

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.

How to Use This Template:

This vulnerability assessment template follows the Atua Māori Climate Risk Assessment and is designed to support hapū, iwi, and marae in exploring how the risks identified are being experienced across their whenua, taonga, and tāngata. This phase focuses on exposure and vulnerability, offering a culturally grounded analysis to prioritise where adaptation support is most needed.

What This Template Does:

- Anchors vulnerability in five kaupapa Māori domains
- Encourages local observation and kōrero tuku iho as evidence
- Helps determine which vulnerabilities are urgent and need action
- Prepares your rohe to identify suitable adaptation pathways in future phases (Step 3.3)

Key Functions:

- Reflect on how climate-related risks impact your people, places, practices, and taonga
- Identify vulnerabilities across five kaupapa Māori domains
- Align mātauranga with adaptation planning and priority setting
- Support informed discussion across whānau, hapū, and governance entities

Pre-Planning Checklist:

- Bring forward completed Atua Risk Assessment from Step 2.1 and 2.2
- Confirm or revisit climate risks and atua domains already identified
- Gather insights from hui, wānanga, pūrākau, lived experience, and environmental observations
- Prepare physical maps, local knowledge, and seasonal calendars for reference

Guidance Notes: Recommended Steps for Using This Template

- 1. Whakaritea te wā – Schedule time for hui or wānanga:
 - Gather whānau, kaumātua, kaitiaki, and local observers
 - Use your Atua Risk Assessment (Step 2.1 and 2.2) as the foundation
- 2. Wānanga each of the kaupapa domains individually:
 - Go domain by domain (Te Taiao, Ngā Āhuetanga Hanga, etc.)
 - Discuss: What is exposed? Why is it vulnerable? Who is most affected?
- 3. Use the examples as a guide:
 - You can adapt them to fit your own whenua, iwi, or experiences
 - Replace locations, groups, and risks as they apply to your context
- 4. Draw on mātauranga and pūrākau:
 - Reflect on tohu, whakataukī, seasonal patterns, or spiritual knowledge that explains the issue
- 5. Add detail to strengthen the matrix:

Kete 2: Te Aponga Kaupapa Māori Risk Assessment & Rangahau

18: Kaupapa Māori Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Tool



- Encourage people to name sites, rohe, or blocks where risks are showing up
- Record who is most affected, including vulnerable whānau members like kaumātua, mokopuna, or those with limited mobility or resources
- 6. Use generational timeframes:
 - Instead of using fixed dates, think in terms of whānau impact over generations:
 - Next 5 years (mō ā tātou tamariki)
 - Next 10–20 years (mō ngā mokopuna)
 - Next 50–100 years (mō ngā uri whakatipu)

Section 1: General Information

Area	Details
Name of the Rohe / Hapū / Marae	
Assessment Date(s)	
Lead Facilitator(s)	
Key Contributors	
Atua Carried Over from Risk Assessment	

Section 2: Te Taiao (Natural Environment)

Focus: 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.

Atua Affected	Risk	Why is it Vulnerable?	Where is this Happening?	Most Affected Groups	Impact
Tāne Mahuta	Drought / canopy loss	Reduced rainfall, soil degradation	Kauri groves – ngahere, rural and coastal areas	Local healers, rongoā gatherers	High

Section 3: Ngā Āhuatanga Hanga (Built Environment)

Focus: Built environment and infrastructure: Impacts on physical structures such as kāinga, marae, urupā, roads, power, water systems, and critical infrastructure.

Atua Affected	Risk	Why is it Vulnerable?	Where is this Happening?	Most Affected Groups	Impact
Tāwhirimātea	Storm damage on buildings	Roofs not reinforced, proximity to flood zones	Marae, papakāinga	Kaumātua, trustees, maintenance crew	Medium

Section 4: Te Hauora o te Tangata (People's Wellbeing)

Focus: The wellbeing of people: Effects on whānau wellbeing, health, safety, mobility, resilience, and intergenerational relationships.

Atua Affected	Risk	Why is it Vulnerable?	Where is this Happening?	Most Affected Groups	Impact
Tūmatauenga	Flood-related displacement	Poor drainage, lack of evacuation plans	Road to School	Tamariki, kaumātua	High



Section 5: Te Tuakiri (Cultural Identity)

Focus: Disruption to tikanga, mātauranga, te reo Māori, karakia, taonga tuku iho, customary practices and the spiritual integrity of wāhi tapu and sites of significance.

Atua Affected	Risk	Why is it Vulnerable?	Where is this Happening?	Most Affected Groups	Impact
Tangaroa, Rongo	Degraded access to cultural practices	Contaminated sites, changed seasons	Pipi beds	Gatherers, tohunga kai, māra kai educators	High

Section 6: Ōhanga me ngā Rawa (Economic & Resource Security)

Focus: 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

Atua Affected	Risk	Why is it Vulnerable?	Where is this Happening?	Most Affected Groups	Impact
Tangaroa	Erosion of fisheries	Declining stocks, sedimentation	Reef and harbours	Local fishers, seafood vendors	High

