



Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

Annual Impact Report 2024



Mihimihi

Tērā ia a Ranginui e tū iho nei, ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei, ko ā rāua tamariki maha e noho kōpapa ana ki waenganui, rātou ngā whakatīnanatanga o tō tātou ao hurihuri nei, e mihi ana!

E ngā mate o te tau, haere ki a Pōhutukawa, ki te rua o Matariki ki reira okioki atu rā. Hoki mai rā ki a tātou te kanohi o rātou mā, mauri tū, mauri ora!

Ki ngā kaitiaki toa o tō tātou rohe o Te Taihū o Te Waka ki o Te Tai Poutini, o te raki o Kawatiri, koutou e poipoi nei i tō tātou taiao hei oranga mō ngā uri whakaheke, e mihi ana. Mokori anō kia rere ngā mihi ki a koutou e te hunga i whakapeto ngoi ki te whakakao mai i ngā whakaaro, i ngā kōrero ki te rīpoata taiao nei hei painga mō te katoa.

“Ko Te Taihū o Te Waka o Te Tai Poutini, o te raki o Kawatiri, he whenua taurikura, he rite ki te ao nō tua whakarere. Kua hau tōna rongō i te tapu, i te huhua o te taiao nei. He kainga motuhake a Te Taihū mō ngā momo e hia rau nei e kore e kitea i wāhi kē.”

Tēnā koutou katoa.

There is Ranginui standing aloft, and Papatūānuku who is lying below, and their many children who are stuck between them, they are the manifestation of our evolving world, we must give thanks.

To those who have passed within the year, go to Pōhutukawa, to the company of the cavern Matariki. Let the deceased stay with the spirits, and we are the living faces of our loved ones who have passed on, let us stand together in life and wellness!

To the guardians of the top of the South Island to Kawatiri, northern Buller, those that nurture the environment so that it is prosperous for future generations, we give thanks.

Acknowledgements are also given to those who worked so hard collating information for this environmental report, that will not only benefit us, but will be an asset for the days to come.

“The top of the South Island to Kawatiri, northern Buller, is the most environmentally diverse and ancient part of New Zealand. It is home to hundreds of species found nowhere else in the world and these form unique natural communities.”

Acknowledgements to all.

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With many thanks to contributing photographer Ruth Bollongino/Fern Photos for the left and right front cover images and those on pages: 2, 6, 10, 12–13, 18, 25, 36, 38, 50, 58, 66–69 | www.fernphotos.com

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance works across 3.4 million hectares of land and sea in the top of the South Island, championing a collaborative approach to caring for our natural environment.

Our Vision

Our extraordinary natural heritage is flourishing, having been restored over large areas, including where people live. People live in, care for and benefit from the environment in ways that bolster natural ecology and the communities that live within them.

Our Mission

To create a connected and aligned region that understands, protects, enhances and future-proofs the values of nature critical to the Te Taihu/Top of the South and Buller/Kawatiri, and this flourishing nature in turn enriches its communities.

Our Pathway Plan

This Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan defines the pathway we will take to achieve our Mission and Vision, and has four main work themes:

Helping our native species thrive

Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems

Restoring marine ecosystems

Te Kāhui Tangaroa – iwi-led projects

Our Values

Manaakitanga – To care for each other, to be respectful, and an act of reciprocity of natural resources to be shared with others.

Kaitiakitanga – Provision of active utilisation, preservation, conservation, maintenance, and management of the environs (including flora, fauna, aquatic and marine).

Mātauranga Māori – Acceptance and acknowledgment of Māori epistemologies within the construction of key concepts and projects.

Kotahitanga – Unity of purpose and collective agreement for achievement of outcomes and goals.

Rangatiratanga – The chiefly right to determine use and management of the natural environment.

Mauri – The principal life force of our environs is protected, including their tapu and wairua.

Arohatia – Duty of care and responsibility to this kaupapa, each other and iwi.

Co-Chairs' Report

2024 has been a landmark year for KMTT's partners and projects. With the support of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the backing of the Rātā Foundation and contributions of many individuals and groups, we developed and published the Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) which clearly identifies where we need to focus our work in the years ahead to transform the future for nature and people in Kawatiri/Buller and Te Taihu/Top of the South.

The SIPP articulates a clear way forward, focusing on the foundations for success, the empowerment of communities, on-the-ground restoration work – both existing and new – and reaching beyond current barriers and constraints to make a real difference. At its heart are bold proposed projects for grappling with invasive species, restoring and improving the natural ecosystems and climate resilience of our lowland environments, and working together for better outcomes for our estuaries, our sounds, and our seas.

TNC's work on sustainable financing for environmental restoration has created a shift in perspective from being seen as a considerable cost to a beneficial investment. With strategic backing, we can start to address problems such as wilding conifer seed sources, which feed the encroachment of this devastating problem across our landscape and habitats.

As part of the need to ensure the foundations for success are in place, KMTT has undertaken a strategic review of how it can effectively govern across such a large programme. This will help us identify: Where the accountability for the KMTT vision, strategy and Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) sits, and through what means that governance/oversight is best enabled now and in the future.

This governance design work will continue into the first half of 2025, under the guidance of co-chairs Hemi Sundgren and Martin Rodd with support of the governance panel and Alex Hannant, serving Director on the Board for B Lab Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The greatest opportunity for KMTT is in connecting restoration work, knowledge and expertise, and attracting investment into the collective outcomes we seek to achieve. DOC is investing in invasive species control in Northwest Nelson to protect our highly endemic plants (plant species found nowhere else on the planet). TNC is specialising in the restoration of lowland ecosystems that play a vital role in biodiversity recovery and resilience to climate change, and we look forward to further discussion to shape the marine focus, with potential interest expressed from global entities.

Thanks so much to those who continue to drive this work, and to our generous donors and supporters who continue to provide funding and resources.

Co-Chairs

Martin Rodd and Hemi Sundgren



Martin Rodd



Hemi Sundgren

Programme Manager's Report

Tēnā koutou katoa

As I reflect on a whirlwind 2024, I'm reminded again what a privilege it is to lead the programme implementation of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

2023 was the year of deciding where to put our efforts for transformation at a grand scale, and 2024 has been the year of decisive action. Standing on the shoulders of giants: the KMTT partners, the existing Strategy-Aligned Projects, The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC), and the many collaborators, supporters and knowledge holders across our rohe, we can now celebrate a year of challenge and achievement.

Although the conclusion of the Jobs for Nature work programme has been difficult for our existing projects, which continue the hard work to fund ongoing restorative activities from the mountains to the sea, it is also a time of celebration as a number have reached some incredible milestones, delivering real change for our natural environment and the communities within.

Notably, the Restoring and Protecting Flora Project, a collaboration of KMTT partners facilitated by TNC, has proven we can work at scale. Completed this year, the project has achieved remarkable outcomes for te taiao. Its evolution into the next phase will take on the challenge to protect, regenerate and restore 15% of our threatened ecosystems in our lowland environments identified in our Strategic Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP).

The delivery of our SIPP this year, following many hours of workshops and engagement with multiple parties, made possible by the generous contribution of the Rātā Foundation, has provided the roadmap for the way ahead.

Control of invasive predators, browsers and plants, restoring lowland ecosystems and restoring our marine environment have emerged as the three key outcomes that will lead to landscape-scale transformation. The work already in hand across the region puts us in a great position to embark on the road to this transformation.

In this report, you'll read about the valuable work being carried out and planned across the region to restore and protect our species and ecosystems. Invasive species are the focus of projects like the DOC-led initiative to control the impacts of browsers on important plants across Northwest Nelson, and wasp control using the latest science and technology to introduce biocontrol agents that could provide a viable solution to this multi-million-dollar problem.

Projects like Picton Dawn Chorus, Pest Free Onetahua and Project Janszoon are helping our native species thrive. Our lowland landscapes are being restored by the likes of the Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, Te Hoiere and Restoring and Protecting Flora. We're in the early days of marine restoration through research projects like the Whangamoa ki Horoirangi multibeam mapping project, Te Taihu Kūtai Restoration Project, and sediment research in Tasman Bay.

Te Kāhui Tangaroa is shaping up to be a catalyst for iwi leadership and iwi-led projects across the rohe.

We're grateful for the effort and commitment of those who have worked in this space for so long. We hope that now, with a solid plan and a strategic focus, alongside the opportunities that exist for community empowerment, investment and sustainable financing, we can follow this pathway together towards landscape visions that are truly ki uta ki tai.

Debs Martin
Programme Manager
Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance



Our Partners

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) is a collaboration of 17 iwi, council and government partners, supported by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) to recover and whakamana (empower) the mauri (spirit) of the land, waters and people across 3.4 million hectares of land and sea in Te Taihū/Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, and Kawatiri/Buller.

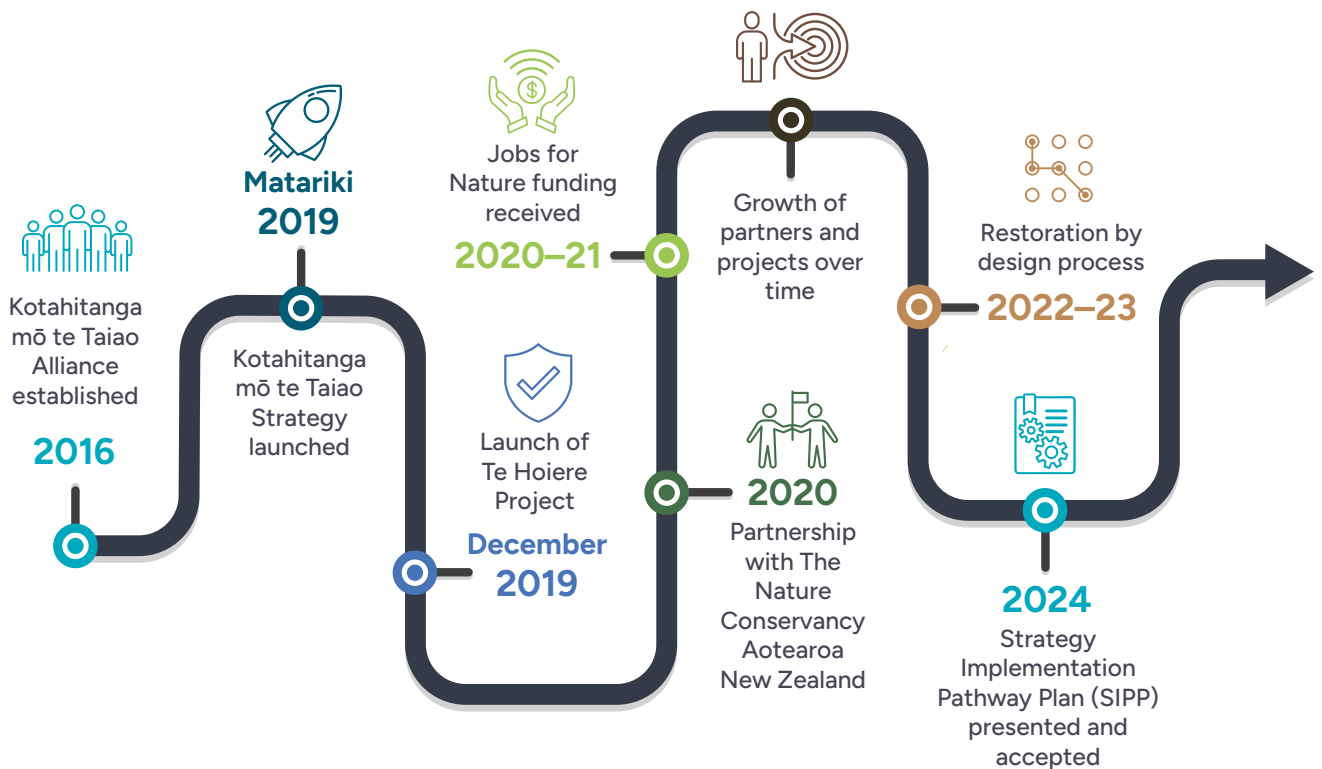
In 2019, KMTT delivered the KMTT Strategy – a vision for the region's response to the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate breakdown. KMTT recognises the many conservation and restoration projects in this region that are aligned to this strategy, and which will be amplified by this plan.



