

A Guidance Resource for Identifying Tangata Whenua Representatives

This resource helps map out the key tangata whenua groups and representatives who should be involved in climate adaptation kaupapa. This step ensures that local leadership, mātauranga, and collective decision-making are at the centre of your adaptation plan. It supports inclusive engagement by:

- Identifying who holds responsibility or connection to an area
- Guiding invitations to hui and wānanga
- Tracking engagement and identifying where further relationship-building is needed.

The table below is designed to support the identification of tangata whenua groups and representatives who may need to be involved in the development of your climate adaptation kaupapa. It can be used as a practical tool during early hui or wānanga to:

- Ensure diverse and appropriate representation across whānau, hapū, marae, iwi, and Māori organisations
- Guide invitations and outreach to ensure the planning process is inclusive, whakapapa-informed, and culturally grounded
- Track who has been engaged, who needs to be contacted, and where further relationship-building may be required

Tangata Whenua	Ko wai? <i>Main Representatives</i>	Kei hea? <i>Area of Interest</i>	Hei aha? <i>Scope of Decision-Making</i>	Role in Example: <i>Wāhi Tapu Threatened by Coastal Flooding</i>
Iwi (Waka)	Iwi Chair, Iwi CEO, Tohunga	Takiwā (tribal region)	Regional to national scale — e.g. Crown-Iwi co-governance, regional planning authorities	Advocate at national level for long-term managed retreat, funding, and coastal protection policies. May engage with Crown agencies for MACA or heritage protection support.
Hapū	Mandated hapū kaikōrero, kaumātua, kuia, supported by haukāinga	Rohe (territory)	District-level co-management, including awa, repo, taiao, and cultural sites	Lead cultural risk assessment of the wāhi tapu. Assert mana whenua status. Facilitate hapū-wide hui to decide tikanga responses, such as relocation, rāhui, or restoration.
Marae	Taumata, Marae Trust, kaumātua, kuia, ahikā leaders	Site-specific (Marae and surrounding whenua)	Site-based cultural decisions and tikanga, hosting hui/wānanga, guardianship of kōrero tuku iho	Co-ordinate hui to discuss spiritual and cultural implications. Provide historical kōrero about the site. May support karakia, mourning processes, or protection wānanga.
Whānau	Tuakana, whānau leaders, haukāinga	Haukāinga & diaspora	Kāinga-based planning, intergenerational roles, tikanga resilience, papakāinga wellbeing	Whānau connected to the wāhi tapu provide whakapapa context and decide if/when kōiwi are moved. Support monitoring efforts and prepare for emergency responses.

Kete 1: Te Ahunga - Initiating the Kaupapa, Set the Direction and Purpose

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Whenua Māori Trusts (e.g. Ahu Whenua Trusts)	Trustees, landowners, shareholders	Block-specific parcels	Decision-making over land use, legal protection, climate adaptation of whenua	May hold legal responsibility for site. Make decisions on coastal fencing, drainage, or access. Engage engineers or apply for adaptation funding.
Māori Organisations	Kaupapa Māori service providers, Māori NGOs, Rūnanga	Local to national	Climate services, policy advocacy, funding support, technical delivery	Assist with applying for funding to protect or relocate the site. May provide GIS, environmental assessments, legal support, or emergency preparedness workshops.

