

JOBS | MAHI
FOR NATURE | MŌ TE TAIAO



Mauri Oho - Ruahine Species Recovery Project Profile



Purpose of this review:

**To highlight the positive social,
environmental, and community benefits
of Mauri Oho - Ruahine Species Recovery
Project**





Project Summary

Mauri Oho is lead by mana-whenua with whānau and hapū to restore the wildlife of Ruahine to its former state through a landscape-scale trapping project, as well as through riparian recovery work in remote Ruahine and neighbouring farmland. It will provide full-time employment for ten people over three years.

Region	Hawke's Bay
Recipient	Manaaki Ruahine Trust
Start date	29/06/2021
End date	28/06/2024
Approved funding	\$ 2,506,000.00
Project intent	Capability Development, Ecosystem Restoration, Freshwater Restoration, Pest Control Animals, Pest Control Plants, Recreation Enhancement
Funder	Department of Conservation

Why is the project important for the region?

Mauri Oho is estimated to provide employment to 12 individuals over three years. This funding contributes to the broader goal of creating 60 jobs over three years across Hawke's Bay through various nature-based projects. This project was particularly important in the wake of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing much-needed employment opportunities to locals affected by job losses and economic downturns.

The project area contains more than ten sites designated as Ecological Protection Sites by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. By focusing on these critical areas, the Mauri Oho Project contributes to the long-term health and resilience of the region's ecosystems.¹

“Mauri Oho would not be possible without the funding from the the Mahi Mō Te Taiao (Jobs for Nature) Programme.”

- J4N project recipient

What difference is the project making to people?

The project not only offers employment opportunities but also plays a significant role in skill development reconnection to the taiao and mātauranga. Workers gain valuable experience in conservation techniques, use of technology in environmental monitoring, and project coordination, improving their future employability in these fields.

Community education

The project supports the team to undertake their role as kaitiaki (guardians). Mauri Oho engages with local schools, landowners, and communities to help instil a deeper connection with the environment and grow the capability of locals' conservation skills. This includes educational initiatives and direct involvement in conservation activities. The project's success in species recovery and habitat restoration has raised awareness and appreciation for local biodiversity, further strengthening community ties to the land.

By providing work-based training and engaging in practices that enhance both ecological and cultural health, the project builds the capacity of the local community to continue conservation efforts in the future.²

“We seek to create a future where we protect taonga species and to connect hapū and whānau.

Where we bring the last big wildness of Ngā Pae Ruahine, into te whenua, ngā awa and Mokai Patea, Heretaunga and Tamatea backyards.”

- J4N project recipient

How is the project contributing to the well-being of Māori?

The project is mana-whenua lead and is helping to reconnect the team with their land, stories and traditional knowledge systems. This cultural reconnection is facilitated through the incorporation of mātauranga Māori (Māori) and practices in the project mahi.

The project operates on land that holds great importance to mana-whenua, involving them directly in conservation efforts. This involvement reinforces the cultural connection of the community to the land and its indigenous species.

Impacts on the environment

Increased protection of our indigenous biodiversity

The Mauri Oho project is significantly contributing to biodiversity improvement in the Northern Ruahine Range. The project focuses on landscape-scale predator control, targeting rats and mustelids across 59,000 hectares that include public conservation land, Māori trust lands, and neighbouring farmland. This effort is crucial for protecting native species such as the whio (blue duck) and kiwi, which are significant to the region's ecological health.³

The project undertakes extensive riparian recovery efforts, including fencing and planting along waterways. Specific targets include installing 36,000 meters of fencing and planting 10,000 plants per year. These activities aim to improve water quality and establish native bush corridors, enhancing habitat connectivity and supporting the return of native wildlife.⁴

The trapping efforts have been notably successful, leading to the recovery of the

who population⁵ to the extent that some rivers are now at capacity with young birds.⁶

The collective benefits of removing pests such as possums, rats, and mustelids from the area are extensive, encompassing ecological, economic, and public health improvements.

The economic cost of invasive species in New Zealand is substantial, estimated at about \$170 million per year.⁷

Effective pest management strategies can reduce these costs significantly. By controlling pests, native forests can regenerate more effectively. This regeneration helps maintain ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water cycle regulation, and soil conservation.



Mauri Oho

Hononga taiao | [Huinga mauri-ora](#)
By connection with nature, all life is rejuvenated



References

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2. Mauri Oho. Project Outcomes.
3. Ruahine Whio Protectors. (2022). Ruahine Whio News # 11.
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All images courtesy of the project



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