

TE TIRA  
WHAKAMĀTAKI



# 2023 Annual Survey Findings

December 2023

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# Te Tira Whakamātaki 2023 Annual Survey Results

## Survey context

Since the establishment of Te Tira Whakamātaki (TTW) in 2017, we believe that the activities we have been a part of have made tangible differences for those we work with and that we have improved the visibility of Te Ao Māori in biodiversity, conservation, and environmental research and policy spaces (including helping to inform international spaces). However, until recently, we have not formally tracked the impacts of our efforts. In correspondence with the TTW measurement framework, we have designed an online survey that we intend to send out annually to track our outcomes and gather feedback over time. The high-level purpose of this survey is to track progress towards our six values which, logically, also represent our intended impacts. These values are:

- **Tohungatanga** – Expertise - Acknowledging and elevating Māori experts, kaitiaki, knowledge, and lore to environmental spaces.
- **Manaakitanga** - Reciprocity of Care - Upholding the mana of everything and everyone with kindness, generosity, respect, decolonization, and equitable practices.
- **Whanaungatanga** - Relationships & Connections - Fostering reciprocal relationships built on the intention of strengthening connections, especially between people and te taiao.
- **Rangatiratanga** - Leadership & Sovereignty - Asserting Māori rights, sovereignty, and law in everything we do.
- **Wairuatanga** - Uniqueness & Belonging - Living and interacting with te taiao on our own terms (self-determination).
- **Kaitiakitanga** - Stewardship - Acting on our responsibility and right to care for and protect te taiao

As this is the first time that TTW have published the annual survey, we have framed the questions to reflect the time from the start of TTW to the current day. For more information on the questions used, contact [admin@ttw.nz](mailto:admin@ttw.nz).

Although this document can serve as a stand-alone report, the reader should be aware

that we plan to use these results in combination with many other data sets to tell a more holistic story of TTW's efforts.

The survey was hosted on the SurveyMonkey platform and sent to those we regularly work with and to those who follow us via our newsletter. It was open from September 6th – 28th, 2023 and cash prizes and TTW merchandise packs were used as incentives to encourage people to participate. Over the course of those three weeks, 147 people responded to the survey.

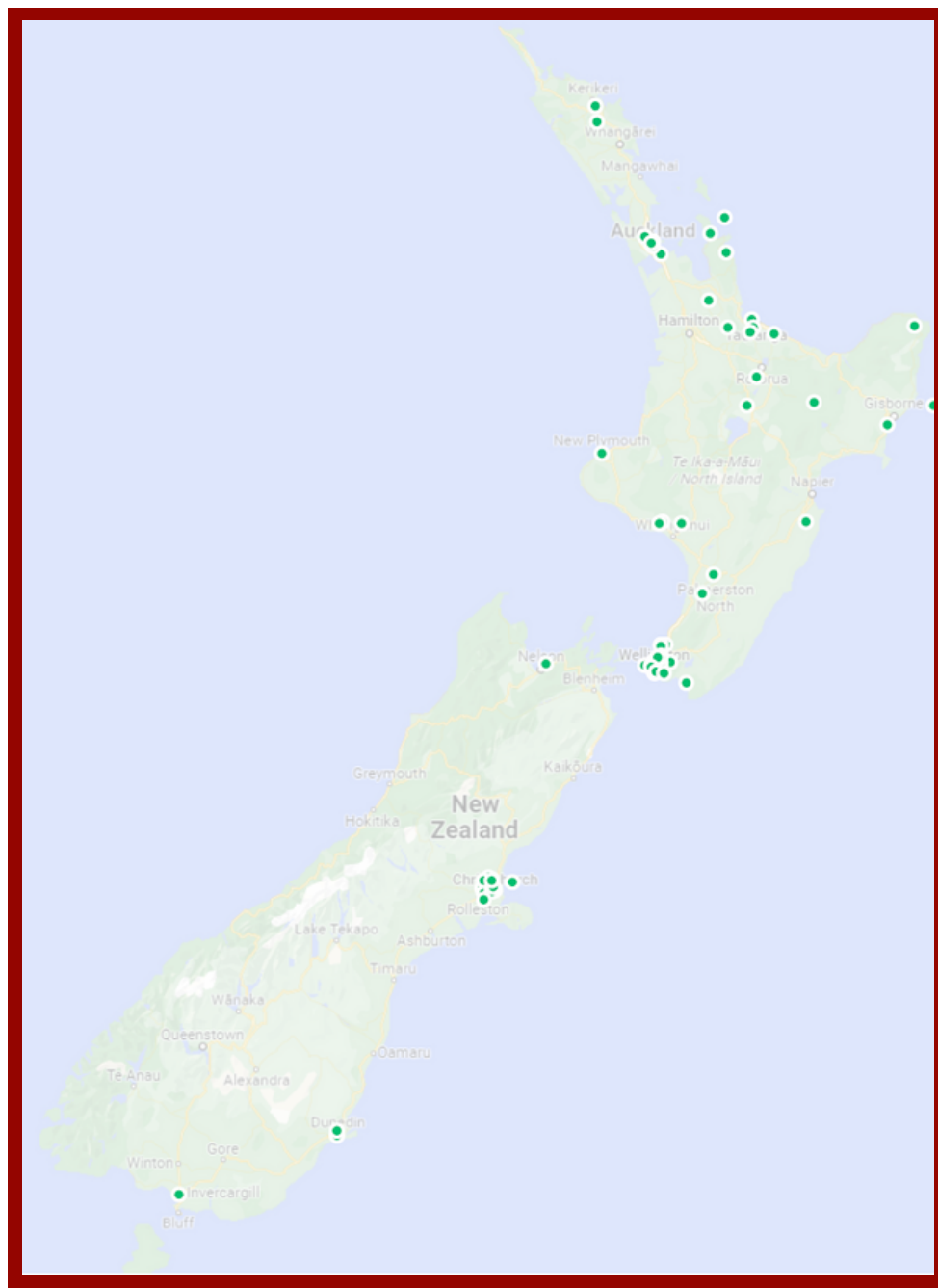
## Who answered the survey?

We asked several demographic questions to respondents to help us better understand the results we received. Of those who answered the question, 65% of respondents self-identified as Māori and the remainder selected Pākehā (35%). Many also self-identified as a woman (60%), with an additional 37% identifying as a man. A combined 2% selected either non-binary or preferred not to say their gender orientation.

