

Ngā Awa programme engagement report

2020/2021

Our objective

One of the objectives of the Ngā Awa programme is that ‘collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering biodiversity outcomes’. To allow us to report on progress towards this objective, a community engagement monitoring

tool was developed specifically for the programme. This is the first tool developed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) for systematically evaluating the extent of participation or engagement.

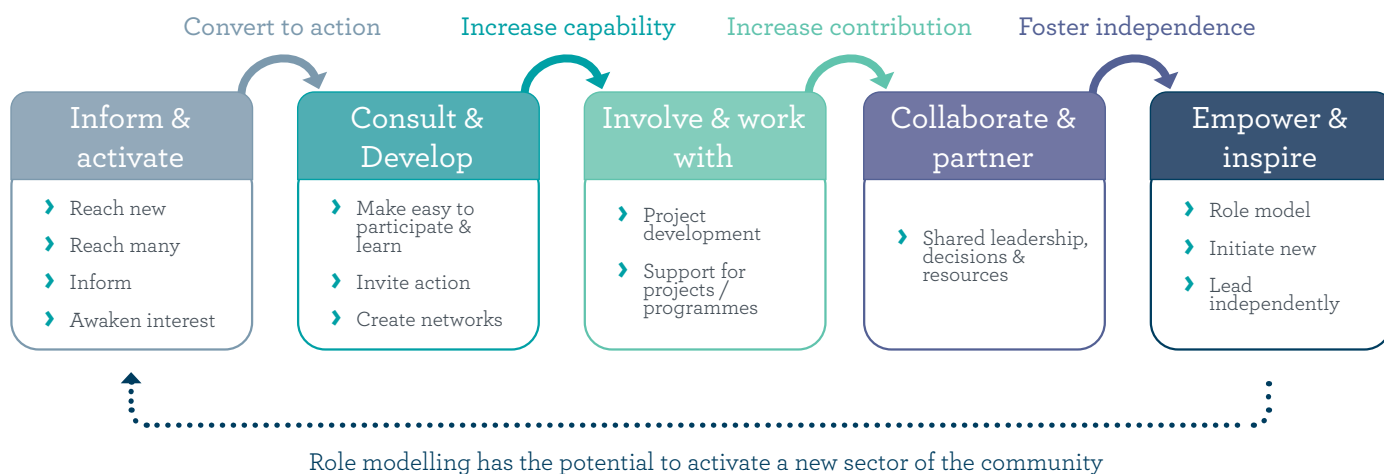


Figure 1. Participation spectrum.

The tool

We use a participation spectrum (see Figure 1) in our work with others and for planning strategic engagement. This describes the processes and stages of participation, which are often complex and non-linear.

However, to date, we have lacked a tool that can measure the quality of the engagement. The new community engagement monitoring tool provides this by using clear parameters and numeric values. It is a sustaining thread for measuring the health of participation and engagement over the years of a project.

Drawing on international best practice and our experience at a landscape scale, we selected eight indicators to inform the tool. They reflect the community engagement and participation aspects of freshwater catchment restoration we have encountered in successful collaborative projects (Figure 2).

