



Te Reo o te Moana - The Voice of the Ocean

Moanna Tepano

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In general, problems give us clues for their solutions, and if we observe carefully and investigate a little, they give us indications of the roots of the problems, that is, the reasons why they are generated, not so much the symptoms or responses that they give us.

With this said, some of the possible solutions that I identified based in the field work and own investigation, is that, firstly, we have to understand with who we are working, learning about their traditions, knowledge, values and history, in other case, we are not going to respect their work or even worse, their culture. Following this idea, it is important to be very clear about the needs that they seek to solve, as well as to look for ways to complement and add to the work that is being done. As well as to identify the barriers and challenges they have to achieve their projects, thinking on a local scale, subject to a national, as well as global, scope.

The solutions that we must seek live in the roots of these, that is why it is necessary to work with a local and community perspective taking the best of the available instruments, as well as daring to create new instruments, tools and methodologies that are necessary and feasible to provide a solution to a specific problem. As is the “Mohi-Mohi Moana” project, which is approached by an independent conservation model, as an ocean garden or “marā moana” which operates under a management and administration at a community level, with the inhabitants of the territory themselves being guardians of their ecosystems, based on the essence and ancestry of practices such as “rāhui” or “tapu”, which correspond to collective prohibitions and regulations for a common purpose, to protect the wealth of the earth.

Another obvious and basic solution is education, an education that allows the integration of both Māori ancestral knowledge, as well as the most modern scientific knowledge, adding to each other and complementing each other to seek comprehensive solutions that last over time, understanding the cultural and ecological importance of protecting their ecosystems. Collaborative work, as well as the exchange of experiences between islands and countries is also essential to find replicable solutions and examples of good results. In this sense, strengthening relations between the different nations of the Pacific and other islands of the world could significantly help to find the right solutions to common problems and/or challenges.



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