

## Wāhi Taonga and Mahinga Kai

Kaitiakitanga is about the active protection, sustainable use and responsibility for freshwater bodies and their related natural and physical resources by tangata whenua. Active participation of Papatipu Rūnanga in CWMS activities and decision-making is pivotal to success. Iwi Management Plans, co-governance of environmental resources and restoration of mahinga kai and wāhi taonga are pioneering examples of shared governance and management responsibilities between Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury.

### Targets

#### From 2010:

Prevent further loss or degradation of Ngāi Tahu nominated wāhi taonga.

#### By 2015:

**Target 1:** All degraded wāhi taonga and mahinga kai waterways nominated by Ngāi Tahu have an active restoration programme in place that responds to cultural priorities.

**Target 2:** A report on the health of all Ngāi Tahu nominated water-bodies using the Ngāi Tahu Cultural Health Monitoring Tool.

**Target 3:** Identified customary uses (current and potentially restored) for all waterways.

**Target 4:** A programme for identifying cultural preferences for river and stream flow agreed in each zone.

**Target 5:** Work and research has commenced on establishing a mahinga kai food gathering standard.

#### By 2020:

**Target 6:** Increased the abundance of, access to and use of mahinga kai.

**Target 7:** A mahinga kai food gathering standard is confirmed and implemented as a water quality monitoring tool.

#### By 2040:

Protection, in accordance with Ngāi Tahu values and practices, of wāhi taonga and mahinga kai waterways.

### Progress to 2020

	Not started	Started	Progress	Good progress	Achieving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Target 1:</b> Involvement of Papatipu Rūnanga continues through various community, Te Rūnanga and Zone Committee initiated programmes to restore degraded waterways and wāhi taonga sites. Highlights include work on Wainono Lagoon, Te Waihora, Koukourārata, Tutaepatu Lagoon and Awarua Creek/Arowhenua that involve collaboration between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Papatipu Rūnanga, Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation and other parties.                     </li> <li> <b>Target 2, 3:</b> Cultural Opportunity Mapping and Assessments (COMAR) have been undertaken in ten catchments, see fig 10. The COMAR method is dependent upon active engagement with Ngāi Tahu. The design and application of the process explicitly recognises Ngāi Tahu as kaitiaki.                     </li> <li>                     There are a range of tools used in Canterbury for assessing the Ngāi Tahu values associated with water body health, customary use and flow preferences. COMAR has been used in many catchments. There are also examples of Cultural Health reports and other monitoring tools. Ngāi Tahu has made steady progress with a long-term Cultural Mapping GIS based project. This will enable access to stories and place names that record Ngāi Tahu history in Te Waipounamu to provide guidance on where cultural values exist, in order to improve the possibility of protection.                     </li> </ul>		T1, 2, 5, 6, 7	T3	T4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Target 4:</b> Cultural preferences for river and stream flow are being determined. Plan Change 3, provides for management of water in the Waitaki River in times of low flow, reserves water for enhancement of mahinga kai and associated tangata whenua values, and provides for augmentation flows into Wainono Lagoon. The cultural monitoring of mahinga kai is a key project, co-delivered by Whakaora Te Waihora and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). The project focuses on protecting, rehabilitating, and enhancing mahinga kai in Te Waihora, with four key project strands:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring the relative abundance of tuna (eel), pātiki (flounder) and īnanga (whitebait) at the lake and tributaries.</li> <li>- Quality of mahinga kai – Lake Cultural Health Index questionnaire for customary users.</li> <li>- Monitoring mahinga kai safety, testing tuna, pātiki, ducks, and aua (yellow-eyed mullet) for heavy metal and pesticides.</li> <li>- Distribution of declining mahinga kai species waikōura (freshwater crayfish) and waikākahi (freshwater mussel) in the focus catchments and additional lowland waterways.</li> </ul> </li> <li> <b>Target 5, 6, 7:</b> Planning work for preparation of a mahinga kai food gathering standard is ongoing. This requires multiple agency involvement but will be led by Ngāi Tahu.                     </li> </ul>					