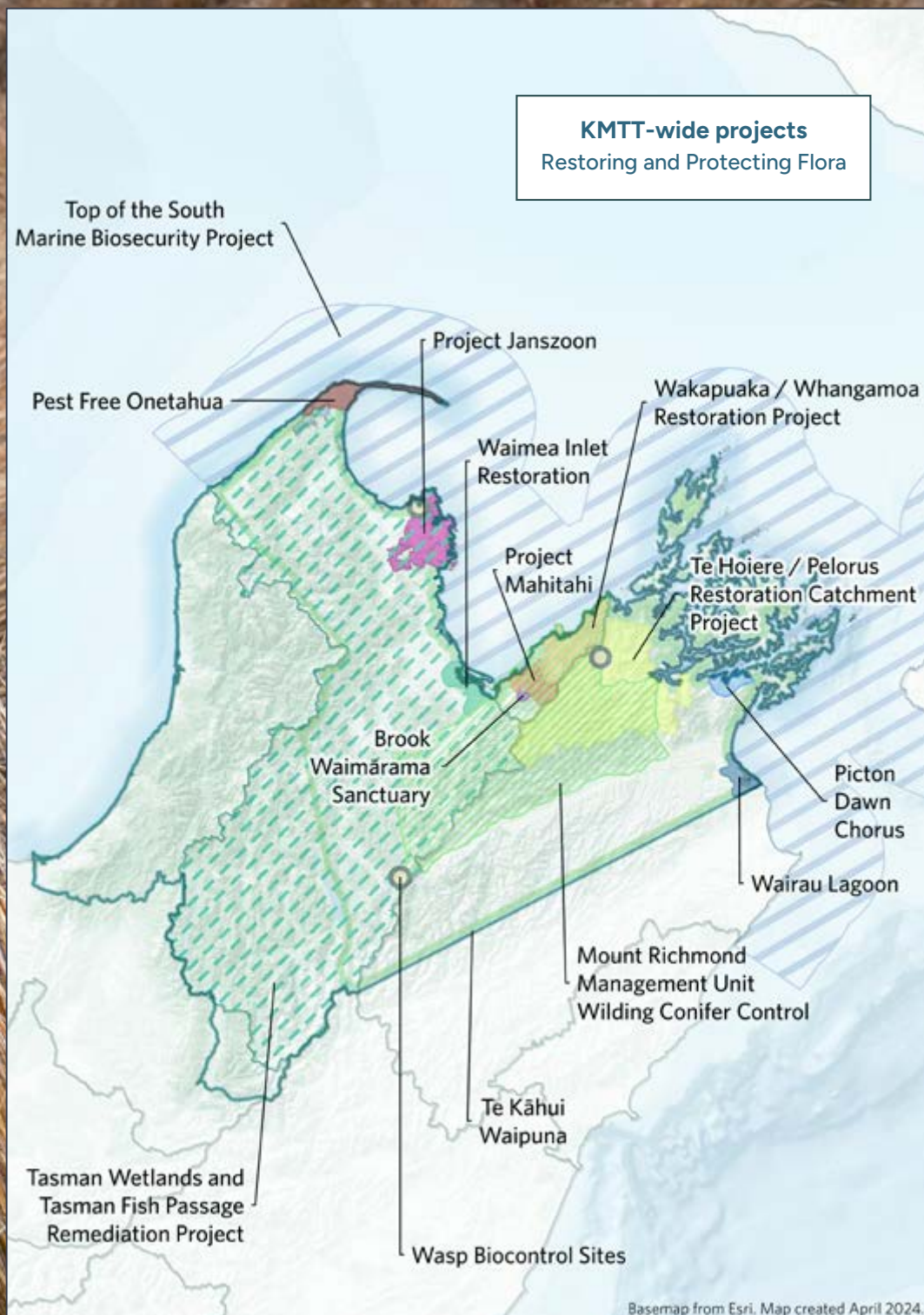
In collaboration with
The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand



Timeline



KMTT Strategy-Aligned Projects



2024 Highlights

Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan published



New Strategy-Aligned Projects recognised this year

- » Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Forum
- » Project Janszoon
- » East Mohua Trapping Group
- » Recloaking Papatūānuku Fibre Arts Project

Jobs for Nature Projects completed

- » Restoring and Protecting Flora
- » Wakapuaka Whangamoa



New Partnership Projects launched

- » Restoring Lowlands
(in partnership with The Nature Conservancy)
- » Northwest Nelson Ungulate
Management
(in partnership with the
Department of Conservation)
- » Marine Restoration
(with multiple partners)



Events

- » Hoverfly release for wasp biocontrol – TNC NZ
- » Te Hoiere Nursery opened – Ngāti Kuia
- » Tuatara release at Brook Waimārama Sanctuary – Ngāti Koata, DOC, BWST
- » Last kākā and whio released into Abel Tasman National Park – Project Janszoon
- » Homalco visit – TNC NZ and KMTT iwi partners



The Strategic Implementation Pathway Plan

A Pathway Forward

The KMTT Strategy articulates KMTT's vision, mission and values for environmental restoration across the top of the South Island: Te Taihū and Kawatiri/Buller.

This year, we published the Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP) which outlines how KMTT will collaborate and prioritise its work to achieve the outcomes and place-specific goals identified in the Strategy:

- » **Native species, including those found nowhere else, are thriving.**
- » **Naturally functioning ecosystems are protected, restored and enhanced.**
- » **Wilderness is sustained.**
- » **People flourish in harmony with nature.**
- » **Ecological connection and resilience are protected, restored and enhanced.**

Drawing from the KMTT Strategy, existing projects and expertise from across the region, the SIPP has identified the key actions to be taken that are region-wide and would be both transformative and long-lasting. It aims to amplify and support existing efforts, mobilise the resources and community needed to achieve the desired outcomes, and look to foundational ways of working to help initiate, implement and sustain the outcomes we need.

The SIPP will allow us to build on the gains made so far and create new projects to accelerate us towards our shared vision.



Helping our native species thrive

Tackle predators and problem ungulates in Northwest Nelson
 Integrate ungulate control across the region
 Maintain and expand wilding conifer control
 Create a Predator Free KMTT



Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems

Increase healthy native vegetation cover to 15%

- Connect remnants via biodiversity corridors
- Restore riparian and coastal margins
- Improve climate resilience
- Control problem pests and weeds



Te Kāhui Tangaroa
 Iwi-led projects across
 Te Taihū and Kawatiri



Restoring marine ecosystems

Restore healthy shellfish populations
 Reduce sediment
 Create blue economy opportunities:

- Blue carbon
- Sustainable fisheries
- Regenerative aquaculture

Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu

Ki uta ki tai
 Protecting and restoring



Kotahitanga – Working together

- » Build strong, diverse restoration communities
- » Connect people and nature
- » Amplify existing projects
- » Grow impact investment
- » Work across sectors



Whakahau

Empowering action



People in
 Te Taiao
 Engagement
 Framework



Financing
 & resourcing
 strategy



Build iwi
 capacity &
 capability



Collaboration
 & training



Community
 hubs



Research
 hubs



Tell our
 stories



Tūāpapa

Getting the system right



Governance
 & operations



Iwi leadership



Strategy integration



Climate resilience



Sustainable finance

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan

Our Impact – 2024

In this report, we provide outcomes for KMTT Strategy-Aligned and KMTT-led projects active in 2024 within the framework of the SIPP. Many of these projects fall within Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu (protecting and restoring - ki uta ki tai, from the mountains to the sea). Foundational work is also occurring within Tūāpapa (getting the system right) and Whakahau (empowering people).



Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu

Ki uta ki tai – Protecting and Restoring

Reducing the impact of invasive species, restoring and connecting fragmented landscapes, restoring our marine ecosystems and supporting iwi-led projects so that we can thrive in harmony with nature.

The SIPP identifies these workstreams within this Pou:

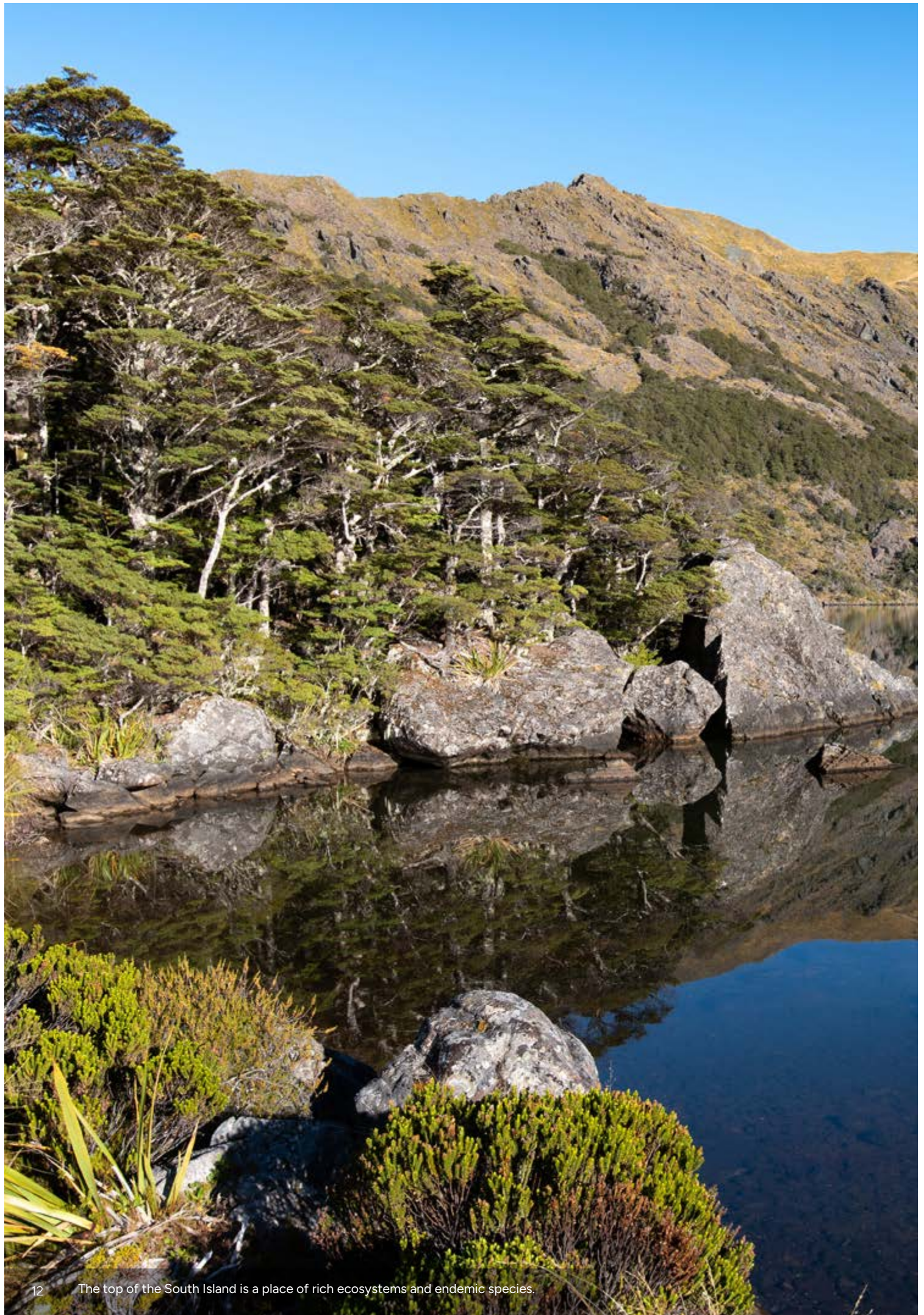
- » Helping our native species thrive
- » Restoring lowlands and connecting ecosystems
- » Restoring marine ecosystems
- » Te Kāhui Tangaroa (iwi leadership across restoration projects).

We also acknowledge the projects completed before the start of this year:

- » Kaimahi for Nature (Whenua Iti)
- » Project Moturoa (NMIT Trainee Rangers)

And those acknowledged as Strategy-Aligned Projects towards the end of the year:

- » East Mohua Trapping Collective
- » Recloaking Papatūānuku Fibre Arts project (short term arts engagement project)



Helping Our Native Species Thrive

These projects are working to reduce the pressure of introduced species (wilding conifers, problem browsers and predatory mammals) on our rich and biodiverse region so that our birds, lizards, insects and bats, and their habitats and ecosystems, are thriving.





Brook Waimārama Sanctuary

Established in 2004, the 690ha Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is a community-based project operated by a charitable trust, supported by 13 paid staff and 350+ volunteers.

Mistletoe reintroduction – From mid March to early July this year, the weeds team collected and set *Peraxilla colensoi*, scarlet mistletoe, seeds into the beech forest in the Sanctuary. Many are now well-established seedlings, so we are well on our way to securing scarlet mistletoe within the Sanctuary, where it will be safe from possums, and providing our birds and bees with ample nectar.

Art competition – In October we held a week-long sculpture symposium in partnership with the Nelson Arts Festival, with seven artists from around the country taking part. The event fostered a sense of community and appreciation for the arts, as people gathered to admire the evolving creations and engage in conversations about the artists' inspirations and techniques. This is a great medium for engaging the Sanctuary closer to the community, especially the arts and culture sector. The Sanctuary aims to build and present a land art collection around one of the main walking tracks.

Campground management – The Sanctuary Trust took over the operational management of the Brook Valley Holiday Reserve (aka the Brook Camp) effective 1 June 2024. Improvements and repairs have started, and the painting of some of the camp buildings, including works by mural artist Sean Duffell, has made a huge improvement to the campground's appeal. We've also begun biosecurity work and native plantings at the site.

Tuatara translocation – In November 2024 we released 56 tuatara into an enclosure protected with a mouse-proof fence within the Sanctuary. It was a momentous event for Ngāti Koata Trust, the kaitiaki of Takapourewa tuatara and receiving iwi, the sending iwi from parts of Aotearoa and the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. Each individual was released into a pre-drilled burrow with a unique "house number". The tuatara were translocated from six different captive sources – Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery, Wildbase, Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, Wellington Zoo Te Nukua, Natureland Wildlife Trust and West Coast Wildlife Centre

Other species planned for future translocations include: kākā and kiwi pukupuku / little spotted kiwi.

