the right team of people, many whānau specifically highlighted the importance of having people with the appropriate pūkenga to achieve the research goals. In some instances, this meant using the waka taurua concept to bring institutional scientific experts alongside the whānau pūkenga to discuss a topic.

The projects reveal many instances where research teams searched for experts across multiple specialities. Examples were experts of toi (art forms), mahinga kai (food practitioners) and kōrero tuku iho (holders of oral traditions), as well as 'futures thinking' (such as potential governance models) to address some modern challenges.

"I think the way we were able to... anchor that perhaps science is not what we are looking for right now, but perhaps tikanga... or community involvement, or a lawyer, or community fisherman is the guy that can solve this problem, so let's go and explore that."

This level and depth of expertise included having people with very deep mātauranga that moved through kōrero tuku iho (knowledge handed down through generations) and further into mechanistic understandings of practitioners. The Puna Kōrero identified, especially as regards the whānau, hapū, and iwi waka, that the depth of practice, and therefore practitioner knowledge and understanding, gave critical support to the research.

The Puna Kōrero highlighted the need for both practical and theoretical expertise to be found across the team to support the most beneficial and grounded understandings.

"Being able to go deep, and have deep engagements, mechanistic engagements, 'how does this work for you?', 'how do you practically do this?'...otherwise you don't really get that tight lashing and... cohesion."

"Its [sic] around the depth... you need those experts, those top tier experts, because you need to go beyond the kōrero and into the 'show me how uncle!'"

## KO TE KAIHAUTŪ – THE LEADERSHIP

The final key element of individual waka success identified by the collective was leadership. This came in many forms, but particularly in leadership from the whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori business partners.

Building from the personal disposition and character of all involved and the intentional formation of the team, two areas of leadership were crucial to making the research successful. The first area was whānau leadership and guidance when setting the direction and outcomes of the research. The second area was leadership when supporting whānau in some of the more technical research system aspects of the work.

"Being under the korowai of our kaumatua... That was really good to know that we were in that safe space."

Some characteristics of leaders within the Puna Kōrero were described as well. One example was identifying the kaihautū - the person or people who keeps the rhythm of the waka - who would:

- hold the direction of the research despite the evolving nature and inevitable changes
- keep true to the intentions of their waka.

Many projects identified this kind of leadership as important.

“Each of our waka had a kaihautū... had someone to lead the waka. Someone who started from the very beginning and held that direction of the waka until the end. They had very clear intentions from the start as to how they wanted to be involved in the project, and they were the ones who maintained and kept their tikanga true for their waka in amongst.. the collective and those directions and journeys.”

“[They] have shepherded us and put a korowai around our mahi and without them none of this mahi would have been possible.”



# Mechanisms and approaches used on each papanoho

## NGĀ WHAKARITENGA – MECHANISMS OF SUCCESS

Given that each research project operated within its own unique waka taurua, many of the Puna Kōrero shared insights into the mechanisms of successful delivery of their research. These mechanisms did not result in perfect partnerships or completely smooth sailing. Rather, they reflect some ways that can support in navigating towards success as a team.

## ENGAGING IN A MEANINGFUL AND GENUINE WAY

Although not surprising, meaningful and genuine engagement was a core element of successful waka taurua, and many aspects identified by the Puna Kōrero featured engagement between the waka taurua partners.

Core features to engagement included the idea that maintaining good relationships requires ongoing engagement, not only engagement at the beginning of the kaupapa.

This level of engagement was indicative of the commitment to each other and the shared goals of the waka taurua.

### Actions that supported this engagement included:

- kanohi ki te kanohi – being able to engage as a team and as a taurua through face-to-face meetings whenever possible
- regular and frequent engagement opportunities, whether online or in person
- investing time into partnerships (in some instances up to two or three years), and viewing this commitment as an investment in the ability of the waka to sail smoothly through the research.

