



**LAND
FOR
LIFE.**


HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHĒRA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI



NZIF Conference
June 2025
Rachel Agnew | HBRC

Unpacking Land for Life

- Why
- What
- How

Unpacking Land for Life

- Why
- What
- How

THE HAWKE'S BAY REGION,
AND WIDER NEW ZEALAND,
ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT
CHALLENGES.

Significant Challenges in the Hawke's Bay

**Greater
resilience is
needed as the
climate
changes**

7.2 million tonnes of soil
across Hawke's Bay



is currently **lost through
erosion processes** each year.

c.6.4%

is the average
indigenous cover
across catchments.

**15-20% required
to sustain
indigenous
biodiversity.**

**2% of wetlands
remain.**



250,000 ha of marginal land is
**prone to high risk of erosion
and sediment losses/run-offs**
of more than 1,000t/km²/Yr.¹

5 million tonnes



of fine sediment goes into
Hawke's Bay waterways
each year through
landslides.²

¹Thales A.P. West et al (2020). *Promotion of afforestation in New Zealand's marginal agricultural lands through payments for environmental services*. Ecosystem Services (46) Oct-19-2020.

²Hawke's Bay State of the Environment, 2018 - 2021

Addressing the challenges

- Erosion
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Freshwater protection
- Biodiversity restoration
- Building resilient land, businesses, communities and people

Land for Life | Purpose

To build a resilient, profitable and nature positive future for NZ's pastoral farming sector.

Land for Life | Vision

- Our catchments are thriving
- Our farming businesses and communities are thriving

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Land for Life | The What

- Land for Life is a public-private partnership with HBRC, The Nature Conservancy and MPI.
- Its purpose is to help farmers reduce erosion on their farms and support a shift to more resilient and profitable farming systems
- It provides tools and expertise needed for farmers to achieve enhanced environmental outcomes and preserve business performance.

Land for Life | The What

It will do this by working with farmers on two principal interventions:

1. Supporting farmers to plant the right trees in the right places and protect existing native forest and wetlands to reduce erosion, improve freshwater quality, improve biodiversity
2. Supporting improvements in farm systems that are good for farmers' bottom lines and the environment.

Unpacking Land for Life

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Land for Life | The Model

- Expert advice and business plans tailored to landowner's priorities and vision for their land.
- Improving financial and environmental outcomes through optimising land use.
- Farm systems advice
- Implementation planning
- Practical, achievable, relevant

Land for Life | The Process

- The Landowner is in full control
- Business Plan development
- Considers optimal land use options
- Unlocking new opportunities
- Model's financial returns
- Practical, achievable implementation/action plan

Land for Life | Background context

- The Land for Life model was designed and piloted by 12 farming businesses
- The experiences of the pilot farmers, combined with stakeholder engagement, formed the foundation of a business case.
- Funding bid to MPI Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund, which was approved in late 2024.
- The focus is now on the next two years...

Land for Life | The Deliverables

- Engage and learn from the pilot farmers
- Deliver a total of 100 Land for Life farm business plans
- Deliver two Land for Life catchment plans
- Extension programme
- Validate the ability to scale regionally



By working together, we are helping to ensure that our productive landscapes remain strong, healthy and profitable for years to come.

Thank you

Cape Sanctuary

Wildlife Restoration Project

The Dream

“To create a peninsula that bustles with wildlife
Where endangered species
Human habitation
Food production
And Recreation
Can co-exist together”

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**2500ha of mixed
habitat**



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The Predator Fence



2007

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Habitat Restoration

**- Where we
started**

Ocean Beach Nursery



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**Over 1 million
native trees
planted in the
Ocean Beach
Restoration
Zone**

2021 – Ocean Beach Restoration Zone (click to play)





2016 Kauri (1.5m tall)



2022 Kauri (now ~8m tall, complete with karearea!)



2024

Native Timber? Kauri ~1m per year

Acoustic attraction
Speaker system



Chick transfers
Artificial seabird colony site



September 2009

DATE 10/9/09
LOCATION Seabird
No. 1

2022

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**Our
Gabrielle
in 2011**

**Up to 1m
of rain in
48 hours**



Today
(click to play)

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Buffer Trap Captures

(Jan 2007 to May 2025)

Species	Total
Cat	504
Ferret	187
Stoat	158
Weasel	406
Hedgehog	1855
Possum	3
Rat	2609
Rabbit	1576

Sanctuary Trap Captures

(Jan 2007 to May 2025)

Species	Total
Cat	1368
Ferret	42
Stoat	125
Weasel	568
Hedgehog	1435
Possum	9
Rat	4481
Rabbit*	10243
1080 (2020)	60,000 Est

*Post the 2021 Rabbit Control Operation, only 8 rabbits have been caught in traps inside the sanctuary. Prior to that, we caught ~600 in traps per year!

Species Re-introductions

North Island rifleman



North Island robin



Tomtit



Whitehead



2007

Species Re-introductions



Pateke



Eastern North Island Brown Kiwi

2008

Species Re-introductions

2008



Grey-faced Petrel/Oi

- 476 birds, established!
- Moutohora/Whale Island



Species Re-introductions

2010



Cook's Petrel

- 347 birds, low return
- Hauturu/Great Barrier Island



Species Re-introductions



Diving Petrel

- 263 birds, some breeding
- Motumahanga Island, Taranaki



2011

Species Re-introductions

2012



Tuatara – 60 from Nga Manu and Takaporewa Island

Species Re-introductions

2012



Red-crowned kakariki



Species Re-introductions

2013

Cook Strait Giant weta

- 230 from Matiu-Somes and Mana Islands
- *THRIVING*



Species Re-introductions

2013



120 tieke transferred from Cuvier
Island



Saddleback

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Species Re-introductions

2014



North Island Kaka

Species Re-introductions

2015



Little spotted kiwi

Species Re-introductions

2014



Takahe

Species Re-introductions

2018



*Shore Plover – Kotahi
Captive Breeding
Facility*

Species Re-introductions



2020

Duvaucel's Gecko

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One final note... kiwi are big fans of slash piles

The Team



Iwi
DOC/Government
Volunteers
Landowners



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My 20 Year Vision

- Cape Sanctuary is the start of Pest Free Hawkes Bay
- In 20 years time the vermin proof fence will become redundant
- Pest Free New Zealand becomes a reality with our endangered species thriving

Where we

- live
- work and
- play

Want more information?

- Follow us on social media



- Episode 40, 2020 Country Calendar

www.capesanctuary.co.nz

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