

He Ara ki Tua: Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Planning

**He Kupu Ārahi:
A Guidance Document**

Ngā Mihi Tautoko

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He mihi aroha tēnei ki ngā kaitautoko katoa. Nā mātou te hōnore ki te mahi tahi.
Whaia te herenga me te hohonutanga o te mana o te ao tūroa, hei tupu oranga mo tatou katoa.

Disclaimers and limitations

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This guide has been developed solely for the use of Tangata Whenua across Te Tai Tokerau. It is intended as a starting point and support tool for Tangata Whenua-led climate adaptation planning. It does not impose obligations or fixed processes, nor does it limit the tino rangatiratanga of whānau, hapū, or iwi to define their own pathways. Each may choose to adapt, expand, or set aside the material according to their own tikanga, mātauranga, and priorities.

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assist tangata whenua with information, tools and resources for undertaking a high level 'kaupapa Māori risk assessment' as part of [community adaptation planning](#) in the Far North District.

This document has been prepared as an initial 'guide' with proposed methodology and tools for how tangata whenua might adapt to climate change based on Kaupapa Māori methods and world view (tirohanga Māori).

The purpose of the guide for Tangata Whenua is to:

- Provide tangata whenua with a tool to wānanga, whakawhiti kōrero, and develop mātauranga Māori responses to address environmental challenges.
- Promote and normalise application of kōrero tuku iho, tikanga Māori, kaitiakitanga and customary practices to council decisions.
- Validate mātauranga Māori through application and practice
- Guide authentic cultural, environmental, social and economic sustainable resilience and adaptation responses in Te Ao Hurihuri (the changing world)
- Encourage tangata whenua and haukāinga to use this guide as a template to reclaim their traditional knowledge and practices and wānanga how their own kōrero tuku iho may inform or lead taiao responses.

The purpose of the 'Guide' for Councils is to:

- Assist in fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In particular, climate change responses.

This approach supports Tangata Whenua to:

- Define their own adaptation priorities and responses
- Ground planning in mātauranga, pūrākau, and tikanga
- Engage collaboratively across whānau, haukāinga, marae, hapū, and iwi
- Assert tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga in climate action
- Work in partnership with Council and Crown agencies
- Ensure governance and decision-making authority remains with tangata whenua throughout the kaupapa.

Background

The Far North District Council (FNDC) has a role to undertake community adaptation planning in the District. This document has been designed specifically for tangata whenua with the assistance of Council staff and experts.

These resources are part of the Community Adaptation Programme, Pou 2. Tangata Whenua-Led Adaptation. An initial look at risks to marae and whenua Māori from river flooding, coastal erosion and coastal flooding helped shape the programme. [Click here](#) for more information.

As part of its approach, FNDC has established three strategic pou (pillars) that guide its climate adaptation work:

1. **Community Adaptation Planning** – A major collaborative planning process focused on addressing significant risks to community values and public infrastructure.
2. **Tangata Whenua-led Adaptation** – Support for tangata whenua to lead the development of their own adaptation plans and actions based on their values, knowledge systems, and aspirations.
3. **Community Adaptation Toolkits** – Practical resources designed to assist communities in identifying climate adaptation needs and initiating localised planning responses.

This guide and toolkit directly responds to Pou 2, enabling and strengthening tangata whenua-led adaptation. It supports haukāinga in undertaking kaupapa Māori risk assessments and in preparing their own climate adaptation strategies within their rohe.

Local government has a critical role to play in honouring this partnership. Many of the climate adaptation decisions and responsibilities for protecting Māori interests and taonga sit within the jurisdiction of local and regional councils. FNDC and Northland Regional Council are required under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to consider the impacts of a changing climate and to integrate these considerations into planning, regulatory, and decision-making processes.

He Tirohanga Māori: A Māori perspective of the changing climate

Tangata whenua are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, largely living in rural and remote areas that are exposed to multiple natural hazards. Including severe flooding, coastal erosion, droughts in dry seasons, high winds, pollution to natural environments and loss of taonga species and biodiversity.



With future increased rainfall, 27 Marae are at risk from a 1-in-100-year flood event.



With 1.2m rising sea levels, 1,200 buildings on Māori land face exposure to flooding or coastal hazards.



With 1.2m rising sea levels, 110 km of roads and highways could be submerged during major flood events.



With 1.2m rising sea levels, 780 homes are threatened by coastal erosion.

Māori do not have equitable access to resources to plan adequately for climate change, and are not always able to 'retreat' to other locations due to whakapapa and lineage to whenua, moana, awa and other cultural taonga or assets. Often there is nowhere else to go or 'retreat' to for many Māori.

Community and tangata whenua adaptation plans aim to outline pathways and options for responding to natural hazards in the short, medium and long-term. These plans may also help identify when it is time to start shifting from one response to another. [See here for more information.](#)

Tangata whenua have pūrākau and kōrero tuku iho handed down through generations that describe the vulnerability and changes to the environment that tūpuna have dealt with for generations prior.

Kahore he aha i hangaatia i ahu noa mai ranei kia noho wehe i tenei ao. Ahakoa matangaro ka mohiotia te mauri.

Nothing was ever created or emerged in this world to live in isolation. Even a hidden face (matangaro) can be detected by its impact on something.

As the environment shifts, the presence of atua Māori are being felt more strongly.

- **Ranginui** brings stronger storms and heavier rain
- **Papatūānuku** cracks and erodes as the whenua dries, floods, or becomes unstable
- **Tāwhirimātea** stirs unpredictable winds and pressure systems
- **Mahuika** intensifies through prolonged drought and wildfire risk
- **Tāne** retreats as ngahere shrink, biodiversity declines, and pests spread
- **Moana-tū-i-te-Repo** loses balance as wetlands dry, flood, or fail to filter and store water
- **Moana-tū-i-te-Wao** slows and warms, changing the flow and mauri of freshwater lakes
- **Tangaroa** pushes further inland as tides rise and coastlines recede
- **Rongomaraeroa** struggles as changing seasons disrupt planting, harvesting, and kai systems
- **Tūmataurangi** rises as communities are called to respond, transform, adapt, and build resilience.

Climate change planning for Māori communities must be based on te ao Māori perspectives and mātauranga of local iwi and hapū who will have different priorities or assets that should be protected by the effects of climate change.

Including Māori at the outset of any climate adaptation planning will enable iwi and hapū to be at the forefront of decision-making. Bespoke approaches or working in partnership with agencies may be the best option for Māori and should be considered on a case-by-case basis with the Far North District Council.

The Far North District Council are seeking to actively support tangata whenua-led resilience and adaptation planning. This support will be agreed on by tangata whenua and by the Council.

What are natural hazards?

Natural hazards are the forces of nature that can impact the environment and community wellbeing. Climate change-related natural hazards include drought, wildfire, coastal flooding, coastal erosion, river flooding, groundwater intrusion, extreme wind (increased storminess), heatwaves and extreme heat, landslides and slips, and marine heatwaves.

Natural hazards in Te Hiku o te Ika - The Far North



Flooding (rivers, ponding and flash flooding)



Coastal erosion



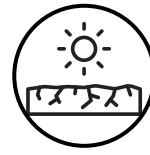
Groundwater



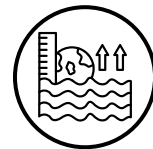
Coastal flooding (storm surge)



Extreme wind (increased storminess)



Drought



Chronic coastal inundation (permanent sea level rise)



Landslides and slips



Wildfire

In Te Tai Tokerau we see these hazards happening more often and getting more intense.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council need to consider the effects of a changing climate on communities. The councils are also required to incorporate climate change into existing frameworks, plans, projects and standard decision-making procedures. This means thinking about climate change in flood management, water resources, planning, building regulations and transport.

Tangata whenua adaptation plans developed using this guide can, where appropriate, be formally submitted to the Council. Doing so enables these plans to be recognised by the Far North District Council, and other entities, ensuring they can be considered in decisions relating to resource management and natural hazard responses. This approach upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi by affirming the authority of tangata whenua to shape climate adaptation planning, lead local decision-making, and advance strategies and perspectives grounded in place-based mātauranga and tikanga.

Information on natural hazards generally comes from national science organisations and from Northland Regional Council.

The natural hazards modelling used to develop this guide and undertake a 'Kaupapa Māori risk assessment' are:

- River flooding
- Coastal flooding (during storms)
- Permanent tidal inundation (permanent high tide levels)
- Coastal erosion

Natural hazards information is always a work in progress. The information changes as better data and better ways to model becomes available. There are also gaps in natural hazards information for Te Tai Tokerau and the Far North. There is currently no public hazards modelling for drought, wildfire, extreme wind, land and marine heatwaves. There is limited information on groundwater intrusion and landslips and landslides.

If you identify missing data critical to your adaptation planning, please reach out to our team. We would like to record what hazards information is needed by whānau. This is so the Climate Action and Resilience Department can better advocate for the hazards research and modelling in the Far North.

Currently the Council is consulting on the Natural Hazard provisions as part of hearings on the Proposed District Plan (PDP) for the Far North. The PDP will regulate via the Natural Hazards chapter where buildings can be located in vulnerable areas and at risk to flooding and erosion.

Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework

The Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework has been developed to support tangata whenua in leading climate adaptation responses within their rohe. It provides a Māori lens for understanding the changing climate and shifting environment, drawing on Te Ao Tūroa, Atua Māori, Ngā Mātāpono (cultural values), and Ngā Pou Ārahi (pillars of guidance). These elements combine to form a foundation for adaptation planning that is grounded in mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori.

