

A workshop guide for developing a Kaupapa Māori Purpose Statement

A facilitated wānanga tool to co-develop the core purpose of the kaupapa.

Guides whānau and tangata whenua through a values-based process to express deeper intention of the kaupapa. This resource includes facilitation prompts, reflective questions, and group activities to support collective kōrero and alignment.

Designed to surface shared aspirations, whanaungatanga connections, and long-term visions of wellbeing, resilience, tino rangatiratanga and mana motuhake.

Defining the Purpose of the Adaptation Plan

Each iwi, hapū, marae or whānau may have different drivers for developing a climate adaptation plan. The purpose should reflect what matters most to your people, place, and future. Below are prompts on how to develop a foundational purpose statement, followed by optional focus areas that can be added, adapted, or removed depending on priorities.

Use the tables below to help your whānau, hapū, and/or marae set a clear and culturally grounded direction for your adaptation plan.

Step 1: Choose a Starting Line

Start your purpose statement with one of the following:
To support the development of a tangata whenua-led adaptation plan that is:
To guide the creation of an adaptation plan by and for tangata whenua that is:
To ensure our adaptation planning process is tangata whenua-led and:
To develop a locally driven adaptation plan that is:
To prepare for environmental change through a tangata whenua-led process that is:
To establish a tikanga-based plan for adaptation that is:

Step 2: Select Add-Ons That Reflect Your Kaupapa

Add-on Options	Description
Haukāinga-led	Grounded in the leadership and lived experience of those who hold ahikā
Mātauranga Māori-informed	Guided by ancestral knowledge, pūrākau, tohu o te taiao, and mātauranga ā-rohe
Tikanga-driven	Shaped by local tikanga and kawa that guide appropriate action
Hapū-mandated	Developed with the direction and support of hapū governance
Whānau-centred	Focused on the wellbeing and resilience of whānau and papakāinga



Wānanga-based	Developed through collective kōrero, reflection, and shared decision-making
Tohu-responsive	Informed by maramataka and local environmental indicators
Place-based	Grounded in the specific histories, ecologies, and values of the rohe
Future-focused	Designed to uphold the wellbeing of future generations
Restorative	Aims to restore relationships between people and taiao
Taonga-protective	Focused on safeguarding wāhi tapu, taonga tuku iho, and heritage sites
Collectively owned	Created and carried by the wider collective, not individuals
Culturally safe	Ensures mātauranga and tikanga are respected and protected
Adaptive and evolving	Built to be flexible and responsive to future change

Step 3: Draft Your Purpose Statement

Use the template below to write a clear and values-aligned purpose statement for your adaptation plan. This will help anchor your mahi throughout the process.

✍️ Draft a purpose statement. Choose a starting line that fits your kaupapa, then select 2–4 add-ons that reflect your priorities. Combine them into a single sentence, or build more than one version to review together.

Write Your Purpose Statement Here:
To support the development of a tangata whenua-led adaptation plan that is; <i>(Write your selected add-ons or describe your approach below)</i>

