



Understanding Kaitiakitanga

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Use this resource to help understand how your project can contribute and support kaitiakitanga aspirations.



What is kaitiakitanga?

- As a practice: Kaitiakitanga engages with nature, people, culture and place. The practice supports the expression of cultural knowledge to maintain important relationships to our surroundings. Practices include harvesting, planting, rāhui, storytelling, water care, land care and much more.
- As a philosophy: Kaitiakitanga draws on the whakapapa relationships between tangata and taiao to formulate guiding principles of engagement with people and place. This holistic relationship is supported through the recognition of mana, mauri and tapu that exist within nature, people and culture.
- **Both the physical and philosophical understandings of kaitiakitanga are important** and should not be seen as separate. Ultimately, Kaitiakitanga looks to protect the mauri and mana of nature and people.



What is kaitiakitanga?

- Connection to nature
- Whānau, hapū or iwi role
- Protecting whakapapa relationships
- Closely linked to the role of Kaitiaki
- Stewardship
- Guardianship
- Physical and spiritual responsibility
- Heavily influenced by whakapapa
- Expressed differently in tribal areas
- Protection of nature, place, culture, knowledge, relationships and people
- Protection of arts and cultural practices
- Protection and care of nature relationships
- Practices of sustainability
- Spiritual responsibility
- Stemmed in cultural knowledge



Maōri worldview and nature relationships

- Informed by creation narratives of Ranginui and Papatūānuku; Hineahuone and Tāne Māhuta and other Māori gods
- Informed by values system – Tikanga Māori
- Uses and creates Mātauranga Māori
- Establishes strong lineage to nature
- Nature relationships expressed through both physical and intrinsic aspects.



Five ways to understand Kaitiakitanga



Whakapapa

- What to consider
 - Lineage to ancestors
 - Lineage to nature
 - Lineage to place
 - Connection to local hapū
 - Interconnection between tribes
 - Connection to all beings – both physical and spiritual beings
 - Whakapapa informed roles

- Q: What lineage is shared by local hapū in your area? How might this shape their kaitiakitanga practices?



Place

- What to consider
 - Local hapū and iwi narratives
 - Local knowledges
 - Important sites of significant
 - Important natural features and biodiversity
 - Connections to place established through lineage
 - Challenges for local hapū
 - Practices connected to place
- Q: What kaitiakitanga practices are associated to places of importance to you?



Intergenerational knowledge

- What to consider
 - Natural features of the areas and the knowledges associated to them
 - Practices related to specific place knowledges
 - Important knowledges of local hapū connections
 - Knowledges related to specific species of the area
 - The transferal of these knowledges to future generations
- Q: What types of knowledges exist in your chosen area and how are they passed to the next generation?



Spirituality

- What to consider
 - Kaitiaki of the area
 - Important spiritual places
 - Connection to spiritual realm
 - Spiritual practices
 - Species that support spirituality e.g rongoā plants, birds etc
- Q: How can you project encourage spirituality practices? What restorative work can you undertake to enhance opportunities for spiritual practices?



Resource engagement

- What to consider
 - Physical engagement with nature and resources
 - Encouraging appropriate use of nature
 - Creating and maintaining physical connection to resources
 - Knowledges related to nature engagement such as harvesting, weaving, rongoā etc
 - Responsibilities of engagement
- Q: How are people actively encouraged to engage with nature in your area? Are these practices informed by the local hapū knowledges or mātauranga Māori more generally?