This framework acknowledges that colonisation has disrupted customary ways of life, weakened hapū and whānau economies, and harmed ecosystems in many rohe. Climate change compounds these impacts, and the challenges it brings will not be experienced in the same way everywhere. Each whānau, hapū and iwi will encounter different pressures and opportunities shaped by their histories, geographies and lived realities. For this reason, the Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework is not fixed or prescriptive. Instead, it is intended to be adapted, reinterpreted and applied in ways that reflect the values, tikanga and priorities of each hāpori Māori.

Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa frames climate adaptation as more than a technical exercise. It positions climate adaptation as a process shaped by Māori worldviews, values, relationships and responsibilities that spans across the physical and spiritual cultural landscapes.

The framework is shaped by three interconnected components that together express a Māori worldview of the changing climate as a starting point. Te Ao Tūroa and atua Māori provide the foundation, grounding adaptation in the whakapapa of the natural world and its living forces. Ngā Mātāpono set out the cultural values and obligations that guide action, embedding adaptation within Māori ways of knowing and maintaining cultural integrity. Ngā Pou Ārahi are the guiding pillars and principles that carry the cultural values into practice, directing how climate adaptation can be designed and implemented through tangata whenua leadership and mātauranga.

The Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework is a starting point for tangata whenua to explore and define their Māori worldview of the changing climate and shifting environment. It is intentionally flexible, allowing values and principles to be interchanged or adapted to reflect the tikanga, histories, and priorities of each rohe. As such, the framework provides a culturally grounded lens for understanding climate change and can be applied alongside kaupapa Māori methodologies to guide the planning and development of tangata whenua-led adaptation responses.

The following section introduces a kaupapa Māori methodology that offers a structured process to support the creation of climate adaptation plans.



Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework

This infographic provides a visual representation of the Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework. It is framed by Ranginui above and Papatūānuku below, the primal parents from whom the atua Māori descend. Between them, the atua are depicted as living forces within Te Ao Tūroa, embodying the elemental relationships that shape the natural world.

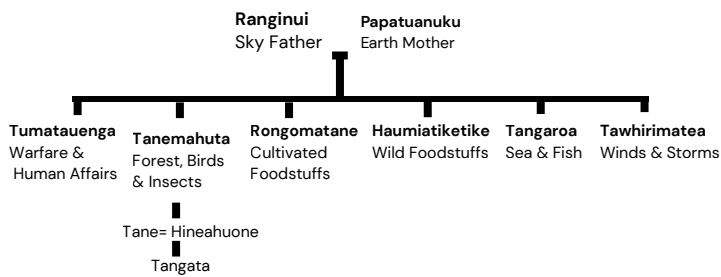
Within the realm of Ranginui, the stars symbolise Ngā Mātāpono, the guiding cultural values that illuminate pathways of action and emphasise the importance of grounding adaptation in cultural integrity. Anchored in the whenua of Papatūānuku stand Ngā Pou Ārahi, the pillars of guidance that represent the principles through which values are carried into practice. Together, these elements portray how Te Ao Tūroa, Ngā Mātāpono and Ngā Pou Ārahi interconnect to form a foundation for understanding climate adaptation from a Māori perspective.



Te Ao Tūroa and Atua Māori

Climate adaptation within a tangata whenua context begins with the recognition that Te Ao Tūroa, the natural world, is a living taonga bound by whakapapa. Within Te Ao Tūroa, atua Māori represent and embody the spiritual and elemental forces of the natural environment. From the union of Ranginui and Papatūānuku descend the atua who shape the dynamic movements in the environment.

A Māori world view acknowledges that all living elements within the natural environment (including people) descend from the union between Papatūānuku (earth mother) and Ranginui (sky father). This whakapapa forms a direct genealogical connection between people and the land.



Genealogical connection between people and the environment.

These atua Māori are not distant figures but active elements that shape daily realities and long-term climate patterns. Tāwhirimātea makes his presence known in the winds and air pressure systems, Tangaroa is visible in the manifestations of the oceans, while Tāne Mahuta is represented through the growth and expansions of forest. Each atua is a living presence, expressed through the rhythms of the environment in times of abundance as well as in moments of transformation and disruption.



As the climate shifts, the presence and influence of the atua are felt more strongly. Each rohe will experience these changes differently, shaped by geography, environment, and the cultural landscaped. In some areas, Mahuika will burn hotter through prolonged drought and wildfire risk, while Tāne retreats as forests thin, biodiversity declines, and pests spread. In other areas, Tangaroa may push further inland as tides rise and coastlines recede, while Rongomaraeroa struggles as shifting seasons unsettle planting, harvesting, and kai systems. Tūmatauenga will urge tangata whenua to meet the challenges of the changing climate with action, resilience, adaptation, and transformation. This response will be expressed differently across the motu, as each whānau, hapū, iwi, and hāpori Māori will respond in ways that reflect their unique mātauranga, tikanga, needs, and priorities within their own rohe.

This worldview does not see the environment as a resource to be exploited, but as a network of whakapapa relationships that unite atua Māori, tangata whenua, and the wider cultural landscape. These relationships are living, enduring, and reciprocal, carrying with them responsibilities as well as rights. The foundation for any climate response lies in acknowledging, respecting, and upholding these connections so that the mana and mauri of the environment remain intact.

When adaptation is grounded in the Māori worldviews of Te Ao Tūroa and atua Māori, climate adaptation becomes a way of seeing the shifting environment and changing climate as part of an extension and ongoing whakapapa of relationships and responsibilities. In this way, adaptation is framed as both a cultural duty and a pathway to restoring balance between atua Māori, the natural environment and people.

Ngā Mātāpono: Cultural values

Within this framework Tangata whenua climate adaptation is anchored in Ngā Mātāpono, guiding values and principles that emerge from mātauranga Māori and are maintained through tikanga. These values are lived obligations that influence how tangata whenua understand their environment, make decisions, and take action. They provide the foundation for planning that is culturally coherent, ethically sound, and intergenerational in focus.

‘Māori values are largely based on traditional concepts, beliefs and values, and shape the thinking of many Māori. From whakapapa and through time Māori acquired knowledge, termed mātauranga Māori; and from knowledge came Māori values... provide an intrinsic cultural basis for controlling or modifying human behaviour, determine issues and perspectives, and provide the concepts, principles and lore Māori use to varying degrees in everyday life. They affect the interaction with others, govern responsibilities, establish the relationship with both the natural and spiritual environment, and form the basis for indigenous aspirations. Māori values therefore form the basis for developing principles, protocols, ethical and cultural standards, and for guiding philosophies for culturally based sustainable development’ (Harmsworth, 2005).

From generation to generation, Māori values have provided the rules for balance and respect. They:

- Shape how we understand the world (Te Ao Māori).
- Set responsibilities between people, atua, and the environment.
- Provide cultural and ethical standards that guide action.

In the face of climate change, these values ensure adaptation protects mauri, honours whakapapa connections, and keeps tikanga alive. Examples of values are provided within the framework and can be drawn on to guide adaptation. However, no one set of values is fixed or definitive. Tangata whenua may instead choose to emphasise other values that are more relevant to their rohe, histories, and contexts. In this way, the framework remains flexible, allowing each whānau, hapū, and iwi to define their own guiding values while maintaining cultural integrity.

Wairua: Every element within the natural environment carries a spiritual essence. The forest, waters, birds, plants and people each have wairua. When the environment is disrupted, that wairua is also affected. Adaptation must acknowledge the spiritual dimension as well as the physical.

Whakapapa: All elements of the environment descend from atua and carry unique genealogies. Soils, rivers, mountains, birds and people are bound together through whakapapa that stretches back to creation. Adaptation that honours whakapapa recognises these relationships as the foundation for resilience.

Mauri: Is the life force present in everything. It can be strengthened or weakened depending on how places and species are treated. The health of fisheries, the fertility of soils and the clarity of water show the state of mauri. Protecting and enhancing mauri is central to adaptation, as it reflects the wellbeing of the whole system.

Taonga tuku iho: Are treasures handed down by tūpuna such as whenua, moana, reo, mātauranga, pūrākau and marae. They are inheritances that carry obligations of care and protection. In climate adaptation, taonga tuku iho must be safeguarded so they continue to sustain Māori identity, knowledge and survival across generations.

Kaitiakitanga: Is the responsibility to guard, protect, preserve and conserve the taiao and its natural resources.

Kotahitanga: Is the strength that comes from unity and collective responsibility. Resilience grows when whānau, hapū and iwi work together, sharing knowledge and support.

Tino rangatiratanga: Is the expression of Māori authority and self-determination. It is grounded in whakapapa and carried through tikanga and mātauranga, affirming the right of tangata whenua to make decisions for their own futures. Within climate adaptation, tino rangatiratanga ensures that strategies are led by tangata whenua, shaped by their values and responsibilities, and aligned with mana motuhake.

Ngā Pou Ārahi: Pillars of guidance

From the foundation of cultural values stem Ngā Pou Ārahi, the guiding pillars that may shape tangata whenua approaches to climate adaptation. These pillars ensure cultural principles remain central to the climate adaptation planning. The five pou ārahi include:

1. Tangata Whenua

Adaptation begins with tangata whenua. Mana whenua, haukāinga, hapū and iwi carry whakapapa connections and kaitiaki responsibilities for their rohe. Their leadership ensures that adaptation is guided by mana motuhake, reflects local identity, and fulfils obligations to both tūpuna and uri whakatupu.

2. Te Reo Māori, Kōrero Tuku Iho and Pūrākau

Te Reo Māori, pūrākau and kōrero tuku iho carry the memory and knowledge of tūpuna and frame Māori worldviews of the environment. They explain change, relationships and responsibility. Embedding te reo and cultural narratives in adaptation planning keeps strategies connected to place, history and meaning, ensuring Te Reo Māori and pūrākau can shape the way responses are designed.

