



Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT)

Guidelines for MTSCT coordinators/contractors, working in partnership with Tangata Whenua - Recognition of Tangata Whenua as Kaitiaki

To Maori, as tangata whenua, water or wai is of high cultural and spiritual value. Other traditional values of aquatic environments include hygiene, and a food source, and thus mana through providing the ability to manaaki. Traditionally kaitiakitanga was practiced holistically by recognising each species role in the ecosystem, and striving to protect or restore mauri or life force to living and non-living parts of the environment. In traditional Maori spiritual belief people are related to all living things through whakapapa. The environment and care for the environment as a result is seen as a fundamental responsibility.

Aotearoa/New Zealand has many schools and communities with a high percentage of Maori. Young Maori are the future kaitiaki of our marine and freshwater environments. The learning opportunities offered by the MTSCT programmes stimulate interest, direction and involvement in freshwater and marine environments. Today there is an urgent need to foster traditional learning and the ethic of kaitiakitanga in Maori and non-Maori alike.

There are many reasons why local tangata whenua should be considered when planning and during delivery of MTSCT programmes. Today, iwi and hapu are recognised in the Treaty of Waitangi as sovereign partners in New Zealand. Furthermore, local iwi and hapu can contribute by identifying waahi tapu and rahui at field trip sites, and sharing local knowledge. It is best practice to let local hapu know when working within their rohe, as early as possible. Usually, the tricky part is identifying who to talk to as Maori organisations are diverse with overlapping boundaries. It cannot be assumed that local hapu will be notified by the school, even when you are working with Kura Kaupapa Maori. Refer to the Te Puni Kokiri website for your local area's runanga, which is a good place to start. In most cases local Maori will appreciate being asked for help by you which is an act of acknowledging their role as 'host' and your role as 'visitor' in the context of Maori culture. The list below outlines some of the information that may be included when speaking with tangata whenua:

- ⤴ Name of school/group you are working with,
- ⤴ name and nature of the programme,
- ⤴ let them know your field trip sites, and question if they are sites of significance e.g., waahi tapu, rahui, urupa,
- ⤴ you may extend the invite to participate in some way if deemed suitable by the school, e.g. volunteers for field trips needed, karakia services, kaumatua visit to school, visit to Maori land,
- ⤴ ask if they can recommend any other people from within their hapu, or any other hapu you should also notify.

A template letter is available from your national coordinator.

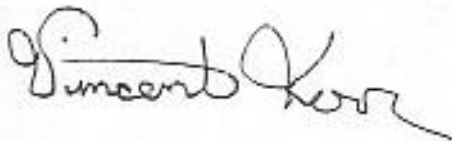
It is also recommended that you become familiar with and use te reo when suitable in your programme delivery, including species names. A list of examples are found in the programme coordinators manual & websites.

Translations

hapu literal definition is to be with family or pregnant, but also means sub tribes, usually family based, these groupings hold the local knowledge and authority

iwi	literal definition means people but is commonly used to refer to major tribes
kaitiaki	the person or the role of guardian for the environment
kaitiakitanga	the actions care and protection of the environment and ethic and cultural knowledge required as kaitiaki
karakia	statement of respect and acknowledgement or request for assistance to the Gods which typically is done before important meetings or activities are done.
kaumatua	elder
Maori	a word grouping all tangata whenua, derived from traditional use of the word meaning ordinary
mana	recognised strength
manaaki	the ethic and duty of hospitality
mauri	life force
rahui	a prohibition or closure of an area for food gathering or recreation. May be used in two ways:1) used as a traditional action - a temporary ban on recreational activities in an area including gathering of food due to tapu e.g., death in the area, pollution, harmful conditions. 2) Used in the context of a Fisheries Act Regulation - an area where gathering of a certain species and/or all food collection is banned via a temporary closure Also see page 18 & 19 of this document http://www.marinenz.org.nz/documents/Marsden_1992_Kaitiakitanga.pdf
rohe	geographical area recognised as where a hapu or iwi holds mana
runanga	tribal authority as recognised by the Crown under the Runanga Act.
Tangata Whenua	the people of this land
urupa	burial ground
waahi tapu	sacred places, e.g. burial grounds, sites of significant battles
whakapapa	the parentage and ancestry from which people and all living and non-living things come from.

Date 7/8/13



Signed

**Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust
Chairperson**