Using the Past to inform the Present:
Cultural revitalization to facilitate environmental resource management

Aaria Ripeka Dobson-Waitere
aaria.dw@gmail.com
Outline

1. Ko wai au? Introduction
2. New Zealand Context
3. Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika
4. Cultural Mapping Project
5. Resource Management
6. Outcomes
1. Ko wai au?
I te taha o toku Papa...
I te taha o toku Papa...
I te taha o toku Mama...
2. Aotearoa / New Zealand

- Global Context
Aotearoa / New Zealand
- Maui the Demi-god
Aotearoa / New Zealand
- A brief History

- 800 - 1200AD First people arrive in NZ
- 1769 - Europeans arrived in NZ
Aotearoa / New Zealand  
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840

- Agreement between tangata whenua (= People of the land) and the British Crown

- Tino Rangatiratanga = Self Determination
Aotearoa / New Zealand

• Maori were dispossessed of 95% of their land

• 175 years on...

• Maori are ‘Treaty Partners’ not another ‘stakeholder group’
Connection to te taiao / the environment

“Ko au te taiao, ko te taiao ko au”
Aotearoa / New Zealand
- Speakers of Te Reo Maori (2013)
Waitangi Tribunal

- Established in 1975

- To investigating breaches of the Treaty by the British Crown

- Not a court of law

- >34 tribes have gone through the process
Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika
Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
3. Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika - Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

- Established in 2009
- to receive the settlement package from the Tribunal Claim
  - Cultural redress
  - Statutory acknowledgement
  - $45m NZD
  - apology from the Crown
Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika - Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

- 18,500 members
- Key Goals:
  - Achieve economic and financial well-being
  - Achieve social and whanau well-being
  - Enhance cultural and environmental well-being
Cultural Mapping
4. Cultural Mapping Project
- What is a Cultural Map?

- represents human interaction with land
- depicts aspects of culture, society and history
- a particular culture’s way of mapping
- “a tool and technique for preserving the world’s intangible and tangible cultural assets” (UNESCO)
Cultural Mapping Project
- Purpose:

To record, map and transmit traditional Taranaki Whaanui knowledge

- Cultural Values
- Resource Management
Kimikimi huanga au mō tēnei uri tamariki
Seeking and searching the identity for the young people

E kore e tāea e au te whakahaere kauhau mōu
Something that I am unable to elaborate on

Nau mai e piki tō pikitanga
Come never the less and climb upon

kei kārewarewa ka whalhuatia
Kārewarewa and proceed to fruitfully

Kī Pūwharariki ki te maunga e tū mai mai ana
To Pūwharariki, the mountain like peak standing yonder

Kia waewae tātahi ki Ōtūrōriki
Let us walk along towards Oturoriki

Haumārotia ki Pōtiki-ā-Rehua
And go directly to Potiki a Rehua

Whakataka te mata ki Te Ihupuku
Cast your eyes downwards to Ihupuku

E tū mai ana Ko Parehungahunga
And to Parehungahunga standing there

Ka kau i te awa ko Whenuakura
Now let us swim in the river at Whenuakura

Tō ngakinga kai ko Haututu
Where at Haututu food was gathered

Ka tū te kokotā ki reira
It was there the signs were erected

Kia marumaru ka tata mai rā tātou
As a warning so we move close to that point

He aha rā e tama nei
And wonder what it is my sons

He kura takahī punga, he parau punga
It is the place for warriors, the conquering army

Hei whakawhiri ko te tohu o tō tūpuna ō Tūhāhā
The sign of your ancestor Tūhāhā

E oma ana i te one ki Rangipō
Who ran along the sands at Rangipo

Ka tū te pā tuna ki te taituha o Whanganui
There was the eel weir that stood on the other side of Whanganui
Mapping Cultural Values

- History Books
- Information collated for the Tribunal Claim
Mapping Cultural Values
- Georeference Maori Land Surveys and early maps
Mapping Cultural Values
- Participatory approach

- Heart of the work is carried out in the field, visiting sites, talking with people and collecting histories of Taranaki Whanui.

- We will hold wananga / meetings provides an opportunity for intergenerational knowledge exchange
Resource Management - Maori Archaeology

- Prediction probability analysis

- Environmental variables
  - coastal proximity
  - elevation
  - slope
  - geology
  - river/stream distance
  - swamp distance
  - lake distance
  - ridge distance
Resource Management - Whaitua / Freshwater catchment Management

- Partnership between Regional council and mana whenua

- Guiding principles
  
  Ki utha utha tai: connectedness
  Wairua: identity
  Kaitiaki: guardianship
  To matou whakapono: judgement based on knowledge
  Mahitahi: partnership
Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika - Cultural Health Monitoring
Parangarahu Lakes
Parangarahu Lakes
- Whakatoo Rakau = Planting Day
Parangarahu Lakes - Tuturiwhatu / Dotterel Monitoring
Parangarahu Lakes
- Pest control
6. Outcomes

- Reconnecting whanau with the land
- Depository of traditional knowledge for future generations
- Building our own capacity
- Empowering our people
- Connecting with other iwi doing similar projects
Challenges

- Ensuring that all our members have access to the information
- That this approach does not replace kanohi-ki-te-kanohi
- Low capacity
- Lack of data
Greater visibility of Taranaki Whaanui
Ngā mihi / Thank you
SCGIS whanau / familia / family