Activities

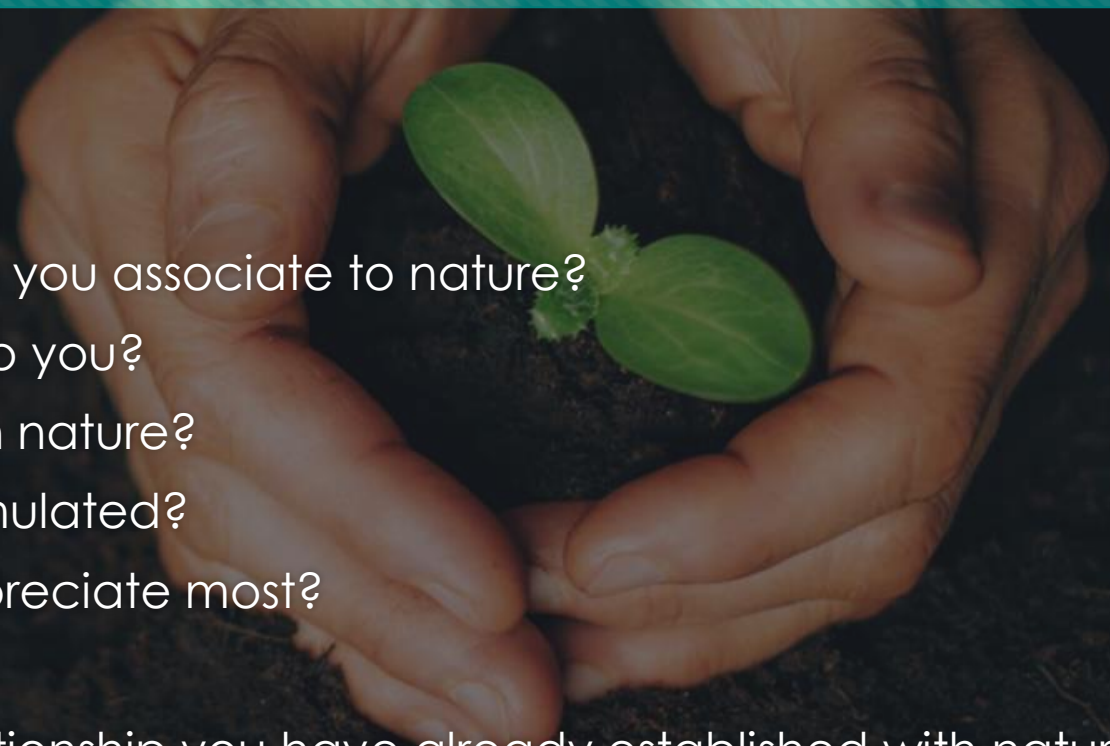


How important is nature to you?

Answer the following questions –

- What feelings, memories or activities do you associate to nature?
- What aspects of nature are important to you?
- What practices have you undertaken in nature?
- How was this perspective of nature formulated?
- What important biodiversity do you appreciate most?

- Activity outcome – recognising the relationship you have already established with nature. Recognising the physical and intrinsic attachment you might share to nature.



Activity – Place-based connection

Visualise a place that is meaningful to you

- What memories do you share to this place?
 - How have you cared for this place?
 - What are the local hapū/tribal narratives of this place?
 - What important biodiversity exist here?
 - What kaitiakitanga practices or knowledges exist within this place?
- Activity outcome – recognising the importance of place, how it may shape us but also what might be missing or invisible in these important areas.



Take a walk through your neighbourhood

- What forms of nature can you see?
- What significant places are near your home?
- What natural resources can you collect near your home?
- What existed in your area in past times?
- Who were the people of resided in this area in past times?
- What knowledges might have existed in this area?

Activity outcome – recognising what exist in the places we currently reside, how can we build the same sense of place in a new area. What can we help to embed in this new place.



Your project and Kaitiakitanga

- How does your project support kaitiakitanga practices and knowledge?
- Who have you engaged with to formulate this project?
- Will you be using mātauranga Māori to undertake the project?
- What tikanga will you need to consider in undertaking this project?
- Will you be engaging directly with nature? Are there processes you need to consider in this engagement e.g protection of mauri, rāhui, tapū, karakia etc?

Activity outcome – identify the strengths of the project in supporting kaitiakitanga, identify potential gaps or areas for further inquiry.



Useful resources

- List of prompting questions
- Pdf of slides
- Links to wider online resources
- See the list of resources in **MyHub**

