The Kiwi Recovery Plan 2018–2028 (the fourth recovery plan for kiwi) was developed collaboratively to set out the actions needed to achieve the goal of growing the current 70,000 kiwi in New Zealand to 100,000 by 2030.
Many organisations, groups and individuals are involved in kiwi recovery – it is New Zealand’s most successful species conservation partnership

Achievements include

- Doubling kiwi numbers in Coromandel over a 10-year period as a result of predator control.
- Growing Northland kiwi numbers significantly.
- Bringing the two rarest kiwi – rowi and Haast tokoeka – back from the brink of extinction.

BUT: Kiwi are still declining

At present, about 70,000 kiwi exist in New Zealand and they inhabit just a fraction of their former range

- Only a quarter of wild kiwi live in safe habitat protected by predator control.
- Kiwi are still declining nationally, as most populations are unprotected from predators.
- Of the five kiwi species, great spotted kiwi/roroa and Fiordland tokoeka (both living in the South Island) are declining the fastest.
Kiwi distribution

- Current kiwi distribution
- Pre-European kiwi distribution
- Land outside pre-European or current kiwi distribution

Photo: Neil Hutton
Predators are driving kiwi to extinction

Predation of chicks

Without predator control
only 5% of chicks survive to adulthood
Stoats are the main predator of young kiwi

Dogs

Feral, working or pets; big or small –
All dogs pose a significant threat to kiwi and can kill adult kiwi
The actions of a single dog over a short period can set back years of growth in a local kiwi population

Ferrets

Like dogs, ferrets kill adult kiwi
and can severely reduce kiwi populations
The solution: a plan involving all kiwi partners

The three previous Kiwi Recovery Plans have focussed on ex situ (captive) methods, and on conserving the most threatened species. The Kiwi Recovery Plan 2018–2028 signals a new phase of kiwi conservation. A wide range of partners will protect kiwi in the wild, aiming to increase kiwi numbers by at least 2% per year across all five species, resulting in 100,000 kiwi by 2030. This will be done by:

- Using intensive and extensive predator control
- Managing the threat of dogs through actions to increase responsible dog ownership
- Protecting the remaining genetic diversity of all kiwi species
- Supporting tangata whenua as kaitiaki and increasing their leadership in kiwi conservation
Growing and sustaining community-led kiwi conservation projects

Measuring what is happening with kiwi populations and the impacts of management

Improving predator control, kiwi surveys and monitoring through research and innovation

To increase kiwi numbers by at least 2% per year across all five species

Photo: Neil Hutton
For more information about kiwi:

- www.kiwisforkiwi.org
- www.doc.govt.nz

Full Kiwi Recovery Plan:

- www.doc.govt.nz/kiwirecoveryplan

Kiwi Recovery Plan reference: