

An overview of investment by the Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai (DOC)

Jobs for Nature (JFN) was a \$1.2 billion programme set up in response to COVID-19 to create both nature-based employment opportunities and enduring environmental benefits. It ran from July 2020 to June 2025 and was administered by five government agencies.¹

The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) allocated \$485.3 million over 225 projects across Aotearoa New Zealand. It is estimated that these projects will collectively return more than \$1.97 billion in environmental, social and economic benefits over 30 years.²

These two examples show how projects achieved multiple objectives:



Bella Hawkins and Jada-Shay Pomana of Maraetaha Incorporated during the Waingake planting ceremony. Photo: Gisborne District Council

Waingake Ngāhere Ora –
We achieve multiple benefits by
working together

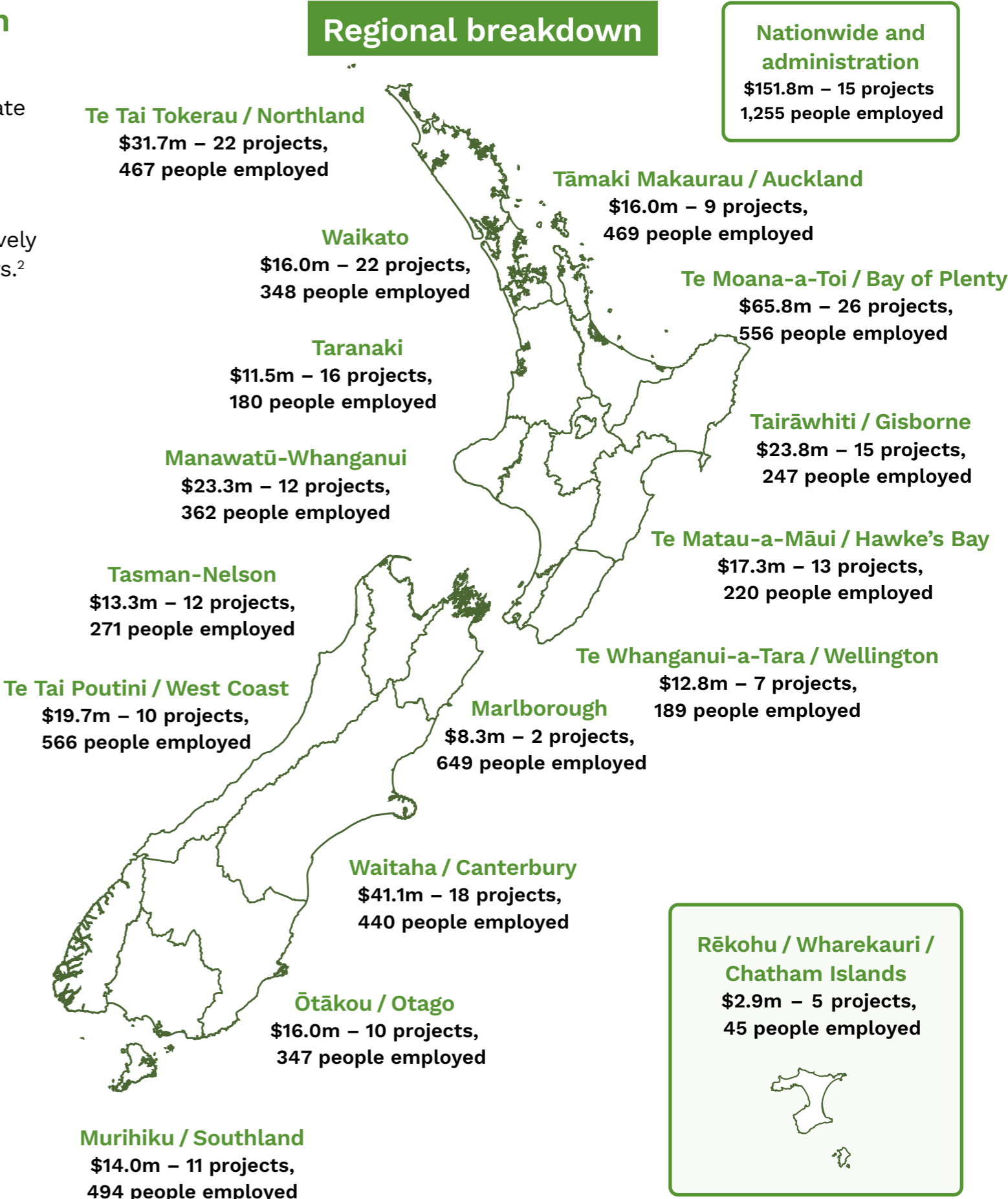
Gisborne District Council and Maraetaha Incorporated, supported by te iwi o Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, are working together to protect the drinking water supply and restore indigenous ecosystems in Tairāwhiti. Their mahi is helping to reduce erosion and sediment, improve water quality, and restore the mauri of lowland forest habitat for taonga species. The project has created enduring employment and education opportunities, encouraging career pathways in the sector.



