



## Dr Ihirangi Heke

Dr Heke is of Māori descent and was raised in the mountain environments of New Zealand's South Island. Over the past 40 years Dr Heke has been a guide in Milford Sound's World Heritage Park, a mountain bike and ski guide in numerous alpine locations globally and more recently leading groups to experience traditional Māori environmental science. Dr Heke has post graduate degrees in Environmental Management and educational psychology including a PhD in population health. Dr Heke's current research focus has been on using Systems Dynamics to help Māori and other indigenous groups abroad, build their own health and wellness activities through traditional environmental knowledge. In this capacity, Dr Heke was recently awarded a research grant by Johns Hopkins University combining Systems Science and Maori Environmental Connections. Dr Heke also retains an honorary research fellow position to the University of Auckland's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr Heke's current role is with Google (San Francisco) X's diversity initiative. Dr Heke has also been developing VR180 Māori environmental experiences with a particular interest in high performance sport. More specifically his work has been looking at converting elite athletes into environmental champions by teaching them how to be environmentally centred rather than athlete centred in the ways that they train and evaluate elite performance.

### Key Research areas

- Ancestral Māori concepts of health obtained from the environment
- Production of an Indigenous ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) model
- Environmental connections between high performance sport, climate change and indigenous ways of knowing.

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