Recognition – In November the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust (BWST) and Sanctuary achieved Gold Qualmark. In December we audited the BWST Health and safety system to ISO 45001 and we were reaccredited.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Department of Conservation, Ngāti Koata

Key statistics:



5

Species introductions
(over 5 years)



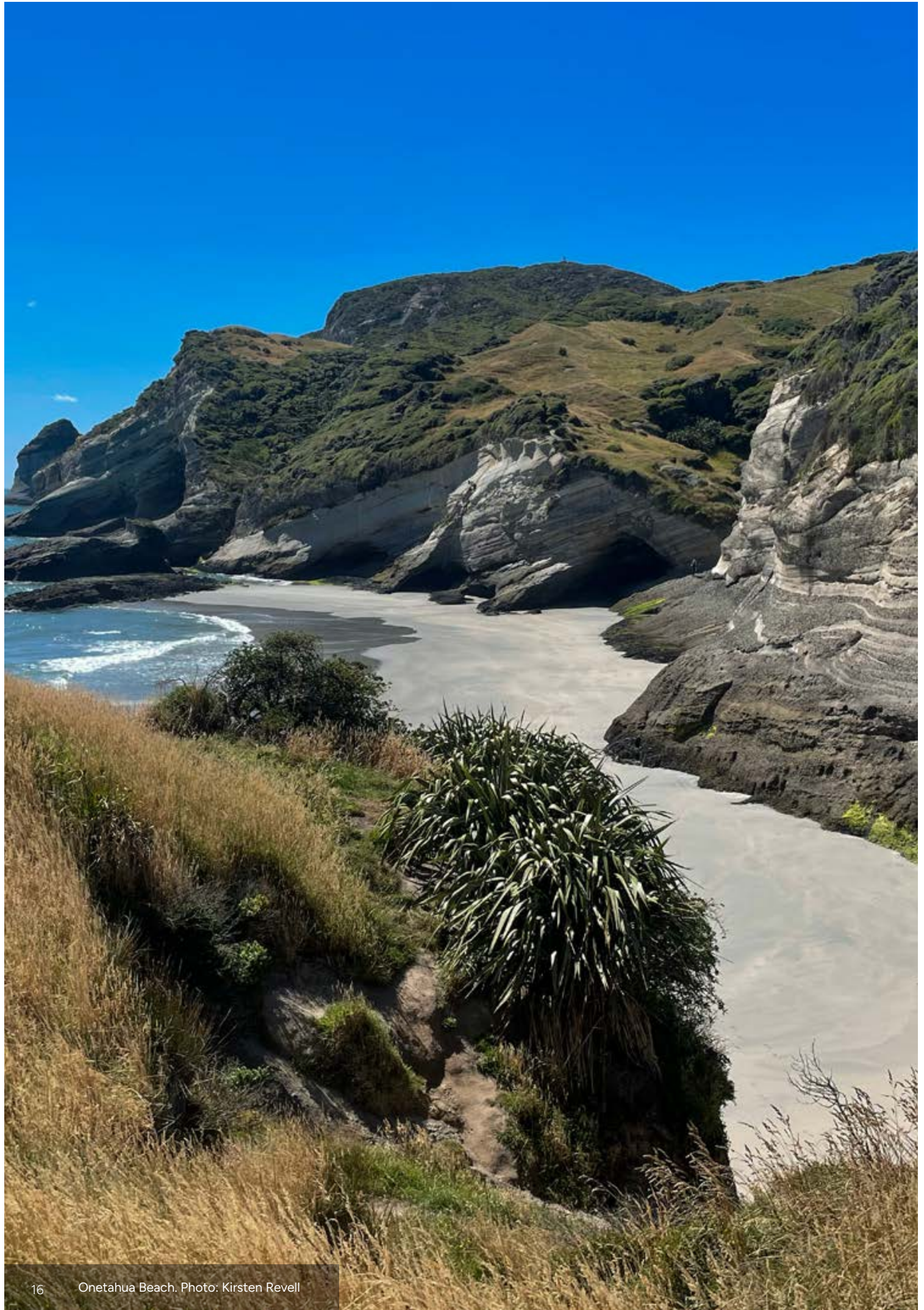
27,500+

Visitors through the
Sanctuary in 2024



350+

Native plant species
recorded in the
Sanctuary





Pest Free Onetahua and local contractors ready to dispatch the last feral pig from Onetahua Farewell Spit. Photo: Pest Free Onetahua



Pest Free Onetahua

Although at times challenging, this year we've made significant progress towards the protection and restoration of Onetahua/Farewell Spit and surrounds.

We redesigned our pest monitoring network to cover 12,000 hectares, from the tip of Onetahua to Whanganui Inlet. Excitingly, the unexpected discovery of a great spotted kiwi near Pūponga provided a major boost to our project. Subsequent surveys with support from the Department of Conservation (DOC) has confirmed the presence of a female kiwi, suggesting there may be others in the area.

Using specialist helicopters, traps, and ground hunting, we successfully eradicated feral pigs from Onetahua. Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research visited the area to scope a research project on the impacts of pest removal on lesser-known native species, including lizards. While onsite they noticed a resident population of mokomoko Nelson green gecko.

In collaboration with DOC and Manawhenua ki Mohua, our project has shifted the pest control on Onetahua to a ground-based method instead of an aerial toxin drop. We will be using intensive trapping, thermal drones and targeted hunting to eradicate possums, control hares to very low numbers, and suppress rats and stoats to achieve the same biodiversity outcomes. A drone trial with a thermal camera for hare control has proved highly effective in Onetahua's challenging terrain.

A comprehensive ecological survey of Onetahua has provided critical biodiversity insights to guide human access during the pest control.

We are incredibly grateful to our project's private donors, having received US\$300,000 from a US-based foundation via The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand.

KMTT Partners

Manawhenua ki Mohua (Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa), Department of Conservation

Key statistics:



67

Feral pigs controlled



794

Active tracking devices in the field



3,700

Hectares monitored



Project Janszoon

Our efforts to transform the ecological prospects of the Abel Tasman National Park are on track with many targets met. Kākā, previously nearly extinct in the park, are now resident and breeding along the coast between Anchorage and Wairima/Bark Bay. Bush robins are more frequently seen along the coast, where they were absent only ten years ago. We released the last of the captive-bred whio/blue duck in March this year, and pāteke/brown teal are established and breeding in the park's coastal wetlands.

We thank mana whenua iwi Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, and Te Ātiawa for their support in re-establishing taonga species in the park.

These successes have been made possible by a comprehensive pest control approach targeting key predators like stoats, rats and possums. We are pleased to continue working with amazing partners such as Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, the Tākaka Hill Biodiversity Group Trust, Project De-Vine Environmental Trust, Mārahau Halo Trapping Project, Project Rameka, Otūwhero Trust, and others undertaking trapping to keep the park and surrounds safe for these manu.

With funding from the DOC Community Conservation Fund and Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund, and the support of land managers, we were able to control goats over more than 30,000ha of the park's Halo, removing around 1,400 feral goats in the 2023–24 year.

In March 2024, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Project Janszoon education programme, which is a key element of our vision to see a positive future for the park secured. We have handed the Adopt-a-Spot programme over to participating schools but continue to run the Abel Tasman Youth Ambassador programme, ably led by Rick Field.

A key part of Project Janszoon's vision is to ensure that these gains will be maintained and improved upon in the future. As we near completion of our transformational goals, we are increasingly focused on how to support our iwi, community, business, educational and government partners to build upon Project Janszoon and achieve their aspirations for the park. The Crown, through the Tomorrow Accord, has agreed to maintain the ecological outcomes that have been achieved, and some outcomes have already transitioned to DOC.

Over the next year, we look forward to working with our partners to support their visions for the future of the park.

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, The Department of Conservation

Key statistics:



6,084

Predators trapped



1,088

Students taking part in education programmes



1,830

Natives planted at Hadfield Clearing



Picton Dawn Chorus and Kaipūpū Sanctuary

Our 2024 monitoring shows the fenced sanctuary remains rat-free. Our active volunteers continue maintaining tracks, planting and controlling weeds. The fence continues to be maintained, and a generous volunteer donation meant wooden bench seats could be installed on the main track. A new track will be established on the peninsula pending DOC approval.

Wildlife Management International has continued monitoring kororā/little blue penguin as part of its work for Port Marlborough.

Halo

Possum wax tag monitoring of priority blocks, Victoria Domain and The Wedge, gave a pleasing outcome of 0% Wax Tag Index (WTI) for both sites. Possums still exist in both areas, but at a low enough density that they are not picked up by monitoring.

For rats, our November monitoring showed a Tracking Tunnel Index result of 30% for Victoria Domain and 0% for The Wedge site.

Planting Group

The Ngahere group planted 594 trees, 171 flaxes and 86 grasses (including 23 toetoe) between August and October this year. This volunteer group identified a lack in year-round food sources for birds and have been working to create this within Victoria Domain.

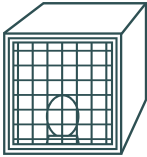
Volunteer Involvement

Volunteer involvement has been outstanding, with an increase in volunteer activity within the organisation. Retired pest control operators have taken on work in the wider area of our original operational plan. Following the merger of our two conservation groups, new structures have been introduced, and we look forward to seeing these fully operational in the new year.

KMTT Partners

Marlborough District Council

Key statistics:



3,774
Total traps
(plus 200+ A24 traps)



4,507
Known predators
removed



4,800
Hectares
trapping area



Recent control efforts on the Beebys ridgeline. Photo: Tasman District Council

Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control

High-priority control of wilding conifers has continued this year with a focus on *Pinus contorta* and Douglas fir around the south-west of the Mt Richmond management unit. Funding through the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and the Department of Conservation (DOC) International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy Fund has been integral to this.

Great gains have been made in the highest conservation value areas of the Red Hills where specialist ultramafic vegetation is under serious threat from the invasion of wilding conifers. Work undertaken by DOC and Nelson City Council has further complemented this.

There is still a lot of work to be done in the area, and further control of the worst spreading species will continue to be undertaken in 2025, particularly around the Gordon Range and Beebys ridgeline.

KMTT Partners

Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council,
Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council, Ngāti Toa.
With the support of Ministry for Primary Industries

Key statistics:



2,900

Hectares of ground
control of wilding conifers



32,800

Hectares cleared of wilding
conifers (since 2020)



Dragon's Teeth. Photo: Crystal Brindle

Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson

Invasive species are one of three priority workstreams within the KMTT SIPP. The Department of Conservation has agreed to lead this project to control ungulates across Northwest Nelson to improve the outlook for the many endangered and endemic plants in the area.

Northwest Nelson is a cornerstone of New Zealand's natural heritage. This area holds profound cultural significance, showcasing the resilience and beauty of New Zealand's wild spaces. From its peaks to its valleys, the area serves as a living classroom, a refuge for endangered species, and a haven for those seeking to connect with nature.

Increasing populations of ungulates, particularly goats, have caused significant ecological damage in this area and threaten the extinction of endemic species, including 19 plant species and 39 snail species. Ungulates hinder both canopy and understory regrowth, decreasing resilience to climatic extremes. Goats in particular pose a severe threat due to their rapid breeding, broad diet, and lack of hunting pressure.

The project aims to protect and restore Northwest Nelson plant communities from browsing pressure, using the Motueka and Buller Rivers as inland borders to protect them from reinvasion. Achieving this goal will require a phased, collaborative operational approach to address feasibility challenges and work steadily towards the objective.

DOC has invested in developing an ungulate plan for Marlborough Sounds and will share the learning between these projects.

This project also provides an opportunity for iwi and other organisations to build their capacity and capability in this space through skills training and field experience.

KMTT Partners

Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council, West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, Ngāti Waewae, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō



Wasp biocontrol agents being released at Wainui. Photo: Bruce Vander Lee

Wasp Biocontrol Agents introduced to Te Taihu

Early in 2024, efforts to reduce the wasp population in Te Taihu took a significant step forward with the first release of the European hoverfly (*Volucella inanis*) at two sites in Marlborough and Tasman.

As part of our programme currently facilitated by TNC NZ with supportive funding from the Strategic Science Investment Fund, Little Kōwhai and Lotteries, in February 2024 Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research Scientist Dr Bob Brown released the first European hoverflies on a farm in Rai Valley, with support from Ngāti Kuia, Marlborough District Council and local farmers. More hoverflies were released at a site in Wainui the following week, with Manawhenua ki Mohua and Tasman District Council on site to support the release. Both sites were assessed for potential cultural impacts by iwi/hapū with ties to the area as well as ensuring that any biocontrol agents released were thoroughly tested and approved by the Environmental Protection Authority NZ (EPA).

The hoverfly is a biocontrol agent, and was imported to New Zealand from the UK, reared at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Trust in Lincoln, and then transported here for release. It is known to be effective against both *Vespula* wasp species – the German and common wasp – both very destructive invasive pests that cost New Zealand up to \$130 million annually in damages and management.

