

SUSTAINABLE  
SEAS

Ko ngā moana  
whakauka

## **Repository of Knowledge: Mātauranga Māori**

### **Executive Summary**

Prepared by Whetu Consultancy Group

August 2017

---

## Executive summary

‘Unlocking the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people to assist New Zealanders to create a better future’ is the mission of the Vision Mātauranga policy framework (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment – Vision Mātauranga Policy). It was with this mission in mind that the project was formed. It was considered that to ensure an authentic EBM process is adopted throughout the Challenge, both Māori knowledge, and the external users of that knowledge, needed to work together to enable its use in the science and innovative tools of the Challenge.

With direct relevance to the Challenge’s objective to *“enhance the value of New Zealand’s marine resources, while providing a healthy marine environment for future generations”*, this project acknowledges that Māori communities are inclined to see appropriate measures in place to safeguard the protection, and avoid the inappropriate and secondary use, of their mātauranga Māori.

The information and data gathered for the Challenge is received from a mixture of Māori identified as either iwi representatives, tāngata whenua, Māori businesses, or mātāwaka (Māori not of the area but living there). The idea is to recognise the source of, and rangatiratanga or authority over, the knowledge gathered for the Challenge from respective iwi, hapū, and whānau. It is intended that a storehouse of knowledge will be created, which will support the collection of this knowledge throughout the first phase of the Challenge. It will also work across the Challenge with each programme to capture all relevant data. The result will be a repository of digital data and information that will record its origins and allow future researchers, businesses or anyone of interest, to access the information, receive directions as to its use and identify where it came from to assist with further research.

This is the final report resulting from Stage 1 of Project VM4.1 A repository of knowledge: Mātauranga Māori.

Stage 1 (year one) of the project discovered that establishing a repository for mātauranga Māori required buy in from Māori who would be contributing their individual knowledge (traditional and contemporary) or collective knowledge on behalf of their whānau, hapū, group/organisation, and/or iwi. Broadly, any assumptions that information collected (data) in the research of the Challenge (and wider), whether as mātauranga Māori or otherwise, and irrespective of funder interest in the research, must have the right protocols and measures in place to enable use, and potential reuse.

Additionally, it identified the importance of improving the understanding of, whilst also providing guidance to, the researchers within the Challenge who are/would be sourcing and using mātauranga Māori.

Essentially, Stage 1 sought to understand the freedoms, constraints, and controls within the Challenge (and wider) on the access, use and management of mātauranga Māori gathered within individual research projects and across the Challenge. By doing so, it is the view that the input and participation of Māori in the Challenge, and specifically the development of new innovative and appropriate tools to implement an Aotearoa Eco-System Based Management approach in the marine environment, will be both reflective of, and responsive to, Māori values and interests.

In the short and long-term, this project enables the development of a distinctive body of knowledge at the interface between indigenous knowledge and the research and science of Sustainable Seas. It helps to identify how indigenous knowledge interacts across different domains in an inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural manner.

The report details the findings of the project and results in recommendations from here. The key findings and recommendations include:

- The need to build trust and confidence in the processes undertaken with Sustainable Seas. This can be achieved through continuing the project which will include upskilling of researchers to encourage consistency and build confidence in the challenge.
- The need to build support and confidence in Ecosystem Based Management. This process needs to be authentic and for this to occur, it must include Māori. For this to occur Māori communities must trust the system and processes. The repository and enabling framework provides a platform that Māori can trust.
- The enabling framework will take time to implement and there needs to be an interim process for treating mātauranga Māori shared within projects. Templates have been developed to assist with identifying when mātauranga Māori may be shared within a project and to assist with the collection of this data, alongside the application of the Te Ara Tika Guidelines.
- The enabling framework needs to be socialised with individuals, iwi, hapū, research bodies and institutions, if it was to be a success.
- The system could be applied across the broader National Science Challenge network and to encourage inter-challenge collaboration.
- All of the above could be achieved through the ongoing funding of Stage 2 of Project VM4.1

Our recommendation is to support the second phase of this project to encourage the development of a digital repository for mātauranga Māori to be utilised throughout all National Science Challenges, as currently funded and undertaken in *Te Tāhū o te Pātaka Whakairinga Kōrero: Next Generation Indigenous Knowledge* project.

The project will seek to implement the findings identified in Stage 1 research of Project VM4.1, which sought to protect the use of mātauranga Māori in the Challenge. The core focus is to gain the trust and support for the repository and its management framework by Māori in the Challenge, as well as Challenge wide participants (includes MBIE, research institutes and researchers) and communities external to the Challenge (Māori outside of the focal area, and other Science Challenges).