### Many respondents self-identified as a **woman** or as a **man**.

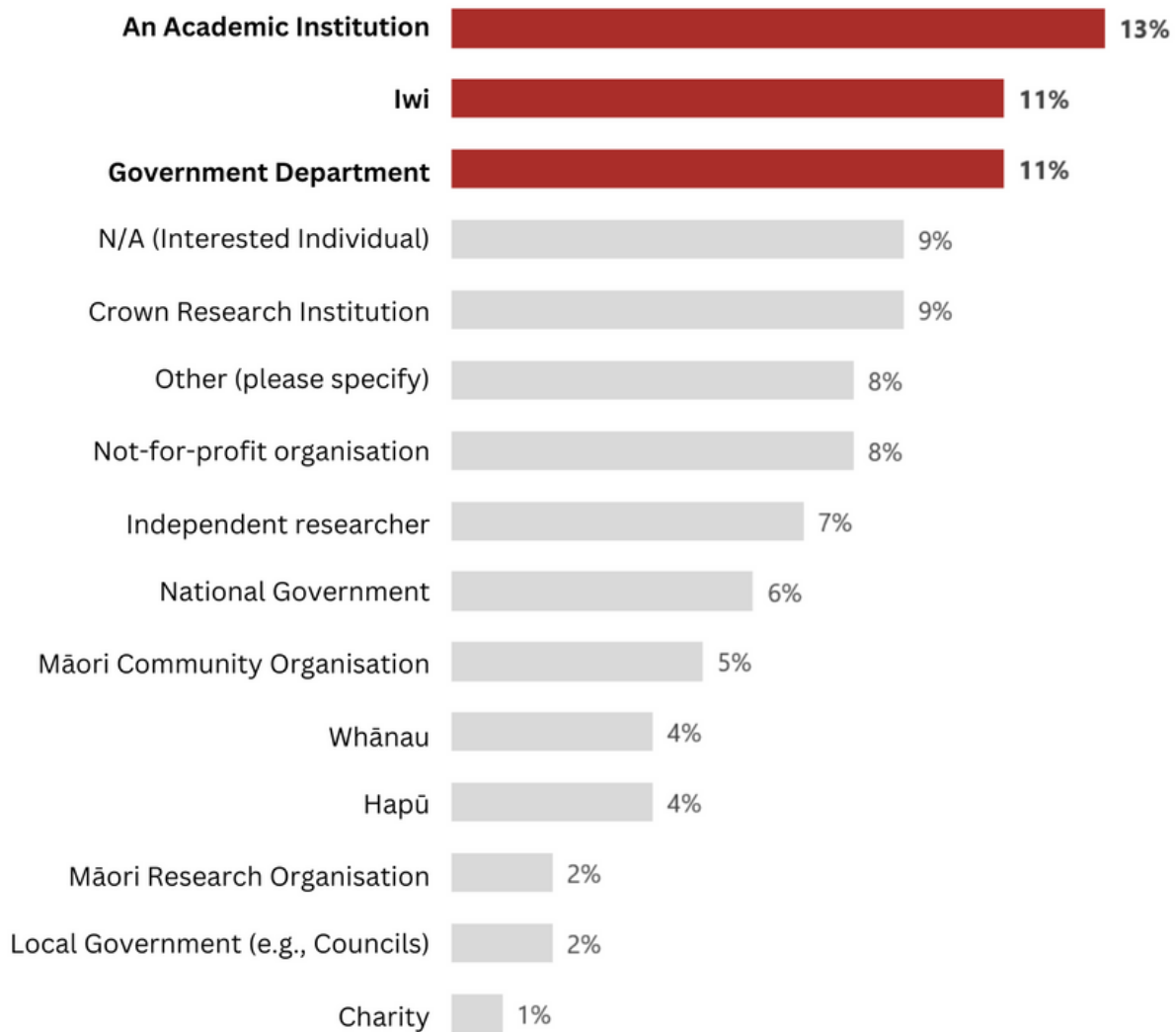


Referring to the map of Aotearoa below, many respondents indicated that they reside in the North Island, in centres such as Whakatāne, Tauranga, or Pōneke (Wellington). South Island respondents tended to reside in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) or Ōtepoti (Dunedin). While not completely representative of our audience, this map does indicate that TTW's network is more active in Te Ika-a-Māui (North Island) than it is in Te Waipounamu (South Island).



Finally, we asked respondents to identify who they are typically representing when they interact with TTW. The purpose of this is to better understand where individuals are coming from, and which types of organisations are interested in our work. As is demonstrated below, the results suggest that TTW appeals to a broad audience, with no single category being above 13%. This is encouraging for us, as we believe it speaks to the general applicability of our messaging and work. However, the most selected categories for respondents were academic institutions (13%), iwi (11%), and government departments (11%). It should be noted that interested individuals (9%) and Crown Research Institutions (9%) were also at the top of the list.

Respondents said they most often represent **academic institutions**, **Iwi**, and **government departments** when interacting with TTW. However, results below show that we have a **diverse audience**.

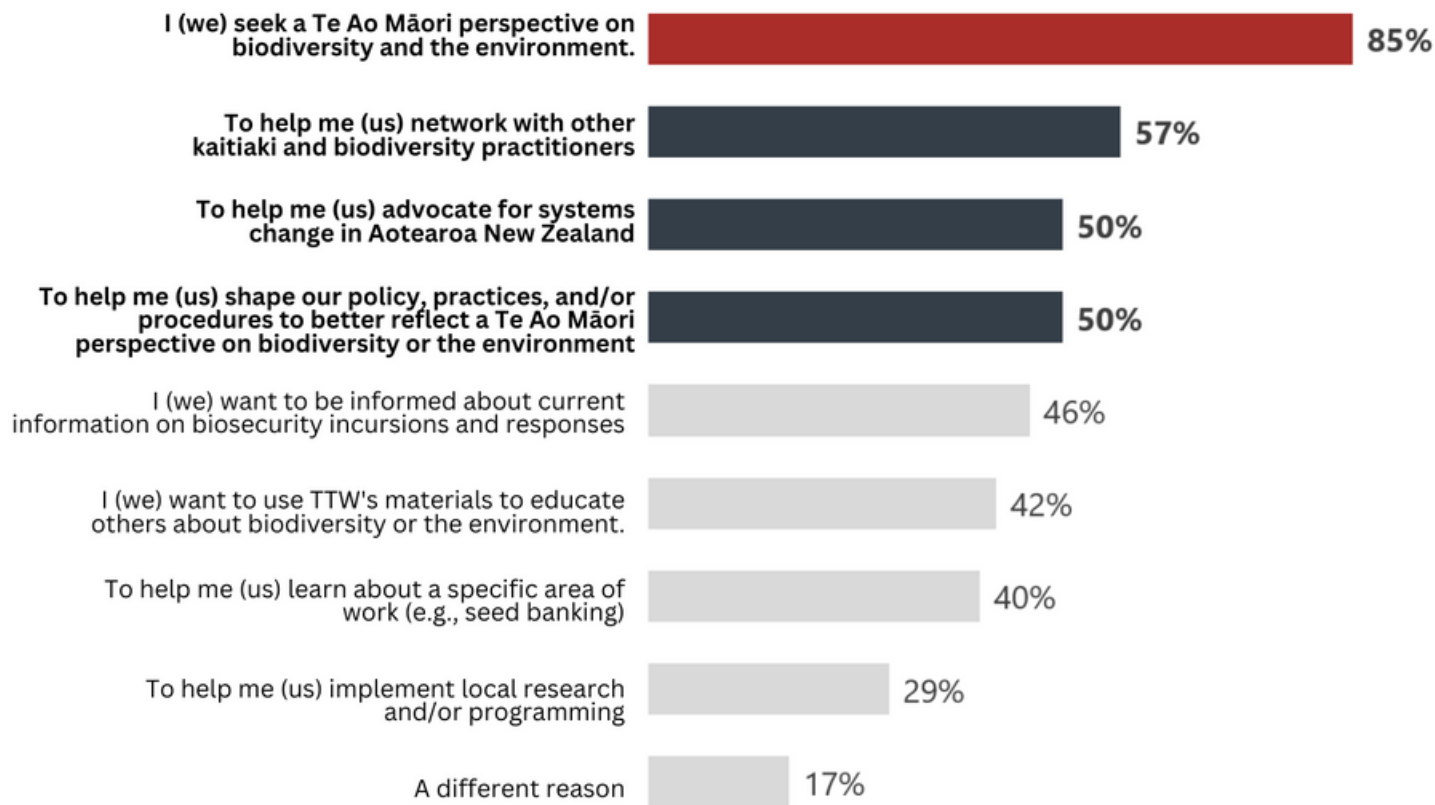


## Why and how are people following TTW's work?

To help us better understand why individuals follow or work with TTW, we presented a list of reasons and asked respondents to select all those that applied. By far, the foremost reason that respondents follow TTW's work is because they seek a Te Ao Māori perspective on biodiversity and the environment (85%). The remaining reasons were closer to one another, with 57% of respondents indicating that they follow TTW's work to help them network with other kaitiaki and biodiversity practitioners and 50% of respondents said they were following to help them to advocate for systems change and to help them shape their policies, practices, and procedures to better reflect Te Ao