As a natural enemy focused solely on these wasps, there is robust evidence it is safe to release the hoverfly here in New Zealand and, if successful, it will have positive impacts on our native plants and animals and the honey industry, and will be a huge relief to those who venture into the outdoors or work on the land. Consultation with Kotahitanga mō te Taiao partners, especially Te Taihu iwi, and with other interested organisations was carried out and biosecurity concerns met.

The release of these hoverflies has been a long time in development, and huge acknowledgements go to Tasman District Council and the Tasman Wasp Advisory Group, consisting of a diverse community of stakeholders, for working alongside Manaaki Whenua Landcare Trust in the early days and gaining approval from the EPA to bring the hoverfly into New Zealand. As a new organism, the proof of safety to our natural world, cultural taonga and industry, was imperative.

Any noticeable success around the hoverfly releases may not be apparent for at least 18 months, and it is unlikely that German and common wasps will be eradicated from the district altogether. However, it is hoped that the hoverfly will adapt to its new environment and reduce wasp densities in the Top of the South. Ongoing efforts to develop a robust captive population for continued strategic releases in the upcoming years have been a focus of the remainder of 2024.

KMTT Partners

Marlborough District Council, Tasman District Council, Ngāti Kuia, Te Ātiawa,
Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō.

With support from The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand,
Ministry for Primary Industries and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.



Restoring Lowlands and Connecting Ecosystems

These projects contribute to restoring the natural vegetation cover across our most threatened lowlands landscapes, including coastal and riparian margins.





Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees (Phase 2)

This year has seen a further 20,000+ plants planted throughout the Waimea estuary area. This has taken the total to 112,000 since 2021. This has been undertaken through predominantly contractor plantings but also with volunteers and NMIT (Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology) Kaitiaki Whenua students.

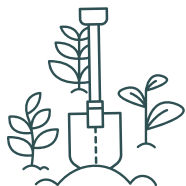
The end of the project is approaching, with funding from the Ministry for the Environment Jobs for Nature programme ending 30 June 2025. The final months of the project will focus on post-planting maintenance and transitioning maintenance responsibilities away from the project to landowners.

Great gains have been made, with the project restoring over 20 hectares around the estuary and rivers/streams feeding into it. So much of this work has been complementary to other conservation efforts happening in the area, both on public and private land. This collaboration will go a long way towards protecting the taonga species of the Waimea Inlet for years to come.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Te Taihū iwi, Department of Conservation

Key statistics:



112,000
Plants planted



36
Hectares of weeds controlled



8.7 FTES
Employment since 2021



Tasman Wetland Restoration

Following the successful delivery of the constructed and hydrological enhancement sites in the early part of 2024, the Tasman Wetlands project shifted into planting mode in the latter part of the year.

The current efforts and those within the coming months will see the delivery of the lions share of the planting with Motueka Delta contributing as much as the rest of the sites combined.

Weed management continues with control now well established across the rohe and ongoing. Our partnership with iwi has continued to strengthen and the efforts of Shanell Kelly are noteworthy for identifying and enabling opportunities for genuine collaboration.

Wetland planting at Whakapaetuarua/Motueka Delta has been completed with the first round of aftercare now underway. A marsh bird monitoring and knowledge-sharing event was held with iwi and subject experts, and we are establishing a predator control network at the site.

In the last two years, we have achieved ecological and cultural benefits in restoring a wetland that has been drained for more than a century at Mangatāwhai/Black Valley, near St Arnaud and just north of Lake Rotoiti.

In partnership with kairaranga (weavers) from across the rohe, this wetland project has combined mātauranga Māori with modern engineering techniques to find solutions in restoring the mauri of the area. It has been one of the great successes of the year and has been a mutually beneficial collaboration between iwi, DOC, the Council and our contractors.

The project team and partners were honoured to receive the Local Government NZ's Super Steward Award for our mahi at this site.

KMTT Partners

Ministry for the Environment, Tasman District Council, Department of Conservation, Te Taihū iwi



120,487
Plants planted

Key statistics:



255
Hectares of weeds controlled



27,761
Work hours



Tasman Fish Passage

This five-year project is all about making Tasman waterways passable for our native fish so they can complete their life cycles. With the support of landowners across the district, work is on track for completion in June 2026. The project's field team assesses any in-stream structures (like culverts) to see if fish can pass through.

As of October 2024, the figures and outcomes show just how well we are tracking, with our Fish Passage Assessment Team surpassing its 5-year assessment target in March 2024.

5,524 assessments have been carried out across the Tasman District to date – well over the project target of 4,350, and we will continue to cover the whole region.

856 fish passage remediations have been completed. We have trained 14 people, compared to the initial target of 6, including two rangatahi.

In the Māpua/Ruby Bay area we are monitoring and remediating a structure at the start of Dominion Stream.

Assessment work in St Arnaud and Murchison started in mid October, and in Golden Bay work to close data gaps for mapping connectivity near the coastline is now complete. Data will be reviewed and then recommendations will be shared with the community infrastructure and catchment enhancement team. This project is tracking ahead of schedule.

KMTT Partners

Ministry for the Environment, Tasman District Council,
Te Taihū Iwi

Key statistics:



893

Remediations



5,847

In-stream structure
assessments



14

People completing
training





Te Hoiere Project

It has been another year of milestones for Te Hoiere landscape-scale restoration project with more than 54,460 people hours dedicated to the mahi.

Our catchment coordinators continue to support the Te Hoiere community, and this year the Linkwater catchment group was also involved with a water quality monitoring project.

This year, almost 22km of fencing has been built and more than 88,000 plants put in place along riparian margins and in wetlands – the total plantings for the project are now well over 200,000.

Around 9.8ha of wetlands on private land have been protected, and the largest wetland restoration projects are Ruapaka Wetland and Havelock Causeway.

Invasive weeds and introduced predators have been targeted at Ronga, Brown River and Pelorus River Scenic Reserves with Ronga this year boosted by 20,400 native seedlings planted across 6ha. Ngāti Kuia's native nursery, Ngā Tai Pūrua, at Tītiraukawa/Pelorus Bridge also opened.

A range of new projects have investigated the distribution of freshwater fish, kākahi/freshwater mussel and other taonga species. Cultural values – mauri, mahinga kai and wāhi tapu – can now be assessed using Te Kupenga ā Kuia Mauri assessment tool.

Efforts have accelerated to protect pekapeka (long-tailed bat) at Pelorus Bridge and habitat restoration continues at Carluke, Ronga and Brown reserves nearby.

Eight workshops, field days and talks were held in the past 12 months and our youth education programme continues to support students learning about freshwater, biodiversity and cultural connections in the catchment.

We continue to work collaboratively to restore the mauri of Te Hoiere land, waters and coast which flourish, along with people's wellbeing and livelihoods.

Funding

Ministry for the Environment (At Risk Catchment Fund and Freshwater Improvement Fund) and Department of Conservation (Ngā Awa River Restoration Programme and Jobs for Nature).

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne, Marlborough District Council, Department of Conservation

Key statistics:



438

Hectares of predator control



97,000

riparian/wetland plants planted over 20.6ha



22.9

kilometres of fencing protecting riparian/wetland





Project Mahitahi

With project sites stretching along almost 15km of river from Nelson City up to the Maitai Dam, work in 2024 focused on aftercare of plantings and continued weed management.

The Mahitahi/Maitai valley is still recovering from the extreme weather event of August 2022, when both erosion and sediment deposition affected the river's margins. The project is helping to build resilience to future flood events through riparian plantings and the removal of crack willow from the riverbanks.

Over 10,000 native plants were planted during winter 2024, bringing the total number of trees planted by the project to nearly 150,000. Sites that were once weed infestations are now thriving pockets of native vegetation.

Three trapping projects managed by the field team removed over 500 predators during the year, and the annual ungulate cull also helped manage the number of deer and goats in the catchment.

Community outreach is a key component of the project, as it aims to raise awareness of the Mahitahi's biodiversity and inspire people to value and protect it. More than 50 volunteers supported a successful mulching day, held in collaboration with Friends of the Maitai in August. Project Mahitahi celebrated World Rivers Day with the community in September, and showcased its work at the Cathedral's Christmas Tree festival at the end of the year.

KMTT Partners

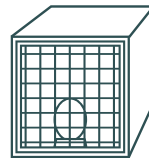
Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa,
Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Nelson City Council

Key statistics:



10,756

Trees planted



558

Predators trapped



Wakapuaka Whangamoa Restoration Project planting site 2024. Photo: Kūmānu Environmental

Wakapuaka Whangamoa

The Jobs for Nature project funded by the Department of Conservation came to an end in mid-2024 with a flurry of planting activity in coastal sites, lowland forest, wetlands and riparian margins. This rounded off three years of restoration activity in sites of high ecological and cultural value in the Wakapuaka and Whangamoa river catchments. Weed control was the primary focus in these areas, with over 60 hectares treated under the project. The project also delivered more than 30 hectares of wilding conifer control and added 55 hectares of possum control to an existing trapping network.

The project worked with over a dozen different landowners to support their efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity. Populations of in-decline species such as the Marlborough mini gecko and mātātā/fernbirds were identified, and steps taken to protect and improve their habitats.

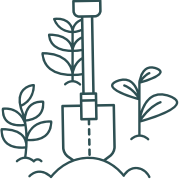
Cultural guidance was woven through the project, with the support of a Pou Tikanga from Ngāti Tama. Conservation rangers and council staff participated in wānanga on topics such as pakohe and rongoā, and enhanced their knowledge of the history of the ancestral lands of Ngāti Tama and the application of tikanga best practice in their roles.

The project's mahi culminated in a hākari, with the team of Kūmānu rangers assisting in the preparation of a hāngī to celebrate the contributions and achievements of everyone involved.

KMTT Partners

Ngāti Tama, Department of Conservation, Nelson City Council

Key statistics:



12,933
Trees planted



18.2
Hectares of weeds controlled



29.46
Hectares of wilding pines controlled



Salt marsh restoration area at Rough Island. Photo: TDC

Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project

The Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, funded by MfE Jobs for Nature and Tasman District Council, comprises of several sub-projects focused on the restoration of estuarine habitats.

The Waimea Delta wetland enhancement project has seen 3.5ha of earthworks undertaken in the lower Waimea area to create habitat for threatened marsh birds. The area has also been planted with native trees and wetland specialist plants. This spring, an in-depth monitoring programme for marsh birds has begun, with results due early in the new year, giving insight into the birds that inhabit this area.

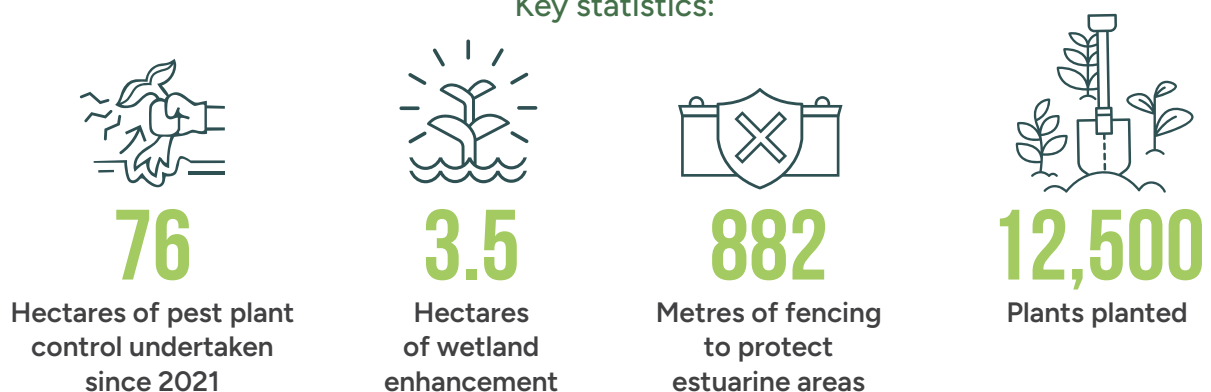
Salt marsh restoration has progressed well this year and has added capacity for tidal reach at a causeway on Rough Island. This will allow more saltwater inundation into an area previously dominated by exotic grasses. We are monitoring natural regeneration which will be supplemented by further planting of salt marsh species that are typically slower to regenerate naturally. In 2025, further planting at two other sites in 2025 will help to expand intertidal rushland habitat.

Pest plant work across the estuary has seen control of key species such as *Tamarix*, jellybean ice plant and *Carex divisa*. Work will continue through the summer to take some of the most invasive weed species down to very low numbers in the Waimea estuary environment.

KMTT Partners

Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Ministry for the Environment,
Department of Conservation, Te Taihū Iwi

Key statistics:





Te Mana o Te Wai

Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū Implementing Te Mana o Te Wai Project is a collaborative project with eight Te Taihū iwi to build capacity and capability to participate in and make decisions for freshwater management.

Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū have implemented the following activities:

- » wānanga, workshops, field trips with whānau, rangatahi, pakeke, kaitiaki and kaumatua to support, reaffirm, strengthen relationships and customary practices with waterbodies; and to collate and document freshwater values and aspirations for Te Mana o Te Wai
- » Network with Taiao practitioners from around the country to share and build knowledge and solutions to address freshwater challenges
- » provide GIS geodata on the council's freshwater data and information for waterbodies.

In parallel, Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū have been also working collaboratively with Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council and Marlborough District Council to build and strengthen relationships and mutual understanding of Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū freshwater values.

The National Policy Statement Freshwater Management (NPSFM) - Te Mana o Te Wai requires councils to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. However, the current coalition Government's proposed changes signal that they will focus on water users rather than prioritise the health and wellbeing of waterways. We are uncertain at this time on how the proposed changes to legislation will impact Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū work with the councils on the freshwater plans.

A key workstream has been Te Puna Kōrero meetings – the engine room for working with policy staff from Tasman District to document iwi freshwater values to inform development of freshwater policy provisions for TDC Land and Freshwater Plan Change. Nelson City and Marlborough Council staff have also participated in TPK meetings to gain an overview of potential updates to their current freshwater plans, to support iwi aspirations and Te Mana o Te Wai outcomes.

KMTT Partners

Te Taihū Iwi, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council



Wilding kiwifruit vine control by the MBC Environmental team in the Karamea River Valley. Photo: Sacha Healey

Restoring and Protecting Flora / Restoring Lowlands

The Restoring & Protecting Flora Project (the Flora Project), administered by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) on behalf of KMTT, concluded in mid-2024 as its \$6m DOC Jobs for Nature funding came to an end. This three-year project delivered significant region-wide conservation and employment outcomes, employing teams of field staff to survey for and control ecologically significant weed infestations across Buller, Tasman, Nelson City and Marlborough (Te Taihu and Kawatiri).

The project enabled collaboration across the KMTT partners, including DOC, councils and iwi, as well as a wide range of nongovernmental organisations, landholders, contractors, community groups and businesses. It delivered over 20,000 hectares of restoration work including knockback weed control at over 150 ecologically significant sites, strategic control of key invasive species across landscapes, and restoration planting to follow and augment the removal of invasive species.

Part of the work was to engage local communities to take a kaitiaki role in maintaining the habitats restored across the region and to ensure the conservation outcomes achieved on numerous council reserves are maintained and leveraged under their respective Regional Pest Management Plans.

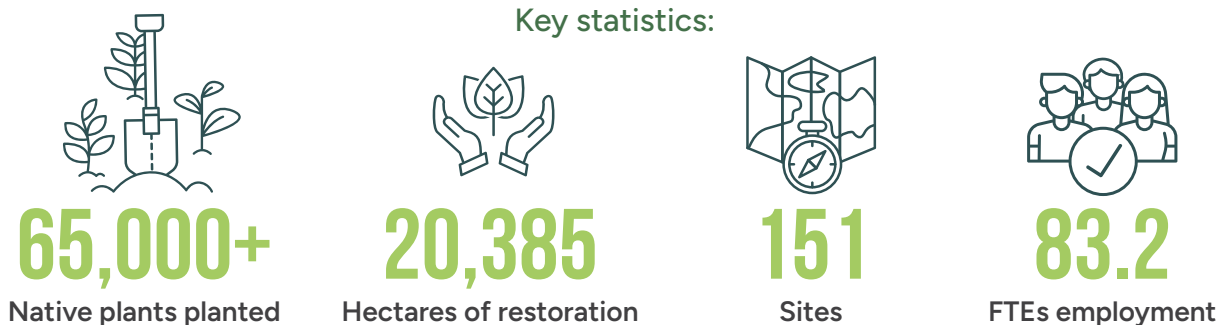
The Flora Project will leave its legacy on the recovering native habitats across the Top of the South and is now transitioning into a new phase, with TNC NZ leading the Restoring Lowlands work.

A spatial mapping and modeling project is under development, identifying priority areas for restoration and re-planting. Exploratory work is occurring with multiple partners on the most effective and efficient methods of restoring lowlands, with an aim to bring back healthy ecosystems to 15% in the lowlands. Sustainable financing models and understanding incentives will be fundamental to success. This work will continue in earnest in 2025 with the identification of a large pilot site in collaboration with the KMTT partners.

KMTT Partners

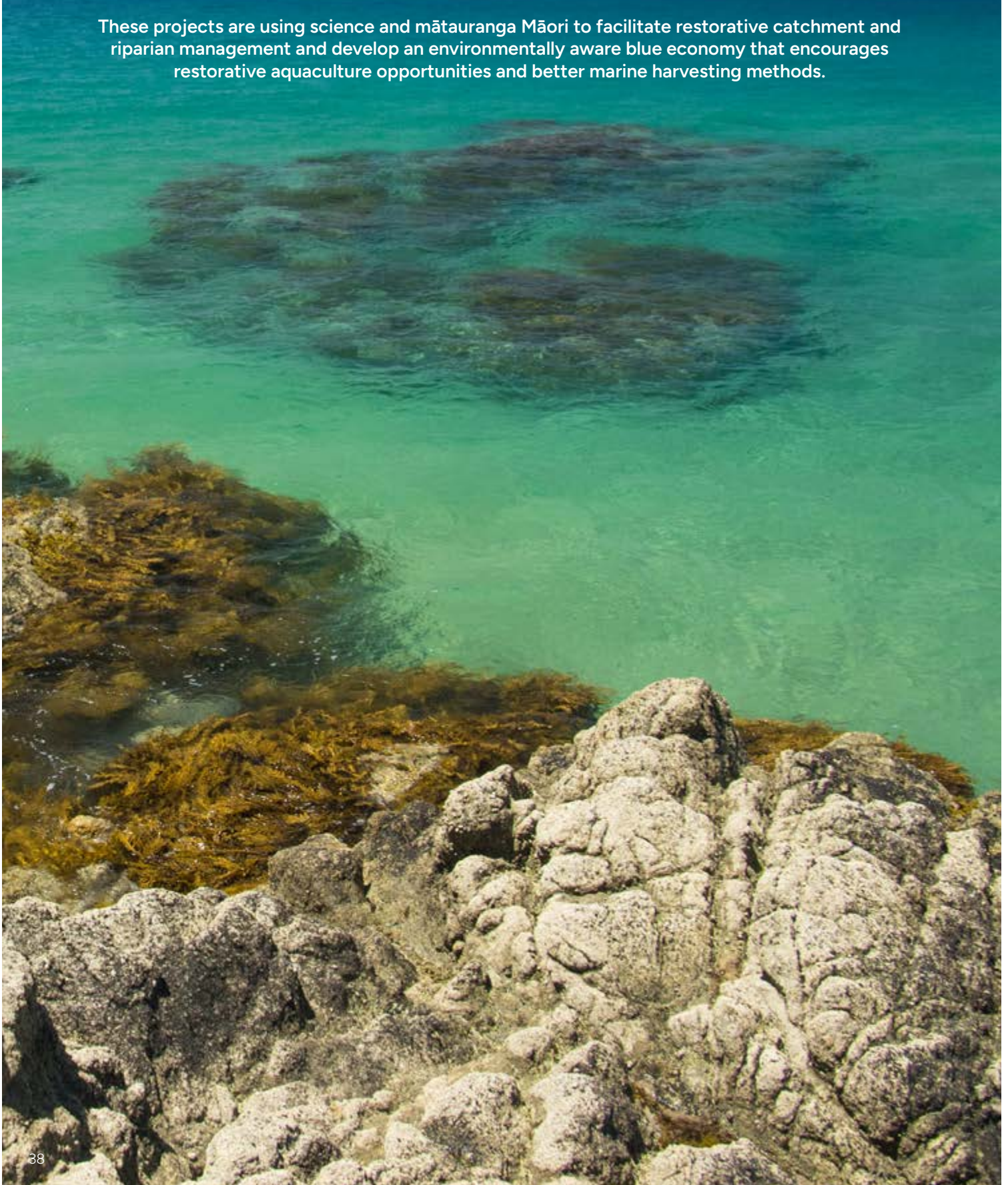
Department of Conservation, West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council, Marlborough District Council, Te Taihu Iwi, Ngāti Waewae

Key statistics:



Restoring Marine Ecosystems

These projects are using science and mātauranga Māori to facilitate restorative catchment and riparian management and develop an environmentally aware blue economy that encourages restorative aquaculture opportunities and better marine harvesting methods.



Marine Restoration

KMTT has ki uta ki tai aspirations, improving the environment from the mountains to the sea, and seeing these changes result in a healthy marine environment and the return of healthy shellfish reefs. To achieve these aspirations, we will need robust evidence-based restoration methods, an understanding of the causes of the stressors, and building the capability and capacity within people, organisations and iwi to implement these and achieve the ultimate goals.

The projects supported in 2024 have focused on addressing knowledge gaps highlighted in the SIPP and improving our understanding of the state of the marine environment and potential solutions to these issues.

These projects are being conducted in robust partnerships with multiple KMTT partners, including iwi, regional government and central government agencies. These collaborations are important to make sure that the outcomes and outputs will be usable across the different partners and will add to the body of knowledge underpinning marine restoration across the Top of the South.

KMTT and TNC NZ have provided support and assistance this year to:

Mai i Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, mai i uta ki tai:

Ground-truthing of LINZ multibeam maps with habitat information in the Wakapuaka Taiapure and Horoirangi Marine Reserve. The project is led by DOC, Ngāti Tama and NIWA. Other KMTT partners involved in the steering group are Fisheries NZ and Nelson City Council. TNC supported iwi development through providing support funding to enable iwi members to participate in the collection and analysis of data.

Top of the South – Te Taiuhu Kūtai Restoration Project:

A mussel reef restoration project conducted across Te Taiuhu, including Pelorus Sound, Mohua and Delaware Bay. The project is led by Emilee Benjamin (University of Auckland – but based at NIWA Nelson) working with KMTT Iwi partners at site.

“Abundance creates abundance” – incentivising rehabilitation of soft-sediment fisheries:

Led by NIWA’s Sean Handley, this project is using cutting-edge science to identify sources of sediment in the bays and use this information to rehabilitate and restore shellfish beds in Golden Bay/Mohua and Tasman Bay.



Restoring Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands play a critical role in storing CO₂ emissions, as well as provide protection against natural disasters, such as flooding and storm surges, while conserving natural habitats for native species. Wetlands in New Zealand can store as much carbon as indigenous plantations, and some ecosystems (e.g. mangroves) can store up to four times more.

The Nature Conservancy's Global Blue Carbon Programme strives to create viable and sustainable conservation strategies for local communities by generating voluntary carbon and climate resilience credits through the revival of these coastal ecosystems.

This initiative not only aims to generate income through carbon credit revenue but also supports future restoration efforts and safeguards these critical habitats. Producing educational resources and contributing to essential policy research are also key outputs of the programme.

Data collected from seven sites across 300ha in Aotearoa New Zealand this year, including two in Nelson, have contributed to establishing a baseline for landowners to participate in blue carbon credit markets post-2025.

The insights gleaned this year through data collected in the pilot study have been pivotal in shaping a policy report for TNC NZ and the Ministry for the Environment, delving into the necessary policy, legal and market frameworks needed to facilitate the issuance of blue carbon credits for coastal wetland projects.

Looking ahead, the programme is looking to spearhead a pilot restoration initiative, at a site yet to be determined. This will showcase the developmental process of a blue carbon project in tandem with restoration efforts and carbon documentation.

With Aotearoa New Zealand having the ninth-longest coastline globally, this endeavour could have a profound impact on coastal land use practices nationwide, charting a new course for sustainable environmental conservation.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Ngāti Tama, Ministry for the Environment

Key statistics* (whole project):



112,000

Hectares of wetlands
in New Zealand



88,000

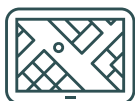
Additional hectares of saltmarsh,
seagrass and mangroves suitable
for restoration



91,680

estimated tC yr
total sequestration potential for
blue carbon restoration in NZ

Key statistics (Te Taihu pilot):



70

Hectares of data
collection area –
Te Taihu



12

Months, quarterly –
frequency of
monitoring



3+

Types of data collected – including
soil carbon stocks, greenhouse gas
emissions, sediment build-up

*The data collected is in the process of being quantified. Economic assessments are being undertaken for carbon revenue, and the results will be published in 2025.



Specialist divers from Wai Dive undertaking the summer hull inspections in Abel Tasman. Photo: Boffa Miskell

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership

2024 marked significant progress in the fight against marine pests in the Top of the South Island. Between January and December, 4,000 vessels' hulls were inspected across Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman and Wellington. Surveillance efforts included high-risk areas like Abel Tasman National Park and Queen Charlotte Sound.

Notably, Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) was detected on eight vessels throughout the Top of the South and Wellington within this time frame. All vessels were promptly treated to ensure the fanworm were removed. All detections were related to out-of-area infestations.

A significant milestone has been the inclusion of Greater Wellington Regional Council as a partner, expanding the Partnership's reach and promoting regional collaboration to tackle marine biosecurity threats more effectively. It has led to improved coordination and collaboration across the councils and stakeholders, strengthening the collective marine biosecurity effort. Results showed that vessels surveyed in December in Wellington have higher levels of fouling compared to vessels in the Top of the South.

