

Predator Free 2050

AN AMBITIOUS GOAL
FOR AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

2019



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Contents

Work has accelerated	4
The challenge.....	8
Our engagement with Treaty partners.....	10
Our engagement with technical experts	12
Our engagement with New Zealanders	14
Top priorities raised by contributors	16

Cover: Juvenile tomtit calling for a feed near Lake Waikareiti. Photo: Dave Wills
Below: Tomtit. Photo: Dylan Higgison



Predator Free has made significant progress to date

In July 2016 the Government adopted a vision of achieving a predator free New Zealand by 2050. The goal is defined as the eradication of mustelids, rats and possums.



Our work has accelerated through...

The work of Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) has accelerated in three key areas.

1. An increased investment in New Zealand conservation

- In 2018, \$81.28 million was allocated over 4 years to suppressing predators in priority ecosystems, protecting and increasing biodiversity on offshore islands, and developing more effective and efficient predator control methods.
- Five large landscape-scale projects have been initiated by Predator Free 2050 Ltd, committing \$25.4 million of government funding and leveraging co-funding at a rate of 3:1.
- \$19.5 million has been allocated to predator control in targeted regions through the Provincial Growth Fund.
- Over \$150 million per year has been invested in predator management and research across multiple agencies, which we are aligning through a collaborative structure to achieve better results.

2. A larger scale of conservation

- Tiakina Ngā Manu (formerly Battle for our Birds) has increased DOC's annual predator control efforts from an average of approximately 200,000 ha to 1m ha.
- 117 New Zealand islands are now pest free with local expertise in island eradications regularly being sought internationally.
- \$2 million of government funds have been allocated to complete planning towards making the 46,000-ha Auckland Island predator free (including field trials). This work will complete the removal of pests from all New Zealand's subantarctic islands.
- Thirteen collaborative landscape-scale partnership projects are now under way.

'Natural assets are at the heart of our regions and their local economies. This investment will further protect this important resource and support regional growth.'

Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation
May 2019

Kākā landing in pōhutukawa tree on Kapiti Island.
Photo: Leon Berard



Our work has accelerated through...

3. A greater focus on science, innovation and research

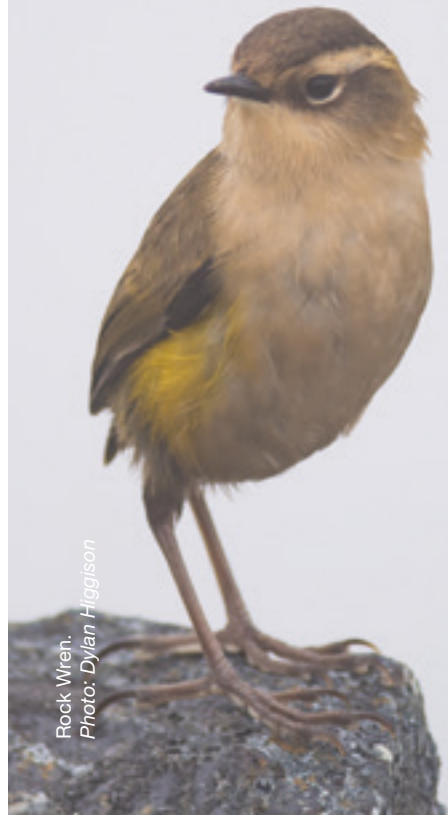
- \$1.5 million will be an ongoing investment every year in developing new tools to achieve PF2050 through the Tools to Market Programme. The first product (a new long-life rat lure) will be available at the end of this year.
- Predator Free 2050 Ltd has developed a research strategy and invested \$1 million per annum to develop a science solution for eradicating at least one small mammalian predator from the mainland by 2025.
- MBIE's Endeavour Fund is providing funding for Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research's large-scale programme 'More birds in the bush', which is aimed at forecasting and managing invasive predators in forest systems.
- The Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) is funding several initiatives, eg scoping alternatives to 1080.
- Approximately \$3.6 million of research grants are supporting OSPRI's management of wildlife vectors of bovine tuberculosis.
- Biological Heritage National Science Challenge has already invested over \$1.5 million into PF research and continues to be a strong partner to the PF2050 programme through its Tranche 2 work.

‘There is only one number we are interested in (in predator control), and that is zero.’

Al Bramley

CEO of Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP)

- Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research is investing significant time and resources into research that will support a number of PF2050 initiatives, including \$0.7 million of SSIF allocation, \$0.43 million of partner co-funding and \$0.1 million of contracted research from Predator Free 2050 Ltd this financial year.
- Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) is focusing on using ‘Remove and Defend’ techniques with 1080 to achieve eradication in the Perth valley.
- DOC received \$13 million over 4 years in Budget 18 to amplify its science towards PF2050, including an increased emphasis on social science.