Arowhenua Native Nursery. Photo: DOC

Arowhenua Native Nursery –
Supercharging from nursery
startup to commercial business

Funding helped Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua to establish a new nursery that provided over 500,000 eco-sourced plants for local restoration projects, including the priority catchment Rakitata Awa. The nursery outgrew its location and is now well on its way to becoming a commercial business. The project focused on developing its people by providing a range of training and development opportunities and employment.





Planting as part of the JFN Orange-fronted Kakariki Program Support with Pest Management project. Photo: DOC



Upgrading a track as part of the JFN Kauri Protection and Restoration project. Photo: DOC

Investment was allocated across 13 programmes, in three funding streams:



Kaimahi for Nature (\$196.7m)

Focused on impacted communities:

- Quick-start projects (\$13.5m)
- National initiatives (\$8.4m)
- Regional allocation (\$174.8m)



Restoring Nature (\$122.5m)

Focused on biodiversity restoration:

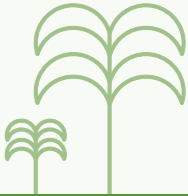
- Quick-start projects (\$7.2m)
- Ngā Awa priority freshwater projects (\$42.9m)
- Threatened species (\$5.1m)
- Community fund (\$15.9m)
- Private landowners fund (\$17.7m)
- Māori landowners fund (\$25.7m)
- QEII covenanting (\$8.0m)



Protecting Nature (\$147.4m)

Focused on pest and predator control:

- Predator Free 2050 Limited (\$76.0m)
- Preventing indigenous forest collapse (\$53.7m)
- Community and iwi-led predator control (\$17.7m)



Funding was used to achieve a wide range of objectives, including:

→ **local and large-scale pest control** (animals and plants) to improve biodiversity

→ more protection for **threatened species** such as kākārīki karaka / orange-fronted parakeet, hoiho / yellow-eyed penguin, kauri and ngutu-kākā / kākābeak

→ **improved freshwater catchments**, wetlands and ecosystems

→ **increased capability and capacity** of a skilled conservation workforce

→ **more conservation leaders**, increasing engagement and active participation

→ improved **cultural, heritage and recreational sites**

→ **long-term protection** through QEII covenants and Ngā Whenua Rāhui kaweneta.

See also the Jobs for Nature 'Benefits', 'Lessons learned' and 'Sustaining the gains' summaries. Data as at June 2025.

Notes:

- 1 The JFN agencies are DOC, the Ministry for the Environment Manatū Mō Te Taiao, the Ministry for Primary Industries Manatū Ahu Matua, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Hikina Whakatutuki.
- 2 Webber J, Steen-Jones C. 2024. Jobs for Nature impact assessment. Prepared for the Jobs for Nature Secretariat. Wellington: MartinJenkins. www.jobsfornature.govt.nz/assets/Publications/Final-report-2024-Q4-J4N-impact-results-2024.pdf