3. Tikanga & Kawa

Tikanga and kawa provides the order and processes that define what is tika and pono. It guides how responsibilities are upheld, how decisions are made and how relationships are maintained. In climate adaptation, tikanga ensures planning is legitimate and culturally coherent, grounded in Māori systems of practice and lore.

4. Kaitiakitanga

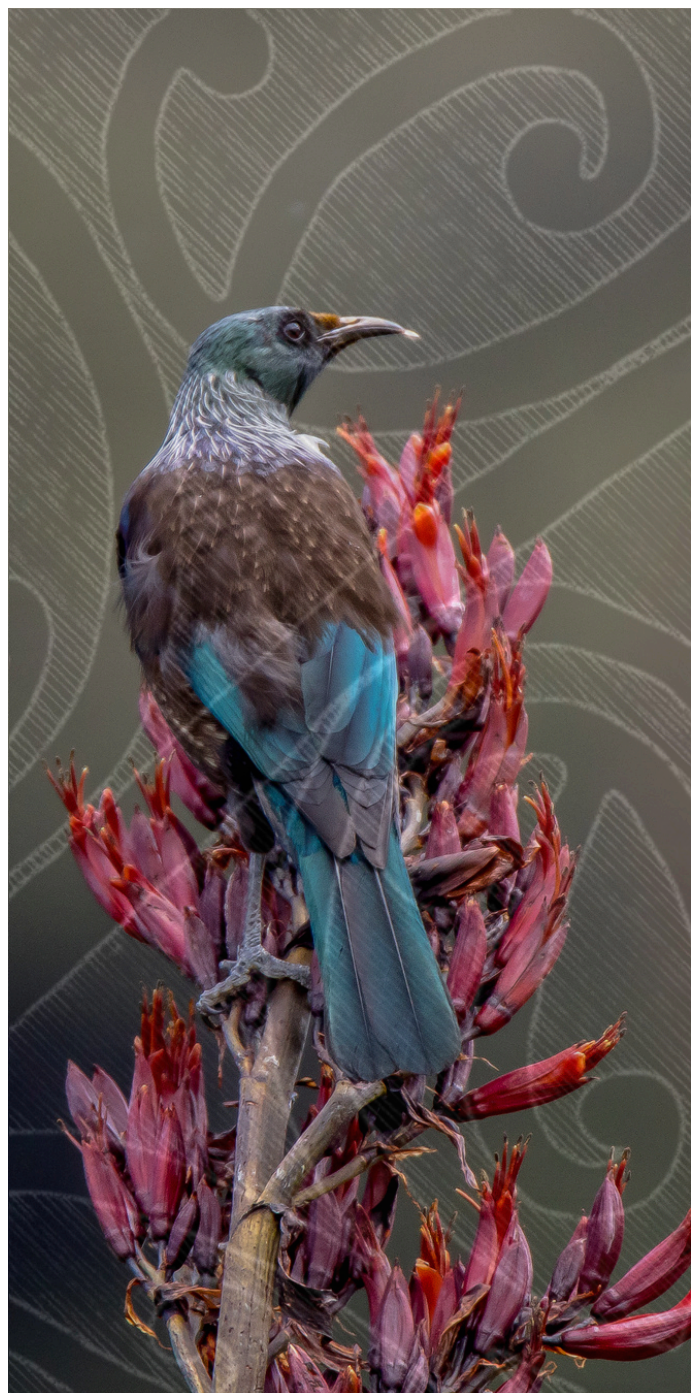
Kaitiakitanga is fundamental to Māori-led climate adaptation. It is not simply guardianship but the responsibility carried through whakapapa to protect and nurture te taiao. It recognises that people are part of, not separate from, the natural world. In climate adaptation, kaitiakitanga means focusing on the health and wellbeing of the environment, applying Māori knowledge systems, and acting with care and good intent so that mauri of the taiao is respected.

5. Customary Practices

Customary practices are the cultural traditions that connect people to place and identity. They carry mātauranga and reinforce belonging across generations. In climate adaptation, supporting customary practices protects cultural identity and ensures that tikanga continues to guide how people live with their environment.

The Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa Framework provides tangata whenua with a foundation to articulate and shape their own Māori perspectives on the changing climate and environment. It is designed to be adaptable, with values and principles that can be emphasised or redefined according to the tikanga, histories, and priorities of different rohe. In this way, the framework acts as a culturally grounded lens for understanding climate change and can be used alongside kaupapa Māori methodologies to support tangata whenua in developing climate adaptation strategies and responses.

The following section introduces a kaupapa Māori methodology that offers a structured process to support climate adaptation planning.



A Kaupapa Māori Planning Method

Te Ahunga – Te Aponga – Te A-Pounga

Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, Te A-Pounga is a kaupapa Māori planning method grounded in the principle of charting a direction with purpose. It offers a culturally responsive planning framework that is adaptable and can be applied across a wide range of kaupapa and contexts.

This approach is structured around three interwoven phases, Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, and Te A-Pounga, each building upon the previous to guide the planning process through setting direction, assessing needs, and formulating a strategic action plan. The phases include:

1. Te Ahunga: The first and defining phase, where the kaupapa is articulated, intent is clarified, and a collective direction is established.

- **Te Ahunga Nui** focuses on short-term activation by identifying immediate priorities. It supports tangata whenua to respond to pressing needs with practical, locally driven actions aligned to the kaupapa. This phase builds early momentum and lays a strong foundation for long-term planning.
- **Te Ahunga Roa** directs attention to future-focused activation, identifying long-term priorities and supporting sustained, intergenerational thinking beyond immediate concerns.

2. Te Aponga: This phase marks a critical stage of in-depth and fast-paced rangahau, where diverse sources of knowledge are woven together to develop a layered and comprehensive understanding of the kaupapa.

3. Te A-Pounga: The final phase of the planning process. Drawing from the strategic direction set in Te Ahunga and the insights gained through Te Aponga, Te A-Pounga focuses on the development of a strategic action plan that is ready for implementation.

Te Ahunga – Te Aponga – Te A-Pounga



Within this guide, Te Ahunga serves as the overarching methodology to support tangata whenua in assessing the impacts of a changing climate and shifting environment. It is designed to guide whānau, hapū, marae, and iwi through the development of locally determined climate adaptation plans grounded in their unique knowledge systems, tikanga, and values.

To support the use of this methodology, a suite of resources has been developed in the form of tools and templates. The next section outlines how Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, and Te A-Pounga can be applied by tangata whenua within a climate adaptation planning process.

The supporting resources, templates, and tools are provided in the appendices and have been organised into three kete under Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, and Te A-Pounga. These tools are intended as starting points and can be further developed or adapted as needed. Not all tools need to be used. Some whānau, hapū, and iwi may already be advanced in their climate adaptation journey and require little additional support, while others may be at an early stage and benefit from more structured guidance. The intention is for tangata whenua to select and apply the tools that best support their own adaptation planning, in ways that reflect their unique needs, tikanga, and priorities.

Applying Te Ahunga to climate adaptation planning

Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, Te A-Pounga can be applied by tangata whenua to support climate adaptation planning. This approach empowers whānau, hapū, and iwi to take the lead in climate adaptation planning by:

- Setting their own direction in response to local climate and environmental shifts
- Defining their own kaupapa and identifying short-term and long-term priorities
- Carrying out robust, accelerated research grounded in mātauranga and lived experience
- Developing a practical project plan

The following steps can be used as a guide to assist tangata whenua with implementing the Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, Te A-Pounga to undertake tangata whenua-led climate adaptation planning.

1. Te Ahunga: Initiating the kaupapa and setting the direction and purpose

Te Ahunga is a defining phase, where the kaupapa is articulated, intent is established, and a collective direction is set. This stage ensures all planning is guided by tikanga, informed by mātauranga ā-rohe, and aligned with local aspirations and values.

The practical steps that guide Te Ahunga in climate adaptation planning context include:

- 1.1:** Bring the right people together to hui and kōrero
- 1.2:** Define the purpose of the kaupapa
- 1.3:** Identify values and principles to guide the kaupapa
- 1.4:** Form a working group and agree on tikanga-led governance
- 1.5:** Undertake kōrero and engagement with the whānau and hapori

Te Ahunga Nui: Short-Term Activation of Immediate Priorities

Te Ahunga Nui focuses on short-term activation and identifying immediate priorities. This phase supports tangata whenua to respond to pressing needs with practical, locally driven actions that align with the kaupapa. It builds early momentum while laying a strong foundation for longer-term planning and activation. At this stage, effort is placed on developing a clear project plan and securing the resourcing needed to move forward. It is about establishing the tools, relationships, and capabilities that will sustain the kaupapa over time and support future implementation.

In the context of climate adaptation planning, Te Ahunga is guided by the following practical steps:

1.6: Secure resourcing to support the kaupapa

Te Ahunga Roa: Future Focused Activation of Long-Term Priorities

Te Ahunga Roa directs attention to future-focused activation and identifying long-term priorities. This phase supports sustained, intergenerational thinking and planning beyond immediate needs. It lays the foundations for decolonising and revitalising approaches by prioritising deep kōrero and engagement with whānau and hapori. The aim is to understand their adaptation aspirations, climate concerns, lived experiences, and priorities, ensuring the kaupapa is shaped by those it is intended to serve. The practical steps that shape Te Ahunga Roa within a climate adaptation planning process includes:

1.7: Develop a project plan and budget

2. Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori Risk Assessment & Rangahau

Te Aponga is a critical phase of in-depth rangahau, where diverse sources of knowledge are brought together to develop a layered and comprehensive understanding of the kaupapa. Mātauranga Māori, kōrero tuku iho, pūrākau, and environmental insights are interwoven to reveal what is occurring across the cultural landscape. This stage involves actively identifying hazards, levels of exposure, and underlying vulnerabilities through a kaupapa Māori lens. It provides a culturally grounded risk assessment to clarify what is at stake, where pressures are emerging, and what responses may be appropriate and resources required to take action.