“It is about trying to build a relationship which will be enduring, and be productive, and everybody knows that takes a lot of time.”

- Ensuring that engagement kept respect at the core was also vital. This respect included feeling safe to ask questions, as well as being mindful of how information was used – what was shared, where, by who, and how.

“With whakawhanaungatanga, having that and not compromising yourself, so with that I think comes questions, and if you don’t understand what’s being said, say something.”

“In the pre-proposal stage where the first engagements with whānau were being made, there was lots of time that was committed to... talking through the kaupapa, giving the whānau time to understand.”



Puna Kōrero identified other mechanisms, including those noted on the following pages.

## **ALIGNMENT OF WORK TO NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS**

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Genuine intention to align work in a way that supported the needs and aspirations of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori business partners in turn supported the development of agreed objectives for lashing together into a waka taurua.

“Actually finding key lines of alignment, not forcing upon them a kaupapa, but finding where and how it works.”

## **STAYING THE COURSE WHEN THE GOING ‘GOT TOUGH’**

Follow-through and continuing with the project when the going ‘got tough’ ensured delivery of agreed objectives. This demonstrated a commitment to the goal of the research and to each other.

## **CLEAR ROLES THAT SUPPORTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE KAUPAPA**

Ensuring that the roles for each of the team were clear allowed each team member to know their place in, and contribution to, the kaupapa. Clear roles also ensured that different pūkenga were respected for the contribution they made.

“I think it’s really been important for us to outwardly bring to equal reckoning the expertise of the people in our communities, the ones who hold our ancestral knowledge, and for it to be considered with the same kind of mana as people operating in the scientific academic space.”

## **ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CHANGES OVER THE COURSE OF THE RESEARCH**

Being purposefully adaptable to the inevitable changes and challenges over the course of the research (such as changes in personnel, in priorities, and the ways in which outcomes and outputs were achieved) proved invaluable.

“Then you take the time to wetewete... and figure out what you know, you write your values in pen and your strategies in pencil.”

## **FREEDOM TO DO THINGS IN A UNIQUELY MĀORI WAY**

Having the freedom to do things in a uniquely Māori way - such as having wānanga as the sole methodology and kōrero tuku iho as the primary knowledge system of inquiry - was of special importance for whānau on the Waka Māori.

“When we’re talking about waka and what makes up a waka, I think for me its mana motuhake, it’s about self-determination and it’s about having control over one’s own, almost destiny.”

“I think the best part of our waka taurua is to have real strong authentic Māori origins. Because that’s the point of difference that we bring to the taurua. If the Māori partners and the tauwiwi partners are both bringing science and technology to the taurua space, then who is bringing the mātauranga Māori?”

## ADEQUATE, APPROPRIATE AND EQUITABLE RESOURCING

Adequate, appropriate and equitable resourcing recognised the unique pūkenga and contributions of both waka. This was highlighted as being especially important when whānau, hapū, and iwi partners are involved.

“This stuff couldn’t happen without the almighty dollar, its vitally important. We can only go so far doing it for aroha.”

“Resourcing adequately... I don’t think we reached where we would have liked to... but it definitely has provided us as a research team with something to reflect on and to improve on in the future.”

## WHAKAATURANGA – COMMUNICATION

One mechanism of success identified by our Puna Kōrero, but perhaps less spoken about, was the need for good communications within waka, across waka taurua, and with those outside individual research projects.

These communication channels were especially important when teams spent time negotiating the meaning of different terms in the context of the research. In some instances, the research focused on understanding the factors that contribute to how people understand a concept such as risk and uncertainty in decision-making.

“So comms was a very important part, more to look at how do we move the hearts and minds of wider Aotearoa... so what’s important to our whānau... and what do they need to be able to create the policy and legislation that we know is required to enable our whānau.”

# Tohu of success and areas for improvement

## NGĀ AUHEKE – AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

While many identified what the components of success looked like for them within their waka taurua, some teams also identified areas that still need improving. Often these areas focussed on engagement.

