School of Biological Science | Te Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora

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HREC Ref: [*Provided by HREC when study approved]*

Information sheet for the participants of Coastal Margin Ecosystem Values Workshop 1, Wananga (both online and in person) and online survey

Kia ora,
You are invited to participate in research to study coastal ecosystem and community resilience to sea level rise. This study is being conducted by Heli Wade from the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha (UC). The study is being carried out as a requirement for a PhD in Biological Science (learn more about Heli's thesis here).

What is the purpose of this research?
The purpose of the participatory research is to simultaneously co-produce knowledge, enable community learning and collect qualitative data for analysis for a PhD thesis. The shared knowledge, learnings and data will inform case studies for the research and build important local context on community values and significant coastal margin ecosystems. This local context can then be used to support and inform management decisions and help in identifying resilience building activities at case study locations.

This work will complement the ongoing work by agencies, organization and iwi in the region and the results that are gained through undertaking this research are aimed at supporting existing strategic plans and future actions, as well as community aspirations.

Research background
Coastal saltmarshes and seagrass beds are important ecosystems as they are among the most valuable natural environments for storing carbon, supporting biodiversity, improving water quality and buffering the coast against flooding and erosion. Coastal lagoons are important transitional zones between freshwater and the sea and are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. Coastal margin ecosystems are also under pressure from human activities and are increasingly exposed to climate challenges and consequent sea-level rise that threaten and further undermine these valuable habitats. With these constant pressures their ability to protect and buffer land, biodiversity and people from increased erosion and inundation is diminishing where and when it is needed the most.

This study examines, within a local context through case studies in Marlborough, the development of strategies for the improvement of resilience of key coastal margin ecosystems (saltmarsh, seagrass and coastal lagoons) to climate change with a focus on adaptation to sea-level rise.

Why have you received this invitation?
You are invited to participate in this research because you live, work or play within the case study area of interest. Through your association with the Marlborough coastal areas, you will have valuable local knowledge and information that can help contribute to the study outcomes and help to support significant local coastal margin ecosystem resilience. The distribution of the invitation to participate has been shared with key public contact details in the area, who have chosen to voluntarily forward this invite to you.

Your participation is voluntary (your choice). If you decide not to participate or to withdraw, there are no consequences. Your decision will not affect your relationship with me, the University of Canterbury or any member of the research team.

What is involved in participating?
If you choose to take part in this research, you will be asked to participate in a facilitated workshop (in - person or online, depending on what you prefer) or a wananga. There is also an option to fill in an online survey to capture your values if you are unable to participate in person. The survey works on its own, but it's findings also complement the workshops and wananga and you can answer it in your own time. The survey will capture the essence of your personal views and values, and the workshops/wananga will give you a further opportunity to learn together with your community. The workshop will involve you and 9 to 50 others (depending on popularity!) meeting to discuss local context that support community values on coastal margin ecosystems resilience. The workshop will take place face-to-face at a local venue [TBC] or online (via Zoom) depending on if you can attend in person or wish to participate remotely.

Registration to the workshops is recommended. Upon registration you will receive further information on the workshop topics and reserve a place for yourself. This also means that for the in-person workshop I can confirm catering numbers for lunch and tea breaks and ensure I don't oversubscribe the venues maximum capacity. Any changes to advertised times and venue will be communicated with registered participants by e-mail.

Using facilitated workshops and the survey will help me engage with as many local knowledge holders as possible, and to specifically draw on your individual perspectives. The workshops and survey will explore community values on different socio-ecological benefits that are derived from or are associated with coastal margin ecosystem types within the study area and how these may be impacted by climate change and sea-level rise.

Will the workshop/wananga be recorded?
The face-to-face workshop and wananga will use scribed notes and photographs to record progress. Pictures with identifying features will not be made publicly available or used in publications, if you wish to not have your photo taken at all, please indicate so on the consent form. At the start of the workshop I will give out name badges to all registered participants, highlighting those individuals that I don't have permission to include in my research photos with a different color badge. After the workshop I will go through the photographs, discarding/anonymising any pictures accordingly and finally check in with individuals whose consent I don't have prior to storing or using the images for the study. No audio or video recording will be taken. The online zoom workshop will be recorded, however only for note taking purposes.

