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AHI-KĀ-ROA

IDENTIFYING THE RESILIENCE OF IWI TO NATURAL HAZARDS

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ABSTRACT

Māori indicators of resilience derive from strong cultural foundations based on key Māori concepts. The resilience of Ngāti Rangī, a central North Island iwi, originates from their continued residence under the shelter of their volcanic ancestor, Mt. Ruapehu, for over 1,000 years; ahi-kā-roa. The research considered the relationship between marae placement and volcanic processes, particularly volcanic flows, and prioritised Ngāti Rangī marae for civil defence use during an emergency. Several discussions were held with members of Ngāti Rangī to understand what key cultural factors make up their resilience. Emerging findings were that (1) a correlation exists between key Māori concepts and the resilience of Ngāti Rangī which strongly formed their baseline indicators; (2) ahi-kā-roa, physically supported by population and active marae, is a measurable construct for resilience. The findings also blended together mātauranga Māori and natural hazards research, which is lacking in current emergency management approaches.

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