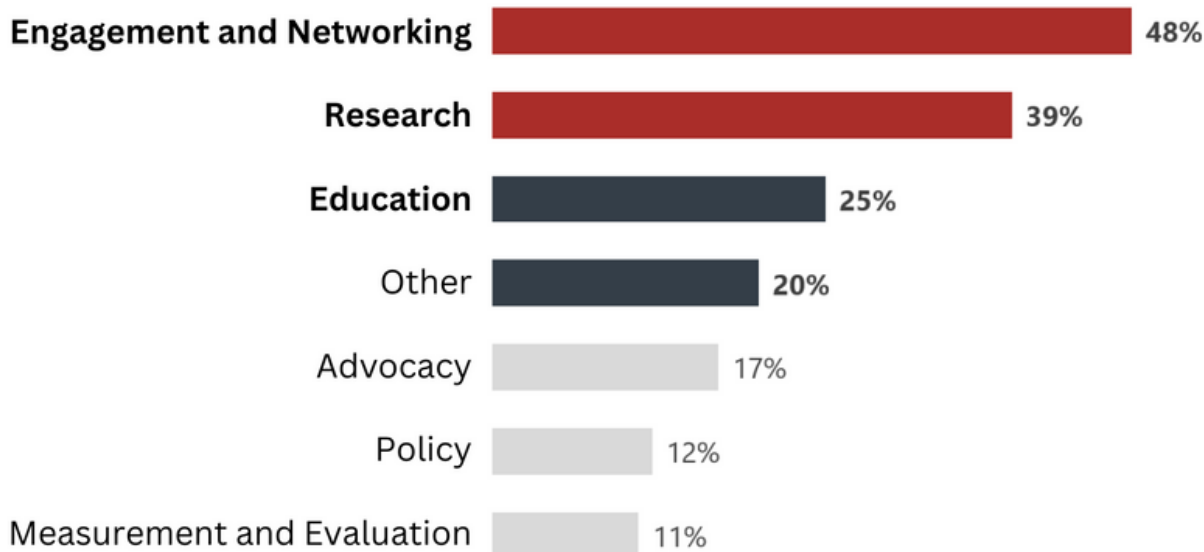
Māori in their biodiversity or environmental responses. This is encouraging for us as it is an indication that the values guiding our work are translating to those we work with.

Among others, seeking a **Te Ao Māori perspective** on the biodiversity, **networking with others**, **systems change advocacy**, and **policy change** were respondents' **top reasons for following TTW's work**.



To further explore the ways in which people interact with us, we asked respondents to indicate the areas that they have worked with TTW to date. Results below show that just under half of participants selected networking (48%) and following that was research (39%) and education (20%). The 'other' was selected by 20% of respondents and included answers such as seed conservation, project management, or those indicating they have not worked with TTW yet.

## Most respondents engaged with TTW through **networking, research, and education.**



## What differences has TTW made?

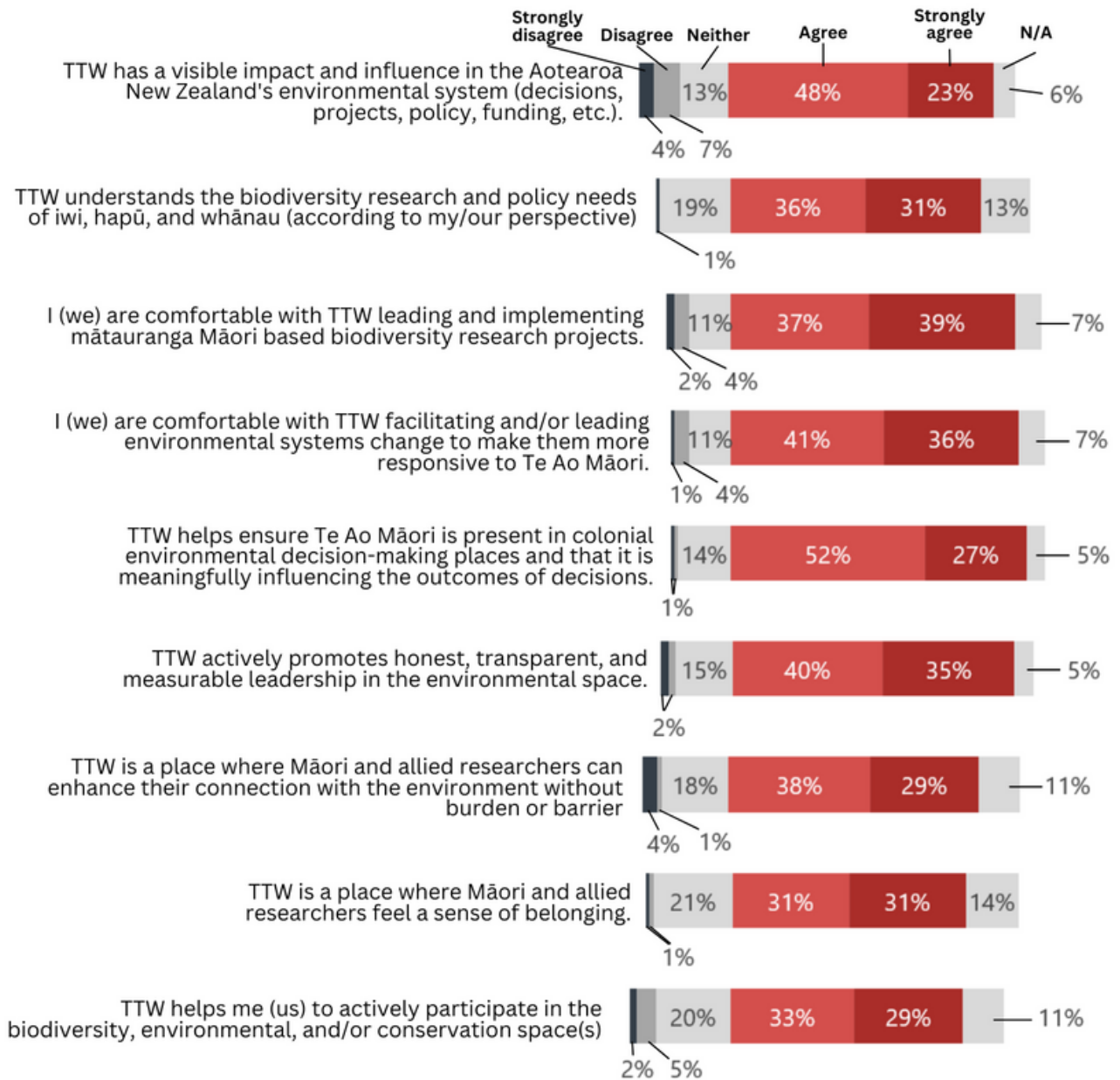
As mentioned previously, TTW has been in operation since 2017 and we wanted to ask respondents about the differences we have made for them, their organisations, and their communities. We also wanted to ask about their comfort with us leading change in colonial systems using Te Tiriti and mātauranga as a basis.

On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) we posed a series of statements to respondents about our anticipated impacts and asked whether they agreed with them (e.g., how much do you agree that TTW understands the biodiversity research and policy needs of iwi, hapū, and whānau...). Promisingly, many respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with all the statements we asked them (demonstrated in the graph on the next page).

There were, however, a few that stood out as especially positive. Namely, a combined 76% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were comfortable with TTW leading and implementing mātauranga Māori based biodiversity projects. Further, 77% of participants also indicated that they were comfortable with TTW leading or facilitating environmental systems change to make them more responsive to Te Ao Māori. The final standout was that 79% either agreed or strongly agreed that TTW helps to ensure that Te Ao Māori is present in colonial environmental decision-making places and that it is meaningfully influencing the outcomes of decisions.



Many respondents either **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that TTW has visible **impacts**, understands environmental research and policy needs, are able to lead systems change and mātauranga Māori research, and actively brings people into the biodiversity space.



