

Glossary of Māori terms

Iwi	A tribe who has particular geographical boundaries outlining the region in which they have mana whenua status.
Manaakitanga	A concept that involves hospitality and how visitors are cared for. It is important that such hospitality is acknowledged and reciprocated.
Karakia	Incantations or prayers for a specific purpose, such as lifting the tapu off an area of land before it may be cultivated.
Kaitiakitanga	To “care for” the environment. It is the sustainable use, management and control of natural and physical resources that are carried out to the mutual benefit of people and resources.
Mana whenua	The right to use, manage and control land depends on the protection of mana whenua. Mana whenua is based on Ahikā (iwi maintaining residence in a particular place) and is an important part of tino rangatiratanga (self-determination).
Whakapapa	The genealogy of a taonga or person (ancestral and/or historical) with linkages to other taonga or persons.
Mana	Derived from spirituality, land and ancestral linkages of a person, of people or a taonga and manifests itself as the respect, which is paid to that person, those people or that taonga as a result of the esteem accorded by others. The practice of kaitiakitanga is carried out by iwi and hapū, through exercising iwi and hapū mana, which is embodied in the concept of Tino Rangatiratanga.
Mihi	A process of formally acknowledging people you meet, the purpose of the meeting and the place (where the meeting is being held), through protocols set by the iwi.
Taonga	A resource either physical or cultural that can be found in the environment (including features within the environment – lakes, mountains, rivers, also including people, te reo, whakapapa etc.).
Tino rangatiratanga	Includes the rights, responsibilities and obligations involving the use, management and control of the land and other resources.
Whanaungatanga	Māori share a common whakapapa with other people/taonga and therefore a strong sense of responsibility and reciprocal obligations toward those people/taonga. This forms an important part of a holistic world view. All taonga are interrelated, interconnected and interdependent. The life force (mauri) of taonga must be protected. The sustainable management of taonga is therefore paramount to our survival.
Mauri	Life force or life principle. The energy which binds and animates all things in the physical world.