

Integrated Catchment Management: from the Ridge Tops to the Sea

**Iwi values and collaboration**

Garth Harmsworth (Te Arawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Raukawa)

Landcare Research

Private Bag 11052

Palmerston North

[HarmsworthGarth@LandcareResearch.co.nz](mailto:HarmsworthGarth@LandcareResearch.co.nz)

Working with tangata whenua (iwi/hapu) is an essential part of integrated catchment management. This research allows us to understand Maori perspectives, values and history, as well as environmental concepts about catchments and the associated environment, the frameworks Maori use to make sense of this, and the issues, politics, and resource management activities in which iwi and hapu are involved. It also provides technical information that helps iwi and hapu improve environmental decision-making, identifies Maori research areas and advances collaborative research. For the Motueka, research to date has focussed on building relationships with tangata whenua, identifying key issues, learning collaboratively, and advancing research with iwi and hapu. Key tangata whenua issues identified included:

- Social research on tangata whenua iwi-government-stakeholder relationships
- Monitoring culturally significant areas
- River and coastal ecosystem health
- Development of iwi and hapu management plans and policy
- Iwi information systems and knowledge bases
- Resource management decision-making by tangata whenua and improving process and outcome.

As part of the ICM programme, a collaborative project (tangata whenua subcontract) was completed this year (2002/2003) that summarised tangata whenua concepts, issues, activities and projects, to help advance iwi/hapu collaborative research projects and better align ICM research work to tangata whenua issues and activities. A new collaborative project will start this year on iwi information systems and knowledge bases. At a national and international level, ICM human dimensions research with tangata whenua will focus on advancing collaborative research with indigenous groups, and on improving participation by indigenous peoples in the sustainable management of natural resources.