Some of the Puna Kōrero expressed how the time required to invest in their partnerships left little time to deliver meaningful outcomes, noting that this situation was an uncomfortable way to operate.

“I think the challenge probably is that now, we’re basically starting this relationship right at the end of the project, and we need to find a way to maintain the relationship, because it’s terrible to build up trust and then just have something drop off because funding finishes. So we need to find a way of keep working together.”

“We were hoping that the legacy we would leave behind would help them navigate those injustices but we were just never able to stay around long enough to do so, so that was really unfortunate.”

Despite these challenges, it was heartening to see that the Puna Kōrero identified this as an area to improve on when doing any future research.

## NGĀ AUPIKI – INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

From their honest reflections about the success of their projects, some indicators of success emerged as well.

### Harikoa – joy

One indicator was that those involved greatly enjoyed working together on the kaupapa and within their waka taurua team.

“You have to enjoy where you’re at, and enjoy the mahi and the people you are working with.”

“The unconditional respect that first and foremost they have for each other, and the kaupapa, and for us. It makes an environment where you want to be a part of.”

### **Kōtahitanga** – collective aspirations

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Another indicator was the true sense of collective aspiration and identity that developed, with whānau noting that the end of the funding was not the end of the partnerships and they would be willing to re-lash their waka into a taurua when the time was right.

“It’s also developing a network of people that you can call on and work with.”

### **Whakawhānui** – expansion of the work

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Another tangible indicator of success identified was that the research had already begun to move into other spaces. For example, some whānau felt they now had a blueprint for continuing work past the end point of their research. Other whānau noted that their kaupapa had already embedded in their local kura (schools).

“The key success is that it [the research] is alive and well in the kura... so it started off as this little thing... and now it has that engagement from our tamariki, our Kaiako, every day.”

“From my perspective... the really rewarding thing is that there’s a blueprint produced to show us ... how to be more sustainable with the whole kaupapa of our environment and particularly our harbour.”

### **Rautaki** – strategic positioning

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One significant indicator of success, particularly in the Waka Māori space, was that projects were being thought of differently and not only as science projects that will benefit whānau, hapū and iwi. As such, these projects identified that they were strategically positioning themselves with robust intent to generate specific types of success and far reaching impact.

“I call it... strategic positioning, where we didn’t view it as a science research project, we viewed it as a community impact project with science being one of the vehicles to get there.”

### **Mana Motuhake** – uniqueness

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The Puna Kōrero identified that maintaining the mana motuhake (the unique and authoritative contributions) of each waka was a key indicator of success. This realisation was evidenced by the ability to dive into deep, mechanistic research that led to long-lasting practical and meaningful outcomes, supported by useful and usable resources.

“When I am speaking to success, I am speaking to maintaining that mana motuhake of each individual waka. If at the end of the kaupapa, our waka are able to utilise what has been developed collectively and go out and carry on that mahi...and create useful knowledge and practice, then that for me is success from the project.”

# Kōrero whakakapi

## Wrap-up kōrero

This report has explored two core elements of the Waka Taurua Framework and its application within the research conducted by the Puna Kōrero in the challenge. It has provided more depth and clarity about how to understand and use the framework to conceptualise research teams and research kaupapa.

The Puna Kōrero research has demonstrated that various types of waka taurua are enacted at different scales. It highlights the need to focus specific intent and awareness at all levels – from individual, to waka, to waka taurua – to generate successful research, while noting that research and its success is relative to each individual partnership.

### FOCUS OF THE THIRD REPORT

**Whakarite mai taku waka rangahau**, the third report, discusses the learnings that might guide people in preparing future waka as they work towards lashing into a waka taurua.





## TE AO TŪROA

### RŪRUKU MAI TAKU WAKA TAURUA

Exemplars and success factors of Waka Taurua research

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### SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:  
Waka Taurua

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