



Te Reo o te Moana - The Voice of the Ocean

Moanna Tepano

Report 1 of 3



Report 1

For go into the project of an ocean garden called “Mohi-Mohi Moana”, we spent a whole week with the lieder of this project, Howard Reti, he was our guide, fi rstly to understand better the Māori culture and the land context of the place where the project take place, Whangaruru (Bland Bay), Northland. Then he told us about the main problematics that they are facing, and also the drivers of the creation of “Mohi-Mohi Moana” project.

We began by approaching the relationship between Māori and Pakeha trough the time, one that has been quite complex and a great challenge for the harmonious coexistence of these two very diff erent cultures. From this historical and cultural context, we identifi ed some of the main challenges for this and other “iwi” and other Māori communities, for example, the rescue of ancestral knowledge, or “matauranga tupuna” as a source of wisdom for the day to day and to face the current challenges that arise both in the social, cultural and environmental spheres.

The connection to the ocean for indigenous peoples from the “Moana” or Polynesians, have been very closed and a strong part of their identity, because it represents their “tipuna” or ancestors, who sailed the “Moana nui a kiwa” or the bast ocean, to fi nd the diff erent islands in search of a better life for their descendants, long before European navigators did.



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