The following steps outline how Te Aponga is applied in climate adaptation planning:

- 2.1:** Ngā nekehanga o ngā atua – Observing and interpreting climate risk through atua Māori
- 2.2:** Spatially mapping risk across the rohe
- 2.3:** Assess the level of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability present in the cultural landscape
- 2.4:** Undertake kaupapa Māori research to identify adaptation responses
- 2.5:** Research and forecast the budget to deliver adaptation responses

Applying Te Ahunga to climate adaptation planning

3. Te A-Pounga: Adaptation Plan

Te A Ponga marks the final phase of the process. Building on the strategic foundations and groundwork of Te Ahunga and the in-depth rangahau of Te Aponga, this stage draws together all preceding kōrero, analysis, and insights to develop a practical, culturally grounded adaptation plan rooted in mātauranga Māori. This stage signals a shift from exploration to activation. It transforms collective knowledge into a clear, actionable response plan, weaving together values, aspirations, evidence and solutions into a coherent plan that supports tangata whenua-led adaptation in real-world contexts. The result is a culturally grounded blueprint ready to guide meaningful action on the ground.

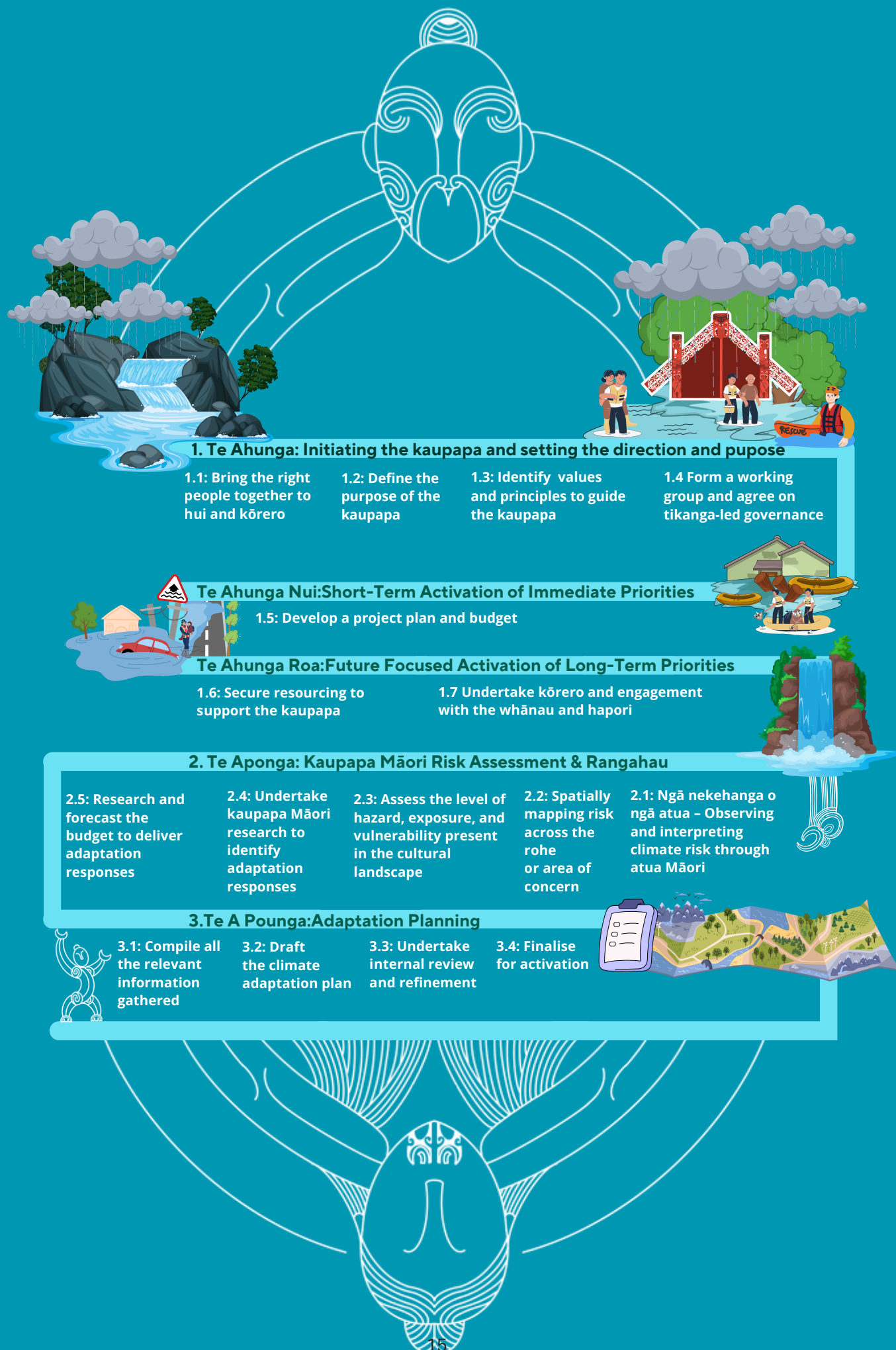
When used for climate adaptation planning, Te A-Pounga can be carried out through these key steps:

- 3.1:** Compile all the relevant information
- 3.2:** Draft the adaptation plan
- 3.3:** Undertake internal review and refinement
- 3.4:** Finalise for activation



Applying Te Ahunga to climate adaptation planning

The following image and checklist summarise how to apply the Framework in practice.



Checklist

The following checklist and overarching steps can be used to assist with undertaking Tangata Whenua-led climate adaptation planning.

Step	Check Y/N
Step 1: Bring the right people together	
Step 2: Purpose of Hui or Wānanga	
Step 3: Identify values to guide development of adaptation plan	
Step 4: Finalise working group and develop terms of reference	
Step 5: Identify short and long term priorities	
Step 6: Kaupapa Māori research	
Step 7: Atua Māori risk assessment	
Step 8: Cultural mapping	
Step 9: Assess level of vulnerability and exposure	
Step 10: Identify Kaupapa Māori adaptation responses	
Step 11: Identify resource and budgeting requirements	
Step 12: Compile all information	
Step 13: Draft adaptation plan	
Step 14: Undertake final review and refinement	
Step 15: Finalise and implement for activation	

Steps for implementation and supporting tools

This section sets out practical steps for initiating a tangata whenua-led climate adaptation plan, using Te Ahunga as the guiding methodology. Each whānau, marae, hapū or iwi can tailor this to their local context, priorities, and kaupapa.

1. Te Ahunga: Initiating the kaupapa and setting the direction and purpose

1.1: Bring the right people together to hui and kōrero

Guidance note: Use the hui to clarify the kaupapa's driving purpose. Defining the purpose is about setting your direction with clarity and intention. This is a time to pause and ask: He aha te take? What is the reason behind this kaupapa? Use the hui to draw out the deeper purpose from whānau, kaumātua, hapū, and others. Let the kōrero reflect local histories, mātauranga, and hopes for the future. When the purpose is clearly understood and widely supported, it becomes a pou that anchors the mahi and guides the journey ahead.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A Guidance Resource for Identifying Tangata Whenua Representatives

This resource helps map out the key tangata whenua groups and representatives who should be involved in the climate adaptation kaupapa.

It supports inclusive and whakapapa-informed engagement by:

- Identifying who holds responsibility or connection to the whenua or kaupapa
- Ensuring balanced representation across whānau, hapū, marae, iwi, and Māori organisations
- Guiding invitations to hui and wānanga
- Tracking engagement and identifying where further relationship-building is needed

A Template for a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui Pānui

A clear and adaptable pānui format to notify whānau, hapū, and stakeholders of hui.

Ensures consistent and timely communication from the outset, maintaining transparency and engagement throughout the process.

A Templated Agenda for a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui

A template to structure hui and maintain focus on key kaupapa discussions.

Promotes inclusive dialogue and clarity of purpose by providing a guided pathway for decision-making and whanaungatanga.

A Template for recording minutes from a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui

A user-friendly format for recording kōrero, decisions, and action points from hui.

Creates continuity across meetings and keeps the wider rōpū informed and aligned with progress and commitments.

A workshop guide for developing a Kaupapa Māori Purpose Statement

A facilitated wānanga tool to co-develop the core purpose of the kaupapa.

Guides whānau and tangata whenua through a values-based process to express the deeper intention of the kaupapa. This resource includes facilitation prompts, reflective questions, and group activities to support collective kōrero and alignment. Designed to surface shared aspirations, whanaungatanga connections, and long-term visions of wellbeing, resilience, tino rangatiratanga and mana motuhake.

Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga: Initiating the kaupapa and setting the direction and purpose

1.2: Define the purpose of the kaupapa

Guidance note: Before any planning begins, it's essential to bring the right people together to hui, whakawhitiwhiti kōrero and set the kaupapa in motion. This includes whānau, haukāinga, marae, hapū, and others who carry knowledge, responsibility, or connection to the whenua. This initial hui or wānanga provides the space to share whakaaro, build shared intent, and begin weaving collective ownership of the adaptation journey. It lays the foundation for everything that follows.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A workshop guide for developing a Kaupapa Māori Purpose Statement

A facilitated wānanga tool to co-develop the core purpose of the kaupapa.