A key development this year was the development of stricter biofouling rules in the Nelson and Tasman Regional Pest Management Plan, requiring vessels to have clean hulls when entering the regions. The new rules are being promoted with boaties out on the water and on the Partnership website.

KMTT Partners

Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council, Marlborough District Council, Fisheries NZ, Department of Conservation, Te Taihū Iwi

Key statistics:



5

Vessels found with
Mediterranean fanworm in
the Top of the South



4000+

Vessels inspected
Jan-Dec 2024



3

Vessels found with
Mediterranean fanworm
in Wellington

Te Kāhui Tangaroa

Te Kāhui Tangaroa aims to enable a tino rangatiratanga approach to restoration for KMTT iwi partners. Our KMTT iwi are involved at many levels within the alliance from governance to operations, and the project focuses on implementing iwi kaitiaki priorities “ki uta ki tai”.

The marine space is the end of the line, and our whakapapa means that we have intrinsic relationships with all taonga.

Te Kāhui Tangaroa’s objective is to develop a kāhui or “iwi steering group” that makes decisions on behalf of KMTT iwi partners to support an iwi-led implementation of kaitiaki restoration priorities. We are working closely with iwi to ensure we have the right methodology, approaches, funding regime, tools and expertise to build the right team and resources to deliver their aspirations.

In 2024 the focus has been on communication and wānanga of the proposed kaupapa to KMTT iwi, confirming iwi commitment and involvement, collective decisions, outlining issues, identifying funding and budgeting needs, sharing and disseminating relevant research projects, and identifying preferred engagements. We are now refining our collective ‘why’, purpose, process and structure of the kāhui and acknowledge it is a living and evolving process as we implement our vision across the KMTT takiwā.







Whakahau

Empowering Action

These projects support communities, groups and individuals to become engaged in environmental restoration in their home landscape, as per our vision that “people live, care for and benefit from the environment in ways that bolster natural ecology and the communities that live within them.” Whakahau supports the work of Tiaki me te Whakahaumanu – Protecting and Restoring – Ki uta ki tai.



Project Mahitahi riparian planting in the Maitai Valley in Winter 2024. Photo: Nelson City Council



Connecting People and Te Taiao

Working with Social Agencies

This is a collaborative exercise with KMTT and DOC leading conversations with other social sector governmental agencies to explore opportunities for improving wellbeing outcomes alongside positive restoration of te taiao. We are in the early stages of problem definition and solution identification.

Conservation Planning

33 conservation leaders attended a Conservation Standards Training Programme held in Nelson in May 2024, facilitated by TNC NZ and hosted by KMTT and Tasman Environmental Trust (TET).

The in-person Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Conservation Standards) training, organised by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) was part of a training programme that also included online sessions.

TNC NZ spokesperson Hao Jin Tan said the training was designed to give conservation leaders additional skills and expertise to work on large-scale and complex conservation initiatives.

"People running critical conservation and sustainable development projects often rely on their own skills and resources."

"This training helps project teams be more rigorous about developing holistic, impactful strategies and actions, and to improve how they measure and communicate impacts resulting from the projects."

Participants came from across the country but there was a strong KMTT representation. KMTT Programme Manager Debs Martin said attending a previous Conservation Standards training gave her the necessary skills to lead the development of KMTT's Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan (SIPP), a plan to deliver on KMTT's vision for the restoration of the region's ecosystems.

"The Conservation Standards training has been game-changing for developing the SIPP."

The Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust (KNECT) working in the Buller Kawatiri region says the training helped the group make sure they were working on the right priorities. Deputy chair Di Rossiter says:

"Sometimes you don't know what you don't know. If we want to start a restoration project, the training helps us test our assumptions."

Following on from the training, TET and the Motueka Catchment Collective are undertaking conservation planning, using conservation standards and supported by TNC NZ.

Building Community Connector Hubs

Building strong relationships with existing hubs such as TET, and helping support the establishment of hubs across the region such as KNECT.

Capability and Capacity Building

TNC Asia Pacific supported three representatives from KMTT organisations and/or projects to attend the Nature's Leading Women Summit in Australia, December 2024.

Representatives came from Te Ātiawa o te Waka-a-Māui, Te Kāhui Waipuna / Te Tauihu Iwi Implementing Te Mana o Te Wai project, and the Buller District, Restoring and Protecting Flora Project.





Tūāpapa

Getting the System Right

This system refresh will ensure that governance, operational and funding structures are fit for purpose. It will provide a point of focus to measure outcomes and ensure climate resilience is embedded in our work. It will support and uphold actions to improve iwi leadership across te taiao.

Governance and Operational Review

KMTT Governance is undergoing a review following the production of the SIPP, ensuring that our systems are fit for purpose and support our outcomes.

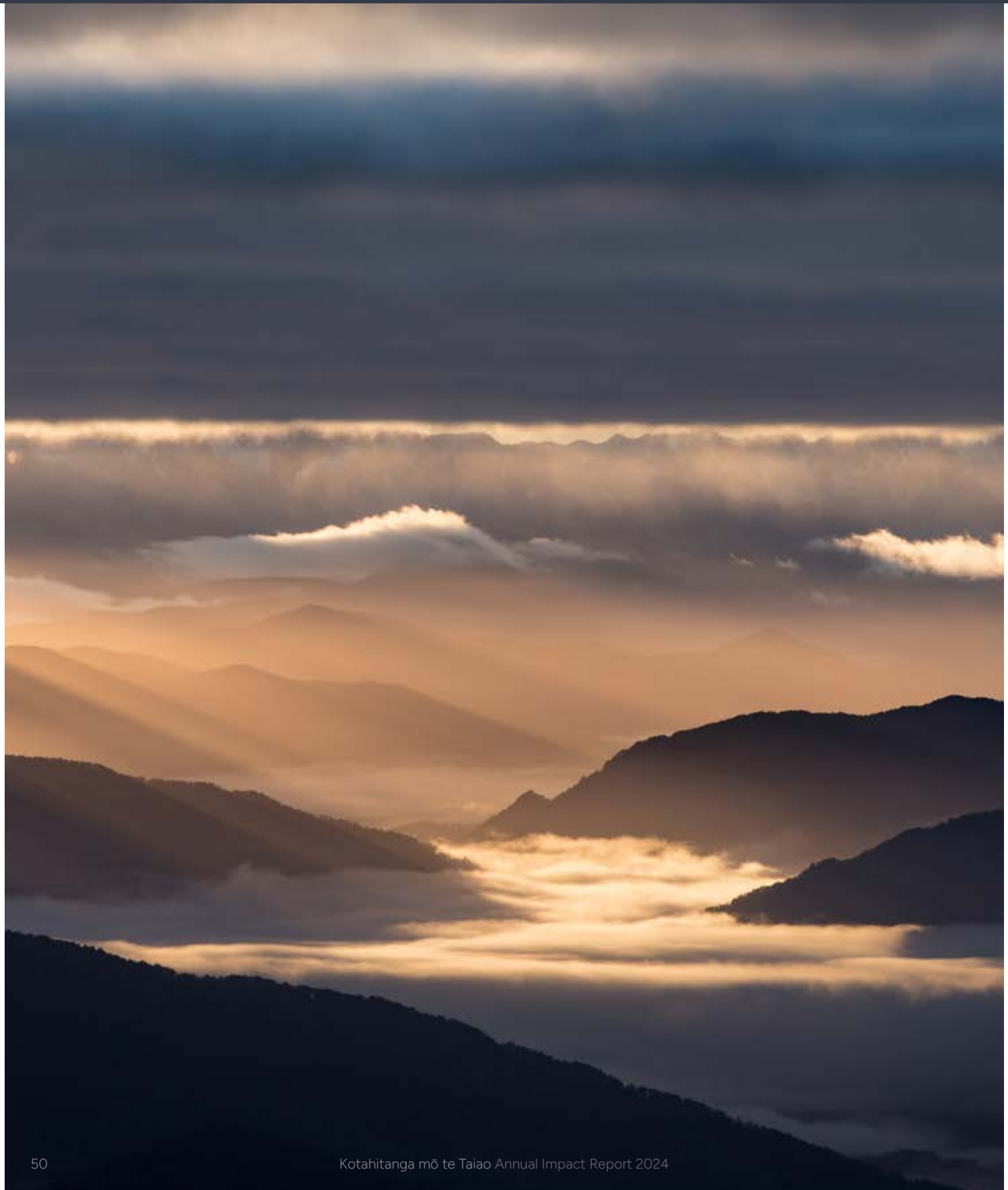
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

This framework is in development following support and training in the use and application of international tools.

Strategy Alignment

The KMTT Programme Manager's office is currently collaborating with KMTT partners to help align our strategies, ensure we are working effectively in partnership, and avoid any duplication of effort. We are also having broader discussions with other agencies, like TET, to see where opportunities for collaboration lie.

Partner Statements





Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō

Ko Ruatea te tangata
Ko Kurahaupō te waka
Ko Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō te iwi

Mai i te tihi o Pourangahau ki ngā puna tapu o Rotoiti, o Rotoroa e whāngai nei i te awa Kawatiri o huri kōpiko atu kōpiko mai. I ngā maunga whakahī ki te au o Tangaroa ki te uru, ki te tōnga o te rā. E kokoia e Apa e.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō is dedicated to fulfilling our customary duties and obligations to te taiao. Principles of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga and whakapapa are of paramount importance to the iwi in meeting these responsibilities.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō supports the work and commitments of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

As kaitiaki, the iwi is committed to upholding our customary duties and obligations to te taiao, guided by the principles of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, and whakapapa. These principles are fundamental to our approach as we work to ensure the whenua, wai and taonga within our rohe are protected and sustained for future generations. We maintain a particular focus on projects within and around the Waimea Inlet, Nelson Lakes, Kawatiri, and the Buller District.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Mana o Te Wai
Wasp Biocontrol Programme
Tasman Wetlands Restoration
Te Kāhui Tangaroa
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson



Te Ātiawa Kairuku Kaitiaki. Photo: Te Ātiawa



Te Ātiawa o Te-Waka-a-Māui Trust



*E titia nei e Te Ātiawa, i te iti, i te rahi, te katoa
To shine as Te Ātiawa, the few, the many, all of us*

Tamarau nō runga i te rangi
Heke iho ki raro ki te whakamarimari
Tē tatari ai, ki te hurahanga o te tāpora o Rongoueroa
Taku kuia e, taku kuia e!
Te ara o taku tupuna i tohia ai au
Ko Te Ātiawa no runga i te rangi

In the late 1820s, sections of Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui migrated south and settled in Te Taihū o Te Waka-a-Māui (the Northern South Island) and established mana, rangatiratanga and customary rights over whenua and moana at Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound, Kura te Au/Tory Channel, Waitoh/Picton, Anamāhanga/Port Gore, Te Tai o Aorere/Tasman Bay, Whakatū/Nelson, Motueka, Mohua/Golden Bay and Te Tai Tapu/Whanganui Inlet.

Our unwavering commitment to leading transformative change across Te Tau Ihu will create a lasting impact for generations. We see a strong alignment with Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and are proud to continue being a committed leader within this space.

Te Ātiawa are involved in KMTT governance, Te Kāhui Waipuna Project, Te Kāhui Tangaroa Project and have oversight over the Mahitahi Project, and Pest Free Onetahua through Manawhenua ki Mohua. In 2024 we proudly launched our Kairuku Strategy (Training our whānau to be kaitiaki divers) to build capability and capacity as kaitiaki of the moana.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Project Mahitahi, Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson, Pest Free Onetahua, Project Janszoon, Te Mana o Te Wai, Wasp Biocontrol Programme



Rangitāne o Wairau

*Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi
With red and black, the work will be complete*

Rangitāne o Wairau have inhabited Te Taihu since the 16th century, establishing a rohe from the Waiau Toa to the Wairau.

Rangitāne o Wairau continue to be driven by the principles of Kotahitanga – Kia mahi tahi, kia kauanuanu tētahi ki tētahi (Working together, respectfully, as one), and Kaitiakitanga – Tiakina ā tātau taonga kei ngaro (Embracing our responsibility to protect, preserve, and enhance our taonga). Our strategic focus is on Te Taiao – Our environment – encapsulated by the following: Toitū te taiao ki tua o ake tonu atu! (Ensuring the integrity and sustainability of our environment).

The Alliance unites a diverse group of Crown agencies, iwi partners, and the broader Te Taihu community, fostering collaboration to achieve improved environmental outcomes. By working together collaboratively, te taiao benefits.

A key focus area remains the restoration and protection of Te Pokohiwi o Kupe and the Wairau Lagoons. Our focus has been on bringing together the team to form the Wairau Wetlands Cultural Values Mapping and Management Project, and on our continued work with the Marlborough District Council regarding the reconsenting of the Blenheim Sewerage Treatment Plant. Another project we are pleased to have initiated is the first stage of planting a section of land adjacent to Ōhineanamatē, an 800-year-old hand-dug canal that flows from the outskirts of Blenheim into the Wairau Lagoons. This initiative has been supported by KMTT, who brought together the funders and consultants to get the project underway. We look forward to continuing this mahi for the next 10 years.

