

# Aratoi Regional Trust – Taonga Māori Policy

Section: Collections

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## Introduction and Scope

Aratoi is the place from which history and stories are told and it is a community forum for learning, understanding, and participation in art, history, and culture. Aratoi is asked to house taonga Māori on behalf of individuals, whānau, hapū and iwi.

Aratoi recognises the two Iwi Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa as being tangata whenua within the rohe (region) of Wairarapa.

This policy sets out the commitment of Aratoi to:

- Upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations
- Upholding the mana of tangata whenua in Wairarapa
- Maintaining our obligations and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of taonga relating to art, history, cultures, and the natural environment for whānau, hapū and iwi within Wairarapa
- Ensuring whānau, hapū and iwi maintain their connection to their taonga

This policy covers the acquisition, loans, care, management, use, and deaccession of all Aratoi taonga Māori, wherever they may be and however they are used, for as long as they are in the care of Aratoi.

This policy applies to any taonga Māori belonging to another organisation, whānau, hapū, iwi or individual for which Aratoi has temporary legal custody through a loan agreement or documented receipt.

Kōiwi tangata, kōimi tangata and toi moko are not accessioned into the collection and therefore do not fall within the scope of this policy. Their acquisition and care should be covered by a Kōiwi Tangata Policy.

## Policy

### Definitions

The following definitions relate to this policy:

Term	Definition
<b>Acquisition</b>	The process by which legal title of an item/taonga is obtained by Aratoi. The method of acquisition may be donation (gift, bequest), field collection, purchase, or commission.
<b>Item or Taonga</b>	The process by which legal title of an item/taonga is obtained by Aratoi. The method of acquisition may be donation (gift, bequest), field collection, purchase, or commission.
<b>Deaccession</b>	To permanently remove a Collection item/taonga from the collection.
<b>Dispose</b>	To donate, exchange, or sell an item/taonga as a result of deaccessioning.
<b>Loan</b>	An item or taonga that is not owned by Aratoi Museum
<b>Long Term Loan</b>	An item or taonga on loan for 12 months or more.
<b>Māori Curator</b>	Ideally Aratoi will have a Māori Curator who will be responsible for Aratoi management of taonga Māori in accordance with this Policy. However, in the absence of this role being filled on a permanent/semi-permanent basis. Aratoi will request the services of both Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa to provide a representative to undertake this policy's requirements of a Maori Curator as it applies to their respective taonga Māori.
<b>Register</b>	Give a Collection item/taonga a unique number and identifying description.
<b>Repatriation</b>	The process of returning Collection items/taonga to their place of origin, following deaccessioning. Note: Repatriation is also the term used for the process of returning human remains to their place of origin and final resting place (ref. Kōiwi Tangata Policy).

### Key Legislation

In implementing this policy Aratoi will have regard for legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007
- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970
- Protected Objects Act 1975
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1975 (CITES)
- Wildlife Act 1953
- Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- Arms Act 1983
- Copyright Act 1994, and Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Act 20P
- Post Treaty Settlement Governance Legislation.

Any taonga that is accepted into the Aratoi Collection must ensure that it meets all requirements of the above laws.

## Principles

Aratoi has two sets of principles. These principles are guiding (ngā mātāpono) and are core (ngā uara) to who we are.

Our guiding principles are:

- Te Hiranga (Excellence)
- Te Ngaiotanga (Professionalism)
- Te Auahatanga (Innovation)

Our core values are:

- Te Mana Tangata (Integrity)
- Te Whai Wāhitanga (Welcoming and inclusiveness)
- Te Whakaute (Respect)

## Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles

Te Tiriti o Waitangi also places an expectation on Aratoi, as a museum in Aotearoa, to uphold principles and values. These are crucial to Aratoi relationship with tangata whenua. They are:

Partnership is:

- Educating our team to be empathetic and understanding to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, te ao Māori and ensuring we create safe spaces for whānau, hapū and iwi to engage with us
- Continuously making space to understand the tangata whenua origins of our rōhe (region), mountains, rivers, and history
- having iwi representatives on the Aratoi board
- the repatriation of taonga to tangata whenua where appropriate
- power sharing opportunities with tangata whenua and to embed this into our organisation

Participation is:

- working to continuously strengthen our relationships with tangata whenua (whānau, hapū and iwi)
- Tangata whenua participating in decision making at Aratoi
- Aratoi reflecting the biculturalism of Aotearoa
- aspirations of Māori whānau, hapū and iwi reflected in Aratoi's strategy

Protection is:

- valuing, validating, and protecting local knowledge, taonga and pūrākau (stories)
- normalising te reo Māori within Aratoi as an organisation
- learning and including tikanga within Aratoi as a natural evolution

Although these principles start to look to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, this is not an exhaustive list and ultimately, we are working to uphold kawa (protocols), tikanga (customs and practices), and mātauranga Māori (knowledge) for Māori whānau in Wairarapa.

These principles are taken into account while outlining our Taonga Māori policy. Key principles of this policy going forward are:

Aratoi recognises its role in providing high quality experiences of art, history and culture in the Wairarapa. Our collections will be representative and inclusive of our unique relationship with tangata whenua.

Aratoi will be guardians of taonga (items) on behalf of whānau, hapū and iwi.

Our collections will focus on Wairarapa and our place within Aotearoa, the way we have led the world and our interactions with other regions.

