

Appendix 1

Background to Northland Regional Council and Mātauranga Māori policy and programmes

The Northland Regional Council (NRC) is currently involved in several projects where Mātauranga Māori is integrated as a key component including:

- Freshwater Improvement Fund – Northern Wairoa
- Freshwater Improvement Fund – Dune Lakes Enviro schools programme.

While existing Freshwater Improvement Fund projects provide opportunities to develop and trial the implementation of Mātauranga Māori in Northland, these are not guided by any overarching framework or consistent understanding of NRC's role and how this work will be integrated into NRC processes or supported/rolled out at a regional scale.

Other known non-council lead Mātauranga Māori projects include:

- Freshwater Improvement Fund – Waipoua catchment – Te Roroa
- Freshwater Improvement Fund – Primes
- Te Hiku Lakes – MfE funded Te Mana o te Wai project
- Te Kawa Waiora – Waimā Waitai Waiora project
- Tane Whakapiripiri Project – Nga Hapū o Whangārei.

There are a number of other initiatives including citizen science/Mātauranga Māori projects around monitoring of water quality and freshwater ecosystem assessments. Several initiatives are already on going despite having an overarching consistent approach to dealing with such demand.

Legislative and policy setting

The Operative Regional Policy Statement for Northland, Policy 8.1.3 – Use of Mātauranga Māori – states:

The regional and district councils shall provide opportunities for the use and incorporation of Mātauranga Māori into decision making, management, implementation, and monitoring of natural and physical resources under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Method 8.1.8 – Funding and assistance – states:

The regional council will support tangata whenua if they choose to develop and implement a regional Mātauranga Māori based environmental monitoring framework by:

- a) Providing information and advice during the development of the monitoring framework;*
- b) Providing training to assist tangata whenua to promote and implement the monitoring framework on an ongoing basis; and*
- c) Incorporating the results and recommendations of tangata whenua monitoring in councils monitoring reports.*

In addition, Policy CB1(aa)(v) of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) requires each regional council to develop a monitoring plan that “establishes methods for monitoring the extent to which the values identified under Policy CA2(b) are being provided for in freshwater management units. These methods must at least include: Mātauranga Māori”.

Objective

To date, NRC has not progressed these policies or methods and seeks advice and support from TTMAC to develop a consistent approach to supporting the development of Mātauranga Māori at a regional scale. Specifically, this workstream will seek to:

- define high level organisational aspirations and vision to ensure a consistent approach is adopted to supporting Mātauranga Māori at a regional scale, and
- develop a framework to guide council when engaging with iwi and hapū.

Defining the framework

1. Mātauranga Māori

Mātauranga Māori, or simply 'Mātauranga', has come to refer to Māori knowledge, ways of knowing and knowledge generation practices, and it is a broad system that encompasses time, space, place and discipline. [...] Mātauranga is thus a knowledge-generating system, not just the knowledge itself. [...] Mātauranga Māori encompasses all branches of Māori knowledge, past, present and still developing (Mead 2003); thus it includes, but is not limited to, traditional Māori knowledge. Mātauranga is a system into which values are overtly interwoven. Mātauranga is the theory behind tikanga Māori (values, practices, rituals), the 'procedural knowledge, which is the practice of ideas, beliefs and knowledge of Mātauranga Māori' (Duncan & Rewi 2018). As such it has echoes of the Data-Information-Knowledge-Understanding-Wisdom hierarchy. Just as 'Western knowledge' is wide, broad-ranging, encompassing of philosophy, religion and ethics, and historically and culturally inflected; so too is Mātauranga Māori. (Mercier 2018).

2. National initiatives – Kaupapa Māori Freshwater Assessments

The Northland Regional Council (NRC) took part in a collective regional council review of kaupapa Māori tools, frameworks and methods available and used by local government across Aotearoa. (Brett Cockeram from Greater Wellington Regional Council and a significant input from the Māori engagement team from Bay of Plenty Regional Council are leading this project.) The overview identified 13 tools, frameworks and methods with a range of common indicators covering five key areas, i.e. meta-physical aspects, cultural and social aspects, species information, mahinga kai aspects, and ecology, water quality and habitat aspects. This indicated that monitoring plans including Mātauranga Māori need to cover a broad range of matters so that they meet iwi and hapū aspirations and understandings of criteria for environmental monitoring. The next step from this review will include defining high level principles of incorporating Mātauranga Māori in monitoring plans for the purpose of managing freshwater resources so that some consistency is achieved around the approach(es) adopted by each local government body across Aotearoa.

3. Key considerations

Findings from the national review of kaupapa Māori tools and through the implementation of existing initiatives within Northland have highlighted key considerations for the development of an NRC framework around Mātauranga Māori:

- Mātauranga Māori needs to be undertaken by Māori for Māori
- Mātauranga Māori will by its nature differ between iwi and hapū according to their particular values and concerns
- iwi and hapū may not have resources to undertake the monitoring – additional support and capacity within councils may be required

- Mātauranga Māori will provide a valuable addition to existing assessments of catchment-scale water quality and quantity data. Some of the information collected from iwi and hapū may include sensitive data which needs to be protected
- iwi and hapū are willing to share key data/information to influence change within council, i.e. regional plan and policies
- identify NRC needs from a Mātauranga Māori perspective for the purpose of meeting NPS-FM requirements and understanding how this can meaningfully complement freshwater ecosystem assessments
- any framework must clearly articulate NRC approach and position around deliverables from any Mātauranga Māori programme so that both council and iwi/hapū have a clear and common understanding prior to entering into any arrangements.

Feedback from TTMAC is sought to guide the development of a council Mātauranga Māori Framework. This framework will help guide council and ensure a consistent regional scale approach is adopted when partnering with iwi and hapū to support the implementation of Mātauranga Māori throughout council.

It is recommended that this detailed work be delegated to MTAG and that further recommendations from MTAG are brought back to TTMAC for ratification before being presented to council for adoption in June 2020.