Kaupapa Māori multi-hazard risk assessment - PhD Scholarship

We invite applicants to apply for a New Zealand-based, fully funded PhD position in integrating Māori perspectives, values, and knowledge within multi-hazard risk assessment.

The successful candidate will have strong interests in hazard and risk assessment alongside an in-depth understanding of kaupapa Māori/mātauranga Māori approaches. Some experience with modelling and interpretation, using both quantitative and qualitative methods is desirable, as well as a willingness to fully engage in multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research. Co-design of the exact PhD research question(s) that fits within the scope and topic above is open to discussion. A key focus would be to design a kaupapa Māori approach and framework (e.g. values, descriptors, measures, tools) for understanding risk with application to multi-hazard modelling assessment.

Background:
The PhD will be part of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment funded work package “Multihazard and Risk models” (2019-24), within the Resilience to Nature’s Challenges National Science Challenge resiliencechallenge.nz. The PhD project will mainly involve working alongside researchers from Massey University, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, and GNS Science.

Kaupapa Māori multi-hazard risk assessment seeks to increase and support decision making that is relevant and responsive to Māori and enhances resilience to natural hazard risk across Aotearoa-New Zealand. This will be achieved by improved understanding of Māori perspectives, values, and knowledge of risks, hazards, and resilience. It will involve identification and documentation of Māori knowledge (e.g. mātauranga Māori), values, and perspectives to understand risk assessment across 4 main hazard areas: coastal, volcanic, seismic and weather/climate related. Improved understanding of a Te Ao Māori perspective will commence at a national level and then be used in a case-study, tested and refined to maximise uptake by Māori in modelling, decision making and planning.

The key focus will be on achieving positive outcomes for landscape and community resilience to meet Māori aspirations locally, regionally and nationally. There is flexibility to adjust the project scope and methodology according to the successful candidate’s interests, experience and expertise. The successful candidate will work alongside researchers and scientists in modelling, biophysical science, economics, social sciences and other disciplines to improve the way we provide information through risk-hazard modelling as a basis for sustainable planning of natural hazards, risk management, and improving resilience. The student will be supported by a leading team of Māori and science professionals.

Details:
The student would ideally be enrolled and based at Massey University (Palmerston North, New Zealand) and supervised by Stuart Mead (Massey University, Palmerston North) and Garth Harmsworth (Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Palmerston North). Other co-supervisors are likely to include Wendy Saunders (GNS science), Mark Bebbington (Massey University), and Acushla Sciascia (Massey University, Wellington). The scholarship will cover all tuition fees, all reasonable research costs (including travel to international conferences), and a stipend of NZ$25,000/year for three years.

If you are interested, please send a CV and short cover letter to Stuart Mead (s.mead@massey.ac.nz) and Garth Harmsworth (HarmsworthG@LandcareResearch.co.nz). There is no closing deadline, but we would ideally fill the position within the next three months.