Guides whānau and tangata whenua through a values-based process to express the deeper intention of the kaupapa. This resource includes facilitation prompts, reflective questions, and group activities to support collective kōrero and alignment. Designed to surface shared aspirations, whanaungatanga connections, and long-term visions of wellbeing, resilience, tino rangatiratanga and mana motuhake.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga: Initiating the kaupapa and setting the direction and purpose

1.3: Identify the values and principles to guide the kaupapa

Guidance Note: Facilitate a values-based kōrero to identify the guiding mātāpono and principles that will shape and uphold the kaupapa. These may include tika, pono, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, whanaungatanga, or others specific to the whānau, marae, or hapū. Agreeing on shared values ensures that decisions, actions, and relationships remain grounded in cultural integrity throughout the process.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A workshop guide for identifying the values for the kaupapa

A kaupapa Māori facilitation guide to surface shared values for the kaupapa.

This resource helps whānau and tangata whenua collectively identify the tikanga, principles, and cultural foundations that will guide how the kaupapa is shaped, delivered, and upheld. It includes workshop prompts, reflective activities, and facilitation notes to support kōrero about collective responsibilities, ethical direction, and the mauri of the kaupapa.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga: Initiating the kaupapa and setting the direction and purpose

1.4 Forming a working group and agree on tikanga-led governance

Guidance Note: Facilitate a values-based kōrero to identify the guiding mātāpono and principles that will shape and uphold the kaupapa. These may include tika, pono, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, whanaungatanga, or others specific to the whānau, marae, or hapū. Agreeing on shared values ensures that decisions, actions, and relationships remain grounded in cultural integrity throughout the process.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A Working Group Terms of Reference Template

A kaupapa Māori template to guide how your rūpū will work together.

Outlines structure, roles, tikanga of engagement, and decision-making based on kaupapa Māori principles of tika and pono. Supports collective leadership, transparency, and cultural integrity throughout the kaupapa.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga Nui: Short-term activation of immediate priorities

Step 1.5: Develop a project plan

- Identify the long-term capacity and capability needs to support kaupapa Māori risk assessment, research and plan development
- Confirm key kaimahi, researchers, mātauranga experts, and Māori technical leads to be involved.
- Prepare a projected budget to cover key costs like venue hire, kai, koha, facilitation, and coordination and other cost

Guidance Note: Develop a practical project plan that outlines the key steps, timing, and roles required to progress the kaupapa. This includes identifying kaupapa Māori expertise, research needs, communications, and coordination roles and a projected budget. A strong plan supports smooth delivery and keeps everyone aligned around the mahi and intended outcomes.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A Project Planning Toolkit

A template kaupapa Māori project plan to guide the working group in developing a strong foundation for action
Helps identify roles, timelines, key deliverables, and alignment with kaupapa Māori values.

Kaupapa Māori Expertise & Climate Adaptation Support Directory

A resource to identify and connect with skilled Māori professionals across Te Tai Tokerau.

This directory helps tangata whenua identify local kaimahi, researchers, mātauranga experts, and technical specialists who can tautoko kaupapa Māori-led climate adaptation work. It is designed as a living document that can be updated over time. Includes the contact details and areas of expertise (e.g., GIS, environmental science, climate modelling, mātauranga Māori, planning, community engagement, facilitation), hapū or rohe affiliation where appropriate, availability for kaupapa support (advisory, contract, or voluntary). Notes on past experience or specific projects relevant to adaptation.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga Nui: Short-term activation of immediate priorities

Step 1.6: Secure Resourcing to Support the Kaupapa

- Identify what funding is needed to carry out hui, wānanga, and early activation activities
- Meet with FNDC to explore funding and resourcing opportunities to support the kaupapa

Guidance Note: Resourcing the kaupapa is about upholding the mana of both the process and the people involved. Secure long-term pūtea and resourcing to sustain the kaupapa from initiation through to plan development and implementation. Use the project plan and projected budget as tools to pursue funding that aligns with kaupapa Māori priorities. Build enduring relationships with potential funders, including FNDC, iwi entities, philanthropic bodies, and Māori organisations to support the vision over time. Where possible, prioritise partnerships that value tikanga Māori, intergenerational outcomes, and tangata whenua leadership.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A Funding Pathways Resource

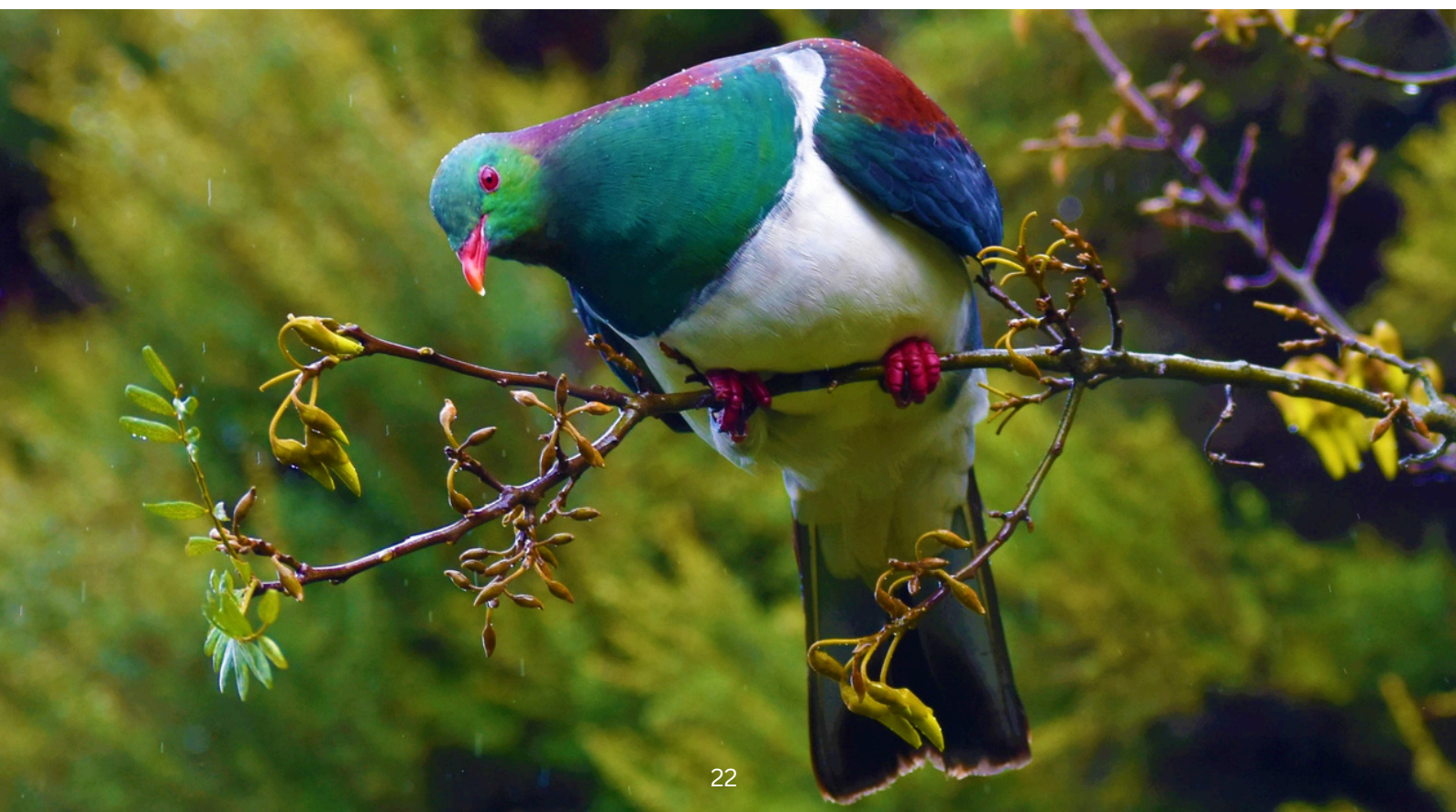
A table of potential funding sources (including FNDC-specific funds) to support kaupapa Māori-led adaptation initiatives.

Includes eligibility details, application timelines, and priority areas.

A Funding Proposal Template

A templated document to support whānau and hapori to seek funding.

Includes guidance for outlining project goals, kaupapa rationale, budgets, and impact outcomes



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

1. Te Ahunga Roa: Future focused activation of long-term priorities

Step 1.7 Undertake Kōrero and Engagement with the Whānau & Hapori

- Hold wānanga and planning hui across the rohe to introduce the kaupapa and build shared understanding
- Create awareness around decolonising Climate Change in Te Ao Hurihuri
- Create safe spaces for whānau, marae, and hapori to share their experiences of environmental change
- Collect lived knowledge about local climate impacts, disruptions, and resilience practices
- Identify community priorities, needs, and concerns to guide the next steps
- Involve kaumātua, tai tamariki, haukāinga leaders, and tamariki-mokopuna voices from the start
- Begin building local ownership, readiness, and momentum for adaptation planning

Guidance Note: Begin a deeper engagement process with whānau, marae, and hapori across the rohe. This involves holding wānanga to introduce the kaupapa, building understanding about local environmental changes, and creating safe spaces for kōrero. Focus on decolonising perspectives of climate disruption, listening to lived experiences, surfacing priorities, and building readiness for adaptation planning. Involve all generations and leadership roles early to support intergenerational ownership and localised momentum.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

A Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Wānanga Toolkit

A curated list of wānanga and hui formats to support kōrero about local climate experiences, aspirations, and planning.

Includes facilitation tips, tikanga considerations, and suggested discussion prompts.

Decolonising Climate Change for Te Ao Hurihuri Resource Pack

A curated set of tools to build shared understanding of climate change from a Te Ao Māori worldview.

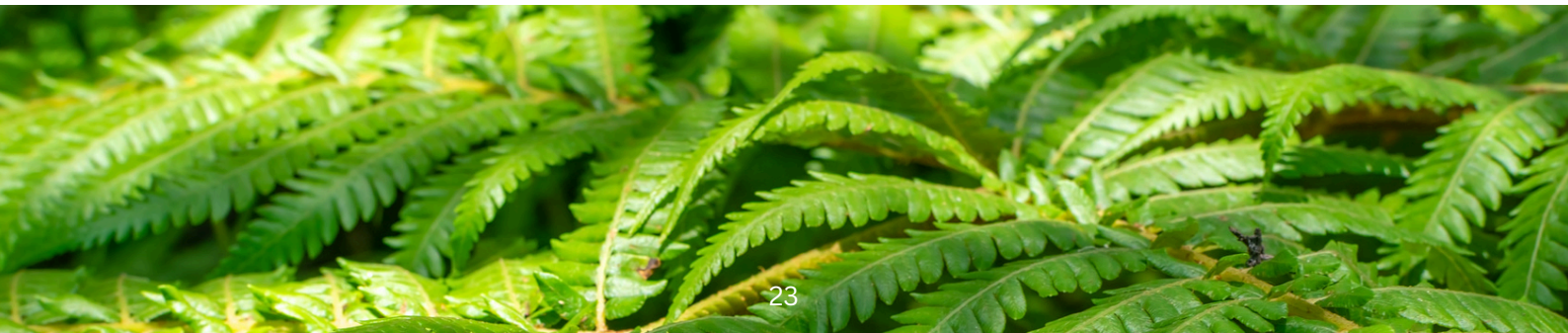
Supports whānau and hapori to critically examine dominant narratives and reclaim cultural lenses. A foundational tool to support tangata whenua in reclaiming tino rangatiratanga and restoring mana motuhake in climate adaptation. Includes:

- Curated readings on decolonisation, climate justice, and indigenous-led futures
- Short video series on Te Ao Māori, atua Māori, and environmental relationships
- Visual tools and pūrākau for explaining Māori cosmology and whakapapa-based ethics
- Examples of other kaupapa Māori climate frameworks and indigenous-led adaptation models

A Whānau & Hapori Mātauranga Logbook Template

A logbook template for capturing pūrākau, tohu, and mātauranga shared during wānanga and kōrero.

Supports the recording of intergenerational insight, local climate observations, and ideas for action.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 2: Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori risk assessment and rangahau

Step 2.1: Ngā Nekehanga o ngā atua – Observing & Interpreting Climate Risk through atua Māori

- Identify atua present in your rohe
- Observe tohu and signs of environmental disruption
- Use kōrero tuku iho and mātauranga to interpret atua unrest
- Recognise imbalance in atua domains as early indicators of risk

Guidance Note: Use atua Māori as your guiding lens to observe changes in the environment. Begin by identifying which atua are most present in your rohe and the domains they influence, such as Tangaroa, Tāne, Tāwhirimātea, and others. Draw on pūrākau, whakapapa, and kōrero tuku iho to interpret tohu and disruptions in these atua's realms. Changes in seasonal patterns, animal behaviours, water levels, or the mauri of a space may indicate imbalance. These observations offer early insights into environmental risk from a Māori worldview.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Atua Māori Profiles Table

A foundational resource outlining key atua and their environmental domains.

This table provides names, roles, and descriptions of major atua Māori to support understanding of their relevance to climate patterns and observed environmental changes.

Atua Māori Whakapapa Resources

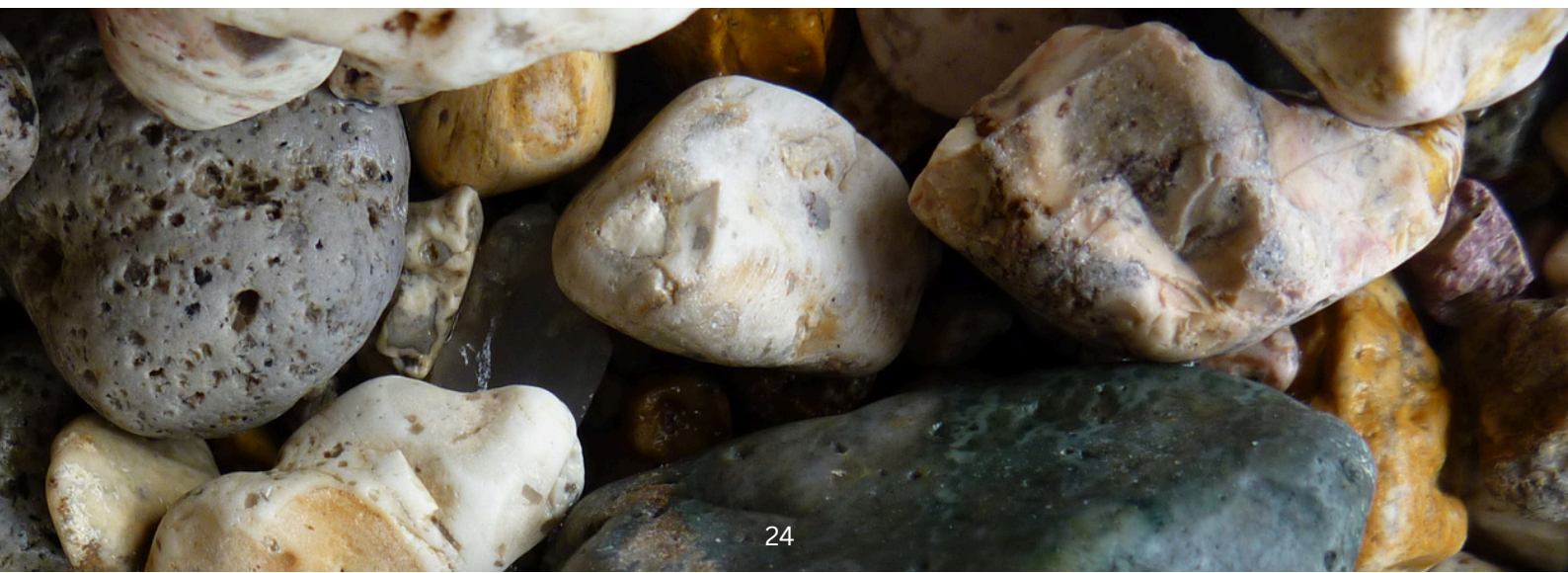
A series of visual resources capturing the whakapapa relationships between key atua Māori.

A visual resource showing how atua Māori are connected through whakapapa. Assisting whānau and hapū understand these relationships and use them to interpret tohu and environmental shifts through an whakaaro and tiro Māori

Atua Māori Risk Assessment Template

A guided template for assessing climate risks through atua-based observation.

Supports whānau and hapū to record tohu, apply mātauranga, and interpret shifts in atua domains as early indicators of risk.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 2: Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori risk assessment and rangahau

Step 2.2: Spatially Mapping Cultural Landscape Risk Across the Rohe

- Set up a GIS platform for your rohe and hapori
- Identify climate hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, slips, flooding, fires), marking their locations and areas of exposure
- Classify each location by the relevant atua domain (e.g. Tangaroa – coastlines, Tāne – forests)
- Overlay cultural narratives and mātauranga to explain the meaning behind each change
- Develop a cultural landscape risk map that combines local mātauranga, scientific data projects, and spatial insight

Guidance Note: Mapping your rohe is about connecting whenua and mātauranga. Use GIS tools to locate climate hazards, such as flooding, slips, droughts, or erosion and overlay these with local cultural knowledge and scientific data projections. Classify affected areas using atua domains to show how climate risks relate to atua-based systems. Include pūrākau, oral histories, and tikanga to help interpret the meaning of these changes. Record hazards alongside the cultural values of the whenua, such as wāhi tapu, mahinga kai, and places of significance. Done well, this process produces a cultural landscape risk map, which can become a powerful planning tool that reflects both mātauranga Māori and real-world climate disruptions and projections, grounded in local mātauranga and experiences.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Kaupapa Māori GIS Mapping Guide

A practical resource to support the set-up and use of GIS platforms in kaupapa Māori-based climate planning. Includes technical and tikanga guidance for using spatial tools to map climate hazards across the rohe.

Tangata Whenua Data Privacy & IP Agreement Template

A legal and cultural agreement template to protect mātauranga Māori and spatial data.

Ensures that all GIS data and cultural knowledge are safeguarded under terms defined by tangata whenua.

Atua Māori GIS Data Layer Structure Resource

A reference tool for organising GIS data using atua Māori as the kaupapa Māori framework.

Provides examples of how to structure spatial layers (e.g. Tangaroa – sea level rise, Tāne – forest loss) and integrate cultural sites, tohu, and environmental risk.

Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 2: Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori risk assessment and rangahau

Step 2.3: Assess the level of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability present in the cultural landscape
For every affected area and place, analyse vulnerability across the five key areas:

- **Te Taiao – Natural environment:** Shifts in atua māori ecosystems, biodiversity, and the wellbeing of the whenua, moana, awa, and ngahere. Signals disruption to the mauri of the environment and its living systems.
- **Ngā Āhuetanga Hanga – Built environment and infrastructure:** Impacts on physical structures such as kāinga, marae, urupā, roads, power, water systems, and critical infrastructure.
- **Te Hauora o te Tangata – The wellbeing of people:** Effects on whānau wellbeing, health, safety, mobility, resilience, and intergenerational relationships.
- **Te Tuakiri – Cultural identity:** Disruption to tikanga, mātauranga, te reo Māori, karakia, taonga tuku iho, customary practices and the spiritual integrity of wāhi tapu and sites of significance.
- **Ōhanga me ngā Rawa – Economic and resource security:** Risks to whenua- and moana-based livelihoods, natural kai systems, income streams, access to vital resources, and the ability to afford adaptation and recovery efforts.