Rock Wren.
Photo: Dylan Higginson

The challenge

The challenge is to develop a national strategy that reflects the vision of all New Zealanders, creates a pathway towards PF2050 and allows everyone involved to use a common approach.

What we did

- Co-designed and undertook a process to engage iwi on biodiversity programmes including development of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity and a strategic plan for Predator Free 2050.
- Held focus group workshops across the country to provide strategic direction and subject matter expertise in the development of a strategy. Groups involved in these workshops included scientists, iwi, Predator Free 2050 Ltd, the Predator Free Trust, conservation non-government organisations (NGOs), Ngā Whenua Rāhui, business representatives and DOC staff.
- Produced a discussion guide capturing what we had heard from iwi and a range of subject matter experts.
- Published the discussion guide online and provided all New Zealanders with the opportunity to contribute and have their say via an online survey or email.
- Developed a 4-year action plan detailing DOC's contribution (as lead agency) to PF2050, including all of the major predator free programmes and activities (eg Tools to Market, Maukahuka Auckland Island Eradication Project, Tiakina Ngā Manu).

- Instigated a programme of work to support regional planning towards PF2050.
- Kicked off a collaborative inter-agency approach to bring together national agencies that are contributing to PF2050 science, community engagement, data collection and monitoring, and landscape-scale predator control projects.

**‘25 million
native birds are killed
by predators like
possums, stoats
and rats each year.’**

John Innes
Landcare Research

Saddleback/tiēke on Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island.
Photo: Leon Berard

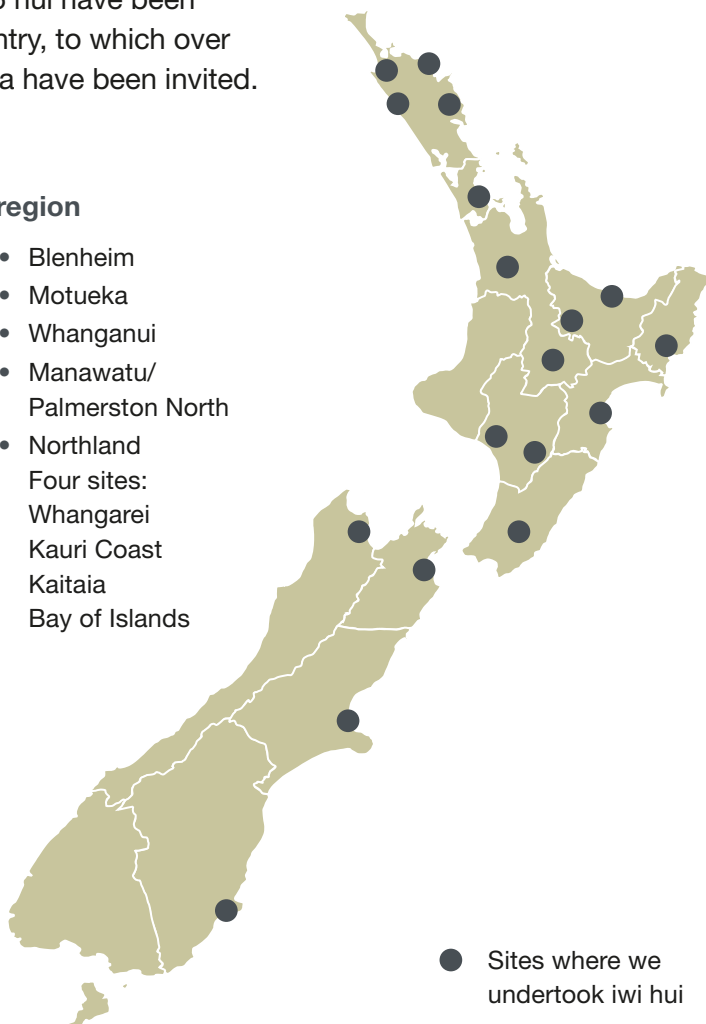


Our engagement with Treaty partners

The PF2050 team has approached Treaty partners in all regions of New Zealand and has engaged in discussions about the aspirations of their iwi/hapū/whānau around PF2050. A total of 15 hui have been held around the country, to which over 100 iwi/hapū/rūnanga have been invited.

