

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

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# Contents

- Sustainable development indicators
  - In ecological economics
  - Participation & indigenous groups
- New Zealand examples
  - Central government
  - Maori-initiated
- Conclusions and lessons

# 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

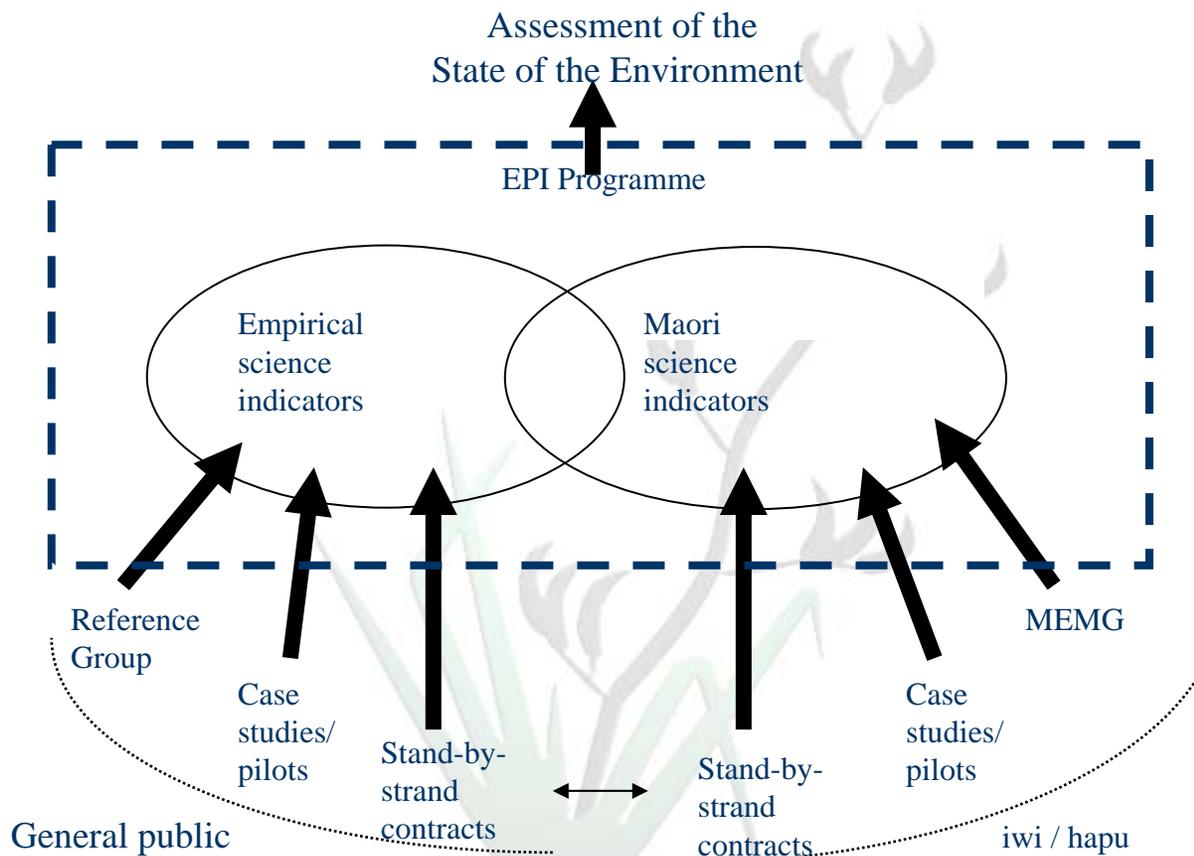
- Internal drivers
  - “cultural responsibility”
  - Significant economic interests
- Issue-based reasons
- Exogenous drivers
  - Treaty of Waitangi
  - Principles of ToW
  - Waitangi Tribunal claims

# 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