

Participation of indigenous groups in sustainable development monitoring: rationale and examples from New Zealand

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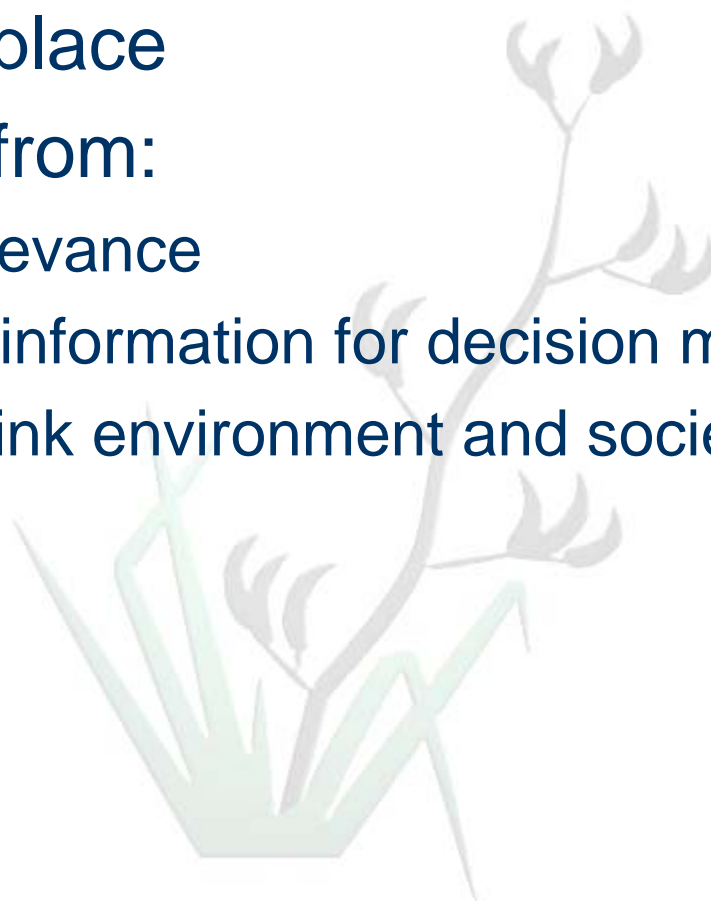


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Sustainable development indicators & ecological economics

- Important place
- Rationale from:
 - Policy relevance
 - Need for information for decision makers
 - Need to link environment and society



Sustainable development indicators, participation & indigenous groups

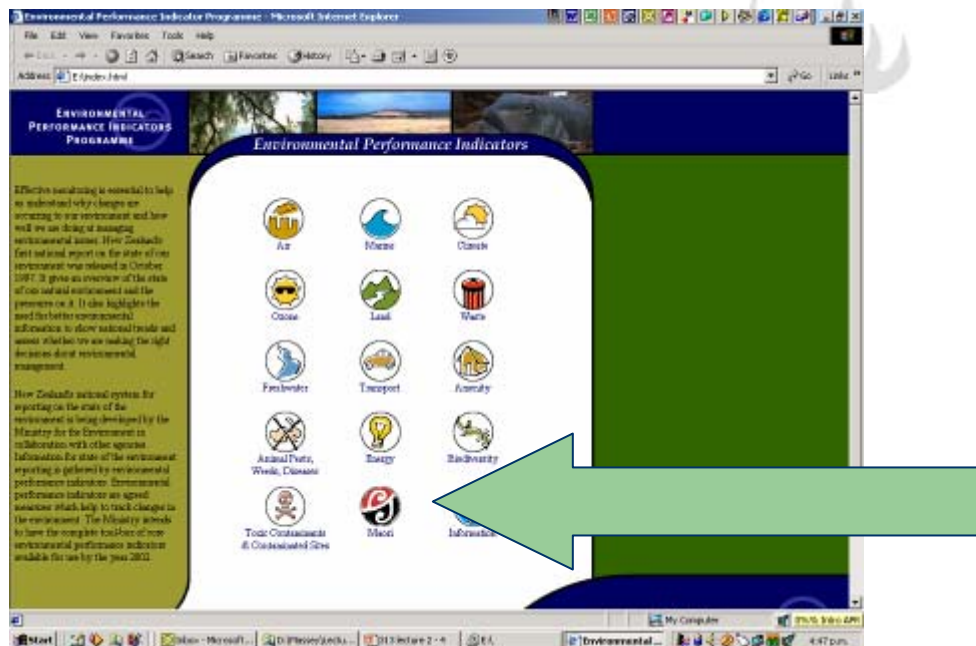
- Participation important (Gallopin 1997):
 - consensus on value judgements
 - Credibility and “Buy in”
- Participation of indigenous groups is poor
- Compelling reasons for greater participation of indigenous groups:
 - Theory
 - International obligations
 - NZ specific rationale

