

Understanding Each Other

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¹*Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari*

Three Waikato iwi; Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Ngāti Hauā and Raukawa, have recently signed Treaty of Waitangi Settlements. Consequently, each iwi has developed environmental plans, guided by their respective tikanga and mātauranga, to secure the sustainable management of their natural resources for present and future generations.

This presentation provides an insight into iwi aspirations, perceptions and participation in ecological restoration drawn from the partnership experience of Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, Ngāti Hauā and Raukawa with the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust.

Maungatautari is unique, not just for ngā uri o Tane Mahuta within 47 kilometres of pest proof fence, but also for the complexity of its stakeholder relationships to each other and to the maunga. Mana Whenua interests lie not only in the physical, well-being of Maungatautari, but also in the spiritual, well-being of their tupuna maunga. Ecological restoration on Maungatautari is undertaken with the understanding, recognition and incorporation of Mana Whenua values and tikanga, through the commitment to the co-governance and co-management structure of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust.

The importance of dynamic and meaningful relationships with central and local government, corporates, other iwi, stakeholders, scientists and the community; coupled with the ability to participate in the governance, management and operations of the trust; create safe pathways for Mana Whenua to participate and contribute to the future research and development within the area of ecological restoration.