Are there any potential benefits from taking part in this research?
The participants will get an opportunity to share their knowledge to help build local context for future scenarios and bring to attention the significance of their perspectives. This is an opportunity to share valuable lived local understanding with wider national and global scale audiences. The events will be an opportunity to co-produce further understanding on coastal margin ecosystems. The workshop will also be

an opportunity to co-produce further understanding on coastal margin ecosystems and impacts that climate change and sea-level rise is likely to have on the ecosystems on the front line.

The workshop, wananga and survey are also an opportunity to start contemplating what climate agency means, and either share the actions you are already taking or think about what empowering steps you can take to make a difference in your own backyard.

Are there any potential risks involved in this research?
Some questions may involve sensitive information about climate change and sea-level rise. This may cause some participants to become upset, distressed, or experience other emotions associated with social interaction, especially if you are sensitive to this type of content.

During workshops other potential conflicts may arise from community views on values, and similarly with differing views on cultural, political or organizational priorities or responsibilities.

If you become upset or distressed I can help you decide whether or not you wish to proceed, or, you may withdraw from the study without providing any reason. For any situations that may become too overwhelming I may also suggest you consider contacting one the support agencies listed below.

Important numbers and resources to find advice and support at a time of crisis or distress:

- Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor.
- Lifeline 0800 543 354 or (09) 522 2999 | Free text 4357 (HELP)
- Youthline 0800 376 633
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
- If you or someone you know is at risk of harm: dial 111 or visit your nearest hospital emergency department.
- Call 0800 611 116 for your nearest DHB Mental Health Crisis Team (CATT Team).
- Or visit Anxiety NZ - Welcome! Nau mai, haere mai! | Anxiety NZ for further advice

For mitigating sensitive topics, a summary workshop/wananga plan will be distributed in advance of the workshop that will allow you to familiarize with the content and decide on the suitability of the workshop or to elect to withdraw from the process. As a participant you also have the right to withdraw from the study at any stage should you wish to do so. To mediate conflicting community views the study will ensure the questions are impartial and foster inclusiveness (all values are valid and all local knowledge counts). For conflicting cultural, political or organizational views, the study will focus on positive long term community outcomes over current policy direction.

What if you change your mind during or after the study?
You are free to withdraw at any time. To do this, please feel free to leave the group at any point, or let the researcher/s know after the group has finished that you wish to withdraw. I will remove any information you have provided up to that point from the data set, if it is still possible. Please be aware that once identifying factors have been removed from the data to enable anonymous analysis, the withdrawing of specific entries will become complicated. Please also note that the nature of workshop discussions makes it difficult to remove data, or the influence of your contribution. However, every effort will be made to do so.

What will happen to the information you provide?
I will ask each workshop participant to agree not to share information about the group with people outside the workshops. If you are unable to agree to this, you will not be able to participate. All of the researchers will keep all participants' identities, and the information they provide during the workshop, confidential. Each participant will be allocated with a numbered code which will use used instead of names during data processing and analysis to protect identities.

To ensure your identity is not known to anyone outside the research team, I will store signed consent forms separately from the workshop and wananga transcript and notes. I will also store the file that links your real name and your code number individually on a password-protected, secure device.

All study data will be stored in password-protected files on the University of Canterbury computer network or stored in lockable cabinets in lockable offices.

All data will be destroyed 10 years after completion of the study/publication of study findings. I will be responsible for making sure that your data is only used by members of the research team for the purposes mentioned in this information sheet.

Sensitive information will be given due consideration and where necessary the participant can request further consultation on the use of the knowledge they have shared, and/or the omission of location information (or other identifying features) as per their request.

The ownership of knowledge, data and information shared by you as a participants during this study remains yours and you remain the rightful owners of the data.