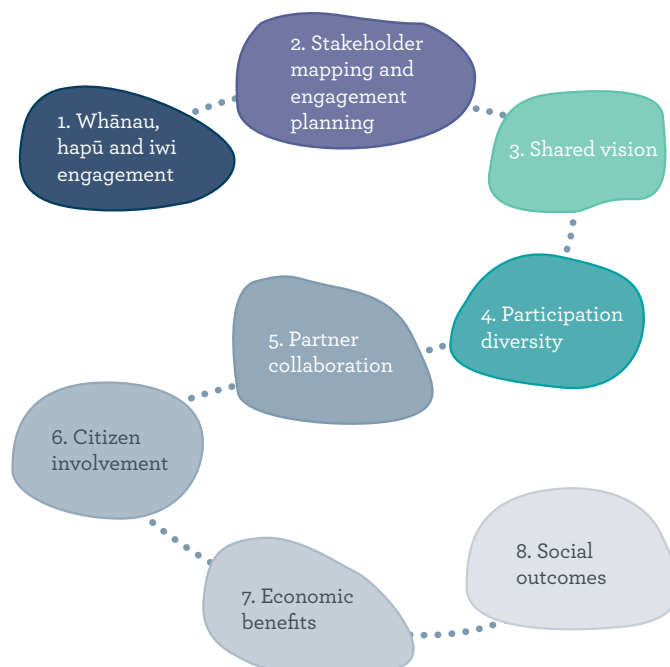


Figure 2. Ngā Awa engagement monitoring indicators.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

The method

Ngā Awa river rangers work locally to progress biodiversity restoration in chosen catchments. Each ranger was asked to complete an assessment of engagement with a colleague or a small project team.

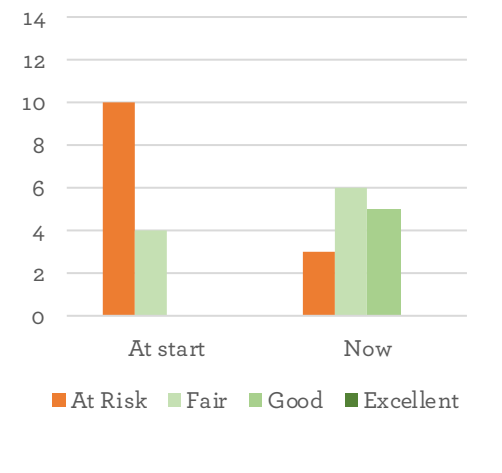
A set of questions for each indicator was provided as a prompt and to guide the assignment of a rating for participation and

engagement, where 1 = at risk, 2 = fair, 3 = good and 4 = excellent.

Rangers rated engagement for each indicator at the start of their project and again at the end of June 2021. The graphs below show engagement scores across all 14 Ngā Awa rivers.

Programme results

Indicator and purpose	Programme-scale results	Commentary															
<p>1. Whānau, hapū and iwi engagement</p> <p><i>To ensure we work in true partnership, aiming for collaborative design and leadership, sharing the caretaking for the future.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Whānau, hapū and iwi engagement scores</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>10</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	At start	Now	At Risk	10	1	Fair	3	6	Good	1	6	Excellent	0	1	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with mana whenua is progressing and improving across the programme. Some catchments are already in a co-leadership (Te Hoiere) or Treaty house partnership (Waikanae) stage. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resourcing iwi, hapū and whānau. Practical projects building relationships (eg cultural health assessments and inanga spawning surveys).
Rating	At start	Now															
At Risk	10	1															
Fair	3	6															
Good	1	6															
Excellent	0	1															
<p>2. Stakeholder mapping and engagement planning</p> <p><i>To ensure we take the time to involve - from the start - partners and communities affected by the project.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Stakeholder mapping and engagement planning scores</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>10</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	At start	Now	At Risk	10	3	Fair	4	7	Good	0	4	Excellent	0	0	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with mana whenua has been prioritised ahead of community engagement. An improved understanding of community aspirations is apparent at Rangitata, Te Hoiere and Waihou. Mapping stakeholders and what a restored catchment means to them is integral in designing an engagement approach. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner-led initiatives such as He Puka Korowai Rahui (Waihou).
Rating	At start	Now															
At Risk	10	3															
Fair	4	7															
Good	0	4															
Excellent	0	0															

