

Indigenous laws and values for resilient rivers



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato



22nd International
RIVER
SYMPOSIUM
EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION



Linda Te Aho, Aotearoa, New Zealand
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Drawing on legal jurisprudence and philosophy from indigenous and western traditions ...this boundary breaking book asks the difficult question of how to engender responsibility in society and in law to live sustainably and well on our shared planet.

Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Te Awa Tupua - Whanganui River

Indigenous traditions and legal personhood



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E rere kau mai te Awa nui
Mai i te Kahui Maunga ki Tangaroa
Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au

*The Great River flows from the Mountains to the Sea.
I am the River, and the River is me*

Tuaropaki Trust

• <http://www.tuaropaki.com/home>



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- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Rio+20 Declaration
- The provisions for Rights of Nature in the Ecuadorian and Bolivian Constitutions
- Living well with the Earth
- The Earth Charter
- Ecological Integrity

*Tooku awa koiroa, me oona pikonga, he kura tangihia
moo te maataamuri*

The Waikato River
Transforming Local Government

- Treaty settlement with the Government embedded in legislation
- Recognition of the River as an ancestor
- Restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations
- Creating a paradigm of inclusion
 - Compulsory joint management agreements
 - Hearings commissioners
- Transformation
 - Reserved seats on the Regional Council
 - Healthy Rivers Plan Change