Guidance Note: Undertake hui, wānanga, and engage local expertise to walk through each mapped location and assess what is vulnerable and why. Consider how risks are experienced across different layers of the kaupapa, from the land and built environment to people, identity, and resource security. This step is not just about listing impacts, but understanding the depth of disruption: Where are whānau already struggling? What systems are most fragile? What tikanga or mahinga kai are at risk of being lost? Focus on the lived realities of your people and how climate risks compound existing pressures. These insights will shape targeted responses grounded in mātauranga and manaakitanga.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Kaupapa Māori Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Tool

A practical template to assess hazard, exposure, and vulnerability across key cultural domains.

A structured tool that guides whānau and hāpori through assessing how climate risks affect their whenua, people, practices, and resources. This template helps identify vulnerabilities across:

- Te Taiao – Natural Environment
- Ngā Āhuetanga Hanga – Built Environment
- Te Hauora o te Tangata – People's Wellbeing.
- Te Tuakiri – Cultural Identity
- Ōhanga me ngā Rawa – Economic and Resource Security

This tool supports a tangata-whenua led, culturally grounded analysis to inform adaptation decisions that protect both taiao and tangata.

Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 2: Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori risk assessment and rangahau

Step 2.4: Undertaking Kaupapa Māori Research to Identify Adaptation Responses

- Apply kaupapa Māori research methods to explore culturally grounded responses to the climate risks identified in Steps 2.1 to 2.3
- Identify urgent adaptation needs and develop both short-term and long-term responses across:
 - Te Taiao – Natural Environment
 - Ngā Āhuatanga Hanga – Built Environment
 - Te Hauora o te Tangata – Wellbeing of People
 - Te Tuakiri – Cultural Identity
 - Ōhanga me ngā Rawa – Economic and Resource Security

Guidance Note: Start shaping your adaption responses by drawing from the mātauranga within your hapū or iwi. Use kaupapa Māori research approaches to explore what has worked in the past both, what solutions already exist in your rohe, and what innovations could emerge from within. Run wānanga with kaumātua, tai tamariki, and subject-matter experts to brainstorm practical actions that align with atua, tikanga, and local conditions. Prioritise responses that protect mana, restore mauri, and uphold intergenerational wellbeing. Organise responses into two tracks: short-term actions that are achievable now, and long-term strategies that require sustained investment. Every response should be culturally sound, achievable, and locally led.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Kaupapa Māori Research Design Template

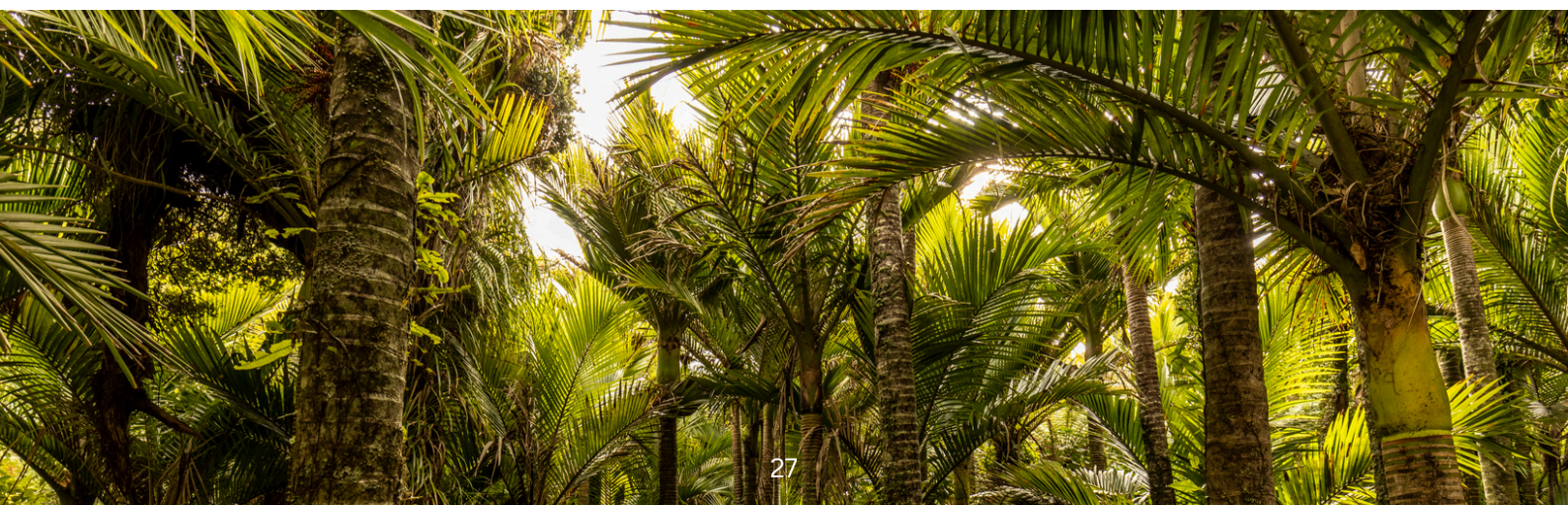
A practical tool to help tangata whenua design and carry out kaupapa Māori research.

This template supports whānau, hapū, or iwi to develop research projects grounded in mātauranga Māori. It ensures research priorities are clearly defined, align with local tikanga and values, and draw from atua-based insights to guide adaptation solutions.

Kaupapa Māori Climate Adaptation Matrix

A kaupapa Māori-aligned tool to identify and organise adaptation responses rooted in atua and mātauranga Māori.

This matrix helps tangata whenua map and prioritise both immediate and long-term adaptation actions across environmental, cultural, social, economic, and physical wellbeing areas. Responses are framed within atua Māori context to support effective tangata whenua-led climate adaptation, planning and decision-making.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 2: Te Aponga: Kaupapa Māori risk assessment and rangahau

Step 2.5: Research and Forecast the Budget to Deliver Adaptation Responses

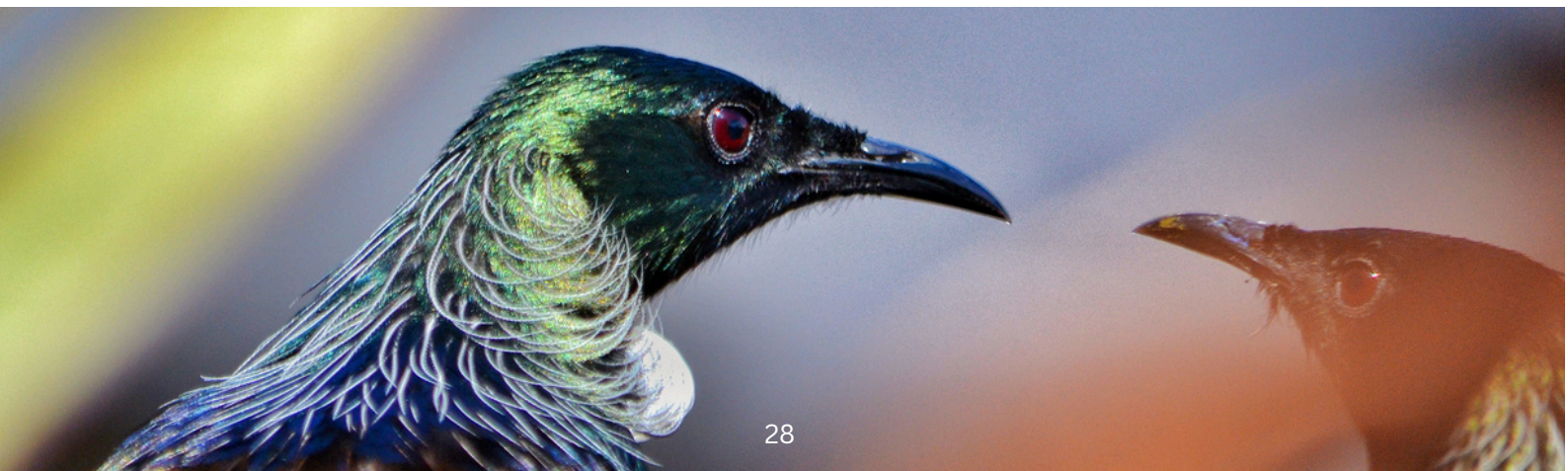
- Research what will be needed to activate each short- and long-term adaptation response identified in Step 3.1
- Break down each response into practical components (e.g. labour, materials, tools, technical support, coordination)
- Seek quotes or cost estimates from trusted local contractors, tangata whenua providers, local suppliers, or specialists
- Identify any specialised tools, skills, or technologies required to implement and maintain each response
- Compile a financial forecast or draft budget that captures the total investment needed to deliver the adaptation responses

Guidance Note: Once your adaptation actions are identified, break them down into real-world costs. Be specific and realistic: What does it actually take to deliver this kaupapa well and with integrity? Gather quotes from local Māori suppliers, practitioners, and tradespeople where possible. Identify which responses need one-off funding and which require ongoing pūtea or staffing. This budget is your foundation for approaching funders, ensure it reflects the true scale and significance of the work. Don't underestimate the value of the mahi.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Kaupapa Māori Budget Planning Template

A practical tool to support whānau and hāpori to forecast the true cost of delivering each adaptation response. Guides the rūpū to break each response down into step-by-step components such as labour, materials, coordination, and technical support. Encourages gathering quotes from trusted local contractors, tangata whenua providers, and specialists. Promoting locally sourced solutions and invests in building tangata whenua capability and capacity.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 3: Te A-Pounga: Developing a kaupapa Māori adaptation plan

