

New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge

Best practice guidelines for working in partnership with Māori

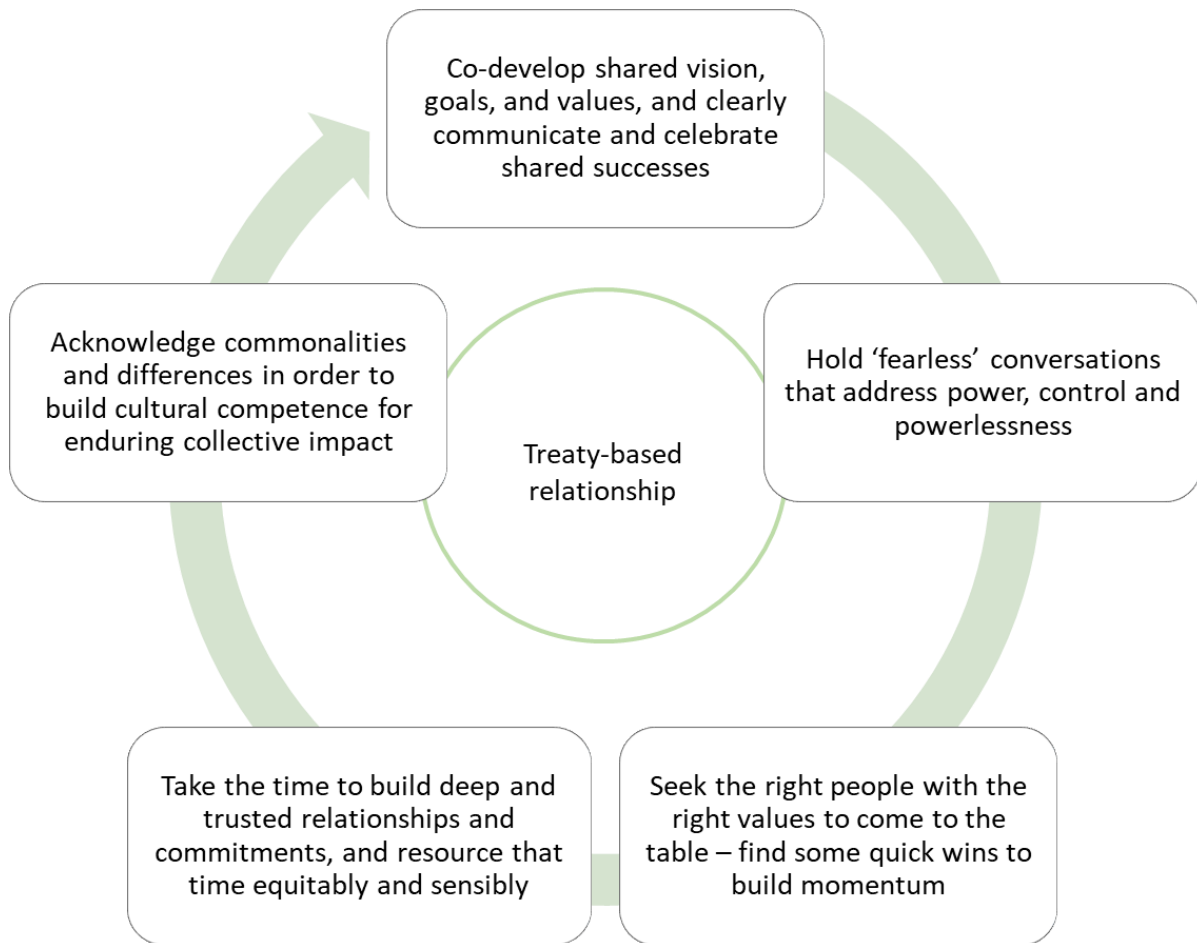
Working in Treaty-based partnerships with Māori underpins everything we do in Tranche 2. This is particularly important in our investments. It is our belief that to create impact and long-term benefit we must adequately resource Māori to participate fully in New Zealand's science and innovation system.

Investment strategy

We invest to support Māori in five main ways:

1. Investment in **Mātauranga Māori, kaupapa Māori methodologies, and in Māori researchers**. Individuals may be within our Challenge Party research organisations, or they may be knowledge holders, kaitiaki, and iwi/hapū/whānau not directly involved with the New Zealand science system. We use the Vision Mātauranga classifications* to score research investments, and we strive to invest in research that scores VM3-5 only. We ensure that researchers sign cultural safety agreements** (or an equivalent), co-designed with mana whenua and tangata whenua, before commencing work in partnership with Māori.
2. Investment to **boost capability and capacity for Māori**, e.g. in summer students, kaitiaki, or postdocs, via research investment. We work actively to identify individuals with the relevant skills who may have been overlooked via 'business as usual' processes.
3. Investment in **leadership**. Modelling a treaty-based partnership starts at the top: our Governance Group and Kāhui Māori merged in 2019 and have moved to a co-governance arrangement (called 'Mana Rangatira'). We aspire at any one time to have a leadership and Knowledge Broker team that are 50% Māori. This has increased or decreased over the years – sometimes, as a result of being involved with the Challenge, Māori leadership talent has spread its wings and flown to bigger and better things. When that happens, we treat it as a gift to the system and work actively to find new talent.
4. Via partnerships with Māori research networks and trusts, for example **Te Tira Whakamātaki**. TTW has proven to have the reach and depth into Māori communities, and connections with iwi, hapū, and government agencies, that Challenge leaders do not always have. We have a Non-Disclosure Agreement with TTW, that provides a clear and transparent working partnership that is of mutual benefit as we jointly strive to achieve transformational change through science and innovation. One member of our extended leadership network is a jointly funded position with TTW.
5. Investment to **upskill non-Māori** in Treaty-based ways of working, in a safe and inclusive environment that creates a sense of whanaungatanga (working like a family) and manaakitanga (looking after each other). Whilst this may not appear at first to directly benefit Māori, this investment is designed to ensure that it's not always the Māori at the table who are the champions of their aspirations – it should be everyone.