KMTT Partner Projects
Te Hoiere, Te Mana o Te Wai,
Te Kāhui Tangaroa



Ngāti Koata

Ehara taku toa, I te toa takitahi, Engari, he toa takitini
Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

Te taiao is critical to the sustenance of life. All animals and humans require all environments to exist and be healthy.

Ngāti Koata Trust's Te Taiao strategic intent is to maintain, strengthen and develop our kaitiakitanga and relationship with our environment.

The management of te taiao is dependent on how natural attributes are managed and utilised, preserved and conserved, restored and replenished for their own intrinsic worth against developments and impacts of pollution and natural disasters.

Ngāti Koata prides itself on maintaining a strong commitment to the environment within our rohe and beyond, through our continued participation and support under Kotahitahitanga mō te Taiao.

The past few years have been highly active ones for our environmental projects, with some very significant gains.

The Tekateka Restoration Project, including Aperahama Tengi (Eastern Gully), Haromi Kaharoa (Western Gully), Ihaka Tekateka (Main Bush), and the Peneamine Restoration Project, began in 2022 as part of the Jobs for Nature kaupapa in response to COVID-19. In partnership with Kūmānu Environmental, we conducted conservation activities such as predator control, pest plant management and restoration planting. These projects offer Ngāti Koata whānau opportunities for involvement in iwi-led conservation and provide rangatahi with paid, hands-on training and experience.

Moawhitu Wetlands restoration has been ongoing for years, led by Ngāti Koata. Activities include planting, water quality monitoring, taonga species monitoring, pest management and enhancing connectivity to these culturally significant wetlands. This project has provided Ngāti Koata with numerous opportunities to reconnect with Rangitoto ki te Tonga, fostering learning and giving back.

In 2023, Ngāti Koata secured funding for a three-year project on Takapourewa to support the critically endangered Hamilton's frog/pekeketua. With only 300 frogs remaining, this project focused on expanding their small rock pile habitat. Ngāti Koata kaitiaki have already transported 29 tonnes of rocks to enhance the frogs' environment, aiming to increase their population.

Ngāti Koata iwi recently led the translocation of tuatara back to Te Taiuhu, under our Taiao Kaupapa and role as kaitiaki of our taonga. On 5 November 2024, kaitiaki travelled to the North Island to collect tuatara from Palmerston North, Wildlife Recovery Centre, Massey University, Waikanae, Ngā Manu Sanctuary, and Wellington Zoo. The tuatara were carefully transported by plane and welcomed back into Te Taiuhu by Ngāti Koata tangata whenua, all in one day.

KMTT Partner Projects

Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust

Project Mahitahi, Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaora



Photo: Melissa Banks



Ngāti Kuia

Tāku ara ko Matua Hautere
 Te Hoiere te waka i topetope ai ngā ngaru
 Ka puea ake Te Kaitiaki a Kaikaiāwaro i Te Moana o Raukawakawa
 I arahina ia ki ngā kokoru o Te Taihu o Te Waka ā Māui
 Ka hoea te awa ka tau kite wai pāpaku, ko Te Herenga
 Ka piki i a Maunganui ki te pīnakitanga o Parikārearea
 I reira ka poua tūāhu ki te one, ka poua tūāhu ki te rangi ka hua ake ko Maungatapu
 I tapa te awa ko Te Hoiere
 He wai-Māori mā te tini e whakarauika nei,
 Ko Ngāti Kuia – He iwi Pakohe – He iwi karakia e

Ngāti Kuia are the first people of Te Taihu and the descendants of Māui, Kupe, and Matua Hautere.

The challenges Ngāti Kuia face today are different from those faced by their tīpuna, yet as tangata whenua the obligations to those tīpuna, the land, and those who follow, remains. Ngāti Kuia is bound by whakapapa and guided by the principles of kotahitanga, whanaungatanga, whāngai and manaakitanga, and must ensure that the land continues to speak. In doing this, the land, as it has always done, will protect and enhance the mana of its first people – Ngāti Kuia.

Ngāti Kuia continues to believe in the ethos of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao – that we are all stronger when we work together.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Hoiere, Te Mana o Te Wai, Project Mahitahi, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Wasp Biocontrol Programme



Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua has a longstanding connection to Te Taihū and Kawatiri through whakapapa and our responsibility as kaitiaki of our whenua, awa, and moana.

Our role in Kotahitanga mō te Taiao reflects our values of kaitiakitanga and whanaungatanga, and we are proud to support projects that enhance environmental outcomes and strengthen the wellbeing of our people and the natural world. We continue to collaborate on initiatives that restore ecosystems and protect biodiversity for future generations.

KMTT Partner Projects

Pest Free Onetahua, Project Janszoon,
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson,
Wasp Biocontrol Agents, Project Mahitahi,
Te Mana o Te Wai



Te Puoho Stephens (centre) with Kūmānu staff preparing the hāngī for the Wakapuaka Whangamoa celebration. Photo: Jacinta Beullens



Ngāti Tama

*Tama tū ki te Tauihu
Tama ora ki te ao*

Ngāti Tama ki Te Waipounamu Trust continues to be a committed member of KMTT. As is the case for so many of our iwi in Te Taihū, our capacity to actively participate is an ongoing challenge to overcome, but we are slowly building capacity, and engagement with whānau in small projects has been a key priority in building a foundation for future growth.

Ngāti Tama was an active participant in the planning and restoration by design work which formed the basis for the development of the KMTT Strategy Implementation Pathway Plan.

The Wakapuaka Whangamoa project, which came to an end in 2024, restored sites of high biodiversity value in the Wakapuaka catchment, protecting taonga species like the Marlborough mini gecko and mātātā/fernbirds. The programme supported a Pou Tikanga to enable implementation from a te ao Māori world view and inform the engagement with the Wakapuaka community, project staff and contractors and Ngāti Tama whānau in the catchment. Wānanga on topics such as pakohe and rongoā helped them understand the history of the ancestral lands of Ngāti Tama and the use of tikanga best practice in their roles. We celebrated the project's completion with a hākari and a hāngī.

KMTT Partner Projects

Whakapuaka Wangamoa, Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson, Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Restoring Coastal Wetlands, Project Janszoon



West Coast – Tai Poutini



Ngāti Waewae

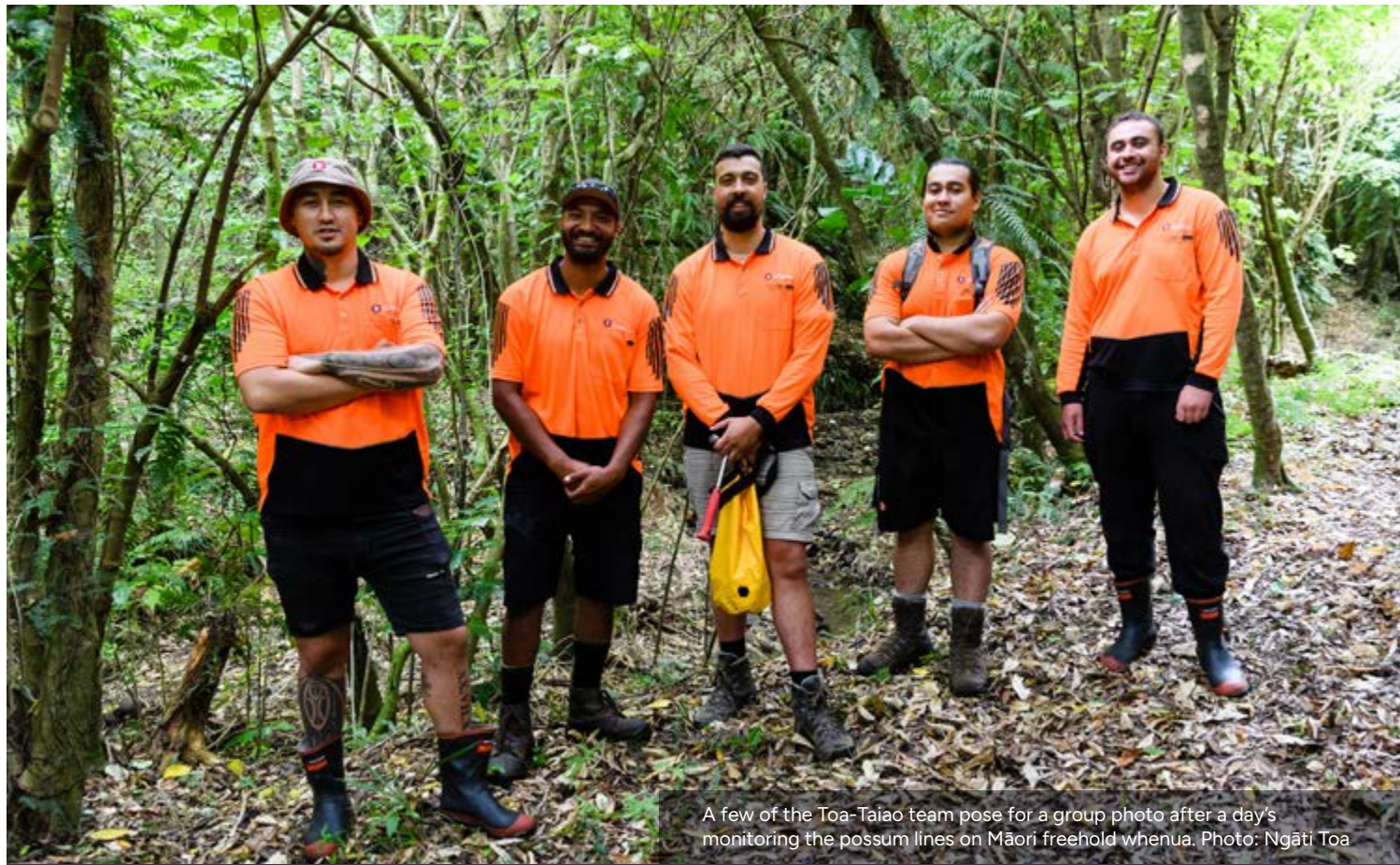
Ko Tūhua te maunga
Ko Arahura te awa
Ko Tūhuru te wharenuī
Ko Papakura te wharekai
Ko Arahura te marae
Ko Ngāti Waewae te hapū
Ko Poutini Ngāi Tahu te iwi

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is based at Arahura, a short distance from Hokitika on the West Coast of Te Waipounamu and is a hapū of Ngāi Tahu. We are known as Poutini Ngāi Tahu, the Ngāi Tahu people of the West Coast. Like all partners in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, we too are committed to working in partnership to align and integrate the efforts of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance members.

We acknowledge the unique landscape of Aotearoa, and the myriad of work that needs to be done to achieve interconnectedness between environment and people so that we may look after the environment for the environment to look after us in return.

KMTT Partner Projects

Restoring and Protecting Flora, Te Kāhui Tangaroa,
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson



A few of the Toa-Taiao team pose for a group photo after a day's monitoring the possum lines on Māori freehold whenua. Photo: Ngāti Toa



Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira are pleased to be partners of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and look forward to working together towards better outcomes for te taiao.

Our moemoeā is that the natural environments of te rohe o Ngāti Toa are kept or returned to health and we continue to act as kaitiaki and leaders for our taiao and its protection for future generations.

Revitalising and strengthening our identity means re-inserting ourselves back into the ecosystem to support a resilient environment in sustaining future generations. This requires Ngāti Toa Rangatira to lead out on tackling serious present and future environmental issues.

Kaitiakitanga involves tino rangatiratanga for our iwi to lead and take action in the environment based on traditions of mātauranga, kawa and tikanga. Often this will be about the ability of Ngāti Toa Rangatira to exercise cultural responsibilities and obligations and undertake customary practices.

Our continued participation in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance is one mechanism that enables our vision and aspirations for te taiao.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Kāhui Tangaroa, Invasive species, Mt Richmond MU Wilding Conifer Control,
KMTT Governance review, Coastal Marine Restoration,
Restoring and Protecting Flora



Marlborough Sounds. Photo: Fisheries New Zealand



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Aotearoa New Zealand is an island nation with one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones in the world, and a hotspot for marine biodiversity.

Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) works to ensure fisheries resources are managed to provide the greatest overall benefit to New Zealanders. Healthy and abundant ocean ecosystems contribute to thriving communities and benefit the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

Since partnering with Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) just over a year ago, FNZ has progressed and completed several management initiatives for the top of the South Island that align with KMTT's strategy. These include the following:

- FNZ holds regular fisheries sustainability reviews, including public consultations. These look at whether catch limits and other fisheries management measures need to be adjusted for fish stocks, including those at the top of the South Island.
- In keeping with the South Island Hector's Dolphin Bycatch Reduction Plan, an immediate response was initiated by FNZ when a Hector's dolphin was caught in Marlborough in May. Following any Hector's dolphin capture, FNZ works directly with vessel operators and, where applicable, the regional commercial fleet, to reduce the risk of further captures.
- FNZ continues to work with Department of Conservation, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Ngāti Tama, Land Information NZ (LINZ), and Nelson City Council on plans for the Whakapuaka Delaware Bay area. LINZ mapped the seabed area, NIWA analysed the data and DOC/NIWA ground-truthed the findings.