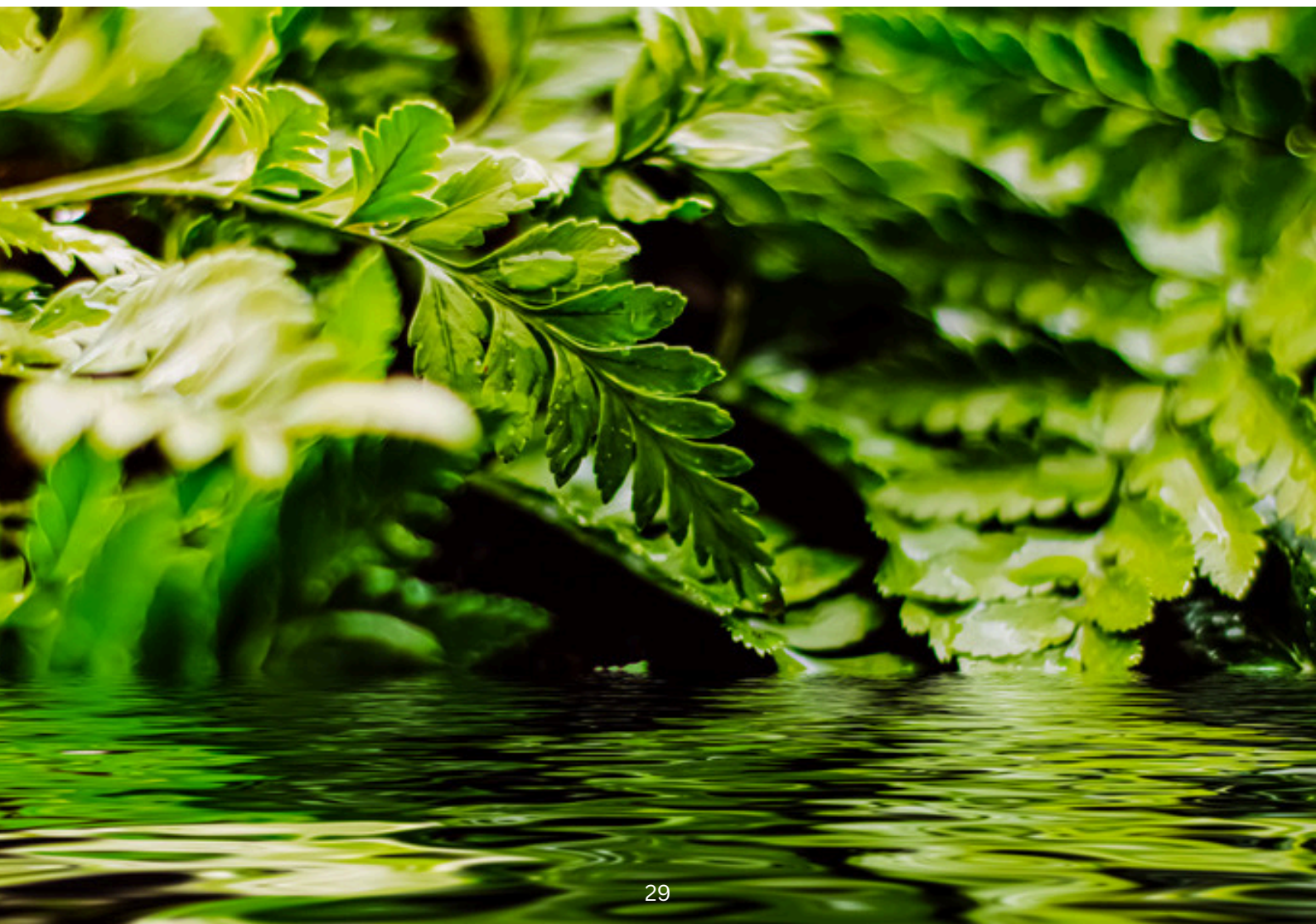
Step 3.1: Compile all Information

Gather all outputs from Te Ahunga and Te Aponga, including:

- Kōrero tuku iho , mātauranga, whānau insights and local experiences (Step 1.7)
- Atua-based risk observations (Step 2.1)
- Spatial risk mapping (Step 2.2)
- Vulnerability assessment across the five kaupapa areas (Step 2.3)
- Adaptation priorities and response options (Step 2.4)
- Costings and resource planning (Step 2.5)

Organise this material into a cohesive format to inform the structure and content of the plan.

Guidance Note: Before writing the plan, bring everything together in one place. This includes the pūrākau, risk observations, mapped hazards, vulnerability assessments, response ideas, and draft budgets. Organise the material so that it flows well, from the whakapapa of the kaupapa to the future actions being proposed. Make sure it is easy for your rūpū to work from, and that nothing important is left out. This is the bridge between rangahau and planning.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 3: Te A-Pounga: Developing a kaupapa Māori adaptation plan

Step 3.2: Draft the Adaptation Plan

Populate the adaptation plan template with:

- Guiding values
- Purpose of the adaptation plan
- Identified risks, hazards and vulnerabilities
- Proposed adaptation responses (short- and long-term)
- Clear implementation roles
- Timelines for action
- Budget forecasts and resource needs
- Recommendations from the working group

Prepare any visual aids, maps, and appendices needed for practical use.

Guidance Note: Begin shaping your adaptation plan into a working document. Start with your kaupapa, who the plan is for, what it seeks to protect, and what values it upholds. Clearly describe the risks and disruptions facing your rohe, and outline your proposed adaptation responses, both immediate and long-term. Make roles, responsibilities, timeframes, and resources clear and practical. Your plan does not need to follow a fixed template, it could be written, visual, or multi-modal, but it should be coherent, represent your whānau, and ready to guide real action and implementation.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Plan Template

A pre-formatted document and template to support the drafting of the full adaptation plan.

The template includes sections for values and purpose, climate risks and vulnerabilities, adaptation responses (short- and long-term), implementation planning, timeframes, forecasted resource needs, and visual aids such as maps or appendices. It ensures consistency, clarity, and alignment with tangata whenua aspirations and mātauranga.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 3: Te A-Pounga: Developing a kaupapa Māori adaptation plan

Step 3.3: Internal Review and Refinement

- Present the draft to the working group for review.
- Check alignment with hapori Māori needs and priorities.
- Integrate feedback to ensure the plan includes all kōrero shared, reflects and respects the voices involved, and strengthens clarity, accuracy, and cultural integrity.

Guidance Note: Review the draft with those involved in the kaupapa, the working rōpū, kaumātua, whānau contributors, technical advisors. Check that the plan reflects collective whakaaro, upholds tikanga, and includes all relevant voices and knowledge systems. Encourage open discussion and critique to strengthen the final plan. This process not only improves the document but also ensures trust, ownership, and alignment across your hapori. Update the plan accordingly, ensuring it is accurate, credible, and ready for implementation.

Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates

Internal Review Checklist

A tool to support collective refinement and review of the draft plan.

The checklist includes guidance for assessing cultural alignment with tikanga and mātauranga, technical clarity, inclusion of all key voices, and supports a quality assurance process that centres kaupapa Māori principles and inclusive review practice.



Steps for implementation and supporting tools

Step 3: Te A Punga: Developing a kaupapa Māori adaptation plan

Step 3.4: Finalise for Activation

- Finalise the plan as a complete document ready to support implementation
- Lodge the completed plan with Far North District Council (FNDC) to formally connect it to: The statutory climate adaptation and natural hazards framework. This ensures the plan has a recognised position within council processes and triggers legal responsibilities for FNDC to support, respond to, and align with the plan in future decision-making and resourcing.

Guidance Note: Prepare the final version of the plan for delivery and use. This includes formatting the content, confirming appendices or visual aids, and making it easy to share, teach from, and action. If appropriate, lodge the plan with Far North District Council to formally connect it to council planning and hazard management systems. This can help secure recognition, resourcing, and partnership. Finalisation is not just about documentation, it is about readiness to implement, monitor, and adapt the plan as conditions shift and the kaupapa grows.

Ngā Kete Tautoko: Supporting resources, tools and templates

Internal Review Checklist

FNDC Lodgement Checklist

A step-by-step tool and checklist to guide the formal submission of the adaptation plan to Far North District Council.



Ngā Kete Tautoko:

Supporting resources, tools and templates

The appendices contain a suite of resources, tools and templates organised into three kete: Te Ahunga, Te Aponga, and Te A-Pounga.

These kete are designed to provide direction and support, but they are not prescriptive. Each whānau, hapū, and iwi can determine which tools are most relevant to their circumstances and local context.

The purpose of these kete is to offer practical options that can be applied, adapted, or set aside, depending on the needs and priorities of tangata whenua.

Kete 1: Te Ahunga Initiating the Kaupapa & Set the Direction & Purpose

- 1: A Guidance Resource for Identifying Tangata Whenua Representatives
- 2: A Template for a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui Pānui
- 3: A Template Agenda for a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui
- 4: A Template for Recording Minutes from a Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Hui
- 5: A workshop guide for developing a Kaupapa Māori Purpose Statement
- 6: A workshop guide for identifying the values for the kaupapa
- 7: A Working Group Terms of Reference Template
- 8: A Project Planning Toolkit
- 9: Te Tai Tokerau Kaupapa Māori Expertise
- 10: A Funding Pathways Resource
- 11: A Funding Proposal Template
- 12: A Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Wānanga Toolkit
- 13: Decolonising Climate Change for Te Ao Hurihuri Resource Pack
- 14: A Whānau & Hapori Mātauranga Logbook Template



Kete 2: Te Aponga Kaupapa Māori Risk Assessment & Rangahau

- 15: Atua Māori Profiles Table
- 16: Atua Māori Whakapapa Resources
- 17: Atua Māori Risk Assessment Template
- 18: Kaupapa Māori Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Tool
- 19: Kaupapa Māori Research Design Template
- 20: Kaupapa Māori Climate Adaptation Matrix
- 21: Kaupapa Māori Budget Planning Template



Kete 3: Te A-Pounga Developing a Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Plan

- 22: Kaupapa Māori Adaptation Plan Template
- 23: Internal Review Checklist
- 24: FNDC Lodgement Checklist