To help explore these results further, we asked respondents about the most significant difference TTW had made for them or their organisation since they started interacting with us. Supporting the finding that TTW ensures that Te Ao Māori is present, many

respondents indicated that TTW is a key platform for Māori within colonial biodiversity and environmental research and decision-making. Specifically, respondents noted that TTW has been effective at promoting Te Ao Māori and mātauranga in the areas we work in. This extended to Māori and non-Māori, with some respondents commenting on how TTW is an effective platform:

“[I now have] a true understanding of Mātauranga Māori in the Taiao space.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Bringing me up to date with biosecurity issues through a Te Ao Māori lens, and use of mātauranga Māori and science used together to identify issues, and address problems around the motu.” - **Survey Respondent**

“[TTW is a] single place of contact for Te Ao Māori perspective for matters of biosecurity. Good communication and networks, and knowledgeable people not afraid to voice opinion in constructive manner.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Until I found Te Tira Whakamātaki, I didn’t know that there was someone advocating, researching and informing in this space. I think it's great to know that there are Māori organisations and people who can influence and operate with a mātauranga Māori perspective.” - **Survey Respondent**

When asked why TTW’s promotion of Te Ao Māori and mātauranga was important, respondents frequently said that it was because it helps to lessen ignorance in colonial systems and that it facilitated the inclusion of Māori designs, thoughts, and people into biodiversity responses. Some respondents directly attributed TTW in realisations of the importance of including Te Ao Māori and representation from those at place. Others commented on how they saw TTW as an important entity trying to educate and bring Māori solutions to the forefront:

“It is important to us to ensure that all voices are heard, and that Māori perspectives are integrated into our project. Our project works across multiple government agencies and other organisations, and without TTW's input, the Māori view and considerations in project design would be largely missed. Whilst our project is not yet there in terms of responding to Māori needs and concerns, we do have a better understanding of where we need to get to have and projects in the pipeline to help us get closer, thanks to the input from TTW.” - **Survey Respondent**

“As a collaborative project, we rely on partner organisations to reach audiences to spread our messages and TTW is a critical part of this process.” - **Survey Respondent**

“As a country we need to move toward true partnership more quickly. TTW is a significant player in supporting this transition.” - **Survey Respondent**

“All aspects of the work we are doing needs Te Ao Māori perspectives to be at the forefront and help us make decisions that benefit all stakeholders.” - **Survey Respondent**

“It is hard to make connections as Māori agencies can be suspicious of non-Māori approaches, essentially the 'not the message but the messenger' issue that TTW helps to overcome.” - **Survey Respondent**

Backing this, quantitative results show robust agreement from respondents that TTW actively promotes honest and transparent leadership in the environmental space, that TTW understands the biodiversity research and policy needs of iwi, hapū, and whānau, and that TTW has a visible impact and influence on Aotearoa’s environmental system decisions, projects, policies, and funding (a combined 75%, 67%, and 71% agreed or strongly agreed respectively).

Continuing this, respondents often commented that TTW’s ability to promote Te Ao Māori has led to an increased confidence and trust in Māori solutions to biodiversity and environmental issues in colonial spaces, led to systems change, and increased political power for Māori. This is a positive finding, as it is an indication that the way in which we are promoting Te Ao Māori is effective in making positive changes in systems and places to be more responsive to the environment and Māori. Respondents explained this by saying:

“Allowing us to have a trusted source of knowledge and expertise that we can turn to and, actually, that we can follow the lead of.” - **Survey Respondent**

“TTW has become an effective voice for Māori on biosecurity issues and have enabled key leaders with great skills/mana to influence the system from within (and without).” - **Survey Respondent**

“Having an entity which acts as a connector and facilitator between colonial entities and Kaupapa Māori and vice versa. TTW is filling a gap which was desperately needed and is accelerating colonial entity understanding of Te Ao Māori.” - **Survey Respondent**

“TTW helps ensure Te Ao Māori is represented in decision-making processes and that it is meaningfully influencing the outcomes of decisions.” - **Survey Respondent**

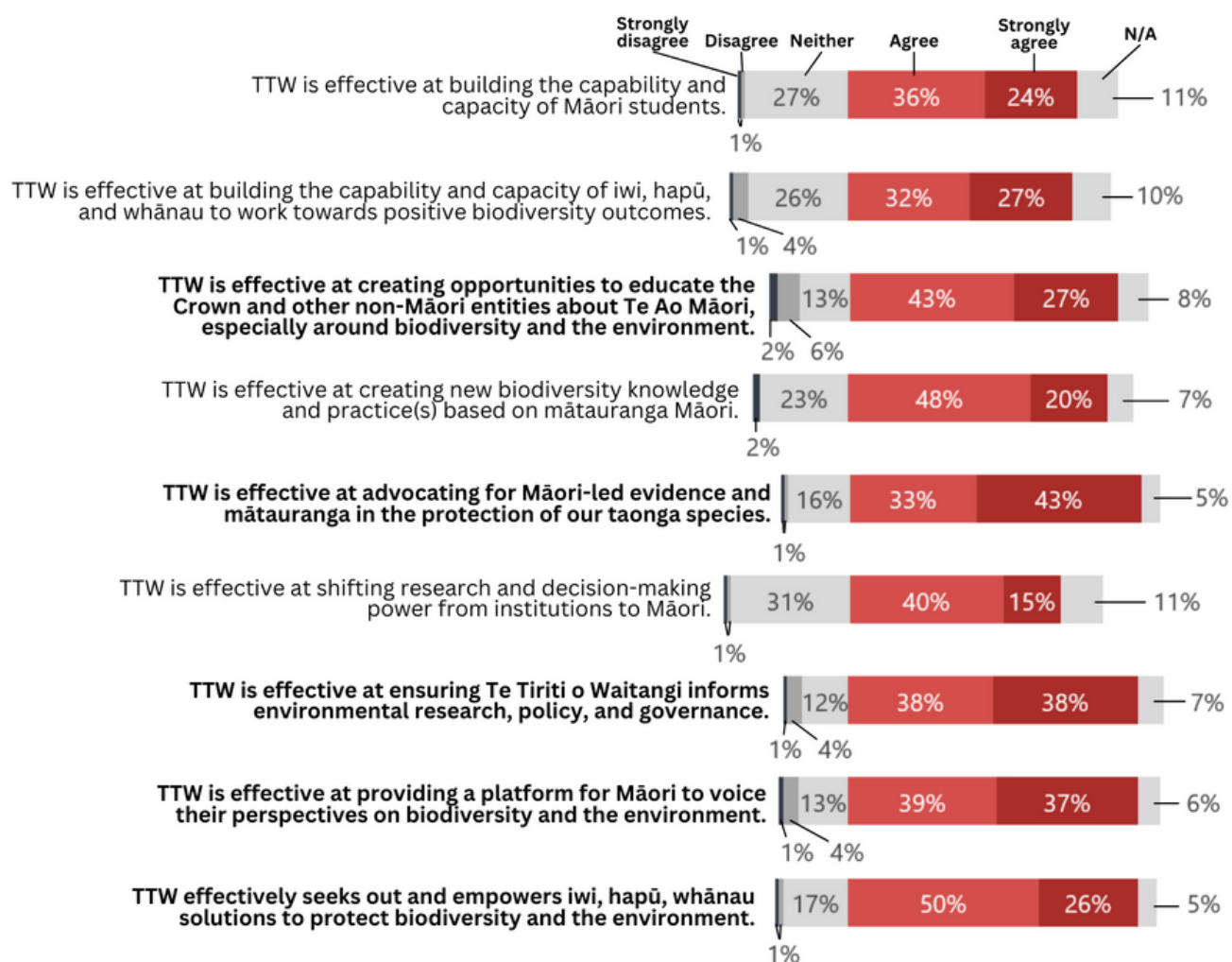
“[TTW] provides confidence and trust in Māori solutions.” - **Survey Respondent**

Next, we asked respondents how effective TTW is at our key areas of work (building networks, capability, capacity, providing platforms for Māori). As with the previous set of questions, this helps us explore some of the outcomes we have may have been able to influence and to better understand the effect of our efforts. For every statement, more than half of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed, including:

- 76% said TTW is effective at advocating for Māori-led evidence and mātauranga in the protection of our taonga species (33% agreed, 43% strongly agreed).
- 76% said TTW is effective at ensuring Te Tiriti o Waitangi informs environmental research, policy, and governance (38% agreed, 38% strongly agreed).
- 76% said TTW is effective at providing a platform for Māori to voice their perspectives on biodiversity and the environment (39% agreed, 37% strongly agreed).
- 70% said TTW is effective at creating opportunities to educate the Crown and other non-Māori entities about Te Ao Māori, especially around the biodiversity and the environment (43% agreed, 27% strongly agreed).
- 76% said TTW is effective at seeking out and empowering iwi, hapū, and whānau solutions to protect biodiversity and the environment (50% agreed, 26% strongly agreed).