FNZ is proud to be a KMTT partner and looks forward to continuing to work together on important marine-focused projects to help address environmental challenges for the top of the South Island.

KMTT Partner projects

Mai i Whangamoa ki Horoirangi



Powelliphanta snail, one of New Zealand's most threatened invertebrates



Ministry for the Environment

Manatū mō te Taiao

Manatū mō te Taiao / Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is pleased to be an official partner to the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

The environment underpins Aotearoa New Zealand's economic development and prosperity, and the wellbeing of our communities. As the Government's primary adviser on environmental matters, we help decision-makers deliver enduring social, environmental and economic outcomes through our stewardship of the environmental management system. This includes managing and exercising our powers under legislation, regulations and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Through our leadership role in managing the environmental system, there is a need to focus on the performance of the system in its entirety and as a network of organisations and people. This means working closely with the private sector, central and local government, iwi/Māori and communities to help improve environmental outcomes.

We weave Māori perspectives and mātauranga Māori into our work. This approach covers policy advice, operational practices and environmental reporting, to building relationships with Māori entities and iwi through Treaty settlement agreements and other engagement opportunities.

Our partnership with the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance enables MfE to better align our operating principles and work programme synergies to deliver on our collective vision and aspirations.

KMTT Partner Projects

Tasman Wetland Restoration, Tasman Fish Passage,
Project Mahitahi



The Northwest coast of the South Island is home to many rare and endemic species. Photo: Andris Apse



The Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the country's natural and historic heritage. It manages a vast network of protected areas, including national parks, marine reserves and conservation lands, ensuring the protection of native species and ecosystems.

DOC is a key partner in the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance. By working together, KMTT aims to restore and protect natural landscapes, enhance biodiversity and support community wellbeing. Through Kotahitanga mō te Taiao, DOC leverages collective action to achieve significant conservation outcomes that no single entity could accomplish alone.

KMTT Partner Projects

Mount Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Project Janszoon
Restoring and Protecting Flora Project, Te Hoiere / Pelorus Restoration Catchment Project
Waimea Inlet Restoration, Wakapuaka Whangamoana Restoration Project,
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson, Project Mahitahi,
Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust, Pest Free Onetahua, Tasman Wetland Restoration,
Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project



Wakapuaka Whangamoa Planting 2024
Photo: Nelson City Council



Nelson City Council

Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

Te Kaunihera o Whakatū – Nelson City Council greatly values the collaborative conservation efforts and aligned goals of our Alliance partners. This year, Council has led two KMTT projects, but also benefited from the work of others in the Nelson region. We also experience positive indirect effects from gains made in the surrounding rohe.

This year marked the culmination of the Wakapuaka Whangamoa Restoration project in collaboration with Ngāti Tama, protecting more than a dozen sites of high biodiversity or cultural value across various habitats. Project Mahitahi has continued its ecosystem restoration work in the Maitai river corridor, from the city's esplanade reserve up to its source.

This year we also conducted the fieldwork component of “Mai i Whangamoa ki Horoirangi, mai i uta ki tai”, a multi-disciplinary and collaborative project to survey seabed habitats in the moana around Wakapuaka, including the Horoirangi Marine Reserve and neighbouring Taiāpure. Data analysis is underway for reports and geospatial assets to inform future marine ecological restoration on this stretch of coast.

With funding challenges ahead, Council is grateful for the collegial support of our KMTT partners as we work to protect and restore biodiversity and build resilience to future climate change.

KMTT Partner Projects

Project Mahitahi, Wakapuaka Whangamoa Restoration Project, Mai i Whangamoa ki Horoirangi,
Restoring and Protecting Flora, Mount Richmond Wilding Conifer Control,
Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust, Waimea Inlet Restoration, Te Mana o Te Wai,
Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership



Marlborough District Council participating in monitoring for native fish, alongside Ngāti Kuia and The Department of Conservation as part of the Te Hoiere Project. Photo: Marlborough District Council

Marlborough District Council

Marlborough District Council is a committed and proactive member of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and shares the vision of restoring our natural environments and strengthening our communities' connections to the land.

It has been a productive year for our projects aligned with the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance. Our most visible project collaboration, Te Hoiere / Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project, has achieved significant targets as noted in the project story on page 31 in this report.

Our study into groundwater quality and how water moves through parts of the Te Hoiere / Pelorus catchment will continue through the summer. The interaction between groundwater and surface water is not well understood in the area and the study will improve how water quality is measured in the catchment. The coming summer season is expected to provide the low-flow samples required to complete the study.

The Ministry for the Environment is funding the Marlborough Nature Based Solutions (NBS) project to understand how Nature Based Solutions can be used for natural flood management in the Te Hoiere / Pelorus and Kaituna catchments. The project is a collaboration between Marlborough District Council, Auckland University, local iwi and the community.

NBS involve working with nature, as part of nature, to address societal challenges, supporting human wellbeing and biodiversity locally.

Alongside community meetings to gain knowledge from iwi and landowners, we have installed several sensors to collect water level data. Fluvial geomorphologists at Auckland University are using this data to model the catchments.

We continue to strengthen capability in the mātauranga Māori space and have welcomed Ruihana Smith to Te Kāhui Aka Tokai, our Māori Partnerships team within Council. Ruihana comes from Ngāti Kuia where he has spent the last five years in the Taiao role.

We look forward to continuing to be a part of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, creating a better future for our environment and communities.

KMTT Partner Projects

Te Hoiere / Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project,
MDC hydrology, Nature-Based Solutions to Flooding for Te Hoiere,
Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, Restoring and Protecting Flora,
Picton Dawn Chorus/Kaipūpū Sanctuary, Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control,
Wasp Biocontrol Programme, Te Mana o Te Wai



Work around the saltmarshes at Rough Island has been one area of focus within the Waimea Inlet Enhancement project. Photo: Tasman District Council



Tasman District Council

Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

In signing onto the Alliance in 2017, Tasman District Council shared the strategic outcomes of thriving native species, naturally functioning ecosystems and enhanced ecological connections and resilience.

With support from Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao funding we are seeing these values come to fruition in the progress of our work, while our connections made through iwi, landowner and stakeholder partner relationships has reaffirmed the benefits of our involvement.

We look forward to seeing more positive outcomes emerging in 2025 and beyond.

KMTT Partner Projects

Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Control, Waimea Inlet Enhancement Project, Waimea Inlet One Billion Trees (Phase Two), Tasman Fish Passage, Tasman Wetland Restoration, Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson, Wasp Biocontrol, Te Mana o Te Wai, Restoring and Protecting Flora, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership



Protecting and Restoring Flora project coordinator Sacha Healey and MBC Contracting team leader Sharon Haarsma at a community planting day at Kūkūwai Reserve near Westport Photo: Zac Shaw



Buller District Council

Te Kaunihera o Kawatiri

Buller District Council is proud of its partnership in the KMTT and the collaborative approach the Alliance brings to its work. Buller is the smallest district in the Alliance with a population of just 9,700 people, and we are fortunate to benefit from the strong relationships that exist between partnering organisations.

Although small in population, the Buller District Council brings to the Alliance a large territory rich in biodiversity and wild, intact landscapes.

Our communities forge strong connections with the places they call home, but we know that to care for the wellbeing of the natural environment around us, we need to first be able to care for the wellbeing of our people. The KMTT understands this and provides scope to focus on outcomes that benefit our people as well the natural world around us.

KMTT Partner Projects

Restoring and Protecting Flora, Restoring Lowlands – Kūkūwai Reserve,
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson, Predator Free Northwest Nelson (scoping)



West Coast Regional Council

West Coast Regional Council is proud to be part of this groundbreaking partnership that has the potential to greatly benefit the Buller economy and environment, and impact the whole West Coast.

It has been an amazing journey to be a part of, from considering the Kawatiri Nature Environment and Communities Trust's initial drivers to recognising and acknowledging our region's cultural significance and attributes and our involvement in a region-wide ungulate management programme.

Each step we have taken in this journey has helped us fine-tune our goals. Buller's significance to the unique biodiversity of the top of the South means it plays an important part in the vision of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao.

KMTT Partner Projects

Restoring and Protecting Flora,
Ungulate Management across Northwest Nelson



The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand

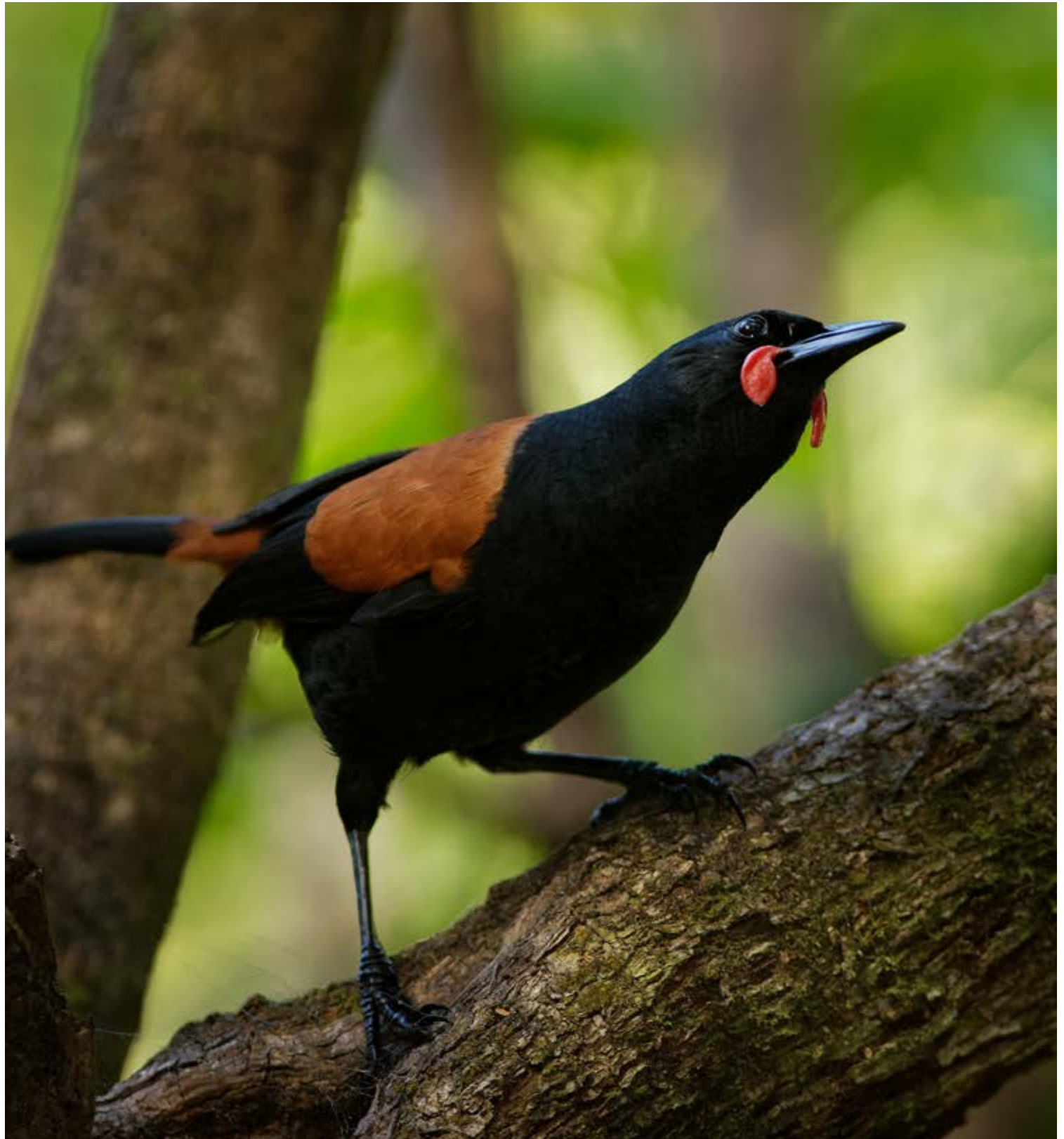
Restoring forests and waterways

Connected, thriving landscapes improve our natural environment and the wellbeing of communities. Aotearoa New Zealand has the highest proportion of threatened species of any country in the world. Sediment from soil loss and farming activity affects marine ecosystems.

The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa New Zealand (TNC NZ) works at the top of the South Island to restore critical lowland forest habitat, through our support for the KMTT Alliance. This region represents many rare ecosystems increasingly at risk due to biodiversity loss and climate impacts. Protecting what is left, and restoring forests and waterways, will help create corridors through our landscapes, allowing native birds, insects, fish and mammals to move around and access food and shelter. TNC NZ supports multiple KMTT projects as we explore long-term potential for transitioning and restoring farming, forestry and horticultural land back into connected lowland habitat.

KMTT Partner Projects

Restoring Coastal Wetlands, Restoring and Protecting Flora,
Wasp Biocontrol Programme



Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

