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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2025 session**

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Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: geographical
names as culture, heritage and identity****Special New Zealand presentation on Ngāi Tahu's online
cultural heritage atlas, Kā Huru Manu****Summary****

New Zealand reported on Kā Huru Manu,¹ the online mapping tool developed, owned, maintained and hosted by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu,² at the 2019 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.³ That report described the recognition by the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, the national naming authority of New Zealand, that Kā Huru Manu is an expert and thoroughly researched resource and therefore is considered authoritative.

This 2025 special presentation by Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, who represents Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a member of the Board, provides a more in-depth explanation of the online cultural heritage atlas, covering its origin, impact, purpose and delivery. In the presentation, the wider benefits that have emerged from recording and mapping authentic Ngāi Tahu stories and their geographical names onto a virtual landscape for future generations are explored.

* GEGN.2/2025/1.

** The special presentation was prepared by Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, member of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. The report and slides will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/66/CRP.66.

¹ Available at <https://kahurumanu.co.nz/atlas>.

² Ngāi Tahu is the Māori tribe/iwi occupying most of the South Island Te Waipounamu; Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu refers to the corporation established by Parliament to manage and develop the tribe.

³ See GEGN.2/2019/35/CRP.35, available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2019-new-york-ungegn-1st-session/documents/GEGN.2_2019_35_CRP.35_Report_of_New_Zealand_Ka_Huru_Manu_Atlas_Project_FINAL.pdf.