These statements, as well as many others, are reflected in the graph below.

**Many** respondents either **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that TTW is **effective** and building capability and capacity, creating new knowledge and opportunities, advocating for systems change, and shifting power back to Māori.



When comparing these results with open-ended responses, evidence suggests that TTW's efforts to advocate, elevate Māori voices, create opportunities, and empower those at place matter to respondents because it leads to greater visibility of Te Ao Māori and mātauranga. Respondents commented on how these efforts help elevate tohunga, kaitiaki, Māori practitioners, and mātauranga-based solutions to the status they should be at within environmental research and policy spaces. For example:

“Māori and particularly Māori knowledge is not afforded the necessary resourcing and respect within academic and government institutions. What TTW provides, at the moment, is a beacon of hope for these in the hope that this approach become systematized more broadly (a long way to go to reach that though).” - **Survey Respondent**

“Many Government initiatives that focus on the environment often make surface level recognition of cultural values and Te Ao Māori without fully exposing the potential for them to be a part of the solution. TTW elevates Te Tiriti in a way that Māori have a place at the table because they are natural environmentalists with access to taonga tuku-iho that can't be found through normal educational mediums.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Because it shows the strength of the Māori voice, advocating for the benefit of the environment and by extension, all within Aotearoa.” - **Survey Respondent**

“It ensures mātauranga Māori is proven relevant, practical and correct in non-Māori spaces (or areas like science that are considered traditionally Western).” - **Survey Respondent**

“To elevate the importance of the indigenous value systems and the health of our environment - this is of benefit to everyone.” - **Survey Respondent**

Supporting the 76% who agreed that TTW effectively seeks out and empowers iwi, hapū, and whānau solutions, it was common for respondents to remark on the network, support, and access to information as the most significant difference they had noticed since working with TTW. Biodiversity information sharing and networking are two well-known TTW activities, but it is reassuring to see the number of respondents commenting on the effectiveness of them. Having a trusted source of information that respondents could rely on to provide relevant biosecurity information appears to have also led to avenues for networking and support across iwi, hapū, and whānau – something we seem to have taken advantage of. Respondents describing the most significant difference for them wrote:

“Accessible information regarding Māori perspectives on biosecurity.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Good information sharing about the work TTW does and what is going on in the biosecurity space more broadly.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Ongoing support over several years, from advice to project design, ongoing involvement with governance of our project as well as promotional support.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Working with other Kaitiaki from other areas and knowledge building via sharing.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Connecting with Māori researchers and providing opportunities for Māori leadership and capability development in biodiversity projects and development, amazing support for elevating Māori voice in the biosecurity space through direct engagement, supportive placement of people and provision of platforms for sharing Māori perspectives.” - **Survey Respondent**

“TTW are fantastic at bringing people together, and looking after them in a way that is tika.” - **Survey Respondent**

“For me it has been how supportive TTW has been in facilitating my connection with others working in similar spaces across the motu.” - **Survey Respondent**

This networking, connection, and information sharing (of all sorts) appears to have had significant benefits for some. Specifically, individuals mentioned the sense of safety they felt while working with TTW and while attending our activities. This is important for us, as we strive to carve out safe spaces for Māori wherever we go and the mention of this is an indication that we are starting to do just that. We attribute to this to the unashamedly and uncompromising Māori way in which we operate, because we believe this is the necessary way to work with those at place and to lead by example in colonial systems. Supporting this, respondents wrote:

“Providing networking and education/wānanga opportunities, most importantly, tangata Māori feel comfortable attending and participating because often they can see themselves in their Kaiako.” - **Survey Respondent**

“We have the people, the whenua, but not the resources to do the environmental activities we desire. TTW makes us feel like it is possible and is the one organisation we feel we can safely go to ask for help.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Ko te tautoko. Hei tētahi kairangahau Māori ki roto i tētahi Whare Wānanga, he tino Pākehā tōku ao mahi. He rongoā mō te wairua, ko te kōrero atu ki ngā tuākana ki roto i TTW... Ko te tautoko mai i TTW, ko tētahi kahu pītongatonga kua kuhua hei ārai ki te uaua o te mahi ki roto i te whare wānanga. (Translated into English by TTW: My support. As a Māori researcher in a University, my world is very Pākehā. It is a reprieve/medicine for the soul/spirit, the korero from my elders within TTW...the support from TTW, gives me thick skin, to defend myself in the University.)” - **Survey Respondent**

“You [TTW] have convinced me that, despite the colonial burden and the extended environmental degradation, living in a different way, leading in a different way is possible.” - Survey Respondent  
“Inspiration to keep up the work in my own field - especially through the tough times when you feel like a lonely voice.” - **Survey Respondent**

As a follow-up to the most significant change question, we asked respondents to explain why the change they had just described was important. We did this to further understand the reasons that outcomes and impacts are happening; in doing so, we found further support for the notion that the way TTW works is contributing to the establishment of like-minded Māori environments and paving the way for Māori leadership in the space. To us, it is not surprising that respondents appear to be responding positively to the Māori-led way we work, including the philosophies, tikanga, and processes that come with that. Our organisational emphasis on relationships and manaakitanga may also be contributing to this, as we take special care to uphold the mana of everything and everyone around us with kindness, generosity, respect, and equity. For some, this method of working created spaces where Māori practitioners, kaitiaki, and tohunga can come together and have a shared voice. That feeling or sense of ‘like-mindedness’ that TTW is bringing and making space for by advocating for Te Ao Māori is leading to buy-in, trust, confidence, and an emphasis on Te Tiriti. For example:

“It's important that we have Māori organisations that are solely focused from a Māori perspective and can continue to play a leadership role in this space.” - **Survey Respondent**



“I could not see that voice in biosecurity otherwise, and in the time TTW have been in existence there has been an amazing amount of change in the institutional arrangements for Māori participation in biosecurity/ biodiversity protection. This does require other aspects being ready to and willing to change but supporting key moments in that process, in my mind, has been by the initiative of TTW key actors.” - **Survey Respondent**

