National Science Challenges

SUSTAINABLE SEAS Ko ngā moana whakauka

This poster is informed by the ki uta ki tai narrative influencing management across land and sea. This narrative encourages connected, strategic and holistic governance and management across boundaries from mountains to sea 'ki uta ki tai' – for a healthy and flourishing marine ecosystem and thriving blue economy. Ki uta ki tai, conceptualised as 'a comprehensive, culturally based "mountains to the sea" natural resource management framework' by Ngāi Tahu resonates with ecosystem-based management (EBM). From both a Māori cultural view and scientific view, it is critical that we manage adverse environmental effects across boundaries, ki uta ki tai, for the wellbeing of marine and coastal environments and for ourselves and future generations. Everything in te ao mārama (the world of light and enlightenment within which we exist), including all ecosystems, are interconnected through whakapapa (ancestral connections) and whanaungatanga (kinship). Whanaungatanga is a wide web of relationships between people (living and dead), land, water, flora and fauna, and the spiritual world of atua (gods) which are all connected through whakapapa. All of the people, plants, animals, birds, fish, microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form inherit tapu (sacred potential), mana (utmost privilege and authority and reciprocal obligations that come with it) and mauri (essential life force) from the atua (gods) – balancing the relationship between humanity and the natural environment. This delicate relationship is critical for sustainable management, and therefore Sustainable Seas, helping to identify priorities for decision-making and governance. Restoring the mauri and wellbeing of the sea requires restoration and enhancement of the environment overall including upstream and on land – the sea is not disparate from our rivers or mountains, all is sacred to be respected and treated as taonga (treasures). Hauora o te taiao, hauora o te moana, hauora o te tangata: Health of the environment, the sea, the people.







