

Introducing Te Tarai Vaka



"We believe that transparent, responsive and accountable institutions are a vital part of what it takes to improve people's lives and implement a sustainable development agenda." Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, 24 September 2014

We are developing a new way of cultivating initiatives with our international development partners.

We are calling it **'Te Tarai Vaka'**, and it draws on the way in which we traditionally and meticulously approach the task of fashioning a new 'vaka'. Whatever the size of the 'vaka' and its eventual purpose, the way in which we approach the project had certain basic steps. It follows what we would today call a process.

To build a vaka back then and today too, we need to clearly understand what it is we want to end up with, what people and skills we need, and what resources are required, what has and has not worked in the past.

We need to manage the activity, checking all the way through, to make sure we end up with a seaworthy 'vaka'.

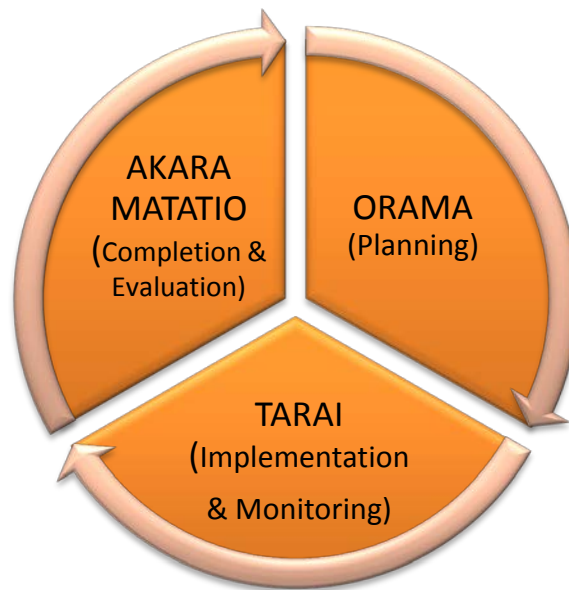
Our development partners have certain requirements they want us to meet when we access their development assistance, and in the past our approach has often been fragmented and ineffective.

Te Tarai Vaka is designed to streamline and overcome a haphazard approach, in a way that is culturally based and fosters learning the craft especially at the local level.

Te Tarai Vaka has three phases; we have talked extensively with our elders and leaders about terms and methods that have served us well through this process in the past.



The three phases are:



The new approach and template is expected to be used in Rarotonga but also in the Pa Enea across the government sector and can apply equally to civil society and the private sector.

Much of our international assistance these days comes from a pool of resources that our international development partners contribute to, from which worthy, carefully designed and managed projects can draw funding.

As an indication of how we have been changing our approach to this resource, last year – which was our best effort so far – we utilised just over 50% of the funding and assistance available; nearly half of the resources on offer were not taken up.

Our country has many development needs; and there are people who have funds and would like to support us.

But we need to demonstrate the robust process of fashioning the 'vaka'. That is why 'Te Tarai Vaka' has been introduced.

For all policies, guidelines and templates go to www.mfem.gov.ck/ams