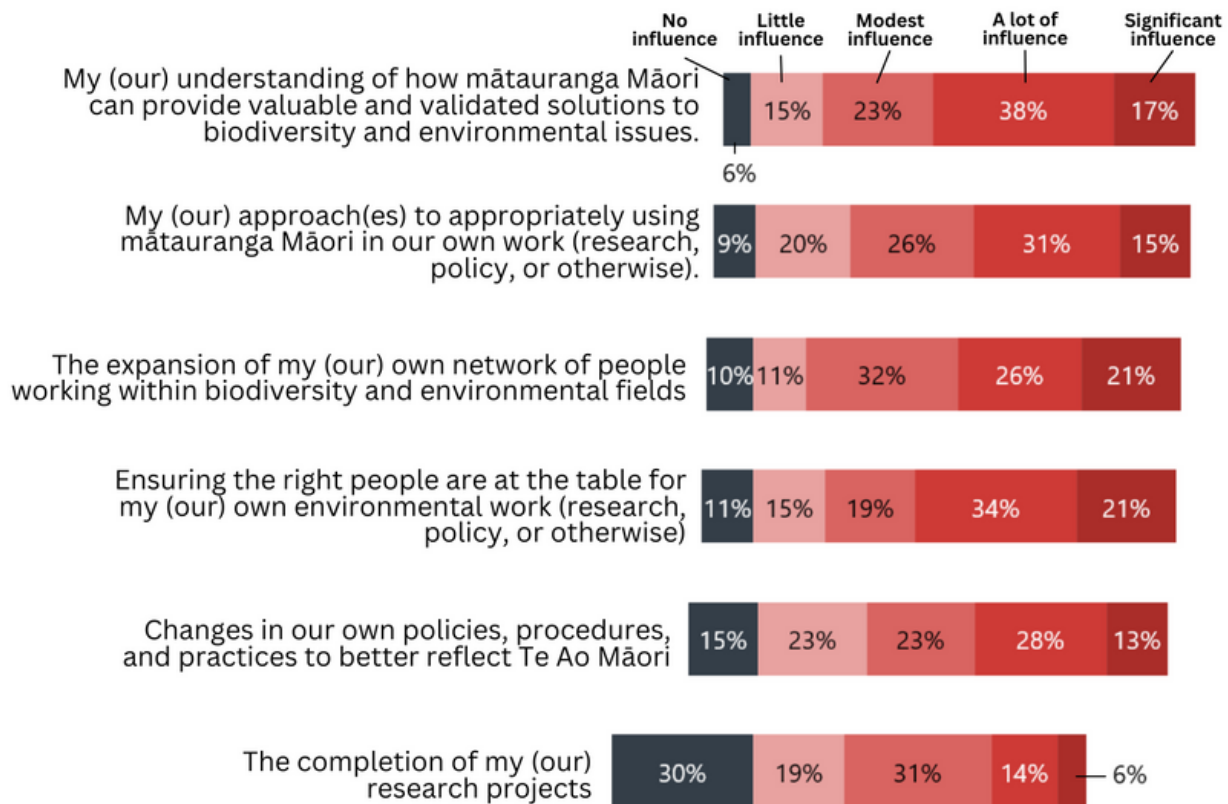
“Many Government initiatives that focus on the environment often make surface level recognition of cultural values and Te Ao Māori without fully exposing the potential for them to be a part of the solution. TTW elevates Te Tiriti in a way that Māori have a place at the table because they are natural environmentalists with access to taonga tuku-iho that can't be found through normal educational mediums.” - **Survey Respondent**

“It is important because we as Māori in the biosecurity space need to be able to look after each other, and within that have a shared voice, and opportunity to be heard.” - **Survey Respondent**

“[TTW] all work very closely with us and they deliver answers to our questions every time and have meet ups regularly and bind us with likeminded kaitaiki and Wisdom sharing is bound by honesty and commitment.” - **Survey Respondent**

While it is encouraging to receive positive results back on our anticipated outcomes, we also wanted to know how strong of an influence we had in our key areas of work. To do this, we asked respondents to indicate how much influence TTW had on their understanding of mātauranga, uses of mātauranga in policy, expanding networks, changing policies, and in completing research (on a scale from 1 [no influence] to 5 [significant influence]). As is seen in the graph below, the results show there are several areas where TTW have had positive influence (as defined by the percentage of respondents selecting a lot of influence or a significant influence). A combined 55% of respondents said that TTW had a lot or significant influence over their understanding of how mātauranga Māori can provide valuable and validated solutions to biodiversity and environmental issues and ensuring the right people are at the table for respondents' environmental work (research, policy, or otherwise). 47% of respondents also indicated that TTW had great influence in the expansion of their own networks of people working in biodiversity and environmental fields and 46% said that TTW had a lot or significant influence over the approaches to appropriately using mātauranga Māori in their own work.

Many indicated that TTW had **a lot** or a **significant influence** on **key areas of work** such as their expanded understandings, better approaches, and improved biodiversity networks. Many more indicated that TTW had at least a modest influence on these factors.



Overall, these results indicate that TTW activities and initiatives have made positive differences for those we work with as well as within the colonial systems we operate under. We will continue to track and report on these impacts over time and use other methods to continue to explore them.

## Feedback on the design & delivery of our activities

To ensure we are meeting the needs of those we work with, we asked a series of questions to respondents around the design and delivery of TTW activities. This set of questions contained statements that make connections between our activities (e.g., social media posts) and their anticipated outcomes (e.g., effective at communicating timely information). This was done to ensure that we could make solid links between our activities and their intended results. As with all other results, the responses to this

set of questions were quite positive with most respondents selecting 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to all the statements (on a scale from 1 – strongly disagree to 5 – strongly agree).

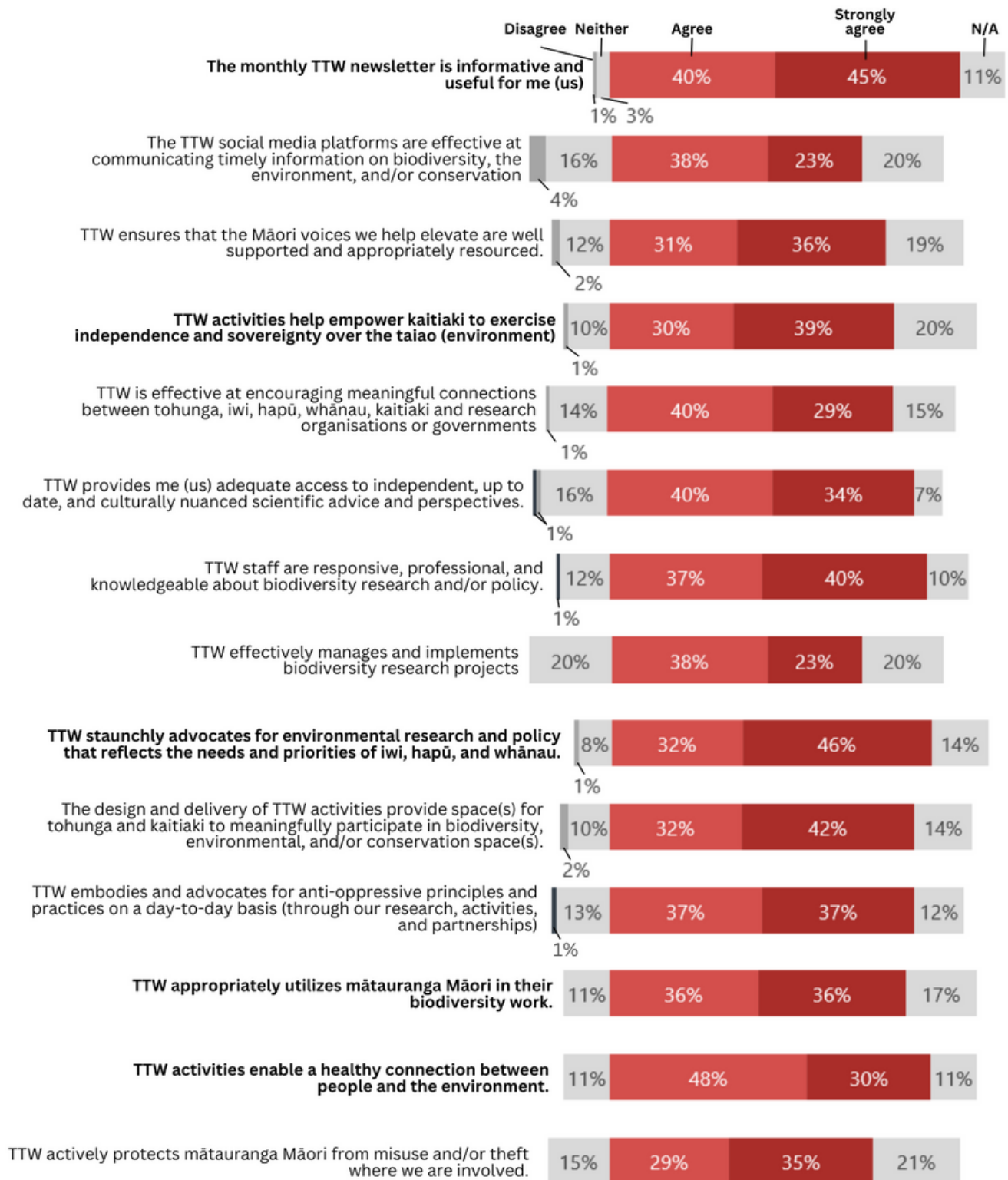
There were, however, several statements that were particularly positive (defined by the combined percentage of agree and strongly agree). Firstly, 78% agreed that TTW staunchly advocates for environmental research and policy that reflect the needs and priorities of iwi, hapū, and whānau (32% agreed, 46% strongly agreed). This was encouraging, as we were established in 2017 to do exactly as that statement reads – to provide a voice for Māori so that iwi, hapū, and whānau come through strongly in environmental research and decision-making spaces.