Data sovereignty and cultural considerations

1. The researcher acknowledges that some participants operate within a Kaupapa Māori context and that cultural safety, tikanga, and te ao Māori perspectives are integral to the delivery of research.
2. The researcher must:
   i. Respect and uphold Māori data sovereignty principles, including but not limited to the rights of Māori to control the collection, access, use and storage of data relating to Māori individuals, communities, and taonga:
   ii. Ensure that all data collected, accessed, or created during the course of the research is stored and managed in a culturally appropriate and secure manner, preferably within Aotearoa New Zealand;
   iii. Consult with the participant prior to any data sharing, transfer, or publication, and obtain written approval before doing so;
   iv. Acknowledge the cultural and intellectual property rights of Māori in any outputs, reports, or material developed as part of the research.

How will the results of the study be published?

The results of this research will be published in a thesis. This thesis will be available to the general public through the UC library. Results may also be published in peer-reviewed, academic journals. Results may also be presented during conferences or seminars to wider professional, academic communities and to general members of the public. You will not be identifiable in any publication, and a data ownership statement will be shared on each occasion.

I will send a summary of the research to you at the end of the study along with links to published work. Please include your contact details in consent form.

Who can you contact if you have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about the research, please contact: Heli Wade heli.wade@pg.canterbury.ac.nz or Dr Shane Orchard shane.orchard@canterbury.ac.nz or if you have concerns please raise them with Dr Shane Orchard.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). If you have a complaint about this research, please contact the Chair of the HREC at human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz).

What happens next?
Please review the consent form and register to the workshop or wananga of your choosing, or fill in the online survey. If you would like to participate, please sign, scan/take a photo of, and return the consent form to heli.wade@pg.canterbury.ac.nz, deliver it by hand to the workshop or post it to:

Heli Wade C/O School of Biological Science
Level 2, Julius von Haast
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand

Ngā mihi,
Heli Wade

Researcher agreement form

The below section is to ensure a reciprocal research agreement is adhered to. I, Heli Wade, agree to abide to the below terms with regards to this study

☒ I have to the best of my ability given the participant background information so that they can give their informed consent to the study.

☒ I respect that participation is voluntary and any participant may withdraw at any time without consequences. On withdrawal of participation I will also withdraw any information provided by the participant should this remain possible.

☒ I respect that any information or opinions provided by the participant will be kept confidential to the researcher. I uphold that any published or reported results will not include identifying information on the participant.

☒ I will keep all data collected for this study in password protected electronic form and ensure its destruction after ten years.

☒ I have to the best of my knowledge informed the participants of the likely risks associated with the study and I have considered the management of those risks.

☒ I uphold that any quotes or input generated during the study and used in publication or summary results will be presented anonymously.

☒ I uphold that sensitive information will be given due consideration and where necessary the participant can request further consultation on the use of the knowledge they have shared, and/or the omission of location information (or other identifying features) as per their request.

☒ I will be available to contact for any questions by the participants during normal working hours.

☒ I will forward summary results to the participants, who have provided their contact details to do so, as soon as practical. Any delays in providing these will be communicated with participants.

☒ I agree to only use contact details provided by the participants for their intended cause.

☒ I acknowledge that the ownership of knowledge, data and information shared by you as a participants during this study remains yours and you remain the rightful owners of the data.

Data sovereignty and cultural considerations

☒ I acknowledge that some participants operate within a Kaupapa Māori context and that cultural safety, tikanga, and te ao Māori perspectives are integral to the delivery of research.

☒ I will respect and uphold Māori data sovereignty principles, including but not limited to the rights of Māori to control the collection, access, use and storage of data relating to Māori individuals, communities, and taonga:

☒ I will ensure that all data collected, accessed, or created during the course of the research is stored and managed in a culturally appropriate and secure manner, preferably within Aotearoa New Zealand;

☒ I will consult with the participant prior to any data sharing, transfer, or publication, and obtain written approval before doing so;

☒ I will acknowledge the cultural and intellectual property rights of Māori in any outputs, reports, or material developed as part of the research.

Name: Heli Wade Signature: __HW_____ Date:__05/06/2026_____