

# MOBILISING FOR ACTION

Mobilising for Action (MfA) established over 130 collaborations with numerous organisations, community groups, iwi/hapū and national and international research institutions.

With Māori and Tāngata Te Tiriti co-leadership, the research team drew from a wide pool of national and international researchers with experience in theoretical and applied social research using qualitative, quantitative, creative arts and Māori research methodologies.

MFA teams also included a diverse range of applied practitioners with experience in community projects and collaborations. Much of the research was co-designed, developed and implemented with community partners.

## RESEARCH

Guided by the analogy of the waka hourua (double hulled canoe), Mobilising for Action provided a place for mātauranga Māori and Western science to exist side-by side, respecting the relative strengths of each other and drawing on the potential of each to create new knowledge.

Three critical research goals guided Mobilising for Action's research framework:

- **Whakamārama – To Understand**

*What meaning do people attach to te taiao, ngahere, and taonga species?*

- **Whakapiri - To Engage**

*How can people's connection to te taiao, ngahere, and taonga species be fostered and supported now and in the future?*

- **Whakamana - To Empower**

*How can people be empowered to make a difference now and in the future, to ensure te taiao, ngahere, and taonga species flourish?*

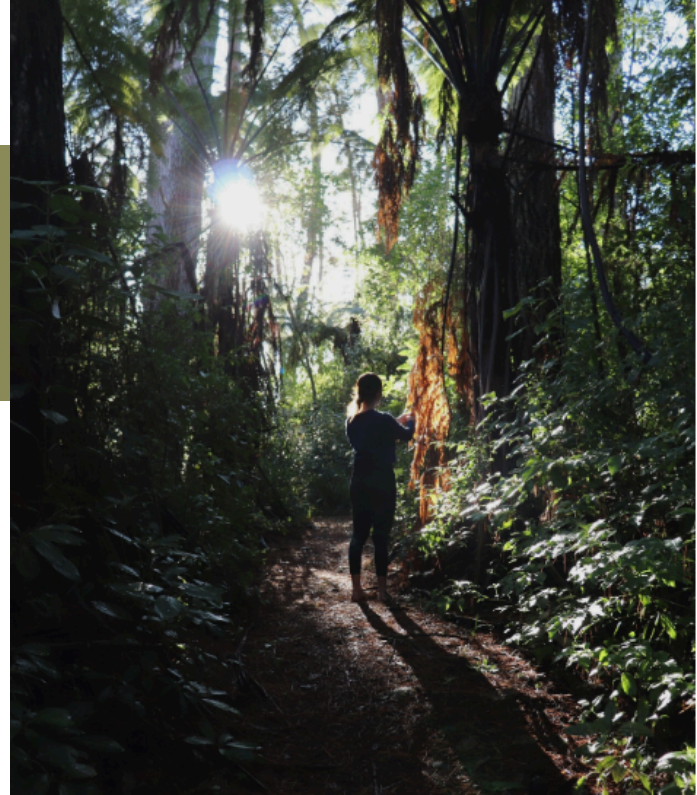
These research goals were guided by:

- **Mātauranga** (knowledge, including Māori knowledge)
- **Whanauangatanga** (relationship building, including embracing difference to build understandings and new knowledge)
- **Kotahitanga** (unity, collective action)
- **Wairuatanga** (allowing space for spirituality, including te ao Māori).

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## AT A GLANCE

Mobilising for Action researched the human dimensions of ngahere/forest health in Aotearoa New Zealand and more specifically the people and communities affected by, or at risk of being affected by kauri dieback and myrtle rust.

Over four years, 12 project teams worked to:

- understand the meaning people attach to te taiao (the environment), ngahere (forest), and taonga (treasured) species;
- explore people's connection, and how this can be fostered and supported to empower them to make a difference now and in the future so te taiao, ngahere, and taonga species flourish.

# WHAT WE DID

## Committed to a waka hourua approach in biosecurity

- Funded both kaupapa Māori and critical social science research projects.
- Employed co-design processes to include multiple voices and knowledges in biosecurity research, practice, and management to co-develop a shared sense of responsibility for forest biosecurity.
- Extensive engagement across sectors including with iwi/hapū, community groups and schools to develop legacy projects and build on-the-ground capacity.
- Engagement with the science research community on Te Tiriti-centric science.
- Use of kaupapa Māori approach to peer review for MFA's special edition in [Knowledge Cultures](#).
- Co-organised cross-Science Challenge hui to share experiences, tools, ideas about holistic, Tiriti-centric, governance and practice.

## Committed to knowledge excellence and dissemination

- Twenty-seven publications including a special edition of MFA's research with 13 publications in [Knowledge Cultures](#).
- [Programme website](#) to build awareness of MFA research and share resources.
- Commitment to open-access publication.
- Research teams participated in international conferences.
- MFA projects used storymaps for wider knowledge dissemination.
- Supported [public journalism](#).

## Employed the creative arts to engage and empower a broad range of New Zealanders

- Engagement schools and their communities through [child-driven creative art initiatives](#) and recognised with a 2024 Aotearoa Kumara award for placemaking for the [Container Art project](#).
- Awareness-raising of ngahere ora through eight documentaries, three art gallery exhibitions, school resources; community events and workshops, billboards in Auckland CBD.

## Developed tools to support practice change within the biosecurity system

- Supporting [agencies](#) and [environmental groups](#) to foster care-full and Te Tiriti-centric approaches to biosecurity.
- Translated Decolonising Knowledge Practices Tool-Kit into Welsh to support decolonisation discussions in Wales.
- [Curriculum support](#): teaching plans and resources for New Zealand Primary teachers – distributed to every primary school in New Zealand.

# IMPLICATIONS & POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

- Methodologies for engaging children in environmental communication and research as knowledge creators and change markers – addressing epistemic justice.
- Reported empowerment of Māori, iwi/hapū members, via qualitative research methods in relation to understanding and working with tools to address kauri dieback and myrtle rust.
- New tikanga - karakia for myrtle rust.
- Methods for decolonising science and ecological practices.
- Legacy projects for iwi/hapū and te taiao organisations for future generations.
- Employed and socialised a framework for Te-Tiriti-centric engagement that values both mātauranga Māori and western social/science knowledge systems in biosecurity research and practice.
- Facilitated transdisciplinary research partnerships to engage and empower people to mobilise for action.
- Supported practice change in science to foster more reflexive approaches as Tāngata te Tiriti.
- Methods for showing how co-designing initiatives with communities can deliver more empowering and invested engagement with communities around ecological issues, including in Māori and Tāngata te Tiriti spaces.
- Supported decolonisation in Wales, UK.
- Increased understanding and awareness of art-based methodologies as valid forms of participation and research to investigate biosecurity (addressing epistemic injustice).
- Resources for policy makers – including key ministry decision makers.
- Educational tools and resources for communities, Māori and schools.

## FIND OUT MORE:



[Research & Resources](#)



[Mobilising for Action website](#)