Perhaps stemming from that advocacy and speaking to the effectiveness of our activities, 78% of respondents also agreed that TTW activities enable a healthy connection between people and the environment (48% agreed and 30% strongly agreed). We attribute this finding to both our focus on delivering activities at place and on our primary focus on biodiversity. Further, 74% of respondents agreed to three separate statements, including:

- ▶▶ TTW embodies and advocates for anti-oppressive principles and practices on a day-to-day basis through our research, activities, and partnerships (37% agreed, 37% strongly agreed)
- ▶▶ The design and delivery of TTW activities provide spaces for tohunga and kaitiaki to meaningfully participate in biodiversity, environmental, and conservation spaces (32% agreed, 42% strongly agreed)
- ▶▶ TTW provides adequate access to independent, up to date, and culturally nuanced scientific advice and perspectives (40% agreed, 34% strongly agreed).

To us, agreement to these three statements is promising because it speaks to TTW's ability to provide a platform for Māori to influence and act on the environmental and biodiversity research and decision-making. The fact that respondents believe TTW facilitates this using anti-oppressive principles and practices is especially reassuring.

Respondents overwhelmingly **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that TTW activities were effective and that the design of them helped deliver the outcomes TTW wants to facilitate.



Acknowledging that we can always improve and need to remain relevant to those we work with, we also asked an open-ended question about how to improve TTW activities. Many commented that TTW was doing a good job, but two main themes did emerge. The first was a wish from respondents to expand our reach and add additional avenues of work. The roots of this are likely from a desire from respondents for TTW to link our work in more with climate change and adaptation and to expand internationally. These same respondents, however, urged caution to not overstretch ourselves or accidentally reduce our capacity as it may sacrifice our ability to create and maintain relationships. Respondents wrote:

“More projects where it shows that you lead by example.” - **Survey Respondent**

“I think there is lots of room for TTW to grow to help even more whānau like us.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Nothing significant to add as TTW already covers a broad range of areas and offers up a good suite of activities and initiatives. Because of this I think TTW should be mindful of not over-committing its people and resources. Easy to say but harder to do when your organisation is one of the few good examples of how to work well with Māori.” - **Survey Respondent**

“I think TTW stands as a great example of advocacy for Māori in the biosecurity space. In terms of future improvement, I think expansion into other environmental areas that need the same advocacy would be fantastic, such as Climate Change Adaptation.” - **Survey Respondent**

“You are doing so much already on limited capacity and resources its hard to think how we could increase your workload with any new activities.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Extend the networks to reach other indigenous cultures that still practice Tikanga handed down by their tupuna.” - **Survey Respondent**

As another area of potential expansion, respondents indicated that more effort should be put into TTW marketing and utilising our platforms more (i.e., to make more people aware of TTW's messaging). This was explained as a good way to increase the visibility

of TTW and, in turn, the visibility of Te Ao Māori in environmental spaces. Respondents wrote:

“Need to put the word out wider, especially the impact of taiao on our health...” - **Survey Respondent**

“Easier access to links for workshops and contacts. I know you are awesome, I just don’t know how to connect with you.” - **Survey Respondent**

“It would be good to understand the range of research that is being undertaken.” - **Survey Respondent**

“It would be good to understand what TTW considers to be its main priorities for the year and over the next five years.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Growing media influence to create a community of change makers however for meaningful relations with hāpori Māori at place.” - **Survey Respondent**

“I think TTW could play a stronger advocacy role in mainstream media for example championing for the environment. I say 'mainstream' very deliberately - TTW has some very credible and articulate people who come across well with the general public.” - **Survey Respondent**

“I often see the TTW team at various conferences/spaces that would be hugely beneficial for some of our people to attend, but I only see/hear about it once it is done. It would be cool if TTW put out a ‘what’s on around the motu’ type thing so that all environmental events can be accessed by our people. This might already be a thing, if it is, I am not aware of it.” - **Survey Respondent**

Finally, results showed that 77% of respondents agreed that TTW staff are responsive, professional, and knowledgeable about biodiversity research and policy (37% agreed, 40% strongly agreed) and 85% found the monthly TTW newsletter as informative and useful (40% agreed, 45% strongly agreed). Once again this is an indication that TTW’s communication is relevant and meaningful to respondents.

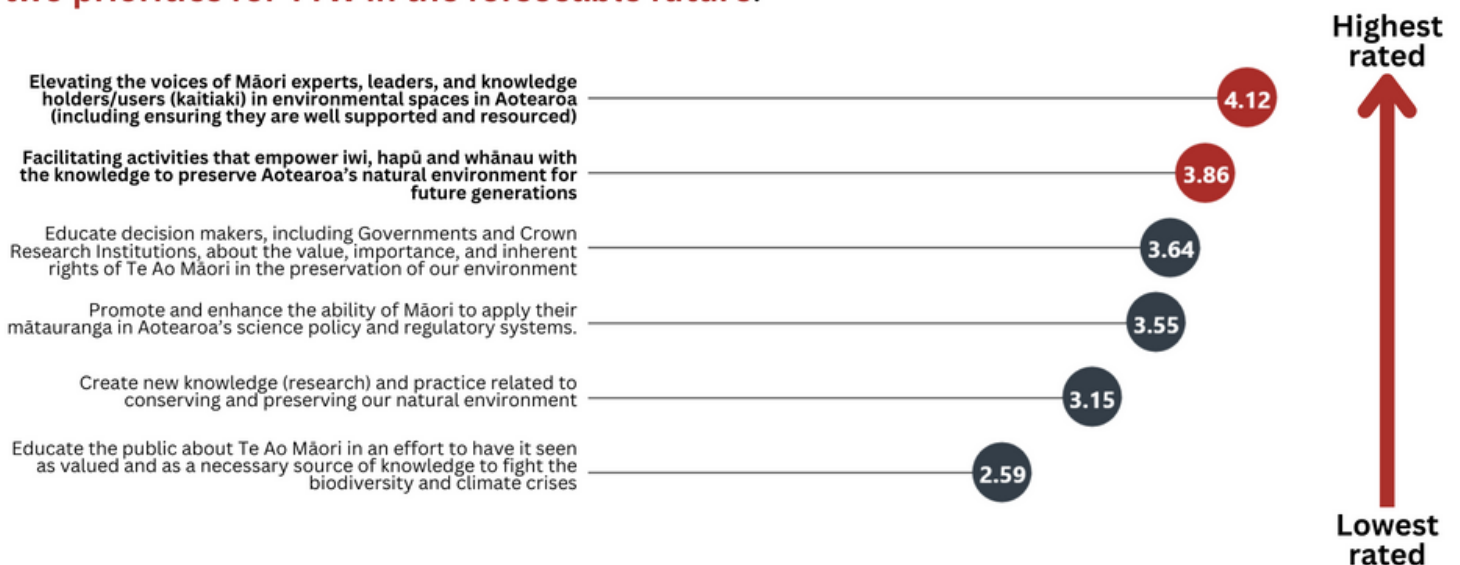
## Priorities and what's next

At TTW, we rely on those we work with to provide us with direction on where we should be headed next, what our focus should be on, and how that may translate into day-to-day activities. Therefore, in the survey we asked respondents to rate a set of potential future priorities (the higher the number, the more importance that was placed on the priority). On average, the top two priorities rated by respondents were:

- 1** Elevating the voices of Māori experts, leaders, and knowledge holders/users (kaitiaki) in environmental spaces in Aotearoa (including ensuring they are well supported and resourced) – average rating of **4.12**.
- 2** Facilitating activities that empower iwi, hapū, and whānau with the knowledge to preserve Aotearoa's natural environment for future generations – average rating of **3.86**.