Our investment strategy can be viewed as a cycle:



Vision Mātauranga classifications*

We have a section on our website [dedicated to Vision Mātauranga](#). It provides the **VM classifications**:

1. **Research with no specific Māori component:** science-based project with no mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) used. Māori are not associated with the research process (e.g. not on any research management/advisory/governance panels, it is not inclusive of Māori land or institutions, nor the subject of any component of the research). Work may be of general interest to Māori, though no more so than to any other end users or stakeholders.
2. **Research specifically relevant to Māori:** science-based project of specific relevance to Māori as end users and stakeholders. Māori are not typically involved in the research. Mātauranga Māori and values may be used in a minor way to guide the work and its relevance to Māori. Can include work that contributes to Māori aspirations and outcomes.
3. **Research involving Māori:** science-based project where mātauranga Māori (about 20–50%) may be collected and incorporated in the project, but not central to the project. Research is specifically and directly relevant to Māori as end users and stakeholders. Māori are involved in the design and/or undertaking of the research (e.g. as research participants; on management/advisory/governance panels; as co-producers, partners, co-funders). The work typically contributes to Māori (e.g. iwi/hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes.
4. **Māori-centred research:** Māori-led project, where a large amount of mātauranga Māori is used and understood (about 50%+) and combined with science (e.g. through frameworks, models, methods, tools etc.). Kaupapa Māori research is a key focus of the project. Māori are primary end-users/supporters of the work. Research is typically collaborative or consultative, with direct input

from Māori groups. Commonly a collaboration with Māori researchers or researchers under the guidance/mentoring of Māori. Typically contributes to Māori (e.g. iwi/hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes.

5. **Kaupapa Māori research:** Mātauranga Māori (about 80%+) is incorporated, used, and understood as a central focus of project and its findings. Research is grounded in te ao Māori (the Māori world view) and connected to Māori philosophies and principles. Research typically uses kaupapa Māori research methodologies. Tē reo Māori is often a central feature to this kaupapa or research activity, and key researchers have medium to high cultural fluency or knowledge of tikanga and reo. Generally led by a Māori researcher, however, non-indigenous researchers may carry out research under the guidance/mentoring of a Māori researcher. Māori participation (iwi/hapū/marae/individual) is high. The work contributes strongly to Māori (e.g. iwi/hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes and positively addresses Māori issues.

Reference for Kaupapa Māori: Smith LT 2012. Decolonising methodologies: research and indigenous peoples. 2nd ed. London and New York. Zed Books.

Challenge values – and policies to encourage diversity

Diverse perspectives and world views are a crucial part of the Challenge way of working. Our operating principles and values were co-developed by the leadership team and Mana Rangatira.

[Operating Principles and Challenge Values](#)

We adapted our code of conduct and diversity & inclusion policy from Te Pūnaha Matatini CoRE.

[Equity, diversity, access & inclusion](#)

[Code of conduct](#)

Cultural safety agreements and other arrangements**

The BioH Challenge is committed to protecting Tikanga Māori and Mātauranga Māori through a range of IP agreements including cultural safety agreements and/or mana enhancing agreements. We find that a bespoke approach is best for each individual partnership, with cultural safety agreements co-designed with mana whenua and tangata whenua.

Useful background documents include:

- The [Te Ara Tika Guidelines for Māori Research Ethics](#) both provide a framework for addressing ethical issues, drawing on a foundation of tikanga Māori (Māori protocols and practices).
- The Tiriti o Waitangi/Te Tiriti and Māori Ethics Guidelines for AI, Algorithms, Data and IOT <https://www.taiuru.maori.nz/tiritiethicalguide/>, written by Karaitiana Taiuru, are an essential framework for the statutory recognition of Tikanga Māori, Mātauranga Māori, and Te Ao Māori.

WAI262

As of June 2020, the BioHeritage Challenge is working on a position statement about the WAI262 Waitangi Tribunal claim that was lodged in 1991. This complex and far-reaching claim concerns the ownership of, and rights to, mātauranga Māori in respect of indigenous flora and fauna, and it sits at the heart of the Challenge.