

Research projects

Tāngonge: Tangata ora, whenua ora (1 Dec 2011 - 31 May 2012)

1. Purpose; to establish an ecohealth framework to plan appropriate strategies for initial research at Tāngonge in a staged and manageable manner.
2. Research methods:
 - Hui with Te Rarawa and Ngai Takoto iwi.
 - Development of a draft Strategic Direction paper.
 - Interviews whanau about Tāngonge.
 - Liaison with independent experts in the field of health and wellbeing and environmental restoration.

Tāngonge: Whai Puawaitanga (1 Feb – 1 July 2013)

3. Purpose; to better understand the cultural and ecological connectivity of the Tāngonge ecosystem so that future restoration planning and decisions are well informed.
4. We want to find out what hapu/iwi need to know about the hydrology of the Tāngonge waterway catchment and the associated issues before embarking on a programme of environmental restoration.
 - Technical make-up of the lake/wetland catchment.
 - Water sources; catchment, underground aquifers, and their relationship to each other.
 - Flooding, sewerage, silting, water use/supply, water treatment oxidation pond.
5. Research methods:
 - An analytical review of existing and relevant Tāngonge related material.
 - Determine and map the whole catchment ma uta ki tai and identify key interests and features of the Tāngonge wetlands system.

Ko Tāngonge te wai (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2015)

6. Purpose; to gather baseline data about species of the Tāngonge ecosystem to inform planning and decisions for a realistic and staged approach to waterway/wetland restoration.
7. We want to find out about the freshwater species of Tāngonge.
 - The species that used to be found at Tāngonge (flora & fauna).
 - The type of habitat supported these species.
 - The key kaitiaki practices and principles that sustained the species.
 - Why the species died out.
 - The kai that Tāngonge once provided.
 - The species currently found at Tāngonge (flora & fauna, including pests).
 - The sort of monitoring that would be useful to record environmental and species changes over time.

8. Research methods:

a. Species stock-take fieldwork (flora and fauna).

- 1 day; planning hui with research team, whanau/hapu/marae/schools to select and GPS sites, confirm protocols, timeline, responsibilities, tasks.
- 4 days; stock-take/monitoring over 12-month period (one each season).
 - Pre-fieldwork briefing to prepare for the day's work, and post fieldwork de-brief.
 - Nets, electric fishing methods, trapping pests.
 - Photographic record.
 - Record and collate species catch data; identify, weigh, measure etc

b. Wananga/workshops x7 days

- 4 days; overview of project, identification of species, preparation for stock-take.
- 2 days; other topics as required to build skills and knowledge about species, ecosystems, habitat, restoration.
- 1 day; species and water monitoring tools (existing and adaptations).

c. Involve 4 local schools

- Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Pukemiro, Pukepoto and Ahipara primary schools, Kaitaia College.
 - Engage with schools, establish protocols.
 - Work with schools to develop a project with each that fits the research scope.
 - Use photo-voice and video to record the story of each project.

9. Other

- Document review (claims, local and other sources, photographs and maps).
- x5 interviews (individual and focus group) with key informants.
- GIS mapping of species data.