



Update - 2017

PROJECT ISLAND SONG

Wildlife Sanctuary,

Bay of Islands

What is Project Island Song?

The islands of Ipipiri/eastern Bay of Islands are coming alive. Project Island Song is leading the restoration of this archipelago, returning native plants and animals for all to enjoy.

Who planned this?



Te Rawhiti Marae



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Project Island Song is a shared vision.

The Department of Conservation, in partnership with the Guardians of the Bay of Islands Inc., Patukeha and Ngati Kuta, resident hapu at Rawhiti.

The partnership is actively supported by the Bay's island land-owners, University of Auckland researchers, Bay of Islands tourism interests, NorthTec, and other interested parties such as the Northland Regional Council.

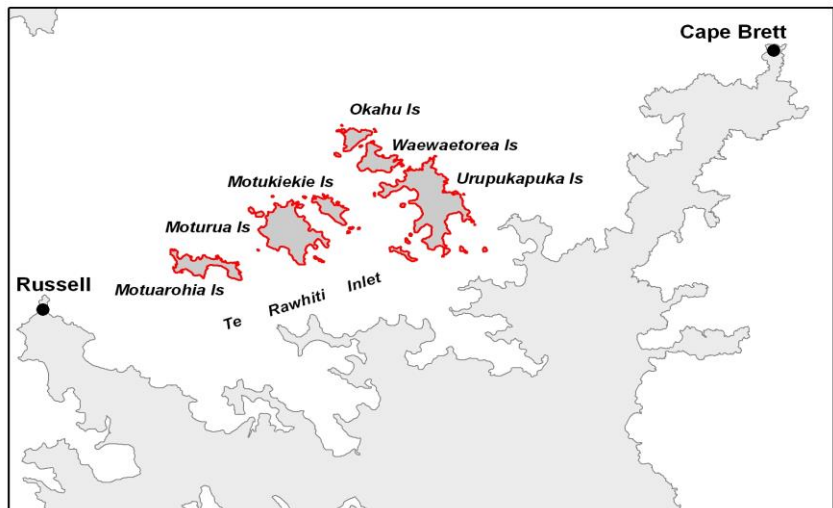
Why did this happen?

The islands are an iconic destination for New Zealand and international visitors. These scenic landscapes are rich in history and should be complemented by healthy island ecosystems. Previously, this was not possible because rats and stoats were eating everything from seeds, birds' eggs, chicks, and insects to lizards. The vision is an archipelago of islands rich in native plants and animals for all to enjoy. **The islands are already starting to recover and sing again.**

When and where?

The pest eradication took place in late June 2009.

All of the islands in the chain from Motuarohia (Robertson Island) eastwards, including Moturua, Motukiekie, Okahu, Waewaetorea, Urupukapuka, Poroporo, all their associated islets and the stepping-stone islets in the Rawhiti channel.



Which pests? Ship and Norway rats were across the whole island group. Kiore (Polynesian rat) were present on Moturua. Mice were not known to be present, but could have been in small densities. Stoats were also on the islands. All pests were eradicated in 2009.

What happens now? Preventing pests re-invading the islands is critical. A mainland pest control project, Te Tangi o Te Ata, stretching from Kaimarama Bay to Manawaora Bay, has been set up to help stop pests swimming back to the islands. Pests may also arrive with people visiting the islands and your help is needed to reduce the risks.

Restoration of the islands is part of a wider project involving reforestation of parts of the islands, track upgrades and archaeological interpretation.

Which species have returned so far? Tieke/North Island saddleback, toutouwai/North Island robin, popokotea/whitehead, kakariki/red-crowned parakeet have already been brought back to this wildlife sanctuary – helping the islands sing again.

What does the future hold? There are many more rare species that Project Island Song hopes to translocate in the future including: South Island takahē; titipounamu/rifleman, korimako/bellbird, pakaha/fluttering shearwater, Northland diving petrel, Northland green gecko, robust skink, tuatara, flax weevil, pupukharekeke/flax snail, Northland tusked weta and Cook's scurvy grass.

How can I help? **Stop! Check! Go! (and have fun!)**

- Check and clean all stores, equipment, daypacks and camping gear and keep them properly sealed before leaving for the islands. This will ensure they are free of rats, mice, Argentine ants and plague skinks.
- Keep your boat rodent-free. If you know you have a rat or mouse onboard, don't land on or tie up to the islands until you have got rid of it.
- Make sure your footwear is clear of weed seeds.
- If you see pests on the islands, e.g. rats, stoats, Argentine ants or plague skinks, take a photo then call DOC 09 407 0300 (office hours) or 0800 DOC HOT (after hours) or email pest@projectislandsong.co.nz.
- Get involved by joining the Guardians, email them at info@projectislandsong.co.nz; sending a donation to Guardians of the Bay of Islands Inc, PO Box 689, Kerikeri 0245; getting on the Guardians mailing list www.projectislandsong.co.nz and checking the project's progress at www.projectislandsong.co.nz