



Te Reo o te Moana - The Voice of the Ocean

Moanna Tepano

Report 2 of 3



Report 2

From the “tipuna”, emerged a call to their “nga uri”, descendants. To take care of the “Moana”, the ocean, of the “whenua”, land, and to bring back the “matauranga tupuna”, their ancestral wisdom, to preserve their “kāinga”, their home safe to the future.

In the present, northland or “Te Tai Tokerau”, is a place where most of the Māori population lives. And with this, most of the hunters, gatherers and fishermen. This is a very challenging situation, specifically for the ecosystemic marine conservation, which is constantly threatened by various factors.

In this context, the great challenge for the proclamation and correct administration of certain marine areas to be protected lies mainly in the current existing legal instruments to carry it out in a pertinent manner and with a local approach. The vast majority of marine conservation instruments are administered under the crown, which symbolizes the government of New Zealand. In this context, is important to consider that there are some Māori peoples that prefer to work in a more ancestral way of protecting together in a community scale, more than a governmental way, ensuring compliance with tika anga, or collective rules, which must be respected for a good outcome.

Other threats identified by the project are invasive species, such as “kina” or sea urchins, which are increasingly reproducing within New Zealand’s marine ecosystems, invading other species. The same happen with an invasive seaweed called “caulerpa”, which is growing 3 cm per day, spreading over all sea surfaces, interrupting the growth and development of other species of algae and marine animals.

All these challenges represent administrative, cultural, conservation, and biological needs that must be solved for the well-being of marine ecosystems, as well as the communities that relate to them.



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