Rationale – NZ specific

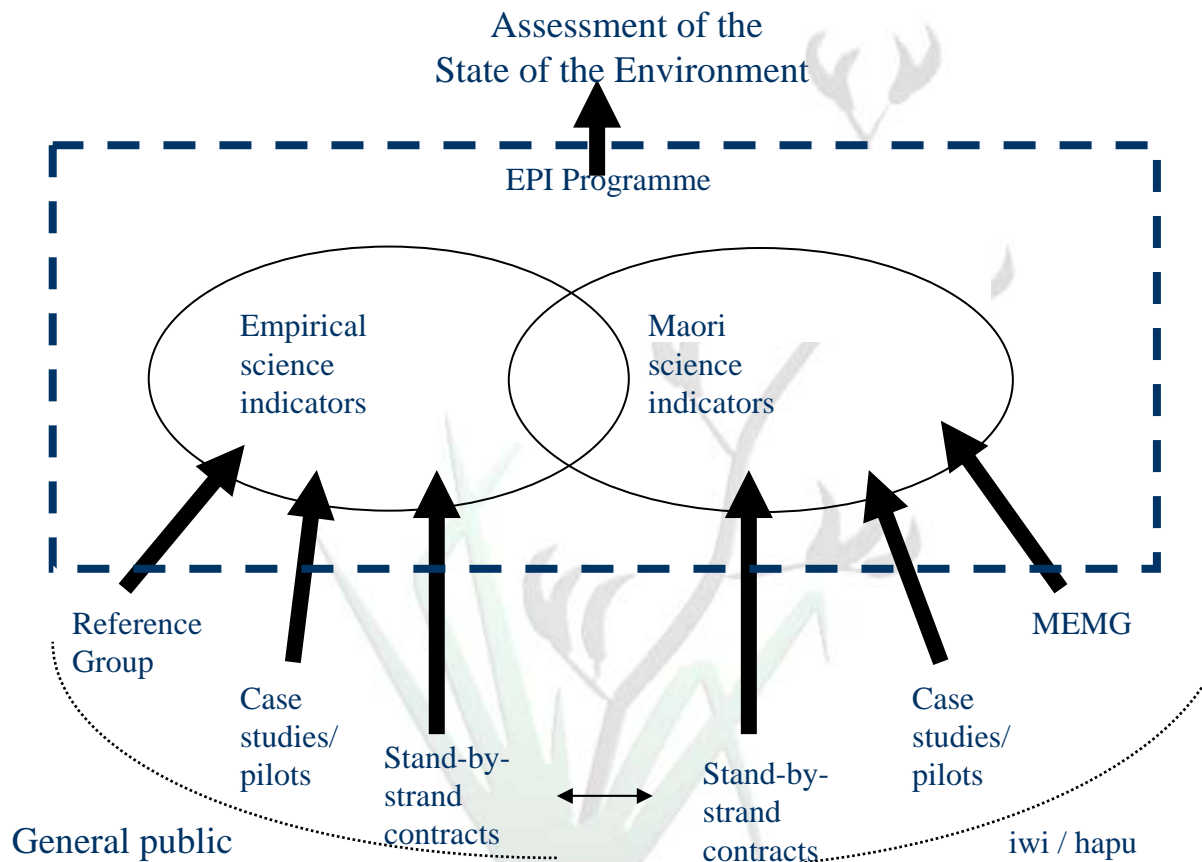
- Internal drivers
 - “cultural responsibility”
 - Significant economic interests
- Issue-based reasons
- Exogenous drivers
 - Treaty of Waitangi
 - Principles of ToW
 - Waitangi Tribunal claims

New Zealand case studies

- Environmental Performance Indicators Programme, Ministry for the Environment



MfE's response



Lessons from MfE

Criticisms

- Too late
- Inadequately resourced
- Superficial

Benefit

- Stimulated activity in Maori communities

Maori-initiated monitoring

- Cultural health index (Tipa and Teirney, 2002)
 - One of EPI case studies
 - Originally trialed in Otago
 - Index made up of:
 - Community connection with water body (high/low)
 - Mahinga kai values
 - Stream health
 - Now widespread use

Conclusions and Lessons

- Strong rationale for
 - Participation
 - Indigenous group participation
- Concern over limited participation
- MfE's EPI programme
- Critical success factors:
 - *Process is very important.*
 - *Resourcing is essential.*
 - *Openness to different perspectives is essential.*
- Most enduring Maori participation in flax roots programmes
- Participation of indigenous groups essential