Te Hau o te Taonga
Kia piri te tikanga ki te mātauranga e rere ana

How the Local Contexts programme works

Māori Communities

Reinforce rights by applying TK and BC Labels

Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Biocultural (BC) Labels establish Indigenous cultural authority and governance over Indigenous data and collections by adding provenance information and contextual metadata including community names, protocols and permissions for access, use and circulation.

Institutions

Disclose interests by placing TK and BC Notices

Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Biocultural (BC) Notices are a digital mechanism for Institutions, repositories and researchers to support ethical use and reinforce relationships with Indigenous communities. They also work to educate publics around Indigenous rights and interests in historical and future collections and data.

localcontexts.org
What is Local Contexts?
Local Contexts is a web-based platform that supports Indigenous communities in managing intellectual and cultural property rights in cultural heritage, environmental data and genetic resources within digital environments. Local Contexts recognizes the inherent sovereignty that Indigenous communities have over knowledge and data that comes from their lands, territories and waters.

What are Traditional Knowledge (TK) Labels?
The TK Labels are digital markers that establish proper attribution, access, and use rights for traditional knowledge. The TK Labels are designed to be customized by Indigenous communities to reflect ongoing relationships and authority including proper use, guidelines for action or responsible stewardship and re-use of traditional knowledge.

What are Biocultural (BC) Labels?
The BC Labels are digital markers that focus on accurate provenance, transparency and integrity in research engagements around Indigenous data. The BC Labels help Indigenous communities define community expectations and consent about appropriate use of collections and data. They connect data to people and environments over time.

What are Notices?
The Notices are a mechanism for researchers and institutions to identify and disclose Indigenous rights and interests in collections and data. The Notices function as place-holders on collections, data or in sample fields until a TK or a BC Label is added by an Indigenous community.

What is the Local Contexts Hub?
The Local Contexts Hub is an innovative online system that allows Indigenous communities to adapt TK & BC Labels to their needs and share them safely with institutions, researchers and data repositories. The Local Contexts Hub allows institutions and researchers to apply TK & BC Notices to items or collections where Indigenous interests should be acknowledged.

Aotearoa Local Contexts Pilot
The TK Labels have been piloted in an increasing number of Indigenous communities around the world. The Aotearoa Local Contexts Pilot will demonstrate the applicability of TK Labels and Notices to an Iwi context. The current institutional standard for implementation of TK Labels in public facing records, rights advisory fields and core digital infrastructure has been produced by the Library of Congress in the USA.

The Iwi use cases include:

**Whakatūhea:** Working with Ngā Taonga to digitally repatriate copies of Whakatūhea material from the National Sound and Film Archive while applying TK Labels to the publicly accessible material in Ngā Taonga. Working with the MetService to apply TK Labels to mātāuranga shared in the context of the Moana Project, and BC Labels to gene sequences generated from mussel specimens sampled within te rohe o Te Whakatūhea.

**Ngāti Maru:** Working with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research to apply BC Labels to the specimens in the Allen Herbarium collection that were sampled within te rohe o Ngāti Maru. Working with Te Kāhui o Taranaki to explore the application of BC Labels through the Taranaki Iwi Collective.

**Te Roroa:** Working with researchers at the University of Waikato to apply TK Labels to mātāuranga shared in the context of a Tohorea research project, and BC Labels to gene sequences generated from Tohorea specimens sampled within te rohe o Te Roroa.

Te Reo Māori translations
The TK and BC Labels were translated into Te Reo Māori by Dr Haki Tuapuhi, nō Ngāti Tuwharetoa me Waikato:

TK labels - Ngā Tohu Mātāuranga Taketake
BC Labels - Ngā Tohu Ahurea Koiora

Translation examples:

- TK Attribution (TK A)
- TK Whakapuaki
- TK Clan (TK CL)
- TK Hapū
- TK Community Use Only (TK CO)
- TK Mā Te Hapori Anake
- TK Non-commercial (TK NC)
- TK Umanga-Kore

The Aotearoa Local Contexts Pilot team includes Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato, the Engleberg Centre for Innovation, Policy and Law at New York University, and IDIA (Indigenous Design and Innovation Aotearoa) in Wellington.