Iwi engagement by region

- Auckland
- Whakatane
- Napier
- Lyttelton/
Christchurch
- Dunedin
- Rotorua
- Taupo
- Waikato/
Hamilton
- Gisborne
- Wairarapa/
Masterton
- Blenheim
- Motueka
- Whanganui
- Manawatu/
Palmerston North
- Northland
Four sites:
Whangarei
Kauri Coast
Kaitiaia
Bay of Islands



What we heard

- How we get to the PF2050 outcome is just as important as getting there. This is a valuable opportunity to enable and foster local kaitiakitanga and to grow iwi capability and capacity.
- Developing the approach to achieve PF2050 is an urgent priority and needs to be holistic, considering environmental, health, economic and social wellbeing.
- Iwi/hapū/whānau are natural leaders in PF2050, but iwi capability to do work is limited. Therefore, resourcing to build the capability and capacity of local people is needed.
- Wānanga (tribal knowledge) and learning about outcomes can help drive engagement and action. An intergenerational lens is needed, with youth-focused initiatives promoting awareness and long-term engagement, leading to employment.
- More space is needed to practise rongoā (traditional medicine) and to foster a revitalised relationship with the ngahere (forest).
- Local, humane methods for achieving PF2050 should be co-created not imposed. Each whānau /hapū will have a different perspective on kaitiakitanga.
- There are silos at a local level between agencies that need to be removed. Not all councils are recognising Māori as affected parties in decision making.



A twin-hulled waka is an effective analogy for how mātauranga and Western science could come together. It is not about one engulfing the other – both are equally needed. Since mātauranga Māori is local (particular to the rohe), every whānau/hapū/iwi will have a different view or understanding of what it is and what is important.

Our engagement with technical experts

We engaged with local government authorities, science agencies, government ministries, NGOs and conservation authorities.

What we heard

- It is important that all agencies and leaders in the PF2050 space are coordinated and have clear and well understood roles and accountabilities (both shared and individual).
- There is a need for coordination and alignment between central government, local government and community-driven legislation, strategies, policies and plans that support conservation, biosecurity and biodiversity work.
- Market-based commercial solutions should be supported and incentivised to advance towards PF2050, as communities may benefit from this.
- Outcomes monitoring should include social, cultural and environmental measures, as all of these are essential for building public support for PF2050 – this initiative is about more than just what we kill.
- Investment in the most humane control methods should be prioritised for the welfare of both target and non-target animals, and animal welfare considerations should be included in PF2050.
- The role of 1080 needs to be acknowledged, with better education and engagement about its use, while focusing on developing innovative pest control solutions.
- Māori tikanga and science must be acknowledged and respected. Iwi are genuine partners in the PF2050 work.
- Locally led/owned regional plans are vital to supporting the national strategy and should include the current state of community readiness, effort and capacity, biodiversity status and priorities, specific risks (eg species loss, biosecurity), and potential benefits. These should have appropriate integrated and central government support.

- An economic case for PF2050 will help drive action and investment, particularly when linked to cultural wellbeing and primary industry economic benefits.
- Data monitoring and reporting must be independent, relevant and transparent. Outcomes, outputs and key indicators (plus reporting standards) need to be aligned across all levels of government and community efforts.

‘The “how” we choose to get to Predator Free, is just as important as arriving at that destination. One pathway will strongly engage our treaty partners and communities, the other will not.’

Brent Beaven
April 2019

A who pair.
Photo: Matt Binns



Our engagement with New Zealanders

Overall response to the PF2050 discussion guide



161,663 people reached
through social media



4,300 comments/engagements



2,258 views
by users



742
survey responses

What we heard

- A national-scale education/engagement campaign is needed to increase the 'national consciousness' of this issue. Focus should be placed on the younger generation's understanding and involvement.
- Māori training and long-term employment outcomes need to be included. Both Māori and Pākehā should be educated about mātauranga.
- The method(s) we use to achieve PF2050 are important – we need to work from the principles of respect and empathy because there is general opposition to the use of toxins and genetic engineering.
- There is a need to respect diverse values and approaches rather than 'embrace' these, as some will not be embraced.
- There is concern about how local action can be led by communities in less populated areas. Good incentives and relationship building are required, particularly with farmers.

- A coordinated approach is important, with the alignment of regional and national plans.
- There is a need for transparency and an unbiased approach to science/technology/development work and data management so that everyone can understand the decisions that are made.
- Goals need to be more aspirational and less management focused – ‘less management and more action’.
- Roles and accountabilities must be well defined and decisions must be based on specific measures and re-evaluated often.
- This goal belongs to everyone and should not sit with a single entity or culture – ensure inclusivity.

‘A national-scale education/engagement campaign is needed to increase the ‘national consciousness’ of this issue. Focus should be placed on the younger generation’s understanding and involvement.’

Volunteers planting at Te Atatu.
Photo: Sustainable Coastlines



Top priorities raised by contributors



Building capability



Generating employment



Developing integrated
regional plans



Enabling local ownership
and resourcing



Encouraging participation
by young people



Connecting to the bigger
biodiversity picture



Being collaborative, coordinated and
inclusive by design – both nationally
and regionally



Focusing on innovation
and new tools

Published by:
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420,
Wellington 6143

April 2019

Editing and design:
DOC Creative Services,
Conservation House, Wellington

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.