Indicator and purpose	Programme-scale results	Commentary															
<p>3. Shared project vision</p> <p><i>To ensure the project is not directed and driven by DOC and is live, not just a paper exercise.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Shared project vision results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>12</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>1</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	12	2	Fair	1	9	Good	1	2	Excellent	0	1	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some awa (river projects) had a pre-existing vision (Te Hoiere, Hoteo, Mahurangi and Whanganui). Some awa have adopted the iwi vision (Waikanae and Rangitata). Some awa are waiting for relationship foundations to be established. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working together to create a vision.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	12	2															
Fair	1	9															
Good	1	2															
Excellent	0	1															
<p>4. Diversity of participation</p> <p><i>To ensure collaboration is not exclusive and that all affected communities can participate in shaping the project.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Diversity of participation results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>10</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	10	3	Fair	4	6	Good	0	5	Excellent	0	0	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is improved participation by wider community representatives in some awa. Broader engagement is needed for Hoteo, Mahurangi, Rangitata and Waipoua. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation where there are established relationships due to previous engagement.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	10	3															
Fair	4	6															
Good	0	5															
Excellent	0	0															
<p>5. Level of collaboration (external)</p> <p><i>To ensure we aim beyond the minimum requirements and build quality relationships across sectors and communities.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Level of collaboration (external) results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>11</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	11	2	Fair	3	7	Good	0	4	Excellent	0	1	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships have improved across some awa where collaborative projects have been initiated (eg Rangitata fish survey with mana whenua and Environment Canterbury). Collaboration is expected to increase as more on-the-ground projects begin. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awa-specific on-the-ground projects creating opportunities for collaboration.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	11	2															
Fair	3	7															
Good	0	4															
Excellent	0	1															

Indicator and purpose	Programme-scale results	Commentary															
<p>6. Citizen involvement</p> <p><i>To ensure participation reaches across communities and is not limited to experts.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Citizen involvement results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>10</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	10	4	Fair	4	5	Good	0	5	Excellent	0	0	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Citizen involvement is low for most awa in these early stages. › Examples of involvement include individual landowners starting work on restoration projects (like those funded by Jobs for Nature) and citizen science training (eg Wai Care Whitebait Connection in Hoteo and Mahurangi). <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Projects that help build community capacity and awareness.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	10	4															
Fair	4	5															
Good	0	5															
Excellent	0	0															
<p>7. Project links to economic parameters</p> <p><i>To ensure sustainable kaitiakitanga is practised and economic viability is built alongside ecological aims.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Project links to economic parameters results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>5</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	9	3	Fair	5	9	Good	0	2	Excellent	0	0	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Engagement with business varies across awa but is generally low in these early stages. › Economic considerations in our engagement are expected to increase as projects gather momentum. › Landowners are feeling the pinch from new regulations in some awa. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The injection of resources from Jobs for Nature has been welcomed.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	9	3															
Fair	5	9															
Good	0	2															
Excellent	0	0															
<p>8. Project links to social outcomes</p> <p><i>To ensure social benefits arising from the project are captured and a social impact assessment becomes part of the journey mapping.</i></p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Project links to social outcomes results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>At start</th> <th>Now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At Risk</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	At start	Now	At Risk	5	2	Fair	5	7	Good	4	3	Excellent	0	2	<p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Rangers recognise the strong connections between the community and their awa or harbour, particularly for iwi, hapū and whānau. › One catchment (Waikawa) acknowledges some disconnection because of the effects of land use. <p>What's working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Existing social connections bode well for making the changes needed to restore biodiversity.
Category	At start	Now															
At Risk	5	2															
Fair	5	7															
Good	4	3															
Excellent	0	2															

An example of river-specific results - Rangitata

Summary

- › Rūnaka and agency collaboration in the upper and lower Rangitata River through an integrated governance group has resulted in enhanced restoration via shared projects and co-funding. A joint restoration plan is in development.
- › An engagement workstream has been created, which includes developing an engagement plan.
- › Project vision development is being led by Arowhenua.
- › Affected landowners are starting to work with the project as on-the-ground restoration begins. Discussions with community groups about the project are progressing.
- › Rūnaka are being empowered as kaitiaki. Community discussion has moved to discussion on the future of braided rivers – see this article on the [rewilding project](#).