While these emerged as the two highest rated priorities, the others were not far behind. As is seen in the graph below, the third and fourth priorities were close to the second (educate decision makers, promote and enhance the ability of Māori to apply their mātauranga in Aotearoa's science policy and regulatory systems; average rating of 3.65 and 3.55 respectively).

Respondents rated **elevating the voices of Māori** in environmental spaces and facilitating activities that **empower iwi, hapū and whānau** with environmental knowledge as the **top two priorities for TTW in the foreseeable future**.



We also posed an open-ended question to respondents that asked them what their expectations are for us as an organization (i.e., what should TTW be doing)? Three leading themes emerged, each of which are supported by a few sub-themes to provide additional explanation. The first expectation that respondents had for TTW was that we need to provide Māori representation and voice within colonial systems. In other words, TTW should provide platforms for tohunga, kaitiaki, practitioners, researchers, youth alike to ensure Te Ao Māori is present within environmental systems and decision-making processes. For example:

“In my eyes, TTW is a firm voice to represent Māori and drive the implementation of Te Ao Māori into the current system, so that it can be more effective in putting te taiao first. My expectation is that, myself and my people can come to TTW to seek support and information pertaining to how we may be able to better carry out our role as kaitiaki. Equally, we expect that TTW will continue to demonstrate to central government the essential need for Māori-led initiative if we are going to truly look after our environment and create a better future for our mokopuna.” - **Survey Respondent**

“Be a conduit between Māori knowledge holders and the crown funding mechanisms to support development of funding applications...ensure community voices are represented and heard at the decision-making table.”- **Survey Respondent**

“I think TTW could play an increasingly large role in environmental research in Aotearoa. I also think it's perfectly placed to partner with like-minded organisations to jointly deliver value not just in the research space but around that combination of research/knowledge generation, and operational investment.” - **Survey Respondent**

For many, providing representation and voice took the form of advocacy and stretched across multiple domains, including equitable funding, being a ‘check’ on the Crown, and ensuring enduring, mokopuna, approaches where Māori enact their right to make environmental decisions free of barriers. For example, some respondents wrote:

“Continue to infiltrate and break down colonial systems that conflict with cultural perspectives to ensure indigenous solutions are recognised and adopted.” - **Survey Respondent**



“Acting as a check on decisions made at government level and providing helpful information for organisations (such as local government or not for profits) that can assist them in their decision-making and be more considered in their approach.” – **Survey Respondent**

“Advocating for a Māori voice in biosecurity and encouraging systems change from government and non-governmental agencies.” – **Survey Respondent**

Generally, many respondents expected TTW to be a strong voice advocating for Māori perspectives in biodiversity and environmental policy, research, practices, and overall direction as a nation. To us, this means both being a strong voice for Māori while doing our part to ensure those who need to be present at the table are given that opportunity (representation). In doing so, we can ensure the sustainability of our collective approaches and realise the right for Māori to be self-determined in the protection of the environment using their own mātauranga:

“[Be] the cog between govt and mātauranga practices for iwi and the taiao.” – **Survey Respondent**

“Your advocacy role is critical in defining a national strategy locally implemented. Our maramataka values have to be taught at all generational levels. Without knowledge and understanding then what defines our purpose?” – **Survey Respondent**

“Continue doing what you do well, which is to be a strong advocate for a Māori in biosecurity and wider environmental spaces.” – **Survey Respondent**

“To support the wider biosecurity system to recognise Indigenous peoples as the best guardians of nature throughout Aotearoa, by bringing issues to the forefront and to help ensure policies, programmes and projects are using mātauranga Māori to come up with solutions.” – **Survey Respondent**

Related to the expectation to provide representation and avenues for Māori voices, respondents expected that TTW should build on and expand its presence in Aotearoa and across the world. As the quotes above demonstrate, many viewed TTW as a strong advocate for Māori solutions to environmental problems. However, some urged us to

become an even stronger voice. This largely reflects respondents' desire for TTW to become even more influential and some viewed better marketing and advertising as one way to do that. For example:

"I would expect TTW to grow into recognised national entity similar to CRI's or Callaghan, etc." – **Survey Respondent**

"More advertising, not enough people know of the importance of your mahi." – **Survey Respondent**

"Increase funding for marketing and advertising kia horapa ōu mahi me ōu whāinga." – **Survey Respondent**

As another way to develop the presence of TTW, some respondents suggested continuing to expand our existing networks and to continue to make as many connections as we can. This included a desire from some to communicate internationally with Indigenous peoples and allies about the strength of Indigenous solutions for biodiversity issues:

"I personally would like opportunities to connect with other Māori working in this space. Our whenua me te taiao have many threats and challenges and by working together we as tangata whenua are stronger in the mahi we do. I'd be keen to see this fostered." – **Survey Respondent**

"Connecting kaitiaki and facilitating research and action from a te ao māori perspective." – **Survey Respondent**

"[I] see TTW as leaders in this space internationally and [you] should be promoting your work on an international scale." – **Survey Respondent**

The third broad expectation respondents had for us was to be a place for 'Māori to be Māori'. To action this, participants said that TTW should focus on building the capacity and capability of those at place, with a particular emphasis on empowering the people and knowledge already present:

"Empowering and supporting tangata whenua to protect our taiao in response to all threats. A 'for Māori, by Māori' approach." – **Survey Respondent**

“The mindful ones name/intentions is more appropriate now that ever due to the increasing pressures on te ao tūroa. Empowering hāpori Māori and iwi are important. Being a trusted partner and voice in natural resource sector and regional councils for Māori is important.” – **Survey Respondent**

“The end goal should always be about empowering ahikaa and their reinstatement as rangatira/kaitiaki of their place.” – **Survey Respondent**

Others believed this could be done by making information on biodiversity and biosecurity is as accessible as possible for those at place and through the creation of additional voices. Finally, a few respondents explicitly mentioned the need to include rangatahi (youth) in our efforts (through we believe many said this implicitly). For instance:

“Keep connecting and producing information that we can think about and share.” – **Survey Respondent**

“Spreading best practice information, advice, and updated on the Māori view around biosecurity and the things I/we need to continue to do in this space.” – **Survey Respondent**

“Identifying pathways for rangatahi to learn, experience and go on to work in te taiao.” – **Survey Respondent**

## Conclusion

This first annual survey showed us what we’ve done well, what we haven’t, and where we need to be heading into the future. We believe it can help us to share stories, elevate Māori voices, remain accountable to those we work with, inform our decision making, and explain our impacts. The results were positive and affirming for us, as we appear to be working towards and within the six values that we mentioned in the introduction. Respondents provided evidence that demonstrates we are making concrete and meaningful differences for them, their communities, and within the colonial systems they often work within. However, we recognise that this type of work does not have an end, and we remain committed to elevating Māori voices and pushing for the systemic changes necessary to enable Te Ao Māori to thrive in environmental research and decision-making spaces (all the while pushing for and demonstrating anti-

oppressive principles). Finally, we want to acknowledge the TTW whānau and our partners for helping us to get to this point and allowing us to see these results. Without your participation, trust, and confidence we certainly would not have seen these results, and we will continue to fight for the environment with everything we have.