Aratoi understands tangata whenua unique relationship with te taiao and will look to include whānau, hapū and iwi involvement in other exhibitions which may not be seen as 'taonga' or 'Māori'.

Aratoi will not retain the copyright of any taonga or artwork unless it is discussed with the whānau, hapū and/or iwi. If work is commissioned by Aratoi in collaboration with whānau, hapū and/or iwi the copyright will defer to the whānau and hapū (and default to the appropriate iwi on behalf of the hapū if there is no legal entity).

Our iwi representative roles at Aratoi board are the continuation of our journey to foster trust and involvement with tangata whenua. Their role is to focus on the Governance and provide support and guidance to Aratoi Governance and Aratoi staff by establishing and maintaining a comprehensive policy, assisting us in understanding our bi-cultural relationship with Māori as a tangata tiriti organisation.

## Acquisition

Aratoi will work with tangata whenua to identify key Wairarapa taonga held by national and international museums and facilitate their return either:

1. directly back to the tangata whenua, or if not possible,
2. long term loan between institutions.

Aratoi will facilitate the transfer, where requested, of any taonga in the permanent collection directly back to the tangata whenua, or if not possible to museums that represent the relevant whānau, hapū, iwi, or region that the taonga originated from. All borrowed taonga are cared for to the same standards as taonga in Aratoi collection and are subject to the terms of a loan agreement. The Acquisitions Committee will utilise the guidance and support of the iwi representatives on the board, the Māori Curator as well as whānau, hapū and iwi voices.

## Loans - Inwards

Long term loans of collection items are to be accepted at the discretion of the Acquisitions Committee and the Māori Curator. The Acquisitions Committee will also utilise the guidance and support of the iwi representatives on the board as well as whānau, hapū and iwi voices.

Aratoi will accept the role of being custodian and guardian for taonga where it has significance belonging to the tangata whenua of Wairarapa and in collaboration with tangata whenua.

Unless covered under the owner's insurance policy, all items on long term loan will be included in the museum's insurance cover. The status and value of any item's insurance cover is to be determined at the time of accepting the loan in collaboration with the whānau, hapū and iwi, and is to be clearly documented on the relevant forms.

Any person or organisation that offers an item which is deemed unrelated by the Acquisitions Committee shall be recommended to approach a more relevant Museum in Aotearoa or a registered museum in that item's region of origin. This will be done in collaboration with the Māori Curator and the iwi representatives on the Aratoi board.

## Loans - Outwards

There may be occasions where whānau, hapū, or other iwi organisations wish to borrow items for their own purpose or use and this will be done so in collaboration with Aratoi, iwi representatives with guidance from whānau and hapū.

Loans to third party organisations will be considered by the Acquisitions Committee and the Māori Curator but will always be subject to absolute approval from the relevant whānau or hapū.

## Exhibitions and Display of Taonga Māori

Aratoi will not exhibit or display any loaned taonga Māori without the absolute prior approval of the relevant whānau or hapū.

Display of Aratoi owned taonga will undertaken in collaboration with the Māori Curator. Display of other items in Aratoi collections which have direct relevance to a whānau or hapū (for example portraits and photos) will be subject to the approval of the relevant whānau or hapū.

## Care, Management & Use

All taonga must be documented and catalogued throughout its lifetime with Aratoi in its Collection Management System (Vernon), and the Māori Curator and the iwi representatives may also inform and update the appropriate taonga registers. Access to any loaned taonga on the taonga registers will be restricted to key

Aratoi staff, the Māori Curator unless the relevant whānau or hapū has granted written permission to the contrary.

Documentation will contain loan details, the relevance to Wairarapa and tangata whenua and similar information pertaining to each item as to what and why this taonga is required for the permanent collection.

Physical, environmental, and legal risks to a taonga are identified and mitigated. Appropriate cultural protocols are provided for and observed in all activities involving this taonga. A taonga may require sampling and conservation treatment which must be undertaken within the framework of Museums Aotearoa Code of Ethics and done in collaboration with tangata whenua.

For tangata whenua, our taonga are alive and therefore are not objects and the appropriate tikanga (customs and practices) needs to be undertaken in all instances with taonga. This is why it's important to document the practice of each taonga.

Emergency response and recovery plans will determine response and capability to manage the impact of any emergency on taonga.

Aratoi will maximise access to the taonga, while maintaining the physical and cultural wellbeing of both the taonga and staff.

Aratoi and tangata whenua may restrict or decline access to taonga for ethical reasons, or when risks to the taonga, to people using them, or to Aratoi cannot be sufficiently mitigated. This will be done in collaboration with the Māori Curator and Aratoi board iwi representatives.

## Deaccession

A taonga will be considered for deaccession when it:

- is to be Repatriated, or
- is to be transferred to another museum or collecting institution, or
- has deteriorated to the point where it is no longer in, and cannot be returned to, a usable state.

These decisions will be done in collaboration between Aratoi iwi board representatives, the Māori Curator, and tangata whenua.

## Related Processes, Procedures and Guidelines

This policy will be supported by Processes, Procedure, Strategic Plan and Guideline documents that will detail what needs to be done, how, and by whom, to implement the principles described in this policy.

### RELATED PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

- Trust Deed

- Collection Policy
- Museums Aotearoa Code of Ethics
- Protected Objects Act 1975
- United Nations Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples 1993
- Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Post Treaty Settlement Governance Legislation
- Iwi Runanga Constitutions